

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, during the last several years, I have had the honor and pleasure to work with the National Endowment for the Arts. I have been impressed with their energy, passion, and integrity in connection with their pursuit to bring arts excellence to America. I would like to discuss a few of the programs which have been so important to our communities and which were brought to us by the National Endowment for the Arts.

I'll start with Shakespeare in American Communities. Since its inception in 2003, the program has brought live, high quality Shakespeare performances to more than 2,000 communities in all 50 states. Sixty-five professional theater companies have participated in the largest tour of Shakespearean theater in American history. They have reached audiences of 1 million—focusing on high school students—and have distributed 55,000 sets of exemplary educational materials—free to any teacher.

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest for high school students that was conducted in partnership with all 50 State arts agencies; 150,000 students were engaged in learning and reciting poetry and \$50,000 was awarded annually in scholarship funds to winning students.

The NEA Jazz Masters program has expanded exponentially under the leadership of Chairman Dana Gioia. Designed to honor the best and most innovative jazz musicians and advocates, the Jazz Masters award has become the nation's highest honor in jazz. An NEA Jazz Masters on Tour commenced, and a curriculum was developed for high school teachers—NEA Jazz in the Schools—celebrating the story of jazz in a classroom-friendly format for music, civics, social studies, and U.S. history classes. The agency has produced a special commemorative recording of the music of 27 Jazz Masters, developed with National Public Radio a series of documentaries profiling honorees, and launched on public television the "Legends of Jazz" program—a series of conversations with Jazz Masters.

Through the American Masterpieces initiative, the Endowment has given grants to organizations to bring the best of our cultural and artistic legacy to Americans. Through this program they have supported the disciplines of visual arts, dance, musical theater, presenting choral music, and chamber music. State arts councils have shared in this program by supporting their indigenous master artists and art forms.

One program which we should be very proud of is the Big Read. Through this program—the largest project ever undertaken by the National Endowment for the Arts—the En-

dowment has given grants and educational materials to 533 communities to conduct community-wide reading programs centered around a great work of fiction chosen by the community. By reaching 96 percent of the country with Big Read events and activities, 2 million attendees have been introduced to great American literature.

Through its tireless effort, the National Endowment for the Arts has solidified its relationship with Congress and the American public. I would like to recognize all of the employees at the agency for their excellent work and commitment to the arts. In particular, I would like to commend the outstanding and tireless work performed by Chairman Dana Gioia and Senior Deputy Chairman Eileen Mason. Their leadership and enthusiasm and substantive work resulted in a renaissance era at the National Endowment for the Arts. I congratulate them for a job well done.

HONORING FRESNO BUSINESS COUNCIL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fresno Business Council upon the celebration of their 15th anniversary. A celebration dinner will be held on Wednesday November 12, 2008 to honor this milestone.

In the early 1990s, the Greater Fresno area experienced a dramatic increase in crime rates and a severe economic downturn. As a result of the regional crisis, the morale of the entire community suffered tremendously. In response, a small group of business leaders formed an organization to address the critical issues that afflicted the region. In its beginning stages, the Fresno Business Council developed subject matter committees to address various issues such as job growth, crime and education. These specific committees were designed to obtain the research necessary to develop comprehensive action plans. A civic infrastructure was built and a network of partnerships, that crossed boundaries, was developed in support of transformational change. One of the first projects of the Fresno Business Council was the establishment of the Central Valley Business Incubator. This project, a partnership between California State University, Fresno and the Fresno Business Council, has created over one thousand jobs to date.

In 2000 "The Economic Future of the San Joaquin Valley" was issued. This report offered the Central Valley two choices; maintain the status quo by continuing the low cost path or shift to an added value economy and increase the prosperity and quality of life for everyone in the community. Following the recommendations of the report, a group of people came together to develop a plan, this estab-

lished the Collaborative Regional Initiative, CRI. CRI was a joint venture between California State University, Fresno and the Fresno Business Council. There were 5 initiatives that came out of this; insuring a state of the art technology infrastructure, increasing the number of knowledgeable workers, improving the quality of life through land use and transportation decisions, achieving high quality performance in the human services and education systems and the creation of an innovative culture. An essential element of the CRI was a commitment to a new contract for civic behavior; this contract became the "Community Values of the Fresno Region". In the end, CRI launched 26 projects that are completed, still in an implementation stage or have been absorbed by other organizations.

Fresno City Mayor Alan Autry asked his economic advisors to evaluate the city budget. They found that if more jobs were not created law enforcement would eventually consume the entire general fund. From this evaluation, the Regional Job Initiative, RJI, was launched in 2004. The RJI set a goal of 30,000 net new jobs in just 5 years. Those involved with RJI quickly realized that they would have to have strong education institutions and effective workforce preparation organizations to achieve sustainable success. Together with the networks created by CRI, the Fresno Business Council and representatives from other organizations they developed the "Choosing our Future Report", a plan to address critical issues inside Fresno Unified School District and the surrounding neighborhoods. The implementation of this plan began in 2005 and those involved have pledged at least a 3 year commitment.

The Fresno Business Council has been an essential organization of constant adaptation and with its members picking up many of the operation functions. It has proven to be a catalyst for transformational change, a merger of formerly disconnected organizations and a steward leader willing to take responsibility for helping to solve critical and systematic problems.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Fresno Business Council on 15 years as an outstanding organization. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno Business Council many years of continued success.

HONORING MG RON DARDIS

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, MG Ron Dardis, and to express gratitude for his many years of extraordinary service and leadership. General Dardis is retiring after almost 43 years of service with the Iowa National Guard. He enlisted

• 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.

in the Iowa Air National Guard in 1966 as a jet mechanic, and has served as the top uniformed officer of the Iowa Guard for the past 9 years. As Adjutant General, he's led the Iowa Guard through the transformation from a strategic reserve to an operational force, and overseen the deployment of thousands of Iowa National Guard members to Iraq and Afghanistan. As chairman of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission, General Dardis has also led the state's recovery efforts after this year's devastating storms. It's been my privilege to work with General Dardis on issues of importance to the Iowa Guard, including ensuring that soldiers who served in Iraq received the education benefits they deserved. It's also been an honor to work with him on our State's vital storm recovery efforts. I thank General Dardis for his invaluable service to the National Guard, the State of Iowa, and the United States, and wish him the best of luck in retirement.

HONORING EDWARD TITUS ROACH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Edward Titus Roach of Weston, Missouri. Edward is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MR. DREW JUDEN

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Drew Juden, director of the Department of Public Safety in Sikeston, Missouri, on being named 2008 Donald Red Loehr Outstanding Police Chief—the highest honor a police chief can receive in our state.

In the many years I have known Director Juden, he has been a stalwart advocate for public safety. He distinguished himself by combating drug crime in Sikeston, by formulating calm, complete responses to statewide natural disasters, and by playing a key role in preparedness exercises for a potentially serious earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, which includes Sikeston. On earthquake preparedness, Director Juden brings together local, State and Federal entities to cooperate in the face of a serious threat that could cripple

major transportation corridors, disrupt communications on a multistate basis, and interrupt energy supplies from coast to coast. Director Juden is more than a dedicated public servant, he is a leader who recognizes opportunities to think creatively to improve the systems that protect and serve our citizens.

In Sikeston, Director Juden has a reputation few police chiefs enjoy. He is widely respected, known to be fair, and trusted by everyone in the community for which he works. It is to Director Juden's credit that, as well-known and widely respected as he is, he approached his duty to the people of Sikeston and of Missouri as a public servant first.

By achieving this honor, Director Juden has earned well-deserved praise for his leadership role in law enforcement and disaster response preparedness. I sincerely hope that, by recognizing Drew Juden's many accomplishments with this award, the national law enforcement community also takes notice of the initiatives Director Juden continues to lead to keep Sikeston and other southern Missouri communities safe. I'm very proud to congratulate Drew Juden, 2008 Outstanding Police Chief for the State of Missouri, and to commend him to the U.S. House of Representatives for all of his hard work.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINDEN, MICHIGAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the City of Linden, Michigan, on their 20th Anniversary. A celebration will be held at Linden City Hall on Friday, December 12th.

Linden is located in southern Genesee County on the headwaters of the Shiawassee River. Consider Warner and Eben Harris built a sawmill on the river in 1840 and the village of Linden grew up around the mill. During the 1980s the residents of Linden decided to become a city and in 1988 the City of Linden was incorporated. The Charter Commission was comprised of Keith Wenger, chairperson; Judy Pieczynski, Secretary; Harvey C. Charbonneau; Robert Nellett; Doug Morgan; Marjorie Kimble; Craig Newberry; and Farrand Ward. Their goals were to provide better representation, better infrastructure, have a professional administration and still maintain the historic integrity of the town. To this end they decided on a council/manager form of government.

Over the past 20 years the City of Linden has worked to provide quality service to its residents. The city has completed 25 projects to enhance the infrastructure by paving streets and sidewalks, installing water and sewer lines, building a streetscape, façade projects, a water treatment plant, a playground and a boardwalk. The City also maintains a full-time police department, a 22-member fire department and a department of public works.

The City Council, Planning Commission and Historic District Commission work closely to preserve the historic nature of the city. They draw upon the resources of their local historian, Claude Cranston, for advice on the char-

acter of the early Linden area. In 2007 a fire destroyed a landmark historic building in the downtown area but the community pulled together to work around this loss.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding the City of Linden, Michigan, as the community comes together to celebrate its 20th anniversary. I congratulate the elected officials, the staff and inhabitants of this wonderful city. City Hall is centered on providing quality assistance to the residents. They have created a family friendly community rooted in the past but looking toward the future. I wish them continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING KYLE BUCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Buck of Kansas City, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING HOLY GHOST DELIVERANCE MINISTERIES

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker. I rise to pay tribute and to welcome a place of solace, healing and faith that will soon be built to serve the community of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Holy Ghost Deliverance Ministries Inc. held a groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, November 29, 2008 to commemorate the construction of a new 7,000-seat sanctuary in Estate Barren Spot, St. Croix, which will be called the City of Refuge.

The sanctuary is being built to serve all citizens of the entire Virgin Islands, and I would like to commend Senior Pastor Mona L. Barnes, Apostle Eleanor A. Estrada, and the congregation of Holy Ghost Deliverance Ministries for their vision and enduring passion for serving our community.

The church is currently building an independent living complex to provide much-needed housing for our elderly population. Fourteen of the 48 units being built will soon be dedicated and ready for occupancy.

Holy Ghost Deliverance Ministries completed in 2001 the construction of a multipurpose gymnasium, which now serves as their

interim sanctuary. The church continues to provide programs that serve at-risk youth, particularly our young men.

The years of hard work and dedication to having this sanctuary built is a true testament to the perseverance of the leadership and congregation of Holy Ghost Deliverance Ministries, their faith, and their unwavering conviction and belief that with God, all things are possible.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, I extend best wishes and God's blessings to Holy Ghost Deliverance Ministries as they aim to build the City of Refuge for the people of St. Croix. I am grateful for their dedication to serving God and the entire Virgin Islands community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
ANDREW W. BROWN, USAFR

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our brave men and women in uniform. LTC Andrew W. Brown, United States Air Force Reserve, was inducted into the Parkway Alumni Association Hall of Fame in St. Louis on November 15, 2008. The Parkway School District is located in my district and Lieutenant Colonel Brown graduated from Parkway West High School in 1982.

Among the many career highlights that recommended him for induction into the Parkway Hall of Fame is his service in Afghanistan. As a flight surgeon with the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, then Major Brown performed and assisted in over 100 combat casualty surgeries and procedures from 22 April to 31 August 2005. Under severe time constraints and throughout the day and night, his involvement saved the lives of numerous United States, Coalition, Afghan Army and Police forces. Lieutenant Colonel Brown was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal on 17 April 2006 for this outstanding achievement.

I am honored to represent Lieutenant Colonel Brown's family in the United States Congress and to honor him today.

HONORING DAVID MICHAEL
LEININGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Michael Leininger of Riverside, Missouri. David is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN HONOR OF MARCO DOMINGUEZ,
STATION MANAGER OF WIIH-
UNIVISION FOR INDIANA

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Marco Dominguez, who as the station manager/anchor of WIIH-TV for Indiana has become one of the most visible and influential advocates for the Latino community in Indianapolis.

Marco began his Indiana broadcasting career as the director of productions for WTBU, Butler University's television station, before moving to WIIH, Indiana's only Spanish television station. Later, amid increasing racial tensions, he founded Community Link, a program devoted to Latino and African American news. This program has helped to bring awareness to the needs and achievements of minorities and has improved relations across the city. In 2004, the United States Small Business Administration recognized his successful work on behalf of the Latino community by nominating him for the Indiana Small Business Journalist of the Year Award.

Marco's advocacy expands beyond broadcasting. Having developed a reputation for service, he receives thousands of requests for assistance from the Indianapolis immigrant community, which he diligently works to grant. Additionally, as an active member of organizations including the Indianapolis Press Club Foundation, Better Business Bureau, United Way Central Indiana Committee on Diversity, Latino Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, and the Indiana Minority Health Coalition, Marco provides a strong voice for the needs of Latinos across Indianapolis.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Marco Dominguez, whose efforts have helped countless Latinos become an integral part of our city. He should serve as an example to community leaders everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO HCCC MEN'S SOCCER
TEAM

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Herkimer County Community College, HCCC, Men's Soccer Team in my congressional district in Upstate New York. This year, the team won the National Junior College Athletic Association, NJCAA, Division III National Soccer Championship. Herkimer defeated Triton College 2-1 on November 9 at the tournament hosted by Richland College in Dallas, Texas. The victory marks the HCCC Generals' seventh NJCAA Division III National Championship in soccer and the 31st team

National Championship for all of the school's athletic programs.

HCCC finished with a record of 20 wins, 3 losses and 0 ties. Over its history, the team has amassed a total record of 472 wins, 75 losses and 26 ties. Four student athletes were named to the Final Four All-Tournament Team. They include Demetrius Lawrence of Reading, England; Kariym Balthazar of Brooklyn, New York; Sean Trinidad of White Plains, New York; and James Taber of Liverpool, New York. Fellow team member Joeski Williams of Bronx, New York, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Five of the team's players received the designation of All-Conference this season, and seniors Harry Appiah and Lee Martins were named to the NJCAA All-American Team. Martins was also named the 2008 National Soccer Coaches Association of America Junior College National Player of the Year, and the 2008 NJCAA Region III and Mountain Valley Conference Player of the Year.

The team's coach, Pepe Aragon, was named NJCAA National Coach of the Final Four tournament after earning his 200th win this season. In his 11 seasons coaching the team, Aragon has amassed a record of 203 wins, 19 losses and 1 tie. For these impressive accomplishments, he was also inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the Herkimer County Community College Men's Soccer Team and their coach, Pepe Aragon, who are to be commended for their great accomplishments. Please join me in congratulating the entire team on their victory.

REFLECTIONS ON THE LIFE OF
NED LOOK—1917–2008

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I was introduced about 40 years ago to Ned Look. I was a college student at the time and we were organizing a campaign on this goofy idea to allow young people to vote. Very quickly, a number of the arrows pointed to Ned Look as somebody I should sit down and talk with in order to understand how the community worked. Even then, Ned was an institution. He was well known in the Portland City Club and a leading member of the Portland Development Commission, spearheading redevelopment and the Civic Auditorium. He was a tireless volunteer, somebody who drew strength from civic activities. He was a busy guy. At that time he was still a banker, but he had the time to sit down and talk through whatever was on your mind, giving you a sense of the community's vitality. It was a marvelous experience for me, learning not just about a campaign, but about the community I grew up in. I found I didn't really know much about my community until I had a chance to interact with Ned.

At that point, Portland had two big banks, several corporate headquarters, a couple of timber companies and utilities, and a single phone company. "Tech" meant Tektronix. There was a core of community members who made contributions, who moved with civic and political activities; Portland even had two political parties at that point. Ned was conversant and connected with them all.

A reformer, Ned was obsessed with the notion of coaxing more value out of government investment. At that point, city-county consolidation was all the rage. It had happened in other parts of the country—Indianapolis, Nashville, Davis—and Ned was part of the civic drumbeat that was going to bring city-county consolidation to Oregon. We were going to take the largest city and the largest county in Oregon and merge them to create all this extra efficiency. It was a brilliant plan supported by all the powers that be and the newspapers—and it lost two-to-one at the polls. But typical of Ned, he was convinced that something else was at work here, that we could do better. and he wasn't going to give up. He was part of the effort coming out of the City Club and other hopeless do-good organizations that envisioned and ultimately led to the creation of Metro, the only directly elected regional government in the country—a one-of-a-kind idea that is so good that no one else in the United States has seen to replicate it in the last 30 years. This was typical of Ned and his energy and his involvement.

Ned was always in the vanguard of the community foundation movement around the country. I had vaguely heard about community foundations from a friend of mine in Cleveland, Barbara Rossin, who helped set up the Cleveland Foundation. But it was Ned who made it happen in Oregon; it wasn't just his profession. it became part of the expression of who he was. It became larger than life.

When I think about the changes that have taken place in our community in the last 40 years. I recall that we didn't have any organizing principles then; we didn't have large companies. But we were able to establish a framework in the community that encouraged people to get things done. We organized around a community foundation, but it went far beyond that. Today, you see the evidence of these efforts from the caliber of people are much more connected and reaching out and making things happen in a more entrepreneurial way. Just as we're the only city in the United States with a directly elected regional government, we are unique in the way we go out and solve problems. And much of this unique quality is due to people like Ned Look. There simply are not a lot of people like Ned in any city, nor have there ever been.

The Harvard University sociologist Robert Putnam wrote "Bowling Alone" a few years ago, exploring changes in our society by asking why, if there were more people bowling, there were fewer bowling leagues. His book got a lot of attention, and appropriately so. But his second book, "Better Together," which focused on the resurgence of citizen participation, didn't get quite the attention it deserved. He has a whole chapter about Portland; he called it "The City that Meets." Now, I know that all this "meeting" drives many of you crazy—especially those of you who try to do business here or get anything done in civic organizations—but we are inclusive, we reach out to one another, even as we work in different patterns. These are the qualities Ned Look expressed better than anybody I've ever met.

For years, we've had a parade of people who come to Portland looking at what we do and how we do it: Portland State University, streetcars, land use, even bicycles. They see the development patterns that have strengthened our neighborhoods and restored vitality

to our community. We can show them our plans and talk about our government structures; we can talk about how we have constructed light rail and street car—but the single ingredient that is hard to express, the one that is more essential to that success than anything else, is our people. Ned was always there, front and center at the City Club, ready to give me advice, whether I was speaking or not. His antenna was always out; he was always gravitating toward conversation, eager to be involved. Ned was the personification of why, in the words of Professor Putnam, we're "better together."

Thank you, Ned.

HONORING WILLIAM FREDRICK
HENRY DUNKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Fredrick Henry Dunker of Parkville, Missouri. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING SISTER M. CLAUDIA
BURKE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Sister M. Claudia Burke as she retires to the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Motherhouse in Cincinnati. She has been a cornerstone of social services in my hometown of Flint, Michigan since 1960.

Sister M. Claudia Burke entered the convent on January 6, 1944. She attended Our Lady of Cincinnati College, graduating in 1953, and worked at Catholic Charities of Cincinnati. She was transferred to Catholic Social Services in Steubenville, Ohio and continued there providing family and child welfare counseling. In 1958 she was responsible for the foster care, and supervision of 10 Hungarian refugee teenage boys.

In 1960 Sister Claudia was transferred to Flint, Michigan to work at Catholic Social Services. Since that time she has left Flint twice, once to obtain her Master's in Social Work degree from St. Louis University and a 1 year assignment in Cincinnati. She returned to Flint

and continued her service to the people of Genesee County.

Through her work at Holy Angels Convent and Catholic Social Services, Sister Claudia recognized the need to help families facing difficult economic circumstances. Known for her tenacity, Sister Claudia provided the unique leadership to organize Catholic Outreach to respond to the need in the community. Countless individuals have directly benefited from her hard work and devotion to the poor. Supported through a variety of channels, Catholic Outreach assists about 12,000 people a year and the number is growing. Though her responsibilities as an administrator and fundraiser consumed most of her time in recent years, Sister Claudia preferred to spend her time working directly with clients. She has said, "You can't look at the face of poverty and not feel for people." In addition to founding Catholic Outreach, Sister Claudia was also instrumental in creating the North End Soup Kitchen and the Displaced Workers Center.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Sister M. Claudia Burke. The Flint area is losing one of its truly great humanitarians. Sister Claudia has spent her life acknowledging the needs of others and responding with selfless, caring love. Recognizing the divine in all humans she lives the teaching contained in Matthew 25:40, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me." Through the years Sister Claudia has been an inspiring, thought provoking, tireless laborer in the vineyard of Our Lord Jesus Christ. She has put her love into action and set an example for the lives of those following in her footsteps. I know I am a better person for having known her and will miss her wisdom, and compassion. I pray she will find a much deserved relaxation and peace in this next phase of her life.

HONORING KENNI FRIEDMAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kenni Friedman upon being named the 2008 "Citizen of the Year" by the American Legion, Post 74. Mrs. Friedman will be honored at the sixty-first annual Awards and Veteran's Day observance dinner on Tuesday, November 11, 2008.

Kenni Friedman is a longtime resident of the northern San Joaquin Valley. After receiving her bachelor of science degree and a masters in business administration from the University of California, Los Angeles, she began working at Price Waterhouse. She later served as a staff accountant for the cities of Los Angeles and New York. During the early 1990s, Mrs. Friedman began her political career in Stanislaus County. She was elected to the Modesto City Council in 1991 and was re-elected in 1993 and 1997. While serving on the city council she served on numerous council committees including: Financial Policy, Transportation Planning, Community Development and Housing, Human Services, Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations and Public Safety. Mrs. Friedman also served on the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (1994–2000), the

Stanislaus Area Association of Governments (1992–2000) and the Tuolumne River Regional Park Policy Board (1992–2002).

Outside of the political arena, Mrs. Friedman has been involved in many community activities. From 1997 to 2006 she served on the Sutter Health Board of Directors. Since 2003 she has worked with the Salvation Army in various capacities. In 2003 she worked on the Christmas Angel project and from 2004 to 2006 she co-chaired the “Grassroots” campaign. Since 2006 she has co-chaired the Salvation Army “One Night Out” dinners and has been an honorary Advisory Board member since 2002. Mrs. Friedman is currently serving on the Gallo Center for the Arts Advisory Board, the Valley Business High School Advisory Board and the University of California at Merced Foundation Board. In May 2008 she received the “Children’s First Award” from the Center for Human Services for her dedicated service to the community and children.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Kenni Friedman upon her accomplishments and for being honored as the 2008 “Citizen of the Year”. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Friedman many years of continued success.

HONORING SEAN PATRICK
McCALMON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Patrick McCalmon of Kansas City, Missouri. Sean is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDEMN THE ONGOING ATTACKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Universal Declaration of

Human Rights, to condemn the ongoing attacks on human rights in Cuba.

It has been reported that possibly a dozen people in Cuba have been rounded up and detained by the regime to thwart their efforts to attend Human Rights Day events on the island. I was outraged, but not shocked to hear of this most recent action by the brutal Cuban regime to deny the Cuban people their basic human rights, which are guaranteed in the U.N. declaration. Dissident groups throughout Cuba have attempted to organize protests, and government attacks on protesters will likely continue.

This blatant disregard for the rights of all peoples on this symbolic day so accurately represents the true nature of the oppressive Cuban regime. I will continue to fight for a day when the voices of all Cuban people are respected.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN AARON
RATH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a great American, who was recently honored by the Illinois Air National Guard.

Senior Airman Aaron Rath of Springfield, Illinois, has been chosen as the 183rd Fighter Wing’s Airman of the Year. Airman Rath earned this honor after two tours of duty in Iraq in 2006 and 2007. He serves as a life member of the National Guard Association of Illinois, senior vice commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 755, a member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, and vice president of the Defenders Association. Locally, he has been active in Big Brothers Big Sisters, and in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Airman Rath enlisted in the Illinois Air National Guard at the age of 29, after the September 11 terrorist attacks on our Nation. He told the local newspaper that he felt it was his “utmost duty as an American to enlist and serve, and give a little back for what so many before me had sacrificed.”

I want to congratulate Senior Airman Aaron Rath on this much deserved recognition, and to thank him and so many other brave young Americans for their service to our Nation. It is through their dedication and their sacrifice that we are able to enjoy the liberties we all hold dear.

BUT I

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, this poem was penned by Albert Caswell in honor of a great American hero, Christopher Frost from Chico California. Tech Sergeant Frost lost his

leg during an IED explosion in Samara, Iraq. His courage and positive attitude is an inspiration to us all. He was part of the Weapons Intelligence Team/Air Force.

But I . . .

Went off to war . . .

And, I will not give up, nor give in for sure!
For my heart, will fly once more . . . for I
will rise, and I will soar!

Wearing my Nation’s Wings, I’ll reach for
the stars . . . once again . . . once
more!

Until, that very end . . . America, and The
United States Air Force . . . I will defend . . .

Is but my life’s passion, my life’s force . . .
all in my heart as my course, I’ve fashioned . . .

For we all have mountains to so climb . . .
For we all have stories, to so write and so
rhyme . . .

Answers, to the hardest of all questions to
find!

All about what we have so left inside, all
about our short lives . . . which so
come to mind . . .

All those moment’s which test our metal, all
in our pain and woe . . .

As this is mine . . . all for Country Tis of
Thee, I was ready to die and bleed . . .

And gladly, pay the greatest of all costs indeed . . .

All in what I’ve found, and so believe . . . all
in what I’ve lost and do not need . . .

As on this day my life, takes me to new
heights . . .

Look into my heart, as it’s there you’ll find
inspiration taking flight . . .

As this Airman’s heart, soar’s so high above
. . .

Burning bold, burning bright . . . all in my
love . . .

A work of art, which make’s souls fly . . .
Showing us all, how a heart faith and courage
can so soar so high . . .

Bring hope, and bringing light . . . speaking
long and loud this night . . .

Who on battlefields of honor once seen . . .
Or home once again, rebuilding from such
heartache and pain . . .

As Chris your heart of courage full, so
astounds . . .

For when all seemed lost, Chris somehow
you found . . .

The Strength, The Courage . . . to not be discouraged . . .

The Light, that flows through your eyes
which does nourish . . .

Teaching us all so how . . . To bare that burden,
to bare that cost . . .

Even, with your fine leg lost! Mountains you
so cross . . .

To reach for the stars, in all your loss . . .
All in that smile upon your face, all in that
mantle of a hero heart that’s yours
portrays . . .

As we see such a fine heart that will not look
down . . .

Teaching us all, what God has made! As your
fine heart so sounds . . .

Reminding us all, not to waste not even a
single day . . .

Bringing tears to eyes, as we kneel down and
pray . . .

But I . . .

If I could but be like you . . .
Then, I would but teach every women, child
and man so too!

Where faith and courage, and service to
country begins . . .

And if ever I have a son . . .
I but hope and pray . . . he could but soar, as
far and as high . . . as you have my
fine son!

And, be like you the one . . . But I . . .

HONORING DEREK JOSEPH
STANWAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Derek Joseph Stanway of Kansas City, Missouri. Derek is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHELLE
JASMIN, WINNER OF THE GREEN
LIGHT COMPETITION AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Michelle Jasmin, an exceptional artist from West Roxbury, Massachusetts, who has earned the Green Light Competition Award of Excellence.

Since 2005, Michelle has been involved in Brookline Massachusetts' Gateway Arts program which encourages individuals with disabilities to passionately study and create art. Michelle's award winning artwork patriotically expresses fellow American's feelings of loss and personal struggle through her paintings of soldiers who have lost their lives in the Iraq war.

Michelle's work consists of a hand-bound book of acrylic paintings, "Gone But Not Forgotten," which contains the names, ages, military rank, and towns of Massachusetts soldiers who have died in the Iraq war and is accompanied by unique portraits of each soldier. A specific painting, "A Soldier's Prayer," shows depictions of the sorrows of war combined with prayer. Additionally, her painting series "Untitled" depicts a suffering man, a reaching hand, a poem on suffering, and a figure breaking free from chains, which outwardly expresses how humans can overcome the feeling of loss.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Michelle's family, friends and Gateway Arts to honor her for her exceptional accomplishments as an artist.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Michelle's talent and wish her good health and success in all her future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF HARRY DUNFORD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of the death of Harry Dunford, United States Navy (Ret.) of Lexington, Missouri.

Harry Dunford was born on May 19, 1925, in Lexington, Missouri, to Harry and Hattie Barron Dunford. Harry served his country in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946. He was a World War II veteran, serving on the USS *President Jackson* as a Radioman 3rd Class.

In addition to serving his country in the Armed Forces, Harry had been an insurance investigator, quartermaster at Wentworth Military Academy, and a co-owner of Merchants Credit Bureau. He was a member of Lexington First Christian Church, an Elder and Deacon Emeritus. He was also a life member of V.F.W. Post 4052, a member of the Lexington Jaycees, a columnist for the Lexington News, a member of the Lafayette County Veteran's Memorial Committee, and a one-time Secretary for the USS *President Jackson* Association.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER SPENCER
VAUGHN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Spencer Vaughn of Kansas City, Missouri. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIRE-
MENT OF LEONARD B. KELLER,
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF
HONOR RECIPIENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to rise and recognize the service

of Leonard Keller, who, after 22 years, will retire from the Naval Supply Center, Gulf Coast Supply Operations. Mr. Keller's dedicated civilian service is a capstone to his brave and dedicated military service in the Vietnam War.

Born in Rockford, Illinois, Len was drafted into the United States Army in 1966. He attended basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division at Base Camp Dong Tam, Mekong Delta, Vietnam. In 1967 while sweeping through an area where an enemy ambush had occurred earlier, then-Sergeant Keller's unit suddenly came under intense automatic weapons and small-arms fire from a number of enemy bunkers and numerous snipers in nearby trees. Disregarding his own safety in the face of intense enemy fire, Sergeant Keller and a fellow soldier assaulted the enemy bunkers. They killed the enemy occupants in numerous bunkers thereby saving countless American lives. After his ammunition was exhausted, he assisted with the evacuation of the wounded. Many Americans who were in the Ap Bac Zone of the Republic of Vietnam on May 2, 1967 owe their lives to the brave actions of Leonard Keller. For his conspicuous gallantry in combat and risking his life above and beyond the call of duty, Leonard Keller was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In 1986, Len came to Pensacola to work at the Naval Supply Center as an Inventory Management Specialist and has been an integral part of Gulf Coast Supply Operations for over the last 22 years. After retirement, he plans to split his time between Illinois and Florida. He plans to maintain an active role in the Medal of Honor, MOH, as he continues to attend numerous social events and conduct speaking engagements at various schools around the country. He also plans to establish the Leonard B. Keller scholarship fund at his high school in the near future.

We honor the distinguished military and government service of Leonard Keller. Vicki and I wish him and his family best wishes for continued success. Our Nation is grateful for Len's dedicated and selfless service to the Nation. His life of courage, selfless service, and patriotism will serve as a shining example to future generations of Americans.

HONORING FLORY INDUSTRIES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Flory Industries upon being inducted into the Agriculture Hall of Fame. Flory Industries will be honored at the 11th Annual Ag Hall of Fame Dinner on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at the Assyrian American Civic Club of Turlock.

In 1909, the Flory family moved to their current location in Salida, California and settled their ranch. Innovation has been a key for the Flory family from the beginning. During the 1920s and early 1930s the family had a 100-cow grade "B" dairy. It is believed that they were the first family in the nation to have milking machines, the first to have a farm tractor in the area, and the first to convert from steel

tractor wheels to rubber tires. The operation expanded to include custom grain and bean harvesting. Harold Flory designed and built 2 bean harvesters for use in their harvesting business. These 2 machines lasted from 1935 to 1974, for a total of 30 harvest seasons.

In 1961, the first Flory pick-up harvester was built; it was a small three-point mounted, tractor-powered harvester that was primarily used for harvesting almonds. Flory Industries continued to grow with the times and in 1969 they introduced the self-propelled harvester with a 4-foot pick-up width. This was the first in the agriculture industry to use a hydrostatic ground drive. In 1972, Flory once again met the needs of the industry by developing a self-propelled heavy-duty sweeper. The sweeper produced by Flory has continued to improve to meet the industry needs and today's diesel engine designs.

Today, Flory Industries is still considered to be a leader in the field of nut-harvesting equipment, with sales in the worldwide market. Their equipment is used in the harvest of almonds, cashews, figs, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, tung nuts, and walnuts. The technology of the equipment has improved over the past 7 decades to meet both the needs of the industry for efficient harvesting and the reduction of dust to improve air quality. The company's commitment to cleaner air is evident with the manufacturing of the brush shredder to eliminate the winter burning of orchard prunings. They continue to work with educational institutions including California Polytechnic State University, University of California at Davis, California State University, Fresno, and New Mexico State on environmental concerns.

Flory Industries manufacturing facilities and offices are located on the original property purchased by the family almost 100 years ago. The company has been repairing and building farm equipment since 1936. Today, four generations work in the family business led by President Howard Flory.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Flory Industries upon its induction into the Agriculture Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the company, and the Flory family, many years of continued growth and success.

HONORING ZACHARY M. HUGHES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary M. Hughes of Kansas City, Missouri. Zachary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1333, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

EMMY AWARDED TO US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN AND NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a press release which announces that the US Family Health Plan and the National Military Family Association have won the only Public Service Emmy Award presented nationwide in the category of local public service announcements. I would also like to pay tribute to Saint Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers which for nearly 160 years has provided critical health care in New York and beyond, and is an important member of the US Family Health Plan. I am also pleased and proud to add that today, Saint Vincent's has a highly capable and dynamic new chief executive officer, Henry J. Amoroso, who is leading plans to build a new "all-green, all-digital" 21st century health care facility that will serve hundreds of thousands of patients annually.

AND THE EMMY AWARD GOES TO: THE US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN AND THE NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

(By Michelle Joyner and Susan Oakland)

WASHINGTON, DC, November 20, 2008.—A series of public service announcements (PSAs) jointly sponsored by the US Family Health Plan, a DOD-sponsored military healthcare plan and the National Military Family Association, a non-profit organization committing to improving the lives of military families, has been honored with an Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. The PSA series, "Now is Our Time to Serve," was designed to raise awareness of the need to "support, befriend, remember and appreciate" America's military family members. It won the only Public Service Emmy Award presented nationwide in the category of Local Public Service Announcements, designed for the PSAs that have aired in up to 50 percent of the country's TV markets.

The series aired from July 2007 through February 2008, with total viewership topping 7.3 million, including broadcasts in major U.S. television markets and airings in over 200 movie theatres prior to family film screenings. The announcements—just one facet of an ongoing partnership between the US Family Health Plan and the National Military Family Association—may be viewed online at www.yearofthemilitaryfamily.org. The PSAs were produced for the US Family Health Plan and the National Military Family Association by Marion, Montgomery, Inc. "US Family Health Plan delivers the TRICARE Prime benefit to many of our beneficiaries and we certainly applaud these kinds of public awareness efforts," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity. "Congratulations go out to everyone involved in raising awareness about the needs of our military families."

Kate Ryan, chair of the US Family Health Plan Alliance, said, "We are honored to share the Emmy Award with the National Military Family Association. Both the NMFA and the US Family Health Plan are passionate about service uniformed services families and it's gratifying to know that our collaboration has helped spread the word about the need to support these everyday American heroes."

Nancey Alsheimer, chairman of the National Military Family Association Board of Governors, said, "The Emmy Award gives us renewed pride in our mission of protecting and promoting the interests of military families. The Emmy Award for the series will bring additional attention to the important message of support for families—and for that, we are grateful."

The US Family Health Plan, a Department of Defense-sponsored health plan, is made available by nonprofit healthcare providers in six service areas across the country. It serves over 100,000 military beneficiaries, including active-duty family members, activated Guard and Reserve family members, and retirees and their family members. One of its hallmarks is its ability to maintain a consistently high level of patient satisfaction; in fact, in 2008, overall satisfaction with the health plan is 87.9 percent, compared to 61.9 percent for traditional HMOs. The six not-for-profit organizations through which enrollment in the US Family Health Plan is offered include:

Johns Hopkins Medicine (1-800-801-9322)—serving Maryland, Washington D.C., and parts of Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia

Martin's Point Health Care (1-888-241-4556)—serving Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and northeastern New York

Brighton Marine Health Center (1-800-818-8589)—serving Massachusetts, including Cape Cod, plus Rhode Island and northern Connecticut

Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers (1-800-241-4848)—serving parts of New York, all of New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania and southern Connecticut

CHRISTUS Health (1-800-678-7347)—serving southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana

Pacific Medical Centers (1-888-958-7347)—serving the Puget Sound area of Washington State.

For more information about the US Family Health Plan, visit www.usfamilyhealthplan.org.

The National Military Family Association, the only nonprofit organization that represents families of all ranks and services, prepares spouses, children and parents to better deal with the unique challenges of military life. The Association protects benefits vital to all families, including those of the deployed, wounded and fallen. For nearly 40 years, its staff and volunteers, comprised mostly of military family members, have built a reputation as the leading experts on military family issues. For more information, visit <http://nmfa.org>.

Marion Montgomery, Inc. is a full-service marketing, public relations and interactive agency based in Houston, Texas. It produced the PSA series for the US Family Health Plan and the National Military Family Association. For more information on Marion Montgomery, Inc. visit www.mmihouston.com.

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences is a professional service organization dedicated to the advancement of the arts and sciences of television and the promotion of creative leadership for artistic, educational and technical achievements within the television industry. For more information, please visit www.emmyonline.tv.

HONORING SIEGEL HIGH SCHOOL'S LADY STARS FOR WINNING THE CLASS AAA STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Siegel High School Lady Stars soccer team for winning the Class AAA state soccer championship.

The victory marks the first time in school history that the Lady Stars won the state soccer championship. In each of the four previous years, they competed in the state championship tournament, making it as far as the semifinals twice. This year, The Tennessean picked Franklin High School as the favorite to win the tournament, which also included Brentwood High School and Collierville High School.

However, in the end, the Siegel Lady Stars beat the Brentwood Lady Bruins 2-1. The 2008-09 girls soccer team is the third Siegel High School sports team to win a state title, joining the 2006 boys tennis and 2007 girls tennis squads.

I congratulate the Lady Stars and their support staff, which includes Kerbi Towry, Sarah Jameson, Stephanie Surgener, Caroline Elbaum, McKensie Gibson, Mercedes Llanos, Savannah Hawkins, Maggie Trollinger, Tawanna Myers, Tori Hawkins, Julie Brackin, Samantha Pewitt, Lauren Bennett, Taylor Eaton, Katie Copeland, Brandi Phillips, Kayla Ernst, Stephanie Parra, Kelsey Naish, Alison Ristvedt, Hayley Sloan, Caroline Gerhart, Kristina Davis, Sydney Eakes, Morgan Thompson, Briesi Davis, Cassidy Jagger, Kim Conrad, Araceli Vazques, Claire Stampley, Sydney Dewberry, Head Coach Eric Shelton, Assistant Cliff Matlock, Assistant Adam Shelton, Athletic Director Alan Bush, and Principal Ken Nolan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY THROUGH RESPONSIBLE HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, the current economic crisis that we are facing as a nation has spread throughout many sectors and many industries. The banking industry has been crippled, credit markets have frozen and manufacturing capacity is shrinking. The worst job loss numbers in 34 years were just released last Friday, and the losses were widespread throughout every major industry.

But this crisis began with the housing industry, and it will not be fixed without addressing the root problem of excess supply that drives down prices. The lack of home buyers has caused the supply of unsold homes to increase rapidly. This not only causes blight in neighborhoods across the United States, but also places severe downward pressure on home values. Falling home prices are particularly detrimental to working American families, many of whom rely on their home as a financial investment to build long-term wealth.

As home prices fall, homeowners are faced with the reality of declining equity in their homes and many are finding their mortgage debt to be greater than the value of their home. Declining values and increased foreclosures create a vicious cycle. As more homes enter foreclosure, home values continue to decline, leading to yet more defaults and further declines in value. All of the ripple effects that we've seen throughout the economy, in the credit markets and beyond, stem from this core problem.

We also know that irresponsible actions on both Wall Street and Main Street contributed heavily to this current situation. We need a plan that addresses the core problems of the housing industry, providing an immediate stimulus to the economy, while rewarding responsible, working middle-class families who live within their means and make prudent financial decisions.

Today I am introducing a bill that will help to accomplish just that. This legislation offers a new tax credit for 2009 and 2010 for every home purchase made with a down payment of at least 10 percent. A home buyer making a down payment of 10 percent will receive a \$5000 tax credit. A home buyer making a down payment of 15 percent will receive a \$10,000 tax credit.

By linking the tax credit to down payments, this bill will encourage only responsible home ownership. And by incentivizing home buying, it addresses the oversupply of homes that is creating such strain on the broader U.S. economy.

Unlike the credit enacted by Congress this summer, which was offered only to first-time homebuyers, this credit would be available to anyone who is able to meet the down payment criteria set forth in the bill. This ensures that all working families, not just first-time buyers, are able to take advantage of the new credit.

Furthermore, this bill requires a significant down payment. We all know that irresponsible participants in our housing markets—individuals, banks and government-sponsored enterprises—took advantage of the system and helped to create our current crisis in the first place. That's why this bill encourages home buying that is based on sound financial planning.

I believe this plan will deliver quick relief by restoring our ailing housing industry. It enables responsible home buyers to jumpstart the industry, stop home prices from continuing to plummet and restore the communities that have been plagued by foreclosures. And because this new benefit will expire at the end of 2010, it will encourage quick action. Our challenges won't be solved overnight and there are no quick fixes. But we must take this expeditious and prudent step to put us back on the path to recovery.

BELLE GROVE PLANTATION LAND FUND CELEBRATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize that on November 1, 2008, the Board of Directors of Belle Grove Planta-

tion in Middletown, Virginia, celebrated the completion of a \$1 million campaign to purchase 183 acres of adjacent land. I was pleased to join in the celebration of this milestone which is an important step toward preserving an essential part of this historic landscape for future generations. The master of ceremonies was Belle Grove Board Member Ambassador James E. Nolan, Jr. During the program, held on the 1797 Manor House's front lawn, James R. Wilkins, Jr. presented the final \$10,000 gift for the campaign to Belle Grove's executive director, Elizabeth McClung.

The gift was a grant from the James R. Wilkins Foundation, which made the first major contribution to the campaign. The Wilkins family members are descendants of Jost Hite, the first recorded settler in the Shenandoah Valley. The land they helped preserve at Belle Grove was originally owned by Jost Hite in the 18th century. Major Isaac Hite, Jost's grandson, received this land in 1783 on his marriage to Nelly Madison, sister of President James Madison. Here they built their limestone Manor House in 1797, with design assistance from Thomas Jefferson. The plantation grew to 7,500 acres during Major Isaac Hite's lifetime. On October 19, 1864, Belle Grove was at the epicenter of the Civil War Battle of Belle Grove or Cedar Creek.

The newly-purchased 183 acres reclaims a portion of the original plantation and Civil War battlefield, and nearly triples the size of the historic site which has been open to the public since 1967. Belle Grove Plantation is both a Virginia and National Historic Landmark, is owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and is the centerpiece of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

The following major donors who made the land purchase possible were honored at the event, and a commemorative preservation plaque was dedicated: James R. Wilkins Foundation, Fred and Christine Andreae, Belle Grove, Inc., Byron and Kathleen Kanter Brill, County of Frederick, Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Thompson, The Berne Carter Foundation, David and Barbara Came, Martha Cook, Nancy Larrick Crosby, Bob and Betty Edwards, Mary C. Ewing, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Mary P. Robinson, Lilburn and Nancy St. Clair Talley, Kathryn Perry Werner, William and Elaine Brandt, Malcolm and Mildred Brumback, Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Byrd, III, Chemstone Corporation, The Robert Claytor Family, William H. and Jean G. Clement, Joy Holler Costello, Pat and Warren B. French, Jr., The Hite Family Association, Suzanne W. McKown, Charles J. Reeder, Donald and Madeline Stewart, and William S. and Elizabeth W. Talley.

HONORING PHIL FULMER'S TENURE AS UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE'S FOOTBALL COACH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Phil Fulmer for his impressive record as University of Tennessee's football coach. Coach Fulmer finished his career at UT with a record of 152-

52, including two Southeastern Conference titles, seven SEC Eastern Division titles and the 1998 National Championship.

A Winchester, Tennessee native, Phil graduated from Franklin County High School and went on to UT where he played offensive guard for the Volunteers' football team. Phil and his team completed the 1969–71 seasons with a combined record of 30-5, capturing the SEC Championship in 1969 and winning the 1971 Liberty Bowl.

After graduating from UT in 1972, Phil began coaching as a graduate assistant in 1972, serving as linebacker coach and defensive coordinator for UT's freshman team. From 1974–78, he left UT to coach at Wichita State University and later Vanderbilt University.

Phil returned to his alma mater in 1980 as an assistant coach and offensive coordinator. In 1992, he became the 20th head football coach of the Volunteers. During his tenure, Tennessee had 17 All-American selections, went to 14 bowl games and produced 16 First Round NFL draft picks. Phil was named 1998 National Coach of the Year by Sporting News, the Football Writers Association of America, the American Football Coaches Association, and the Maxwell Football Club. In 1999, he won the State Farm Eddie Robinson National Coach of Distinction Award. Phil was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2001. Most recently, he was inducted into the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, in 2008.

UT will always be a special place for Phil, having spent more than 34 years there as a coach, student-athlete and a father of four UT students—Phillip, Jr.; Courtney; Brittany; and Allison, who plays on the UT softball team. Phil will continue helping his alma mater as a special assistant to UT President John Peterson.

I wish Phil, his wife, Vicky, and their family the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING HOSPITALMAN
MARK A. JAMES, UNITED
STATES NAVY SCOTTSDALE
HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO
MILITARY" HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a member of the Armed Forces from my home state of Arizona. Every month Scottsdale Healthcare honors service members that perform diligent service to this country. For the month of November, they have recognized Mark A. James, Hospitalman 3rd Class, United States Navy.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such an outstanding service member for his bravery and service to our country.

Hospitalman 3rd Class James displayed an early interest in military service through his participation in the Junior ROTC program offered by his high school. After graduation in 2005, Hospitalman James joined the U.S. Navy. He completed his boot camp training and hospital corpsman courses at Naval Station Great Lakes in Great Lakes, Illinois. After

finishing initial training, Hospitalman James was stationed in Sasebo, Japan, and was also deployed for one tour in Kuwait.

After completing his service in Japan, Hospitalman James is currently on his way to joining the crew of the USS *Abraham Lincoln*, which is an aircraft carrier based out of Everett, Washington. Hospitalman James has received the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Expert Rifle Badge, and a Certificate of Achievement, and is looking forward to a career in naval medicine as a physician's assistant.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the inspiring efforts of this brave citizen who is serving our country and protecting the lives of his fellow servicemen in combat.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALTON YATES

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the life achievements of Mr. Alton Yates, a man of many talents and passions who, by his own convictions and beliefs in the dignity of human kind, paved the way for so many to achieve their goals, and influence the course of history.

Alton Yates was born of modest yet proud means, the second of seven children, raised in the powerful and nurturing shadow of his father, a man of principles, character and determination. His father instilled in him the need to achieve beyond your born station in life, and by so doing help to sew in the fabric of humanity threads of decency, respect, and quest for the betterment of mankind. Alton Yates accomplished his earlier goals, and those of his father by making sure all that was available to him through education and interaction, he would absorb and be nurtured by this new found knowledge. Here is a man of unparalleled dedication and commitment. He is not only a pioneer in the early days of the space program and the civil rights movement, Alton Yates went on to a successful career in city government and business. He was a pioneer in the early days of the space program as a volunteer for a program that would test the effects of space flight on the human body. This was America's first efforts to put a man in space and to ensure that man could survive in space. Likewise, as we celebrate the historic inauguration of President-Elect Barack Obama as the next President of the United States of America, this journey for him and all of us, including Alton Yates began before he was born. Alton Yates was there at the beginning. He sat down at lunch counters, time and time again, often suffering human indignity and physical abuse at the hands of those who would seek to deny him, and us, our piece of the American dream, simply, and only because of the color of one's skin. Alton Yates and others like him paved the way that has led to the election of an African-American President-Elect. Alton Yates never recoiled from the responsibility of family, community, and service to mankind.

From the early days of segregation, to the chance to help establish this nation's space

program, as an African-American, to his ability to serve and protect the ideals of equality and personal responsibility, we are indebted to Alton Yates for his courage and his belief in the sanctity and strength of the human spirit.

We acknowledge his wife of 48 years, former Jacksonville City Councilwoman, Gwendolyn Yates for her individual achievements and the support she and family has given to Alton that has allowed him to soar to great heights, as a man, a husband, a father, a pioneer, and a civil rights leader and gentleman.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA L. FRANCO

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, in my years of public service, I have benefitted from the efforts of many capable employees on my staff who have come and gone. Yet there has always remained one constant in my office, Martha Franco, and for that I am truly grateful.

Martha was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. Her parents, Maria and Doroteo Franco and her siblings, Jeronimo, Humberto, Benilde, Bertha, Oscar, Abel, Hector, Dinora and Gloria all emigrated to the United States where they settled in the small town of Colusa, California. As a naturalized citizen, she is a model example of someone who made the efforts required to become a U.S. citizen and has gone on to contribute to our country through public service. She is also active in helping needy families in the Sacramento area and from the small village in Mexico where her family is from. Martha first came to work for me in 1984 when I served in the California State Senate.

When I was elected to Congress in 1990, Martha became my Executive Assistant and Office Manager. She has worked for me in Washington and in California, and this year I named her as my Deputy Chief of Staff. Martha's loyal presence has meant so much to my wife, Julie, to me, and to our entire organization. The people who call upon our office have appreciated seeing a familiar face through the years, and I have appreciated having someone who knows the many people who have been important to us throughout my career. Martha's unsurpassed character and dedication have allowed me to trust her with confidential and sensitive materials and to do so with great confidence.

Martha's spirit is demonstrated by her commitment to family and heritage as well. She cares for her father at home and is a wonderful aunt to her many nieces and nephews, their beloved "Tia Mart". I know she is looking forward to spending even more time with her large family as she begins a new chapter in her life.

While our work together will soon end, Martha will always remain an important person in our lives. As she looks to new opportunities, I wish Martha all the best, and look forward to her continued friendship in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE DANIEL LEE MARTINEZ, JR. SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO MILITARY" HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a member of the Armed Forces from my home state of Arizona. Every month Scottsdale Healthcare honors service members that perform diligent service to this country. For the month of December, they have recognized Lieutenant Junior Grade Daniel Lee Martinez, Jr.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such outstanding service members for their bravery and service to our country.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Martinez entered the Naval Academy in 2001 and majored in Quantitative Economics. After graduation, he earned his wings as a Naval Flight Officer from Naval Air Stations in Pensacola and Jacksonville, Florida. After being permanently stationed in Whidbey Island, Washington, Lieutenant Martinez was deployed to Iraq, where he served seven months. He then went on to serve three months in South America in support of counter narcotic operations. Currently, he is expecting another deployment to Iraq in 2009.

Throughout his brave military service, LTJG Martinez has received many awards, including a Battle "E" Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Rifle Marksmanship (Expert), and Pistol Marksmanship (Expert).

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the inspiring efforts of Lieutenant Junior Grade Daniel Lee Martinez, Jr. who is serving our country and protecting the lives of his fellow servicemen in combat.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. ANTONIO RUGIERO, SR.

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the remarkable life and legacy of Antonio Rugiero, Sr. upon his passing at the age of 70.

Antonio was born in San Giovanni Fiore, Calabria, Italy on June 18, 1938. He attended the Peitra Fitta Monasteri in Cosenza, Italy and later completed his college business degree. In 1960, he arrived in America and two years later borrowed \$2,000 to begin his pursuit of the American dream. With his funds, a small pizzeria named Roman Village Restaurant was born. With his incredible commitment to make his business a success, Papa Rugiero created a thriving business. His sons carried on Antonio's tradition of excellent food and premier service by opening Antonio's Cucina Italiana, named after their father. Four restaurants later, it is clear that Antonio's family has created a legacy.

Antonio Rugiero, Sr. was a man deeply involved in the Detroit area community. He

never hesitated to sponsor local events, such as kid's hockey teams, baseball and football teams. Along with supporting his wonderful family, Antonio was a community leader in contributing to charitable causes including Dearborn Heights Spirit Fest, the Feast of Saint Antonio, Dine Out Detroit, Breast Cancer Awareness, Diabetes Foundation and numerous others.

On October 19, 2008, Antonio passed away. A beloved husband, father, and grandfather, he is survived by his loving wife, Enrica, four sons Patrick Attilio, Mark Luigi, Robert Attilio, and Anthony Rugiero, Jr., and ten grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Antonio Rugiero, Sr. was a man of great respect, a successful entrepreneur, and a loving husband and father. Today, as we bid him farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his lifetime of contribution to our community.

COMMENDING PENNY HOLMES ABRAHAM

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Penny Holmes Abraham for her accomplishments and work benefitting Central Louisiana.

For the past 11 years, Mrs. Abraham has been an excellent art teacher at Alexandria Country Day School and has established an art program recognized throughout the community for its high standards and talented students.

Mrs. Abraham's efforts at Alexandria Country Day School earned a \$5,000 prize for the school in the educational competition as part of the "Heart of Spain" exhibit in Alexandria.

Her students have won numerous awards, and their works have been highlighted on book covers, presented in art exhibits, as well as featured in fundraisers for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the American Heart Association. Mrs. Abraham and her students have also been a fundamental part of the River Oaks Art Square Van Gogh Gala by contributing hundreds of pieces of art for the auction.

Moreover, Mrs. Abraham has volunteered as the art instructor for children who are being served by the Rapides Children's Advocacy Center and has assisted them in producing art work for a CASA calendar. She created several pieces of art to be used in the show home tour for another CASA fundraiser.

Mrs. Abraham's art work has been displayed in numerous private homes and businesses throughout the area, giving her a prominent role in the professional art community in Central Louisiana.

For these endeavors, it was my honor to select Mrs. Abraham to create the 2008 White House Christmas ornament for Louisiana's 5th Congressional District. Her work, truly illustrative of the region, is displayed on this year's White House Christmas tree.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mrs. Abraham for her aptitude and accomplishments benefitting Central Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL AGENT SCOTT E. JACOBS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Special Agent Scott E. Jacobs, who will be retiring from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) after 28 years of dedicated service.

Throughout his expansive career, Scott has been instrumental in the successful implementation of many operations within NCIS. When he first began his career in 1981, Scott was assigned to the Naval Investigative Service, NIS, in Seattle, Washington. After his initial post, he took on an undercover bidding operation in Yokosuka, Japan when he transferred to the NIS Resident Office. He then returned to the United States, where his keen operational style garnered Scott positions within management ranks, such as staff assistant to the regional director, Far East region, 1997–1988; special agent in charge of the Regional Fraud Office in New Jersey, 1988–1992; and assistant special agent in charge of the Metropolitan Northeast Field Office in New Jersey, 1992–1995.

I came to know Scott during his time as a Department of the Navy legislative fellow. For 2 years, he worked with my staff as a Navy fellow and helped to ensure the people of New Jersey's third district were well-represented. Following a stint as executive assistant to the deputy director and deputy assistant director for economic crimes, 1996–1997, he returned to Capitol Hill to work with the Joint Economic Committee. There, he focused his efforts on the Endangered Species Act. Scott then returned to NCIS headquarters and resumed his position as deputy assistant director for economic crimes.

In 2001, Scott spent time in Seattle as a special agent-in-charge of the NCIS Northwest Field Office and spearheaded the NCIS Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LinX). This valuable data-sharing system has become one of the Nation's premier tools for law enforcement agencies. He later returned to our Nation's Capitol in 2005 upon his appointment to the Senior Executive Service as the executive assistant director for combating terrorism. Scott was also tapped to serve as the acting director of the Department of Defense Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA), where he managed the CIFA's transition to the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Madam Speaker, Scott's enthusiasm and abiding loyalty for the NCIS are only surpassed by his genuine desire to embrace and enhance the world around him. As he celebrates his retirement, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for his leadership, commitment, and service to our Nation.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, despite the seemingly heartfelt personal convictions of

President Bush, I believe that history will show a legacy of missed opportunities on human rights for this administration—failure to consistently apply their rhetoric; failure to be a tireless advocate for the voiceless.

“From the day of our founding, we have proclaimed that every man and woman on Earth has rights, and dignity and matchless value because they bear the image of the maker of heaven and Earth.”

These rousing words were spoken by President Bush at his second inaugural address—a stirring articulation of what is at the core of this “shining city on a hill” and a reminder of the hope that is inspired by extending the promise of America’s founding to all the oppressed of the world. But in order for our soaring words about freedom, liberty and democracy to ring true to the ears of countless dissidents languishing in prisons the world over, they cannot only be applied to pariah states like Burma and North Korea, but consistently in places like China, Egypt, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia where these virtues are daily under assault.

While our national interests are complex and manifold, we can be assured that it always befits a great nation to boldly stand with the forgotten, the oppressed, the silenced and the imprisoned. If not America, then who?

And yet, with the State Department, boldness was rare, and in some cases altogether absent. For more than a year during President Bush’s second term the critical position of Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, the lead human rights position within the United States government, went unfilled. It bears considering what message this sent to dictators and tyrants the world over.

Personnel aside, the administration’s policy in this area was unpredictable at best. I have binders of letters I sent over the last 8 years to a host of officials throughout the administration, pleading for action on human rights issues and cases. Many went unanswered and those which did garner a reply were rarely satisfactory.

In January 2001, after having returned from a trip to Central Africa which included Sudan, I wrote the administration urging the appointment of a high-level, high-profile special envoy for Sudan, who would give the same type of attention to Sudan that Senator Mitchell gave to Northern Ireland. It was the first of many letters I would write with this request including an April 2001 letter in which I joined with a bipartisan group of dozens of Congressional colleagues in again urging the administration to appoint a high-caliber special envoy to address the deteriorating situation in Southern Sudan where over 2.2 million people had died over the previous decade because of the civil war.

Eventually in September 2001, the President appointed former Senator John Danforth as special envoy and his leadership was in fact instrumental in securing the Comprehensive Peace Accord thereby bringing the 20-year civil war to end. I remain grateful for the President’s leadership in helping to bring about an end to the bloodshed in this tortured country for at least a time.

But the Khartoum regime was not finished with its atrocities—they were now pursuing a campaign of terror in Darfur. I wrote President Bush in June 2004 and again in November urging him to take every means necessary to

press the United Nations to act quickly to save innocent lives in Darfur. Secretary of State Powell rightly spoke the truth, despite considerable indifference by members of the international community, in calling evil by its name and declaring the atrocities in Sudan genocide. But there was little followthrough.

In February of 2005 I again wrote the administration, this time Secretary Rice, urging appointment of a special envoy to focus on Darfur—hopeful that the model utilized in the South might bear similar fruit in Darfur.

In April of that same year, against the backdrop of genocide, the CIA flew Sudanese intelligence chief Maj. General Saleh Gosh to Washington for “consultations on the war on terror.” Gosh is well-known to be an architect of the genocide. I wrote the administration protesting the visit. While I understand that in the intelligence business it is sometimes unavoidable to deal with unsavory figures, it is hard to conceive of what information he could have provided, here in our Nation’s Capital, which could justify our government hosting such a person.

Several months later, in October, I wrote Secretary Rice after learning that the government of Sudan had hired Mr. Robert Cabelly, managing director, C/R International, to lobby on its behalf. It was appalling that the State Department had granted the necessary waiver to permit a genocidal government to obtain representation.

In July 2006 I again wrote the administration reiterating my request for appointment of a special envoy for Sudan to work to ensure the successful implementation of the CPA and to bring a keen focus to the genocide in Darfur. Other Members of Congress had shown their support for a special envoy by appropriating \$250,000 for this office in an Emergency Supplemental bill. With the funding available, and peace in the region hanging in the balance, I believed that a special envoy would send a clear message to Khartoum that the U.S. was committed to the success of the CPA.

At long last, in Fall 2006, the President appointed Andrew Natsios as special envoy.

An August 2008 New Republic piece had this to say about Sudan: “No genocide has ever been so thoroughly documented while it was taking place . . . In the case of the genocide in Darfur, ignorance has never been possible.” In a heartbreaking account in the same piece, William Ezekiel, editor of the Khartoum Monitor, is quoted as having great hope in America’s ability to rescue Sudan. In response to a question about the cause of this hope he says, “Americans? They are not angels. But they are keen enough to save the weak from the oppressors.” Sadly Mr. Ezekiel’s hope in this instance was misplaced.

China repeatedly undercut the United States in the U.N. Security Council, and thwarted our attempt to impose sanctions on the genocidal Sudanese government because of their own self-interest—namely energy resources. The China National Petroleum Corp, a state-held entity, has more than a 40 percent stake in Petrodar, a major Sudanese oil consortium. But China’s offenses at home are even more staggering—imprisoned pastors, brutal crack-downs in Tibet, North Koreans refugees forcibly repatriated, reporters silenced—the list goes on and on.

In 2006, the administration afforded Chinese President Hu Jintao full military honors at the White House. Hu Jintao first visited Wash-

ington in May 2002 as vice president, and summarily refused to accept a letter from four members of Congress raising various human rights concerns and urging China to release political prisoners, including 25 Tibetans, who had been imprisoned during the vice president’s tenure as party secretary in Tibet.

I was deeply troubled when the so-called “Butchers of Beijing” were awarded the honor of hosting the 2008 Olympic Games. I urged the president not to attend the Games, fearing that it would communicate a tacit approval of the Chinese communist government, and would dishearten the countless political dissidents and people of faith who languish behind bars.

Once it became clear that the president was set on attending the Games I maintained hope that he would mark his time in China with more than mere sporting events. He could have worshipped with the underground church. He could have given a major speech in China, like President Reagan did at the Danlov Monastery in Moscow during the height of the Cold War, publicly calling on the government to promote religious tolerance. He could have boldly laid a foundation in his words and actions, such that when the Olympic flame was extinguished in Beijing, and the eyes of the world looked elsewhere, the flickering flame of freedom would burn yet more brightly.

In fact just weeks before the Games got under way Secretary Rice was in China on official business and failed to publicly even mention the fact that several notable Chinese pastors and activists were arrested during her visit. Instead she limited her public remarks to the topic of preferred Olympic sporting events.

And now that the Games have ended, we see once again that China’s repression knows no bounds. Just this week, Christianity Today reported that “Amid post-Olympic shifts in China’s attitude toward the West, the government decided that sacred music should disappear” including the seasonal masterpiece Handel’s Messiah.

In short, the State Department’s relationship with the Chinese government did not help.

I shudder to think what the dissident, rotting in prison for 19 years now, for the “crime” of marching through Tiananmen Square with a paper maché statue of lady liberty, thought when much of the world, including the United States, spoke glowingly during the Summer Games of how far China had come? What about the peace-loving Buddhist monk who, because he expressed loyalty to the Dalai Lama, is living under house-arrest? Or the Uyghur Muslim mother who had her second child forcibly aborted? What of the Protestant house church leader who lives in fear every time he gathers his flock to disciple them or the Catholic bishop who administers holy communion under government surveillance? What message was communicated to the Falun Gong practitioner in a reeducation camp or the labor activist toiling in the logai who hears that leaders of the free world came to his country for the Olympic Games and failed to raise their plight with the man to whom their captors answer?

I have repeatedly been assured that high-ranking U.S. government officials are raising these “sensitive” matters privately when they meet with their foreign counterparts. But whispered pleas are not the same as public proclamations. Countless dissidents from Sharansky

to Solzhenitsyn can attest to this truth. Their lives in captivity did not improve because President Reagan quietly urged Gorbachev to set them free, but because he publicly shamed them.

In Egypt opposition leader Ayman Nour, who was himself inspired by President Bush's call for democracy in Egypt, challenged Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the 2005 elections and was jailed prior to the election. His wife has tirelessly advocated for his release with inconsistent help from the U.S.

Nour's plight is indicative of a confused policy in Egypt and throughout the Middle East which gave occasional lip-service to human rights and freedom and then rarely stood with reformers who dared to answer the call.

In 2002, the administration boldly threatened to withhold additional foreign assistance to Egypt, the second largest recipient of U.S. aid since 1979, largely because of their imprisonment of pro-democracy activist Saad Ibrahim. This was the first time that any administration linked the human rights of a Middle Eastern country to its eligibility to receive foreign assistance. The efficacy of this approach was apparent when Ibrahim was eventually released.

The amount of aid we give Egypt is a powerful means of prompting political reform and protection of vulnerable minorities, like the 9 million Coptic Christians—an ancient community withering under tremendous pressure. But the visionary approach of the early days of the administration quickly faded to business as usual with the U.S. expressing only mild disapproval over Mubarak's February 2006 announcement of the delay of municipal elections and aid continuing unabated.

Vietnam is another example, like China, where trade has trumped human rights for the last 8 years. Just this summer, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung visited the U.S. but the focus of talks with the President was almost solely on economic cooperation with little to no mention of human rights abuses particularly of political dissidents and the Christian minority.

Since 2004 Vietnam had been on the Countries of Particular Concern list annually put out by the State Department which names the worst violators of religious freedom. But in 2006, on the eve of the President's visit to Hanoi, Vietnam was removed despite persistent abuse, harassment and detention for those seeking to practice their faith outside of government approved religious organizations. Shortly after the removal the government launched a crackdown. Sadly we had relinquished a major diplomatic tool for bringing about reform.

If China is any indication of the future, we would be naive to assume that more trade between our two countries will bring about political reform.

The list of missed opportunities goes on and on. The ancient community of Iraqi Christians is on the verge of extinction, Egypt's Bahais continue to be denied basic rights, the people of Tibet are helpless to do anything as their homeland is plundered, a sobering assessment on this International Human Rights Day which marks the 60th anniversary of the U.N. adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

President Reagan once said, "To prisoners of conscience throughout the world, take heart; you have not been forgotten. We, your

brothers and sisters in God, have made your cause our cause, and we vow never to relent until you have regained the freedom that is your birthright as a child of God."

A word to my Republican colleagues as our party seeks to once again find its voice in the aftermath of a difficult election year: we must return to the principles at the heart of the Republican Party—the party of Lincoln and Reagan. We must affirm that we stand for the defenseless, champion liberty, confront injustice. In the words of our own party platform let us not forget that, "the international promotion of human rights reflects our heritage, our values and our national interest."

And to my Democratic colleagues, specifically President-elect Obama, I pray that the words which rang out on the night of his historic victory will in fact be realized during his administration. He rightly spoke directly to those "huddled around radios in the forgotten corners of the globe," and told them that the "true strength of our nation comes not from the might of our arms or the scale of our wealth, but from the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity and unyielding hope." I would go a step further. America is never more strong, never more fully America, than when we are seeking to secure these ideals the world over: for the Egyptian opposition leader, the Chinese house church pastor, the Vietnamese reporter, the Darfurian refugee.

COMMENDING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF MORGANZA

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the Village of Morganza.

Named after the first American sheriff of Pointe Coupee Parish, Colonel Charles Morgan, the Village of Morganza was incorporated in 1908.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Morgan came to Pointe Coupee Parish in 1830. He was a prominent land-owner in the parish, and served in the Louisiana Legislature and represented the Mississippi River Authority.

During the Civil War, the Village of Morganza was the site of a Union Army encampment. Several battles were fought in this area throughout the war. The largest conflict in Pointe Coupee Parish occurred at nearby Stirling Plantation, on September 29, 1863.

Just before the turn of the Twentieth Century, the Morganza Post Office was organized, and the Town Hall was built in 1968.

St. Ann's Catholic Church was founded in 1916, but was so severely damaged by storms in 1934 and 1935, the structure was later destroyed. The present church building was dedicated in October 1935.

The Village of Morganza is perhaps best known for the Morganza Spillway which helps control flooding on the lower Mississippi River. It is also commonly known for featured scenes in the movie "Easy Rider" in 1968.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Centennial Anniversary of the Village of Morganza. I am proud of the

residents of this historical community for ensuring its charm and spirit is as strong today as it was 100 years prior.

HONORING JIM WITT, CITY
MANAGER OF COPPELL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Jim Witt, who is retiring after fifteen years of service as City Manager of Coppell, Texas. His dedication to the community proves that citizens can truly make a difference in the lives of others, and I am proud to honor such a distinguished leader.

Mr. Witt has played an indispensable role in the development of Coppell during his tenure. In his fifteen years of service, Coppell has increased its size by 19,000 residents, the City staff increased from 178 to 365, and the City budget grew from roughly \$15 million to approximately \$81 million.

Mr. Witt oversaw tremendous economic growth in Coppell. Many of the buildings in Coppell that stand as cornerstones of the community were only possible through the efforts of Mr. Witt. To name just a few of the buildings he has played an instrumental role with: the Justice Center, three Fire Stations, a Fire Administration building, a Service Center, the William T. Cozby Public Library, an Aquatics and Recreation Center, a Municipal Cemetery, Wagon Wheel Park, Andy Brown East and Central, MacArthur Park, over six miles of trails, Town Center Plaza, and the Community/Senior Center.

With Mr. Witt's leadership, he helped create several community-based initiatives such as Farmers Market, community gardens and the half-cent sales tax for schools.

On behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I would like to thank Mr. Witt for his tireless service to Coppell. Mr. Witt's successes have been many, and it is an honor for me to recognize him for his nearly two decades of contributions to the people of Coppell. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Jim Witt continued success in his future.

IN HONOR OF DR. CORNELIA N.
WINNER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Dr. Cornelia N. "Connie" Winner. In December 2008, Dr. Winner will retire after thirty-six years of service to Delaware Technical & Community College.

Dr. Winner's involvement with the college began in 1972, when she took a position at the Wilmington Campus as an instructor in the Secretarial Technology Department. Just eight years later, Dr. Winner became Chairperson of the campus Technology Department. In 1985, she was made Assistant Dean of Instruction of the Stanton/Wilmington Campus. During the remainder of her time at Delaware Tech, Dr.

Winner served as Dean of Instruction, Acting Assistant Campus Director, and now as Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Terry Campus in Dover and Assistant Campus Director at Wilmington/Stanton.

In all of these roles, from faculty member to administrative leader, Dr. Winner has proved an invaluable member of the Delaware Tech family. She played an instrumental role in establishing and promoting that mindset for which Delaware Tech has become known and that has helped the organization thrive into the statewide institution that it is today: "focused on excellence, but never ignoring the individual". Dr. Winner never lost sight of the educators' primary mission to serve and mentor students in order that they may become successful individuals. It is this selfless dedication that has come to define the character of Dr. Connie Winner in the minds of her colleagues and students at Delaware Tech.

Once again, I commend Dr. Connie Winner on nearly four decades of exemplary service to Delaware Technical & Community College. While I am sure that her caring spirit will be missed in the halls of the campuses, I am confident that she will remain an active and influential member of the Delaware community.

A TRIBUTE TO ISRAEL
VELÁZQUEZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Mr. Israel Velázquez. Mr. Velázquez is the founder and President of Velázquez Associates, Inc., and its subsidiary Velázquez Accounting Services (D/B/A), a New York-based Accounting and Non Profit Development Consulting firm.

Mr. Velázquez, for the past 30 years, has consistently assembled public and private partnerships on affordable housing and economic development projects in urban cities throughout the United States and in several Caribbean islands. Mr. Velázquez has successfully managed to have a major input in various national, statewide and citywide revitalization programs benefiting various disadvantaged communities. His tireless efforts have borne fruit, as evidenced by new ventures in affordable housing, senior citizen housing complexes, community-owned shopping centers and well-recognized youth programs in these communities.

Mr. Velázquez has held several executive positions as the first Comptroller for organizations such as the West Harlem Community Organization, Inc., the National Black United Fund, and the Black United Fund of New York, Inc.

Currently, Mr. Israel Velázquez serves as Special Project Director for the East New York Development Corporation formulating public and private partnerships in ascertaining corporate giving, public grants, and funding specialized academic and recreation programs/activities for the youth in the East New York community.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Israel Velázquez for his extraordinary accomplishments on behalf of East New York and elsewhere.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Israel Velázquez.

HONORING THE LEWIS AND CLARK
TRAILBLAZERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding group of women from Lewis and Clark Community College who last week completed an amazing soccer season by winning the National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 National Championship.

The Lewis and Clark Trailblazers defeated previously unbeaten Darton College by a score of 3-2 on November 3, 2008 to cap off a 27-1 season, thereby setting an NJCAA record for most wins in a single season.

My congratulations go to head coach Tim Rooney, assistant coaches Ryan Hodge and Meghan Rooney, and the members of the 2008 National Champion Trailblazers: Taylor Bivens, Nicole Yaun, Brittany St. John, Liz Pivin, Molly Kellett, Meredith Morkel, Sarah Schultenhenrich, Kim Kahre, Bridget Belli, Kaylee Neutzling, Jennifer Vandever, Mallory Morkel, Kelly Musenflechter, Bianca Busch, Jessica Randazzo, Emily Winschel, Jamie Beuhrle, Kristin Pelley, Emily Silorski, and Danielle Lucks.

These women represented themselves, their families and their community in a first-class fashion, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors, both on and off the field.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY CPT ROB
YLLESCAS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a brave young man who called Nebraska's Third District home, Army CPT Rob Yllescas, who was laid to rest this week after succumbing to injuries received in Afghanistan on October 28. He commanded B-Troop, 6-4 Cavalry of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Rob has been described as a hero both on and off the battlefield. I was honored to speak with his family a few weeks ago, and I was touched by their hope, resolve, and spirit even as Rob struggled against his injuries. Nebraskans throughout our State are sending our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Dena, and his two daughters, Julia and Eva. I know Rob's strength is with them.

Words cannot express our gratitude for Rob's service to our country, or the loss of such a brave friend and father. We can do no less than live up to his ideals.

A TRIBUTE TO MARSHAN MASON
GAINER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Marshan Mason Gainer. Ms. Gainer began her career as a public high school teacher in Washington, D.C. after receiving her BA degree in English and Secondary Education from the State University of New York at Fredonia and an MA from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Ms. Gainer, in her 30-year career, has been responsible for the development and implementation of sales and management training and the design of multi-media and computer-based training programs. She has administered assessment centers and conducted training programs throughout the United States and abroad. Her areas of responsibility also cover all phases of human resource management for staff located worldwide.

Before retiring from her position as Vice President of management services for Save the Children (a relief and development organization operating in 40 countries), Ms. Gainer was responsible for developing and implementing human resource policies and programs for the more than 2,500 staff members in the headquarters, field and overseas offices. A worldwide traveler, Ms. Gainer has visited countries on five continents. Her adventures also included stops in almost every state in America.

Ms. Gainer is an active member of the Prince Hall Order Eastern Star and its affiliate groups. She has held several offices, chaired many committees, and was most recently the Grand Worthy Matron of Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star Inc., State of New York.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Marshan Mason Gainer for her extraordinary accomplishments on behalf of children across the world.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Marshan Mason Gainer.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES
BABATUNDE ADEGBOYE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who stood in the forefront of helping to propel his countrymen to a sense of moral and ethical courage through the giving and sharing of one's talents for the good of the society in which he lived. On behalf of the people of the great State of Florida, I stand today to recognize the personal and professional accomplishments of a man who loved his country and his family, and gave unselfishly of his time and talents to make a better place for all.

Mr. James Babatunde Adegboye, a great family man and a financial expert passed on November 26, 2008, at the University of Florida & Shands Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mr. Adegboye studied accountancy in England in 1979, and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1981. For the love of his native land he turned down offers to work in England and went back to his native Nigeria to contribute to the development of the accounting profession in his country, at a time when the Government of Nigeria was clamoring for indigenous participation in the Nigerian economy. He worked in various firms to include Colgate Palmolive, Smurfit Cases, Associated Breweries, and West African Breweries as accountant and later as financial controller. These are companies that are either American firms or are affiliated with American firms. In 1988 he joined Hull Blyth Nigerian Limited, the parent company for Elder Dempster Shipping Agencies, African Steamship Company, and Blue Funnel Nigerian Limited. During his sojourn at the company, he developed the company's IT capabilities and facilities through the computerization of the invoicing processes, introduction of secured and efficient e-mail and container tracking applications. He also raised the company's staff pension funds. James Adegboye also served on the boards of various philanthropic organizations, and he provided scholarships for children of poor families.

Mr. Adegboye was an extremely successful businessman and with his family, operated a family business named Jimland Investments Limited, with corporate headquarters in Lagos, Nigeria. Jimland Investments is a general trading company and business house offering substantial trading opportunities to local, regional, national, and international organizations on partnerships, consultancy, and joint ventures.

James Adegboye will be missed not only by members of his family, but by many in the Nigerian community. He was a great humanitarian, and a role model for business and political leaders throughout the African continent. Mr. Adegboye is survived by his brother in the United States, Adekunle Sogbesan; two wives, Simisola Adegboye and Oluwatoyin Adegboye, as well as six children; Olajide, Mayaowa, Adekunle, Olawole, Yetunde, and Enitan Adegboye.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER CHRIS
MAY

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Commander Chris May of the United States Coast Guard. As Commander May prepares to retire from the United States Coast Guard Reserve after 36 years of service, I ask that you join me in recognizing his long and honorable career.

Commander May's service to our Nation has been extensive. He entered the USCGR as a Seaman Recruit in 1972. Since then, he has served in many capacities: he has been a crewman on Search and Rescue boats at small boat stations from the Outerbanks of North Carolina to the Plumb Island CG Station in Lake Michigan, led a Boating Safety Team on inland lakes and rivers in North Carolina, performed Port State Control Boardings, conducted harbor patrols and facility inspections, supervised explosive loading operations, in-

vestigated oil spills, participated in 12 major MOBEXs, and been recalled for extended duty for both the Gulf War 1990 and OIF in 2003. In 1991, Commander May was honored to receive the USCGR Junior Officer of the Year Award for North Carolina.

Additionally, he has served as a Training, Planning, Medical, and Administrative Officer, been an Executive Officer of RU Oak Island, RU Greensboro, and Commanding Officer reserve unit Greensboro, and has served as a Senior Reserve Officer for Marine Safety Office Wilmington and Sector North Carolina. He is a graduate of the USCG Port Security A School, CG Small Boat Operations School, CG Explosive Loading Supervisor School, CG Senior Contingency Planning, and holds National Incident Management certification in ICS 100, 200, 300, 700, and 800.

For the last 36 years, Commander May has honorably dedicated himself to our Nation through his commitment to the United States Coast Guard Reserve. And even beyond retirement, Commander May will continue to serve his community in his role as Executive Director of the Cape Fear Council of Governments in Wilmington, NC.

I have personally witnessed his superior leadership and extraordinary public relations skills in seminars, meetings and special occasions that he has moderated in the community, and he has always conducted himself in a praiseworthy, professional manner with a positive, personal touch. His Christian character and humble demeanor speaks volumes about his ethics and moral values.

Madam Speaker, Commander Chris May has served our country with distinction. I wish Commander May and his family God's richest blessings as his time in the United States Coast Guard Reserve comes to a close. I ask that you join me today in recognition of his impressive career of unwavering duty and enduring public service.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. GREGORY
PAGE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Dr. Gregory Page. A native of Philadelphia, Dr. Page earned his undergraduate degree in zoology at Howard University and received his doctorate degree in dentistry from the University of Pennsylvania. Foregoing a lucrative career in Philadelphia's high class dentistry circles, Dr. Page packed his bags and began his professional career in Harlem, NY.

Dr. Page, after 31 years, has achieved extraordinary accomplishments in improving dental hygiene in New York and abroad. He served as the director of dental services for an Aid to Dependent Children's (ADC) program in the South Bronx administered through the Health Insurance Plan of New York. He also has volunteered as a dental missionary in an underserved region of Saint Lucia, in the Caribbean. Additionally, he is also a past president of the Harlem Unit of the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Page, as an adjunct associate professor in the Dental Hygiene Unit at Hostos Commu-

nity College, has been directly or indirectly involved in the training of over six hundred dental hygienists, many of whom provide direct care to inner city communities like Harlem and the South Bronx. The program has consistently boasted a better than 90 percent passing rate on all national, regional and State board examinations.

Dr. Page also serves as a police surgeon with the New York State Police Investigators Association, as a charter member of the Honorary Deputy/Police Commissioners Foundation of New York City, and has been inducted as an honorary member of the Honor Legion of the New York City Police Department. He also maintained a full time dental practice in Harlem for over twenty-five years.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Gregory Page for his extraordinary accomplishments in elevating the level of quality dental care in Harlem and the South Bronx.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Gregory Page.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEG-
ENDARY RESTAURANTEUR
JAMES PASCHAL

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend James Paschal, one of the founders of Paschal's Restaurant. James Paschal was an extraordinary man. He was more than a business leader, more than an involved citizen: he was a gifted American who gave so much to Atlanta and the Nation. Paschal's Restaurant was an unofficial headquarters for the Civil Rights Movement in Atlanta. Many of the organizing meetings to plan how historic civil rights actions, like the March on Washington, were held at Paschal's. At a time when public accommodations were racially segregated by law throughout the South, Paschal's was considered an oasis where civil rights activists could congregate, relax, nourish themselves, and in the comfort of that environment fuel their minds to plan major movement actions.

The first meal I had in Atlanta, when I moved to the city in June of 1963, was at Paschal's Restaurant. Then it was located on old West Hunter Street, now Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. At one time the headquarters of SNCC was right across the street from Paschal's. We used to refer to the restaurant as Paschal's Precinct. If you wanted to get a reading on what was happening in the community, you had to check in at Paschal's to get the pulse of Atlanta and a line on what was happening throughout the South.

During the Civil Rights Movement, everyone—Hosea Williams, Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Abernathy, A. Phillip Randolph, and many of the famous black entertainers—ate and visited at Paschal's. At one time you could buy two pieces of chicken, potato salad, "early peas," as we called them, two rolls and some peach cobbler for 99 cents plus tax at Paschal's. The food, the comfortable surroundings, and the welcoming environment helped to fortify us to go out and do battle. The last time I saw Martin Luther King Jr. alive, I was in Paschal's Restaurant. He had

called a coalition of activists together to plan the Poor People's campaign, and he held that meeting at Paschal's. The restaurant James and his brother founded played a major role in the Civil Rights Movement.

James Paschal was a wonderful man, a very quiet man. He was very businesslike. He was always concerned that we were comfortable and checked often to make sure the food and service were to our liking. He would ask, "Is everything all right, sir? How are you doing, sir?" He was very polite and spoke to us with dignity and respect. He was a true gentleman.

There was something so stable, so dependable, so real about James Paschal. His very personality, his very being was as solid as a rock. He was very supportive of the Movement in his own quiet, deliberate way. Sometimes, when we were having a major crisis, James Paschal might decide to host the meeting—give us our meals on the house—to help facilitate our planning and action. After Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral, many of us went to eat at Paschal's. It was like a home away from home.

We were more than lucky and very blessed that a man named James Paschal came our way. He made a lasting contribution to the free exercise of civil rights in America, not just for African Americans, but all Americans. He will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO GOV. LAWTON MAINO

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor the life and legacy of Governor Lawton Mainor Chiles, Jr., on the 10th anniversary of his death. Throughout his 40 years of public service, Governor Chiles was committed to the betterment of Florida's children and families, as well as healthcare for all. As he stated in his 1997 State of the State Address, "To be a successful State, we must nurture successful children."

Governor Chiles' political career, which began in 1958 with his election to the Florida House of Representatives, was proven to be successful when he would continue to have the distinction of never losing an election. Governor Chiles was elected to the United States Senate in 1970 for the term commencing January 3, 1971, and was reelected in 1976 and again in 1982. He served as chairman of the Senate Budget Committee during the Reagan years, as well as chairman of the Special Committee on Aging and the Committee on the Budget. During his 1970 U.S. Senate campaign, Chiles became known as "Walkin' Lawton" after a 91-day walk across Florida from Pensacola to Key West.

His 1,003 mile walk across Florida not only displayed his utmost devotion to his home State, but his dedication to Medicaid reform initiatives such as the Women, Infants and Children, WIC, food program and increased funding for prenatal care and childhood immunizations while serving his three terms in the U.S. Senate proved that he was truly a man of the people.

In 1990, Governor Chiles was elected the 41st Governor of Florida. He was the first

Democratic governor in State history to have a Republican-controlled legislature. A fourth generation Floridian, Chiles continued to advocate health coverage for the uninsured in Florida, the promotion of adoption, raising standards for education, and fighting back against big tobacco. Additionally, he fought for the creation of regional healthcare alliances throughout the State. The alliances allowed small businesses to pool their healthcare dollars and broaden coverage while saving money. He also created the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Florida Healthy Start program.

The Governor and First Lady Rhea Chiles have four children: Tandy Chiles Barrett, Lawton (Bud) Chiles III, Ed Chiles and Rhea Chiles.

On this 10th anniversary of Governor Chiles' passing, let us remember him for his outstanding public service, his commitment to children and families, his dedication to his State and country, and his contributions to our Nation's history. Governor Chiles once said, "I didn't come to stay. I came to make a difference." He truly made a difference, and this proves to be remarkably consistent and in tune with his original vision.

A TRIBUTE TO MAURICE WRIGHT, M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Dr. Maurice Wright. Dr. Wright is the chief of the Emergency Department and president of the Medical Board at the Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center. A graduate of Fordham University and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he did his medical training at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital from 1987 to 1990, after which he continued to work in the Emergency Department as an attending and later as the assistant director until 1997.

Dr. Wright joined the Woodhull Staff on April 1997 as the associate director of the Emergency Department and was promoted to chief of the Emergency Department in 1998. In addition, he has held several academic appointments, including assistant clinical professor of medicine at Columbia University and Medical Director of the Harlem CUNY Physician Assistant Program at the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Sciences. He is also a member of several professional organizations, including the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), The American College of Physicians (ACP), the National Association of Public Hospitals Health System (NAPHHS), and is also a graduate of the Physician Leadership Institute of the NAPHHS '03.

As a visionary leader, he strives to foster teamwork and inspire excellence. While managing a high volume emergency department, he has achieved a high standard of care that is responsive to community needs and concerns. Among his accomplishments at Woodhull, Dr. Wright embarked on a continuous clinical performance improvement program with outstanding results in cardiac, asthma and abdominal pain care among others. This vigorous program is supported by evidence-based practice guidelines and frequent

emergency medicine conferences. He was recently honored by the New York State Physician Assistant Society as its Physician of the Year for his clinical teaching and leadership.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Maurice Wright for his extraordinary accomplishments at the Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Maurice Wright.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to urge all governments to uphold the principles established in the declaration. Although 48 countries committed to promoting and protecting the rights of all human beings, human rights violations continue to occur around the world, especially in Vietnam.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, I am extremely concerned that despite Vietnam's many pledges to respect international norms, the Government of Vietnam continues to arrest and imprison individuals for peacefully exercising their freedom of speech and the right to assemble.

Today, I and several colleagues sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Vietnam advocating for the release of Pham Thanh Ngien and Nguyen Hoang Hai, two Vietnamese democracy activists who are currently being detained for peacefully exercising their freedom of speech and right to assemble. The letter also strongly urges the government to recommit itself to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recognize that all persons are born with fundamental rights and that it is our collective responsibility to uphold those rights.

We all have a responsibility to not only stand up for freedom but to protect those who are denied freedoms and human rights. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing today as Human Rights Day, and stand up for the rights of not only Pham Thanh Ngien and Nguyen Hoang Hai, but all those who are denied their rights as a human beings.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK NELSON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Frank Nelson is one of these individuals.

Frank Nelson has been a Realtor in the Corona area for 17 years. He is the current

Board President for the Inland Gateway Association of Realtors and he also served as President in 1998. Frank has served the Realtors as the Federal Political Coordinator and State Director for 14 years, and is the 14th district Vice President.

Frank has also served as Chairman of Land Use and Vice Chairman of Property Management and Land Use for the California Association of Realtors. He is a member of Federal Issues, Local Government Relations, and served on a special task force for Private Transfer Tax and presently is serving on the Department of Real Estates for rewriting questions for the California Department of Real Estate license exam.

I also have a personal connection with Frank. He lived across the street from my mother, Marsha, and would often look in on her while I was away. Frank epitomized a good neighbor who was always there to lend a helping hand.

Frank's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call Frank a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as his term ends as the Inland Gateway Association of Realtors Board President.

A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL LEAL, M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Dr. Daniel Leal. Originally from Texas, Dr. Leal would describe himself as a Community Psychiatrist. Educated in Texas, Dr. Leal completed his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at the University of Texas, graduating second in his class. He matriculated at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, receiving his medical degree in 1989.

Dr. Leal pursued his internship and residency at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. His training at an inner city hospital fostered his life long interest in outreach to disenfranchised populations such as the mentally ill, the homeless, and the substance abusing population. His last academic training stop was as a fellow in Addiction Psychiatry at NYU-Bellevue. It was here that he studied and published on the effects of chronic homelessness for the mentally ill.

Dr. Leal has continued his advocacy for these individuals as Medical Director for the Washton Institute and as a consultant to Pathways to Housing. He frequently speaks to consumer advocacy groups such as the Alliance for the Mentally Ill and has instructed at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan.

Dr. Leal began working at Woodhull Medical Center in 2000 and feels he has found a supportive and enthusiastic work environment. "Working in emergency psychiatry, I feel it is imperative that I convey to a patient that they will be treated in a humane and respectful manner. The emergency room is often the first contact a patient or their family has with the mental health system. How we respond will often impact the course and outcome of their mental illness."

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Daniel Leal for his extraordinary accomplishments for mental health in New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Daniel Leal.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MOUSTAPHA
DIABY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of Congressional District Three and myself as we pay tribute to the life of Dr. Moustapha Diaby. We are all saddened by the loss of his presence in this life yet joyful that he has gone to be with his Heavenly Father.

Dr. Moustapha Diaby, a great humanitarian and family man, passed away on November 29th. Dr. Diaby served as the religious guide and President of the African Islamic Institution Presidium, and was a leading candidate for President of the Ivory Coast in elections which were to be scheduled later next year.

Dr. Diaby was a Member of the Health Ministry of the Ivory Coast from 1981–1983 under then President Houphouet-Boigny, and was also a former counsel to both President Houphouet-Boigny and President Bedie. He was extremely well versed in Ivorian politics, and maintained close relations with members of a wide range of Ivorian political parties. A strong subscriber to the philosophy of former President Boigny, the founder of Ivorian independence from France, Dr. Diaby, like President Houphouet-Boigny, was an ardent proponent of tolerance and inclusion of all ethnic groups in the Ivory Coast, as well as the ideas of shared governance and the equitable distribution of resources throughout the country, irrespective of region or religious affiliation.

During the political crisis in the Ivory Coast, wherein a Dutch multinational company, Trafigura, unloaded nearly 600 tons of petrochemical waste in the commercial capital, Abidjan (leading nearly 100,000 Ivorians to seek medical attention), Dr. Diaby utilized his international contacts and did everything within his power to assist those suffering the fallout of the illegal toxic dumping. His activities included working closely with the Congressional Black Caucus of the United States Congress, the U.S. Center for Disease Control, and numerous other international organizations, in an attempt to bring immediate relief to the victims. This included the donations of medical supplies and food to the people of the Ivory Coast suffering from the tragic incident. Dr. Diaby was also the recipient of the "Peter the Great International Award" for merits and peace in 2005 in Dubai, U.A.E., for his efforts in attempting to bring peace to the Ivory Coast.

Dr. Diaby was also an extremely successful businessman, and, with his family, ran a family business by the name of Al-Salasa, with corporate headquarters in Dubai, UAE. Al Salasa is a general trading company and business house offering substantial trading opportunities to local, regional, national and international organizations on partnership, consultancy and joint venture basis.

During the time Dr. Diaby spent overseas, he discussed governance in emerging African democracies, particularly in the Ivory Coast, economic development and international trade, and was an ardent advocate for a cessation of fighting in the Sudan. And as founder of the Moustapha Diaby Foundation, he worked tirelessly to raise funds for education and healthcare for children in the Ivory Coast and on the African continent.

Dr. Diaby will be missed not only by members of his family, but by many in the Ivorian community. Dr. Diaby was a great humanitarian, and a role model for business and political leaders throughout the African continent. The Diaby family will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY: BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO ENTITLEMENT SPENDING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have been concerned about the financial future of our country for some time and in 2006 introduced legislation to set up a national commission to review our nation's long-term economy, including mandatory entitlement spending, discretionary spending and tax policy, and recommend a plan to Congress to get America on a sustainable financial path.

During the 110th Congress this bipartisan legislation—the SAFE Commission Act—was reintroduced with Representative JIM COOPER of Tennessee. The bill has over 110 bipartisan cosponsors in the House, and similar legislation was introduced in the Senate by Budget Chairman KENT CONRAD and ranking member JUDD GREGG.

In November I wrote to President-elect Obama asking that he consider the SAFE Commission as a bipartisan way to mandate action on this critical issue. Mr. Obama has indicated his willingness to reach across the aisle to find bipartisan solutions. I have always believed that working together in a bipartisan manner is what the American people expect of their elected leaders. That's why I have asked the president-elect to join the effort Congressman COOPER and I have been pushing. I submit a copy of this letter for the RECORD.

The American people are experiencing a crisis of confidence. The SAFE concept has active support from many who have a deep understanding of economic issues, and could help restore America's confidence and get us on the right track.

Doing nothing is not an option.

The window of opportunity is now. With the mounting short-term federal deficit from the additional spending needed to get our banking system on sound footing, and the growing long-term debt from mandatory spending programs, we have an historic opportunity to address the nation's financial future in a truly bipartisan manner. I am committed to bringing attention to this issue and getting something done.

Not only are we facing a projected \$1 trillion in deficit spending for this fiscal year, there is now \$53 trillion in unfunded mandates through Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which

will only continue to grow until we reverse course. As if that amount were not difficult enough to comprehend, it is expected that when the new total is released later this month, it is likely to be over \$56 trillion.

Over and over again there are warning signs that something is terribly wrong in our economy. You may have read recently that China now tops Japan in U.S. debt holdings, amounting to about 1 out of every 10 American dollars. In my opinion there is no greater wake up call than China—a government who persecutes its own people because of their faith—slowly becoming our banker.

This is an economic, moral, and generational issue. I think about sitting on my front porch someday and telling my grandchildren about my days serving in Congress. It isn't right for us to look the other way while out-of-control entitlement spending threatens the way future generations will live.

George Washington said that, "Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble."

I worry that Congress isn't up to its job, and we will allow our children and grandchildren to languish in a political divide. The SAFE Commission process gives us the necessary push to get the job done.

We are at the point of no return in our nation's history. We have hard questions to answer. Are we willing to make the sacrifices necessary so that future generations will have even greater opportunities than today?

National syndicated columnist Robert Samuelson recently wrote, "The great project of the next president is to improve the economy's stability without subverting its vitality." Make no mistake, autopilot entitlement spending is slowly undermining America as we know it.

Isabel Sawhill, senior fellow at The Brookings Institution, has likened this situation to "termite in the woodwork, slowly eroding our strength as a nation."

Congress must do the right thing for the American people. Support the SAFE effort, and if there are other bipartisan proposals that could pass Congress, let's look at those, too.

But we just can't continue the current course.

A TRIBUTE TO YVONNE NIXON-ORR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Yvonne Nixon-Orr. In 1970, Yvonne immigrated to the United States and has resided in Brooklyn, New York. Soon after her arrival, she began teaching at the Haitian American Day Care Center, and later joined the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) where she has been teaching for more than 25 years. Middle School 61 in District 17 is where her career with the NYCDOE began as a literacy instructor for 6th and 7th graders. All along, she maintained her volunteering as a Sunday school teacher and an assistant youth coordinator at her local church, planning and implementing activities for the youth of the community.

Yvonne Nixon-Orr is presently the school librarian at P.S. 181, The John Steptoe School

in Brooklyn, working with students from Grades K through 8. In her functions, she helps students to develop a love for books and multicultural literature. In her teaching, she imparts skills that incorporate literacy, social studies, and the arts. Yvonne is passionate about imparting a love for learning and moral responsibility to the youngsters she encounters in the Public School system classrooms. In her role as a staff developer, she shares instructional techniques and skills with colleagues, mentors and assists new teachers with methodology, classroom management, and facilitates their transition to the New York public school system. Through her dedication and hard work as an educator, she has touched many lives and has equally had her own life enriched by working with colleagues, students, and families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Yvonne Nixon-Orr holds an Associate Degree of Science from New York City Technical College, a Bachelor of Arts from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York (CUNY), and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Adelphi University. Her post-graduate education focus has been in literacy development. She continues to enhance her knowledge of education and teaching skills by reading and attending professional workshops and seminars that expand on the latest development in literacy and the best approaches to teaching and learning in the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Yvonne Nixon-Orr for her extraordinary contributions to education in New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Yvonne Nixon-Orr.

TRIBUTE TO THE ST. ANTHONY BULLDOGS GIRLS GOLF TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young women from Effingham, IL.

The St. Anthony Bulldogs Girls Golf Team took State Championship honors October 18, knocking off runner-up Champaign St. Thomas More by 10 strokes to capture their second consecutive State title. The conclusion marked a rally from a seventh place standing midway through the State Championship competition.

I want to send my congratulations and those of the House to Coach Kevin Behl and the members of the St. Anthony Bulldogs State Championship Team: Kelli Griffin, Kelly McHugh, Lauren Kabbes, Emily Calhoon, Taylor Behl, Jackie Wortman, and Shelby Spruell. We are all inspired by their dedication, their courage in the face of adversity, and their determination not to give up, even when trailing going into the final day of competition. Their victory is one which will long be remembered in the storied history of St. Anthony, and their back to back titles will stand as a statewide tribute to their devotion to excellence.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL NONNAN HAYNES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Michael Nonnan Haynes. Mr. Haynes, a Brooklyn native, earned his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Northwestern University. He later began a career at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, becoming the first African-American Senior Director of Clearing House Operations there.

Mr. Haynes, in 1990, shifted his career focus from supporting people's financial pursuits to supporting people coping with the emergent HIV/AIDS pandemic. One of Mr. Haynes' proudest moments as Director of African American Services for Stop AIDS Chicago was when he provided HIV/AIDS prevention education for a Youth Summit at Operation PUSH.

Mr. Haynes continued his quest to serve by moving to Santa Fe to work for a workshop that changed his life, The Experience. This personal growth and empowerment workshop gave him new tools and refined what his tight-knit circle of support (family, extended family and friends) had taught him about "being" with people. Santa Fe is also where Mr. Haynes became infected with HIV.

While this might have sidetracked another, it only empowered Mr. Haynes' desire to give back even more. Currently, he works for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation as an Assistant Director in the Office of Behavioral Health. In this capacity, he has spearheaded innovations in chemical dependency treatment as they concern the eleven public hospitals, including Woodhull, Kings County, and Coney Island hospitals. Honored as a Join Together National Leadership Fellow by Boston University's School of Public Health, Mr. Haynes has championed the implementation of cutting edge, researched based practices that effectively lead Brooklyn and city-wide residents through chemical dependency treatment and onto the road to recovery.

These contributions to the Brooklyn healthcare community over the past 13 years, are evident, but none more personal or visible than Haynes' face and prevention message on billboards, bus shelters, and subway stations throughout New York City and worldwide through the internet as part of the HIV Stops With Me campaign.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Michael Nonnan Haynes for his extraordinary accomplishments in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Michael Nonnan Haynes.

TRIBUTE TO THE SUNY CORTLAND MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the State University of New

York (SUNY) Cortland Men's Cross Country Team, which won its first ever national title on November 22. During the NCAA Division III Championships at Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana, the Cortland Red Dragons beat 31 competitors with a score of 80 points. The team solidly outpaced the second and third place finishers who scored 115 and 129 points, respectively, and improved on their previous finishes of fourth in 2006 and third in 2007 to win this year's title.

Four of the team's runners earned All-America honors by finishing in the top 35 competitors over the 8,000-meter course. Junior Seth DuBois finished seventh; senior Shamus Nally, 11th; senior Josh Henry, 15th; and junior Justin Wager, 28th.

The team was led by first year head coach Steve Patrick and assistant coaches Kathryn Wagner and Jacob Smith. Coach Patrick was named the 2008 Division III Men's Cross Country National Coach of the Year by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA).

Overall, the win marks SUNY Cortland's 22nd national team title, including 16 NCAA crowns in seven different sports.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent such skilled and hard-working athletes in my district. Please join me in congratulating the team and wishing them the best of luck in their future athletic and scholarly pursuits.

A TRIBUTE TO EBONE E.
MCINTOSH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ebone E. McIntosh. In 2004, Ms. McIntosh was appointed Vice President of Administration at the Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn. She was administratively responsible for the Departments of Ambulatory Care, Community Relations, and the hospital's Private Practice initiative. During her first two years, Ms. McIntosh worked tirelessly to improve the community's perception of Interfaith Medical Center by working with Community Board members, clergy, and primary care physicians in the immediate catchment. The hospital expanded its community outreach efforts through its participation in community health fairs, treatment adherence initiatives, and patient education. The hospital also became actively involved in HIV/AIDS programs, Adult and Pediatric Sickle Cell grants, and Breast Cancer awareness through the Susan G. Komen Foundation and Killough Trust.

Ms. McIntosh, in early 2007, assumed more operational responsibilities at the hospital, taking on hospital support services including Security, Food and Nutrition, Patient Relations, and Construction Management. Within months, a new hospitality-driven model of guest relations was in place, including daily newspaper delivery, the provision of amenities kits, and personal choice dining; accommodations many of the patients at IMC had never experienced. Given the medically underserved population and the reliance on the Emergency Department for the primary care needs of the hospital's core population, Ms. McIntosh soon

assumed control of the Department of Emergency Services. Under her leadership, the EMS turn around time, patient satisfaction, and overall patient flow significantly improved.

Ms. McIntosh, prior to joining Interfaith, was the Senior Administrator for the Departments of Neurology, OB/GYN, and Pediatrics at the Columbia University Harlem Hospital Center. She was active in the application and approval process for their designated stroke center, was the Grants Coordinator for the Institutional Review Board, and has served briefly as the Residency Coordinator in Diagnostic Radiology.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Ebone E. McIntosh for her extraordinary accomplishments in improving health care at the Interfaith Medical Center and across New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Ebone E. McIntosh.

HONORING DR. THOMAS
FRIEDRICH GEORGE

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our Missouri University Chancellors. Several weeks ago, Dr. Thomas Friedrich George was honored by the University of Szeged in Hungary. Chancellor George was awarded the honorary title Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Szeged in recognition of his outstanding and cooperative scientific work that has been carried out in support of the University of Szeged over many years.

While serving as Chancellor at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, Chancellor George also serves as a professor of chemistry and physics and researcher in chemical, materials and laser physics at the University.

This recognition of Chancellor George is not only a significant personal achievement; it is also an honor for the University of Missouri System and the St. Louis region.

I am pleased to be able to honor Chancellor George today. He is a shining example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating him on this distinguished honor.

HONORING OAKHURST CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce upon the celebration of their 50th Anniversary. The anniversary will be celebrated at the Annual Installation Diner and Dance to be held on December 5, 2008 at the Pines Resort in Bass Lake, California.

Over the past fifty years, the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce has been committed to its Mission Statement "To promote and support the economic vitality while honoring and

preserving the unique lifestyles of our Mountain Communities." The Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with its Board of Directors, the Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the many committees that have been established over the years, has been responsible for the completion of many community projects and achievements. These accomplishments have revolved around promoting business and tourism, community development, government issues and education.

For fifty years the Chamber has worked diligently to promote the businesses, large and small, in Eastern Madera County. Today, it has over four hundred members. The Chamber has developed member to member programs, networking and "shop locally" campaigns to strengthen, nurture and build the local businesses. It has been a strong advocate for the New Downtown Project that is envisioned to be a pedestrian friendly area for visitors and locals and will include a visitors center, shopping, entertainment and dining. To keep the community and visitors apprised of what is going on in Eastern Madera County, the Chamber maintains an up to the minute, interactive website. It also provides visitors with a directory of local businesses and is responsible for creating the official regional street map for Eastern Madera County. The Chamber plays a vital role in welcoming visitors and recruiting new businesses to the area. Often, the Chamber serves as a first impression for the entire community. It has worked to make this impression warm, welcoming and professional. By providing these services, the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce has created events that have drawn thousands of visitors to the area. The events that it promotes include the Oakhurst Peddlers Fair, the Fall Festival, the Automotive Film Festival, and the Wood Carvers Rendezvous.

The Chamber hosts annual planning conferences with local business leaders and government officials to maintain a sense of cohesion and to discuss key economic indicators and to define the needs of the community. These conferences help all of the members work together toward a common goal that will help shape the community. In the past these goals have included working with various levels of government or providing various community projects. The Education, Beautification, Economic Development, and Tourism Committees have worked together to create better programs and services for the entire community; including a community park with the formation of non profit to run it. The Emergency Preparedness Committee has created and implemented emergency plans for fire, water and power outages, natural disasters and chemical hazards. Working with county and state officials on the infrastructure of the area, the Chamber has played an integral part in water, sewer and other detail area plans. The Chamber's work provided a new sewer plant for Oakhurst, in obtaining a one million dollar grant for the continued development of a water source in the area and a four million dollar loan through the California Public Utilities Commission for Hillview Water. The Chamber and the Foundation has funded and built over one million dollars worth of sidewalks on Highway 41 in Oakhurst. It has also endorsed and raised support for the "Action to Incorporate Oakhurst Now" and has provided education to the community about the benefits of incorporating the area.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce on 50 years. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Chamber many years of continued growth and success.

HONORING SPIKE O'DELL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of my friend, Mr. William "Spike" O'Dell, radio host of the morning show "Spike Radio." After over 20 years at WGN-AM Radio, Mr. O'Dell will retire in December 2008, and you can count me as one of the listeners from all over Chicagoland who will miss hearing him on WGN.

Over the years, Spike O'Dell has interviewed U.S. Congressmen and Senators, reporters stationed in war-zones, comedians, and Olympic athletes. His favorite sayings of "Nothing is worth your health or happiness" and "Life is too serious to take things too seriously" influenced the acerbic but entertaining atmosphere in which he took calls from his listeners.

Spike's listeners have come to rely on his thoughtful and extensive coverage of current U.S. and world news, traffic, and weather. Appropriately, Spike O'Dell's hard work and insightful reporting over the years have been recognized with the honor of an Achievement in Radio, AIR, Award in 1999 from the Chicagoland AIR Awards Board of Governors.

While I am sure Spike's family will be glad to enjoy more time with him, the rest of us will miss his hard-hitting news reporting, weekly current events quizzes, and engaging discussions and interviews, not to mention his eternal faith in the Chicago Cubs and "Spike's Emergency BBQ Sauce" give-a-ways.

Madam Speaker, I wish Spike and his family the best of luck during his retirement and throughout his future endeavors. Morning talk radio in Chicago will not be the same without Spike O'Dell.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDERSON
HYLAND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Mr. Anderson Hyland. Mr. Hyland is a Certified Public Accountant with a great deal of diverse knowledge and experience to draw upon. He holds a BA in Business Administration and Accounting from Baruch College, City University of New York.

Mr. Hyland was born in St. Michael, Barbados and attended Coleridge & Parry. This provided him with an excellent forum to develop some of his diverse interests such as soccer, cricket, traveling, and business. Upon graduating, he continued his studies at the O'level Institute where he received two A' levels (Law and Accounting) and later worked for

the Barbados Internal Revenue Department as a Tax Officer.

Mr. Hyland has extensive experience in British and American tax preparation services. This can be seen by the service he provides to numerous clients in the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut region. He was formerly the Staff Accountant at Brookdale Hospital, Brooklyn, New York and a Tax Preparer at H & R Block and now works as the accountant for Local 420 District Council 37 in Lower Manhattan.

Mr. Hyland feels very privileged to be on the Board of Trustees for Glenwood Gardens Condos and is able to serve the community. He is also a member of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), the International Foundation of Employee Benefits, and the Baruch College Alumni Association.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Anderson Hyland for his extraordinary contributions to New York City's academic, labor, and community institutions.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Anderson Hyland.

RECOGNIZING ALVIN ANDERSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the sad news that Mr. Alvin Anderson, a longtime resident of Williamsburg, Virginia passed away on November 29th. He was a strong influence in land use issues throughout the Williamsburg area, and a man who was deeply dedicated to his family. Mr. Anderson graduated from the College of William & Mary in 1970 and served as a second lieutenant in the Army for several years. He returned to William & Mary, earning his law degree at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law in 1972.

Mr. Andersen would go on to serve as president of the W&M Society of the Alumni, was a member of the Marshall-Wythe Law School Foundation Board, and until last year served on the Board of Visitors. In 1998 he received the Alumni Medallion, the highest honor bestowed by the W&M Alumni Association.

After graduation Mr. Anderson practiced law with his uncle, Harper Anderson, in Williamsburg which would later become Anderson, Franck and Davis, P.C. His firm would merge with Kaufman & Canoles in 1999, where Mr. Anderson was integral in establishing their Williamsburg office. Over the course of his 36 year legal career, Mr. Anderson specialized in estate matters and land use, and was fundamental in the development of Williamsburg Landing and Quarterpath at Williamsburg.

He distinguished himself as the Commissioner in Chancery for the Circuit Courts of the City of Williamsburg and County of James City, Counties of New Kent, Charles City, King William, and King and Queen, and Special Master in York County since 1975. Also, he served as Commissioner of Accounts for the Circuit Court of the City of Williamsburg and County of James City since 1988. Despite his professional accomplishments, he would frequently remark, "I'm just a country lawyer".

Mr. Anderson was a member of the Virginia Bar Association, the Virginia Trial Lawyers As-

sociation, the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, and the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference. He chaired the Judicial Nominations Committee of the Virginia State Bar and the District Ethics Committee of the Virginia State Bar. Among other honors, he had been recognized as a Fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation, a distinction bestowed on less than 1% of the lawyers in the Commonwealth.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 40 years, Betsy Calvo Anderson; two daughters, Mary Beth Sherwin and Sara Paris Huddleston; his father, Dr. William Morris Anderson; a brother, William Morris Anderson Jr.; a sister, Anna Katharine Anderson; mother and father-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Philip S. Calvo Jr.; brother-in-law, Philip S. Calvo III; sons-in-law, Tyler Sherwin and Byrne Huddleston; and other family and friends. Alvin once said, "I'm proud of two things in my life, one is my family and the other is my college. I told someone the other day; this makes me feel like the person my dog thinks I am."

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me and countless others as we recognize the many contributions of Alvin Anderson.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the Special Olympics, an outstanding organization which provides children and adults with intellectual disabilities—more than 18,000 alone in Pennsylvania—an opportunity to participate in year-round, athletic competitions. The Special Olympics motto "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," was originally spoken by gladiators entering the arena in ancient Rome.

Villanova University, which is in my district, was the official host of the Special Olympics Pennsylvania state games this year. The Special Olympics Fall Festival at Villanova is the largest student-run Special Olympics event in the world. During the two-day event, Villanova University opens its campus to over 1,000 athletes, 400 coaches, and 2,700 volunteers. The athletes compete in six Olympic-type sports, bocce, long distance running, power-lifting, roller skating, soccer, and volleyball.

Worldwide, the Special Olympics brings together more than 2.5 million athletes with intellectual disabilities in 180 countries. Children and adults who participate in the Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence, and a more positive self-image. They grow mentally and socially and, exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm, enjoy the rewards of friendship, and ultimately discover new abilities and talents.

Special Olympics was best described by Sargent Shriver, Chairman of the Board of Special Olympics Inc., when he wrote that Special Olympics is unique and important because of the ways in which Special Olympics inspires and reveals the very best in human nature. "It has become," he wrote, "one of the most encouraging and profound developments in modern sports."

I am pleased to recognize Special Olympics International for 40 years of service and commitment, and I wish the organization success in the years ahead.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ED HAUSER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Ed Hauser, an activist who is well known to the people of the Northeast Ohio as "Citizen Hauser." Ed passed away early Friday morning at the age of 47.

Ed Hauser expressed his love for Cleveland by dedicating his time, love, passion, energy, and strong intellect toward preserving all of Cleveland's beautiful, recreational and historic sites. Ed was an engineer and worked in the steel industry in Cleveland until his layoff at the former LTV Steel Company 10 years ago. Since that time, he devoted his engineering training and skills to challenging the local powers. He worked toward the preservation of Cleveland's historic engineering wonders, including steelmaking facilities for a steel museum and the Hulett Ore Unloaders which graced Cleveland's lakeshore for a hundred years.

But Ed's passion was not limited to steel. Whenever the Department of Transportation, the Port Authority, the city, the county, or any powerful private or government forces proposed projects which would jeopardize local amenities, historic structures or places, Ed Hauser paid attention. He gathered the facts and made sure that all available resources were brought to bear. Ed was an expert in using our nation's laws to defend the public interest by protecting important places. If the structure had important historic value, no one knew more about invoking the National Historic Preservation Act to protect it. If there were implications for the natural or human environment, and the federal government were involved, Ed Hauser could be counted on to organize the people around the National Environmental Policy Act calendar. Ed understood that these laws were meant to protect the people and their sacred places. He took all appropriate actions to save Whiskey Island, the Cleveland Marina, the historic Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and other structures threatened by proposed work on the Cleveland Innerbelt and the Huletts.

Ed was so closely associated with his activism and his knowledge of civic activism tools, that he was featured in a Public Broadcasting System special entitled "Citizen Hauser," which was featured at the Cleveland International Film Festival.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Ed "Citizen" Hauser, a true Cleveland treasure who dedicated his life to the people and places in his community. I am saddened by his untimely death. There will be no one like Ed Hauser, but we can hope that others will step up to help fill the huge void in Cleveland's civic life with his loss.

HONORING RICHMONDBUILD

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor RichmondBUILD from Richmond, CA, in my congressional district, a program that is leading the national trend toward green-collar jobs while simultaneously enriching the lives of students by giving them an alternative to drugs and violence. The Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Skills & Solar Installation Training program, run by RichmondBUILD, today received the 2008 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award, which recognizes achievements in the area of violence, drug prevention, and education.

With programs like RichmondBUILD, we can help train the next generation of Americans so that they can succeed in green-collar jobs—jobs that provide a secure future in the renewable energy and energy efficiency fields.

My recent visit with the RichmondBUILD students showed me the students' pure excitement in learning the new skills that will move them forward in their careers. Not only does RichmondBUILD help to stem the use of violence and drugs in our community, the program gives students the opportunity and tools to succeed in a new economy.

I invite my colleagues to learn more about RichmondBUILD, which has brought together community organizations, municipalities, and local industry and labor groups to provide such a successful green-collar job training program.

What Richmond has built with this public/private partnership is a model for cities around the country, and I commend the program's staff and its students for all of their hard work. I am proud to represent a community that includes programs like RichmondBUILD.

PACE STAFFING NETWORK

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I want to salute a company located in the 8th District of Washington, PACE Staffing Network, for earning the 2007 Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility for their superiority in providing workplace effectiveness and flexibility.

PACE Staffing represents some of the most prominent companies in the Puget Sound area and provides an invaluable service to employees and employers year after year. Whether looking for a career in health care or manufacturing, the hi-tech sector or customer service, administration or clerical work, PACE is quick to match you to the best fit in the region to help keep our economy compete globally with the most skilled workers in the world. Through changing economies, technologies and staffing levels, PACE clients know to expect innovative partnerships, savvy business acumen and prompt, thorough service.

Without an organization such as PACE Staffing, leading global companies in the

Puget Sound region would lack the resources to keep proper staffing levels and compete in the marketplace. Therefore, the recognition of this body goes to founder and president of PACE, Jeanne Knutzen, for providing a wonderful service while maximizing productivity and attracting the highest quality employees available.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL STEPHEN GREENE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of COL Stephen Greene, and in recognition of his outstanding service to our country. Colonel Greene is retiring after 39 years of service in the U.S. Army.

Colonel Greene boasts a successful and diverse military career, beginning when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force (USAF) as an active duty enlisted airman from 1969 to 1973. During that time, he traveled throughout South east Asia and remained in the USAF reserves until 1975. The following year, Colonel Greene graduated from nursing school to become a registered nurse (RN). A number of years later, in 1981, he graduated from Basic Airborne School Fort Benning, Georgia, and from the Cleveland Clinic School of Nurse Anesthesia. He served as a certified RN anesthetist in the USAR 156th General Hospital, located in Parma, Ohio, and later had tours in Honduras, Panama, Kentucky, Colorado, Texas, Georgia and Germany. From 1998 until his retirement at the end of this year, Colonel Greene completed multiple tours caring for severely injured combat soldiers in Germany and Afghanistan.

Colonel Greene was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Army in November of 2001 and boasts over 20 awards and badges from his service to our country. The Bronze Star, Joint Service, Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Expert Field Medical Badge are just a few of the awards and badges he has received throughout his 39 year career. Colonel Greene served as a senior nurse anesthetist (NA) at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center for 7 years, prior to working as an NA at the Cleveland Clinic at Hillcrest Hospital, where he has been the last 7 years.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of COL Stephen Greene as he retires from 39 years of service in the U.S. Army, and in recognition of his outstanding dedication and service to our country, and to all the men and women who have served along with him.

AN APPEAL FROM A DAUGHTER

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today Ti-Anna Wang spoke on Capitol Hill to

a group of human rights advocates about her recent visit with her imprisoned father, the heroic Chinese democracy activist Wang Bingzhang. Dr. Wang is a founding father of the post-Mao Chinese democracy movement; he personally founded or co-founded a magazine, a movement, and a political party dedicated to promoting democracy.

Dr. Wang is an incredibly brave man who is serving a life sentence in China for “espionage” and “terrorism”—these are the Chinese Government’s words for promoting democracy. In fact “espionage” and “terrorism” come close to describing the Chinese Government’s own behavior in pursuing Dr. Wang, a permanent U.S. resident whom Chinese Government agents abducted from Vietnam in June 2002, smuggled back into China, and secretly held incommunicado for 6 months, before subjecting him to a “star chamber” trial in January 2003. The U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has ruled that Dr. Wang’s detention is arbitrary.

Madam Speaker, any father would consider himself extremely blessed to have a daughter like Ti-Anna. When I first met with her, a few months ago, I was deeply moved by how determinedly she has been working for his release. I’m sure the love she is showing for her father is bearing fruit in his life, comforting him while he is in prison.

Today, Madam Speaker, is the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—an inspiring document, much of which remains a promissory note, unredeemed by so many governments of the world. It is our duty to continue pressing the governments of the world, including our own, to live up to this declaration. Let’s keep working, and keep praying, in solidarity with Dr. Wang and Ti-Anna and all those denied the rights that the Universal Declaration promotes.

Madam Speaker, I would like to introduce into the record Ti-Anna’s report on her recent visit with her father and his condition.

I would like to start by thanking everyone here, on behalf of my family, for taking the time to come to this event. Since I started my work in DC, I’ve been lucky enough to be surrounded by supportive, generous and kind people who are genuinely concerned about my father’s case. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in his fight for freedom. More specifically, I would like to thank Dr. Yang, Congressman Wolf, Congressman Smith, Congressman Ros-Lehtinen, and Senator Feinstein for their recent work on my father’s case. It is the compassion of every one here that gives my family hope and reason to believe that the unlikely is possible.

I’m here today to tell you about my recent visit with my father just two weeks ago. To give a little background, my father’s sentence allows for only one visit a month. Each of these visits last about 30 minutes.

The standard procedure is that my family receives a visitation notice in the mail that lets us know the date of the visit.

As my whole family lives in North America, we usually have a very short amount of time to make the necessary travel arrangements for a long trip to China. Once there, we have to go through a lengthy authorization process before we are allowed to see him. For my latest visit, I had some difficulties getting my visa as scheduled, and didn’t have the proper paperwork, which added a lot of additional stress to this already difficult process.

The visit takes place in a bare concrete building that borders the gate of his remote

prison, several miles away from the closest city. It is so secluded that we have to be driven there by the prison officials, as some of the terrain in that area has yet to be paved.

Right before we can meet, the prison authorities remind us of the rules and regulations, which include only speaking in Chinese, and staying away from topics that will cause my father anxiety. These visits are conducted in visitation booths and are monitored by four prison officials, two standing behind the each of us.

Separated by metal bars and two layers of Plexiglas, my father and I can only communicate using a telephone.

I was very nervous about seeing my father this time. It had been over a year since my last visit, and my family had lost contact with him for two months without any clear explanations from the prison, so I was worried about the state that my father was in. I was so relieved when I was finally able to see him, cheerful enough to smile.

My first concern was his health. My father said that while he is stable, his chronic allergies and severe phlebitis continues to plague him. We talked mostly about my family, my educational future and the work that we are doing on his behalf. As we spoke, it was clear to me that my father’s untreated depression and psychological health continues to worsen.

He had difficulty making steady eye contact and sometimes repeated the same sentences several times. The prison officials monitoring our conversation were kind enough to allot us an extra 10 minutes.

My father wanted me to let everyone know that he is eternally grateful for all the work that has been done on his behalf and that he remains hopeful that justice will prevail.

As our conversation came to an end, my father began to cry. He said the thought of never seeing his ailing 87-year-old mother again often brings him to tears and that his only wish is that they will be reunited before it’s too late.

It has now been over 6 years that my father, now almost 62 years old, lingers alone in prison. I come here today in hopes of conveying the message that my father’s situation has become ever more critical and his time is running out. This is the third time I’ve visited my father, and it is obvious that both his physical and mental health are deteriorating. He has aged so much in the last few years, and his depression is becoming dangerously severe. The prison authorities have told my family that my father’s only chance of receiving medical parole is if he admits guilt to the charges of “terrorism” and “espionage” . . . but I know that my father would never, nor does my family want him to confess to claims that are not only false, but that will comprise his dignity and values.

As we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I just want to remind everyone that it is because of my father’s unwavering commitment to this cause that he is being so unjustly punished today.

As the founder of the Chinese overseas pro-democracy movement, there was nothing harder that my father fought for than the values of human rights, freedom and democracy for the people of his homeland.

His contribution to his beliefs has now cost him 6 years of solitary confinement, and possibly his life if we do not continue to fight for his freedom.

So I would like to close today by asking the present and new administration to call for my father’s immediate release on medical and humanitarian grounds.

I also invite everyone here, along with your friends and family to visit

www.initiativesforchina.org to sign an online petition addressed to President Hu Jintao, also calling for my father’s release.

Lastly, I would like to work with congressional leaders toward the goal of obtaining honorary U.S. citizenship for my father as recognition of his lifelong service to democracy and as a statement of America’s recommitment to making human rights a priority in its agenda.

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone here for coming and for your sincere concern for my father.

IN HONOR OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR THEODORE N. TANCZUK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Theodore N. Tanczuk, as he retires after 26 years of service in the U.S. Army, and in recognition of his outstanding dedication to our country.

CSM Theodore Tanczuk was born in Cleveland on December 6, 1948, a few years after the end of World War II. In 1971, while in his early twenties, he enlisted in the Army. Commander Sergeant Major Tanczuk quickly moved through the ranks and graduated from nursing school, becoming a licensed practical nurse (LPN). In 1982, his vision and dedication to developing the medical department in the U.S. Military led him to set up a nursing school program through the U.S. Army and local nursing schools in Northeast Ohio. The program was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Army, and students who completed the program graduated in one year. 65 of the 68 people who completed this program went on the graduate from nursing schools and work as LPNs in Ohio. Commander Sergeant Major Tanczuk served as a guide and mentor to each of the students throughout the entire process, until they too went on to serve our country in local hospitals all over northeast Ohio.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of CSM Theodore N. Tanczuk, and in recognition of his outstanding service to our country. May his work as an LPN and mentor to other military servicemen serve as an example for all of us to follow.

HONORING JAMES FRANK POLLARD

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a larger-than-life Texan, James Frank Pollard. This afternoon in San Angelo, TX, Frank will be laid to rest. I ask my colleagues and all those present in the chamber to join me in offering their thoughts and prayers to his beloved family, daughter Lisa, son Jim, daughter-in-law Wendy, and his grandchildren, Charless and Sophia.

Born to Charlie and Grace Pollard in Coleman, TX in 1931, Frank’s ingrained Texan values, can-do spirit, and a healthy dose of pragmatism drove him to make his mark in many

arenas. A graduate of the University of Mines in El Paso and a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Korean War, Frank jumped into the family business just in time to play an integral role in some of the most storied oil discoveries in Texas. A lifelong student, he always had a book handy to feed his quest for knowledge.

It was during his wildcatting days that Frank embarked on the biggest adventure of his life—his 35-year marriage to Martha. They settled into the life of a west Texas ranching family moving to Fort Stockton and then Alpine to raise their three children. The tragic death of their oldest child, Mark, only served to strengthen the Pollard family's bond by encouraging them all to live every day to the absolute fullest.

A man who could play devil's advocate on any issue, "Daddy Frank" was one of a kind. No matter the topic or the audience he could offer opinions and hold court. With a larger-than-life personality, he could enjoy himself in a roomful full of oilmen or children. He knew when to lead, when to inspire, and when to let someone learn their own lessons.

If Hollywood had ever wanted to put a real Texas wildcatter and rancher on the silver screen, a casting director could have struck Texas gold with Frank Pollard. Always armed with a story, a joke, a way to draw people in, Daddy Frank was the epitome of the proud Texas wildcatter from the tips of his boots to the top of his cowboy hat, and we can all learn from his example of what it means to have Texas integrity.

On December 6, Frank was reunited with his beloved Martha and their oldest son, Mark. He leaves behind for his family and friends a lifetime of Daddy Frank stories to tell and a legacy of the Texas spirit. Once again, I thank those in the chamber and all Americans for allowing me to share Frank's story of the importance of family, friends, and living life each and every day to the fullest.

TRIBUTE TO JUDIE BOLAM

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Judie Bolam, Judie recently celebrated 10 years of service in my Omaha Congressional Office. She is a dedicated servant to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. She works hard and deserves accolades.

Judie serves as staff assistant for my Omaha Congressional Office. Judie has the unofficial title of "director of first impressions." She starts every day taking the time to speak to each staff member face to face. She is a dedicated worker who always has a smile and her face and knows everyone by first name.

Judie, thank you for your positive attitude. It has made a difference in every project you worked on over the past 10 years. I am lucky to have found you, and I know the staff believes the office is lucky you found us. Hard work and patience pays off, and we could not have done it without you, Judie. Thank you.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
KRISTALLNACHT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congregation Shaarey Tikvah in Beachwood, Ohio as they commemorate the seventieth anniversary of Kristallnacht—The Night of Shattered Glass.

Kristallnacht was a series of events that began on the night of November 9, 1938 in which the Nazi Third Reich in Germany and Austria destroyed over 200 synagogues, thousands of stores, hundreds of homes and a number of Jewish community centers in what is widely considered to be the beginning of the Holocaust. I stand with the members of Congregation Shaarey Tikvah and all members of the Greater Cleveland Community in marking November 9, 2008 as the official 70-Year Remembrance Day of Kristallnacht. I also rise in recognition of the organizers of this important interfaith program as all members of our community join in remembering the lives of those lost during the Holocaust and in commemorating this historical night. Their contributions exemplify the diversity and culture that our community is so fortunate to possess.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Kristallnacht and in honor of Congregation Shaarey Tikvah as they join with members of our community in commemorating this historic event.

HONORING DENNIS RAINIER'S RETIREMENT FROM MURFREESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Rainier on his retirement after over 37 years of service.

Dennis grew up in Maryland and came to Murfreesboro to play baseball for my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University. Like many MTSU alums, he never left Murfreesboro.

In 1971, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Director Ray Duffy noticed a young man working with children in a gym at Hobgood Elementary School. Dennis Rainier was holding a basketball camp, and Mr. Duffy must have liked what he saw because he offered Dennis the position of Assistant Director that day. Nine years later, Mr. Duffy retired, and Dennis was appointed to lead the fledgling Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department that would become one of the best programs in Tennessee.

Under Dennis' direction, the Old Fort Golf Course was constructed, as was SportsCom, StarPlex, Barfield-Crescent Park, and Patterson Park Community Center, each offering a variety of fitness opportunities for everyone in Murfreesboro.

Dennis and I worked together on making the Stones River Greenway and the Discovery

Center and Nature Trail at Murfree Spring a reality. Tens of thousands of people use the Greenway, and an estimated 100,000 children and families explore the Discovery Center's exhibits each year.

In addition to fitness complexes, golf courses and greenways, Murfreesboro also hosts a variety of State high school sports championships. These events bring millions of tourist dollars into the city, and Dennis always worked hard to make them a success.

Dennis, I've enjoyed working with you and have always appreciated your "can-do" attitude. I hope you enjoy a long and happy retirement with your wife, children and grandchild.

TRIBUTE TO CROOK COUNTY
JUDGE SCOTT COOPER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, It is with great pride and gratitude that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding public servant and community leader from Oregon's Second Congressional District, Crook County Judge Scott Cooper. Scott has chosen to conclude his service as county judge at the end of this month, and I would like to share with our colleagues some background on this special leader.

Judge Cooper was elected to his post in November 2000, and has served two terms in office. Before taking office as county judge, Scott was a member of the Prineville City Council, serving from 1997–2000.

The position of county judge triggers memories of Oregon's great frontier history, but the role is not one of living in the past. Judge Cooper's colleagues will all tell you one thing definite about him: he gets things done. Shortly after coming to office and learning that the historic county courthouse had been without hot water for years, Judge Cooper decided he was going to get that fixed. Naysayers told him that it had been tried before, but it would cost too much and couldn't be done. A call to a local plumber and a mere \$20 later, folks realized the Judge wasn't one to take no for an answer. This isn't the only example. Technologically speaking, he brought Crook County into the 21st Century. When Judge Cooper came into office, many recall that the Crook County system of government had many moving parts. Thirty different departments worked separately of each other with little formal interaction. Without this formality among the departments and residents, county administration and budgeting tended to be a little chaotic. Judge Cooper's vision led to a computer network being created so departments could interact and set up a county Web site where residents could keep track of county services and business. Reflecting Scott's core beliefs that public service is about fiscal responsibility and making customer service a priority, Crook County now works as one body for the betterment of the whole.

Judge Cooper has served not only Crook County well, but has looked out for the interests of central Oregon and the State as a whole in a wide variety of positions during his

tenure in office. With a flair for fiscal responsibility and innovative management, he is recognized as a leader throughout Oregon on transportation, health care, and economic development matters. He served as treasurer of the Association of Oregon Counties. He is a two-term member of the Oregon State Housing Council. He twice served on the Connect Oregon 1 project selection committee and served as a member of the Governor's Task Force on county payments relief. In 2006, he accompanied Governor Ted Kulongoski as an official delegate representing Oregon counties on the Governor's Trade Mission to Korea and Japan. He has also served as chair of the Central Oregon Community Investment Board of Directors and the Accountable Behavioral Health Alliance, and as a board member of Mosaic Medical, a regional community-based health care system serving low-income, underinsured families and individuals. He served as vice chair for the Economic Development for Central Oregon Advisory Board and two terms on the Central Oregon Area Transportation Committee. As you can see, Judge Cooper has never let much grass grow beneath his feet.

Judge Cooper's dedication to his community and state has not gone unnoticed. He is the past recipient of the State of Oregon's Economic Development Professional of the Year Award, the Economic Development for Central Oregon Public Sector of the Year, the Association of Oregon Counties Outstanding Service Award, the University of Oregon's Friend of Education Award and the Crook County High School "Pardner" Award.

Judge Cooper has been strongly supported by his family and specifically his wife, Bend attorney Laura Craska Cooper, and their three wonderful daughters. Scott is an outstanding father and a terrific advocate for today's youth. In addition to his family regularly hosting foreign exchange students, he likes to keep kids involved in government by delivering special talks in local schools and giving class tours at the Crook County Courthouse.

In 1857, George H. Williams, a delegate to Oregon's constitutional convention, argued about county judges, "Give us one competent man to administer the affairs of the county, whose compensation would enable him to devote his time to his duties, and we would have a much more satisfactory and economical administration of county affairs."

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize my good friend, Judge Scott Cooper, who has proven he is that one competent man, and laud him for his years of dedicated public service, his numerous contributions to community and for his strong character as a citizen of Crook County, Oregon. Scott's leadership for the county will be sorely missed, but he is a young and energetic man with many great years ahead of him and I look forward to his continued involvement in other leadership capacities in Oregon.

CELEBRATING DR. JAMES A. BOYD
43RD PASTOR'S ANNIVERSARY

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a spiritual and community lead-

er from my home state of Mississippi. Dr. James A. Boyd has been a pastor for Zion Gate Missionary Baptist Church for the past 43 years, and has been an inspiration to the people not only in his parish, but also around the country.

Dr. Boyd is a native of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, and graduated from Oktibbeha Training School before earning a bachelor's degree from Stillman College in 1964. He also attended Iowa State University and Mississippi State University. He received a doctorate of ministry at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California. He also received a doctorate of divinity from Mary Holmes College in West Point, Mississippi, in 2002.

I wish to honor him by marking some of his many accomplishments. Throughout his time in Mississippi he has been president of the Northeast Mississippi Baptist State Convention, Inc., board member of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., past president of the Northeast Mississippi Baptist State S.S. and N.B.C. Congress, both a trustee and chairman of the Ministerial Institute and College, homiletic instructor at the Ministerial Institute and College, lecturer for the Mt. Olivet District Association, evangelist for revivals, seminars and conferences across the nation.

Today we can all take the time to remember Dr. Boyd's hard work, leadership, and selfless devotion to the Lord, as well as to the people of his congregation.

HONORING MOLLY LLOYD

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of my District Director Molly Lloyd. Molly recently celebrated 10 years of service in my Omaha Congressional Office. She is a dedicated servant to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. She works hard and deserves accolades.

Molly Lloyd serves as my District Director in my Omaha Congressional Office. Molly knows how to lead and build an effective team, not to mention her stealth communication skills. Her talents and commitment to selfless public service are evident throughout the community. No one is more loved and respected than Molly Lloyd.

Molly is a lifelong Nebraskan and was born to proud parents Kay and Bob Koozer in Omaha. She graduated from Westside High School and attended Hastings College where she earned a bachelor's degree in communications in only 3 years. After college, she worked to elect Mayor Hal Daub for the city of Omaha and served as his director of public affairs until 1997. I was fortunate to gain her as a member of my congressional staff upon my election in 1998. She is mother of two beautiful daughters, Emma and Ellie and is married to her soul mate Mark Lloyd.

Some questioned me for hiring someone so young to become the director of my Omaha office, but their criticisms were soon silenced as her talents and her commitment to selfless public service became obvious to the entire community. Her strong leadership skills and

fierce dedication to conservative principles have served my office well.

Molly knows her hometown inside and out and is an active member of the community, including volunteering and advocating for causes and organizations such as the Joslyn Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, and as a founder of the Leadership Circle to help the next generation of women leaders enter public service.

I appreciate Molly's friendship, and I respect her dedication and invaluable contributions over the past ten years. I am proud to call her a friend and to congratulate and honor her today for all that she has accomplished.

HONORING MURFREESBORO FIRE CHIEF DAVID BAXTER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief David Baxter who is retiring from the Murfreesboro Fire Department after 30 years of service.

When David began his career as a firefighter in 1977, the Murfreesboro Fire Department consisted of 60 personnel and four fire halls. Today, David oversees 120 personnel and 11 fire halls. In addition to fighting fires, today's personnel are certified to handle HAZMAT and extrication situations, and they are medically trained to be first responders.

David worked with the Murfreesboro City Council and city administration to build one of Tennessee's best fire departments, which he has led as chief for the last 20 years.

In 1988, the year David became chief, the Murfreesboro Fire Department had a Class 4 Insurance Service Organization rating. The ISO rating is a benchmark for measuring the effectiveness of a fire department's fire-protection services—the lower the rating, the better. Today, the Murfreesboro Fire Department has a Class 2 rating, making it one of only two fire departments in Tennessee with this rating.

David not only improved the fire department, but he also put policies in place that better ensure the safety of the Murfreesboro firefighters.

Before David became the Fire Chief, firefighters were only required to wear coats and helmets when putting out fires. However, one of the first things David did upon becoming chief was necessitating that each firefighter within 10 feet of a fire be fully dressed in fire turnout gear and wear a self-contained breathing apparatus.

David also initiated educational programs for schools and businesses and was a strong proponent of the installation of smoke detectors throughout the city.

All of David's efforts over the years have made the Murfreesboro community safer and better protected.

Thank you David. I hope you have a happy retirement.

RECOGNITION OF JUDGE
NICHOLAS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable William T. Nicholas who is retiring after faithfully serving the people of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania as a judge and prosecutor for nearly 40 years.

Judge Nicholas' distinguished public service career started as a prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office in 1968. He was elected Montgomery County District Attorney in 1976 before winning a judgeship in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas in 1980. For the past eight years, Judge Nicholas has served as Administrative Judge of the Criminal Division.

Judge Nicholas earned praise from his peers as a skilled litigator and a wise, impartial jurist who issued more than 500 rulings during his exemplary years of service on the bench. Innovation was another hallmark of Judge Nicholas' tenure. He is credited with instituting a Discovery Master Program to improve the efficiency of the court system and implementing a security system at the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding service and extraordinary career of the Honorable William T. Nicholas and all who dedicate their careers to the pursuit of justice.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
STEVE CHABOT ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM
THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable STEVE CHABOT for his service to the people of Ohio and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman CHABOT has represented the First Congressional District of the state of Ohio for the past 14 years.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, STEVE graduated from La Salle High School and worked his way through the College of William and Mary. He returned to Cincinnati after college to teach in a downtown elementary school during the day and attend the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at night. After completing his law degree, STEVE opened his own neighborhood law practice, and his father worked as his assistant.

Before he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, STEVE served as a Cincinnati City Council Member for five years, followed by a five-year term on the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners. When STEVE was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, he was named to the influential Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, and Small Business Committees. In 2007, STEVE became the top Republican on the Small Business Committee, where he focused on permitting small busi-

nesses to band together to obtain affordable health insurance for their workers.

On the Judiciary Committee, STEVE served as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution from 2001 to 2006, from which post he promoted proposals to amend the Constitution to ban flag desecration, outlaw same-sex marriage, require a balanced budget, protect the rights of crime victims, and allow prayer and religious symbols to be displayed on public property.

Consistently rated as one of the most pro-taxpayer members of Congress, STEVE was known as one of Congress's leading advocates for fiscal responsibility.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife, Donna; his two children; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the state of Ohio and the United States of America.

STEVE will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. THOMAS LITRELL
OF PLAINVILLE, KS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Littrell of Plainville, KS. This recognition is not just long overdue, it is 38 years overdue. Tom Littrell, like many Vietnam veterans, may not consider himself a hero. Today it is my privilege to share the story of an unsung hero, my friend and fellow Kansan, Tom Littrell.

When Tom was sent to serve in Vietnam as a young soldier, he left behind his family and friends in Plainville and headed to a combat zone in Southeast Asia. As a member of the second platoon of the 919th Combat Engineers attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tom joined a new family—one forged by shared service in an unfamiliar territory.

He began his tour of duty by courageously volunteered as a driver of an APC tank. His fellow platoon member, Doug Giesige, describes Tom's job as "the most vulnerable a man could routinely do in our unit. Our enemies would place their land mines on the side of the road that corresponded with the driver's side of the track. Our drivers would be located directly over such explosions and as such, they would suffer the most casualties and injuries of any of us on these tracks. It was hard to demand that a man do this every day, thus all were doing this as willing volunteers. It takes a special breed of man to do this job. Knowing that he was as vulnerable as you can be, day in and day out. They all tended to be hard working and pretty hard nosed and reliable. Stubborn, actually."

Tom also served as a demolitionist and mine sweeper. He and his fellow soldiers experienced ambush and encountered land mines regularly. During this time, Tom was involved in five incidents where his tank hit land-

mines. While some soldiers were sent to the rear and treated for their injuries following such incidents, Tom was not. As driver of the tank, he knew the importance of his role. He was treated in the field for his injuries and went back to work. His sense of duty to his fellow soldiers meant more to him than his own comfort. As Doug Giesige recalled, "On April 2, 1970 our platoon was involved with a 24-hour ordeal that cost us multiple injuries. The final action of the day involved our track hitting a mine and being the focus of an ambush just after dark. All of us were blown off the track except Tom and Lieutenant Livingood. Sometime during the firefight, Tom went out after Staff Sergeant Russell under heavy fire and dragged him back to the track."

Tom exemplified the best of those who serve our country—sacrifice, courage, and bravery. Tom would tell you he was just doing his job when he served in Vietnam, but to the men he served with, it was more than that.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Tom Littrell's courageous service today. We also acknowledge the support of his wife of 36 years, Charlotte, and their children, Jason, Amanda and Renee. And although it is decades past its due, we offer a few simple words to Mr. Thomas Littrell of Plainville, KS. Thank you, my friend, thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
PHIL ENGLISH ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable PHIL ENGLISH for his service to the people of Pennsylvania and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman ENGLISH has represented the Third Congressional District of the State of Pennsylvania for the past 14 years.

A lifelong resident of Erie, Pennsylvania, PHIL graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979. His interest in politics began when he was young. At just the age of 20, he served as an alternate delegate to the 1976 Republican National Convention.

PHIL began his career in public service as a legislative aide in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. In 1985, he was elected as Erie City Controller, the first Republican elected to citywide office in 20 years. After his term as controller, PHIL helped design the campaign for Rick Santorum's upset win to the U.S. Senate. PHIL then served as chief of staff for then State Senator Melissa Hart until he ran for an open House seat in 1994.

Known for his knowledge and experience with tax issues, PHIL was appointed to the powerful Ways and Means Committee in his first year in Congress, becoming the first freshman Republican appointed to the committee in almost 30 years.

Throughout his service to Pennsylvania and the United States, PHIL has fought hard for measures to increase the child tax credit, accelerate the reduction of income tax rates, encourage household savings, eliminate the individual and corporate Alternative Minimum Tax

(AMT), cut the capital gains tax rate, increase expensing limits for businesses making capital investments, and encourage American companies operating overseas to reinvest in the United States. In the 110th Congress, PHIL became the ranking member on the Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family—his wife, Chris—and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of Pennsylvania and the United States of America.

PHIL will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ROSALYN ANN LOWE

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Rosalyn Ann Lowe. I am proud to recognize Mrs. Lowe in the United States Congress for her invaluable contributions to our community, our State and our Nation.

Mrs. Rosalyn Ann Lowe was born Nov. 8, 1946, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas to W.A. "Red" and Sallie Mary Wingfield. She was a retired teacher and an active member of the Gillett, Arkansas United Methodist Church. Her death took a pillar of the community from us. She lived her life as a true example of how we should serve others.

From high school students in her home economics class to her precious preschoolers, she positively influenced the lives of many children with loving guidance and patience. As a home economics teacher she used the opportunity to teach and mentor her students to provide her real life lessons that would prepare them for the future. She had a special gift of making each child feel special and important, which is one of many reasons she was an exceptional teacher.

Mrs. Lowe was the kind of citizen every community wishes they had more of. She served the city under a mayor and city council who had a vision for our small farming town during a transitional time in our community. Because she believed it was the right thing to do she was an active part of the leadership that brought positive changes to Gillett, Arkansas.

As we recall Mrs. Lowe's exceptional career, we find her accomplishments as a teacher pale only in comparison to her strong devotion to her family, her church, her community and our nation. On behalf of Congress, I offer my friend, Rosalyn Ann Lowe my deepest appreciation and gratitude for her tireless dedication and service to the children of Arkansas. We are grateful for the time she spent with us. Most importantly, we are all better people because of the time she spent with us. She was a great friend who will be missed by many.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE ROBIN HAYES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable ROBIN HAYES for his service to the people of North Carolina and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman HAYES has represented the Eighth Congressional District of the State of North Carolina for the past 10 years.

Born and raised in Concord, North Carolina, ROBIN graduated from Duke University with a degree in history. Throughout college, ROBIN worked at his family-run textile business, but after graduation, he ventured out on his own, eventually moving his family to Alaska to run a freight business. He later returned home and bought a small air charter business as well as a hosiery mill.

ROBIN's start in politics came as a Concord alderman, a post he held for three years. He ran successfully for a seat in the state House and was later elected Republican Whip.

Elected to Congress in 1998, ROBIN was named to the Transportation and Infrastructure, Armed Services, and Agriculture Committees, and is currently the top ranking Republican on the Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee. From his seat on the House Agriculture Committee, ROBIN has earned a reputation as one of Congress's staunchest defenders of tobacco—an industry vital to North Carolina's economy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife of 40 years, Barbara; his two children, Winslow and Bob; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of North Carolina and the United States of America.

ROBIN will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

DR. SHANNON HARVEY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a principal in the 8th District of Washington, Dr. Shannon Harvey, who earned the National Educator Award from the Milken Family Foundation and a prize of \$25,000 for showing exceptional educational talent and great leadership. The prize was awarded to her in October, and she was the only educator in Washington to receive the distinction.

Dr. Harvey is the principal at Cascade Elementary School in Renton, WA, and has been since 2004. She started at Cascade as a teacher and has worked with the district for 16

years. Under her leadership, Cascade involved community leaders and parents in developing a comprehensive learning environment that benefited students and teachers. She instituted such innovative ideas as giving her staff more time for professional development and posting test scores on a wall within the school for teachers and students alike to track academic progress.

The overall effect of Dr. Harvey's efforts has led to a wonderful balance of teacher intervention and student independence. Outside of clear anecdotal effects, her changes have led to a large jump in students' test scores on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. When Dr. Harvey began as principal, 48 percent of students at Cascade were passing the reading portion of the test. Now, the percentage has jumped to 81.

When Dr. Harvey learned she won the award, she was quoted in the Seattle Times as saying, "It seems unfair to be honored for something I love." Dr. Harvey truly possesses a servant's heart, and I believe it is appropriate for this body to acknowledge her selfless dedication to the future leaders of America.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL AGENT SAMUEL K. HICKS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Special Agent Samuel K. Hicks, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on November 19. Throughout his career as a law, enforcement officer and special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Samuel Hicks served his country with honor. He will be remembered for his integrity, bravery, and firm commitment to protecting the people of the United States of America.

First and foremost, Special Agent Hicks was a devoted father and loving husband. His commitment to law enforcement was surpassed only by his unmatched love for his family. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Brooke and son Noah, as well as his entire family during this difficult time.

Special Agents Hicks was born and raised in Somerset, PA, and after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, he went on to graduate from the Baltimore Police Academy in 2002. He began his distinguished law enforcement career in the Southwestern District and remained there until 2005, when he was assigned to the organized crime division. Eventually, Special Agent Hicks went on to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming an FBI agent in 2007, serving on the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in Pittsburgh. He quickly proved to be an exceptional special agent.

Special Agent Hicks' life was dedicated to serving others—whether it be as an Eagle Scout, member of the Pennsylvania National Guard, or eventually a world-class law enforcement officer. His strong character and giving heart were recognized by everyone around him—from instructors at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, to fellow Agents on the Pittsburgh Joint Terrorism Task Force. A gifted leader, Special Agent Hicks was dedicated to

public service. He gave his life to ensure that others could live without fear of violence or harm. For that, he is most certainly a hero for which this country is eternally grateful.

Throughout his career, Special Agent Hicks exemplified the FBI's motto of Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity by serving and protecting the citizens of the United States. As a former special agent, I know he will be sorely missed by all those with whom he served.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of one of our Nation's finest, Samuel K. Hicks, for his model service to United States law enforcement and his commitment to his country. He is truly deserving of America's respect and admiration.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
JAMES WILLIAM MCFARLAND

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor James William McFarland and pay tribute to his memory.

Born and raised in Tuscaloosa, Bill graduated from Tuscaloosa High School and graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama in Commerce and Business Administration. He was named outstanding real estate graduate by the Alabama Association of Realtors.

After graduation, Bill served as director of real estate for Winn Dixie Stores Incorporated in the Louisville, Kentucky division. In 1973, he returned to Tuscaloosa as vice president of Ward McFarland Incorporated, a real estate development and investment firm founded by his father, the Honorable Ward Wharton McFarland.

In 1986, Bill was the Republican Nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives for the Seventh District of Alabama. The following year, former Governor Guy Hunt appointed Bill to his cabinet as commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Retardation. During his two years as commissioner, Bill was successful in pushing for the passage of a \$1 million bond for mental health, the largest in state history. The bond issue enabled mental health facilities throughout Alabama to renovate their facilities and improve their quality of care.

Bill was also a founding member of the Southern High-Speed Rail Commission, and he served numerous terms as chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary/treasurer of the Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi Rapid Rail Transit Commission. Bill played a key role in inaugurating the Gulf Coast Limited Amtrak Service, which provided service to Alabama.

Bill was also active in state politics. He served as chairman for three terms of the Tuscaloosa County Republican Executive Committee. He served as a member of the Alabama State Republican Executive Committee, including one term as seventh district vice-chairman of the Alabama Republican Party. Bill was elected alternate delegate to the 1988 Republican National Convention and was elected statewide as delegate to the 1992 Republican National Convention, at which Presi-

dent George H.W. Bush appointed him as a floor leader for the Southern Caucus.

Bill was an officer in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Alabama Governors George C. Wallace, Guy Hunt, and Jim Folsom Jr. each appointed Bill as Lieutenant Colonel Aide-de-Camp. He was also appointed by former U.S. Representative Jack Kemp as a member of the United States Congressional Advisory Board. Bill also worked with the Volunteers of America of Alabama, most recently serving as president. Bill served on the Shelton State Foundation, Friends of Bryce Hospital, as well as other leadership positions with various other community and civic organizations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. James William McFarland will be dearly missed by his family—his son, J.W. "Billy" McFarland Jr. and his wife, Sarah; his daughter, Mimi McFarland Cawood and her husband, Joseph; his brother, Ward Morrow McFarland; and his nephew, Ward Weston McFarland—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN FEISTNER

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Susan Feistner. Susie recently celebrated 10 years of service in my Omaha Congressional Office. She is a dedicated servant to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. She works hard and deserves accolades.

Susan Feistner serves as my Assistant District Director and Senior Constituent Liaison in my Omaha Congressional Office. Susie handles immigration issues, and this is no small task. Over the years, she has muddled through mounds of paperwork to find solutions for people and in many cases has reunited families, helped with adoptions of foreign-born children and obtained last-minute visas and passports. She has also referred people to attorneys for help in becoming legal citizens, and she has helped many constituents navigate through the tangle of U.S. Immigration laws. Her tireless service has made a difference in thousands of lives.

Over the years, Susie has also been active in Republican Party politics and has worked for candidates up and down and the ballot. Her involvement in our political process is much appreciated by me and the many others she has supported. She has also been a steady hand in my District Office and has acted as Molly Lloyd's deputy when needed. Her continuity has been a big plus for our staff.

Susie, today I offer you a heartfelt thank you. Thank you for your dedication. I am extremely proud of your contributions over the past 10 years. I am blessed to have such a professional and hard working individual on my team. Without your help and guidance, I would not be where I am today. It is a privilege and an honor to have you on my staff. Thank you again.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
LAMBERT C. MIMS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor former Mayor Lambert C. Mims and pay tribute to his memory.

With a public career spanning two decades, Mayor Mims's tenure in office marked a period of significant growth for the city of Mobile, including the completion of the George C. Wallace tunnels and the Interstate 10 Bayway, the opening of the restored Fort Conde, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, and the first oil well in Mobile Bay.

Born in the small farming town of Uriah in south Monroe County, Mayor Mims grew up on a cotton farm and was no stranger to hard work. He moved to Mobile at the age of 19 and had called the city home ever since. In 1965, he was elected to the Mobile City Commission, becoming the youngest commissioner in Mobile's history. When first elected, he served as Public Works Commissioner. The commission rotated the title of mayor every 16 months and, during his tenure as mayor and commissioner, he made public morality the foundation of his administration, including the passage of an anti-pornography regulation.

After leaving office, then-Governor George C. Wallace appointed Mayor Mims as ambassador to the Alabama Waterways Development Agency. He later served as president of the American Public Works Association and the Alabama League of Municipalities.

A long-time member and deacon at Riverside Baptist Church, Mayor Mims served as president of the Alabama Baptist Brotherhood, the Alabama Baptist State Convention, the Mobile Baptist Association, and the Masonic Breakfast Club. He was a member of the Azalea Masonic Lodge #898 F & AM, the Abba Temple Shrine, West Mobile Kiwanis Club, the CBMC and served as president of the Waterfront Rescue Mission Advisory Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Lambert C. Mims will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Reecie; his sons, Dale P. Mims and L. Daniel Mims; his grandchildren, Lindsay C. Mims and Katie E. Mims; and his brother, Bibb Graves Mims—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

CYPRUS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues to shed light on disheartening developments that have taken place recently off the coast of the Republic of Cyprus.

On November 13 of this year, a Turkish warship issued threats to two foreign flagged maritime vessels conducting an exploratory survey at the request of the Government of Cyprus, within its exclusive economic zone, EEZ. The Turkish warship claimed that these vessels had entered into Turkey's EEZ. Fearing retaliation, the exploratory ships withdrew. However, at the time of this threat, these two ships had been located 27 miles off the coast of Cyprus, which is included within its EEZ boundaries.

In addition to this most recent incident, Turkey has used the waters of the Republic of Cyprus to conduct military exercises numerous times. Furthermore, even after Cyprus's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Minas Hadjimichael, and President of the Republic of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias, notified the U.N. Secretary-General of the November 13th Turkish provocation, Turkish warships continue to harass ships within Cyprus's EEZ.

Turkey's recent violations of international maritime law not only jeopardize the possibility for the re-unification of Cyprus, but they also endanger global security. In just one month, Turkey is to become a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, the same governing body that has frequently denounced Turkey's disregard for Cyprus's sovereignty. If Turkey violates the conditions to which it agreed when it joined the United Nations as they pertain to Cyprus—conditions that mandate each Member State's respect for the sovereignty of all States—who is to say that it will not violate its obligation to any other nation, including the United States? For Turkey to threaten the Republic of Cyprus—a nation that has been a staunch supporter of the United States and one that has been an unwavering ally in the Global War on Terror—is disturbing. The United States cannot simply remain silent and watch these provocative acts take place.

Madam Speaker, enough is enough. I encourage my colleagues to join me in condemning Turkey's blatant and repeated acts of aggression against the Republic of Cyprus and to demand that Turkey abide by the provisions to which it agreed when it joined the United Nations, provisions that the Republic of Cyprus has continually observed with pride.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
JOE KNOLLENBERG ON THE OC-
CASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable JOE KNOLLENBERG for his service to the people of Michigan and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman KNOLLENBERG has represented the Ninth Congressional District of the State of Michigan for the past 16 years.

Born and raised in Mattoon, Illinois, JOE is a graduate of East Illinois University. After

serving in the Army for 2 years, he moved to the Detroit area in 1959 to work as an Allstate Insurance agent and eventually opened his own branch office.

JOE quickly became a familiar face in his community serving as PTA president, homeowner association president and parish leader. He also chaired the Oakland County GOP organization and directed the campaign of Republican Representative William S. Broomfield in 1992.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, JOE has served as chairman of three House Appropriations subcommittees during his tenure. He currently serves as the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

An ardent supporter of auto manufacturers, an integral part of Michigan's economy, JOE authored legislation that cracked down on counterfeiters who make fraudulent automotive parts that cost Americans thousands of jobs in the automotive industry.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife of 45 years, Sandie; his two sons, Marty and Steve; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

JOE will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 7330 THE
"COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF
ACT OF 2008"

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Energy and Commerce Committee is vested with the responsibility for overseeing sports, and that includes the current process for determining a national college football champion: the BCS system. College football is more than an exhilarating sport, it's a billion-dollar business. I'm introducing legislation today because despite every effort to fix the problems of BCS, college seasons still end in sniping and controversy, rather than clear winners and losers determined on the field.

The BCS system was created to identify a broadly accepted national champion, but 50 percent of the time it has failed to do so. Most coaches who lose half their games would also lose their jobs. Yet that's what we settle for in determining a champion today.

The BCS system of determining America's top collegiate team was established in 1998 and has been plagued by controversy almost ever since. In some years the sport's national championship winner was left unsettled, and at least one school was left out of the many millions of dollars in revenue that accompany the title. Despite repeated efforts to improve the system, the controversy rages on.

In the 2003 season, the University of Oklahoma and Louisiana State University were selected to play in the title game, even though the University of Southern California arguably had an equal claim. LSU beat Oklahoma and USC also won its bowl game, leaving both schools claiming to be national champions and further chafing millions of college football fans, especially USC alumni. As a direct result of LSU's selection by BCS, the school's merchandise sales in both 2003 and 2004 were more than double previous levels, producing millions of dollars in additional revenue for the school.

In the 2004 season, again three equally qualified and, in this case, undefeated teams—Auburn, Oklahoma and USC—fought for the two slots in the title game, which once again produced an uneven outcome as USC defeated Oklahoma handily. Auburn won its game, but had no opportunity to play for a national championship and the millions of dollars that accompany it.

This year, we again have two teams with one loss each playing for the "championship" while two undefeated teams and four additional teams with only one loss will play in bowl games, but none can become "champion."

The distinction of being the best brings millions of dollars in revenue, but the BCS method of determining who is number one consistently misfires. When we held our first hearing on BCS in 2005, I didn't have legislation in mind, and I hoped none would be necessary. Simply exposing the flaws and subjecting them to discussion, however, hasn't led to improvement by those who run the system.

The legislation I am introducing along with Congressmen BOBBY RUSH and MICHAEL MCCAUL recognizes the flaws of this system. Consumers, whether the millions who watch the game on TV or the lucky few who pay for a ticket to the computer-designated "championship" game, are being deceived. The BCS championship game is not a championship game under any sensible interpretation of the manner in which sports champions are determined.

The legislation we are introducing today will prohibit the marketing, promotion, and advertising of a post-season game as a "national championship" football game, unless it is the result of a playoff system. Violations of the prohibition will be treated as violations of the Federal Trade Commission Act as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, and provides the FTC with civil penalty authority.

The legislation does not specify the details of the playoff system; rather, it ensures that that all Division I, Football Bowl Subdivision, teams should be initially eligible at the start of every season. The existing bowl structure could easily be incorporated into or as the basis for such a playoff system.

We're never going to abolish all controversy, and who'd really want to be rid of it, anyway? People will argue about who should be in and out of playoffs, too, but I am confident when more of the most deserving teams can compete, a true national champion is much likelier to emerge.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE JON PORTER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable JON PORTER for his service to the people of Nevada and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman PORTER has represented the Third Congressional District of the State of Nevada for the past 6 years.

Born and raised in Fort Dodge, Iowa, JON attended Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa, majoring in Theology. JON later moved to Henderson, Nevada, to begin his professional career as a small business owner with the Farmers Insurance Group. JON's political career began with his election to the Boulder City City Council in 1983. Immediately following his term on the City Council, JON was elected mayor of Boulder City in 1987 and went on to serve in the Nevada State Senate. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002, becoming the first Representative of the newly created Third Congressional District.

Appointed to the powerful Ways and Means Committee at the beginning of the 110th Congress, JON used this post to influence revenue legislation affecting the gaming and tourism industries which are the backbone of Nevada's economy. He also worked to shed light on travel requirements in order to facilitate easier travel to and from the United States in order to boost tourism to the Third District.

Education has also been a priority of JON's. Working with John Walsh, child advocate and host of America's Most Wanted, JON introduced legislation mandating criminal background checks for teachers in States that had not previously required them. The House passed bill was later enacted as part of the larger Adam Walsh Child Protection Act.

JON is also a founding member of the "Second Amendments," a bipartisan band of congressional Members that plays for various charities in Washington. The band has also traveled to Iraq playing for the troops at Christmas.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his children, J. Chris and Nicole, as well as his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of Nevada and the United States of America.

JON will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF AM 560 KWTO RADIO'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVING SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an Ozarks institution—KWTO Radio. AM 560 KWTO will celebrate its 75th anniversary of continuous service to Southwest Missouri providing music, news and information. On Christmas Day 1933, broadcast pioneer Ralph Foster brought KWTO to life with its first broadcast from the old Chamber of Commerce Building on St. Louis Street in Springfield.

Foster decided that KWTO's hallmark would be to provide the highest quality news, weather, farm reports and entertainment to its listeners and dubbed the station's call letters "Keep Watching the Ozarks." Adherence to that tradition has kept KWTO the region's longest continuously operating radio station.

75 years is a long time to keep any business going. By hiring great talent in broadcasting and entertainment, Foster amassed an amazing group of artists and journalists that would become well known and trusted names in radio. Floyd Sullivan, Bill Bailey and C.C. Williford, who was widely known as one of the nation's best weathermen, filled the region's airwaves from the 1930s.

Another group of broadcasters were also laying the foundation for what would become "the Golden Age" of entertainment on KWTO AM. Slim Wilson, George Earl and Bill Ring were the showmen that Foster and associate Si Simon used to launch and develop programming that would take a weekly "hillbilly variety" program and turned it into one of television's early sensations.

KWTO's Korn's-A-Krackin', which began airing during World War II and continued into the 1960s, was picked up nationally by the Mutual Broadcast System. In July 1954, KWTO became part of American broadcast history when the KWTO Barn Dance program was revamped for the brand new medium and named The Ozarks Jubilee. This live program broadcast from Springfield was an early TV hit (1955 to 1960 on ABC).

KWTO, which also produced the Ozarks Country Jubilee, and its television cousin used local artists like Wilson, Red Foley, Mother Maybelle Carter and the Carter Family, Johnny Cash, Porter Waggoner, Les Paul, Brenda Lee and a guitar player named Chet Atkins. These were staff musicians hired to perform live on KWTO from the 1930s through 1950s well before they established iconic careers in country music that led many to Country Music Hall of Fame and/or the Grand Ole Opry decades later.

Other notables broadcasting for KWTO at the start of their careers:

Charles McCord, from the nationally syndicated Don Imus Show, and whose grandmother, May Kennedy McCord, was also a KWTO broadcaster during the 40s and 50s.

Jim Bohannon, now nationally syndicated and a member of the Radio Broadcaster Hall of Fame, was a news reporter at KWTO.

Les Garvin, creator of MTV. While not originating his program from KWTO, Ralph Foster's close friend Paul Harvey frequently broadcasted live from the KWTO studio.

More contemporary alums from KWTO now hold important positions in business, education and broadcasting including Greene County Clerk Richard Struckhoff, President of the St. Johns Foundation Mike Peters, and Vice President of University Advancement at Missouri State University Brent Dunn, just to name a few.

KWTO has long provided vital information to its family of listeners on local and world events. It's where Ozarkers learned on a cold December morning about the attack on Pearl Harbor and heard President Roosevelt's response a day later. KWTO was also the source for news of the surrender of the Imperial Japanese Armed Forces. Its broadcasters reported the shocking news of President Roosevelt's death as well as the elation of President Harry Truman's surprise win in 1948. KWTO was home to the Lone Ranger and many other radio favorites for generations.

KWTO's commitment to community involvement has also been an integral part of its mission to enhance the quality of life for its listeners. There was "free ride day" that started as a charity event cosponsored with the Salvation Army at the Ozark Empire Fair and the hugely successful KWTO Christmas Parties held at the Shrine Mosque that drew crowds so large some people had to be turned away.

Local news has always been a critical part of KWTO's commitment to the region. Reporting on a wide range of social, political, law enforcement, and events that marked and shaped the area was a mainstay of everyday programming. In more recent years, the KWTO microphones have been opened to the public for talk show programming that gives voice to a range of opinions.

This Christmas Day AM 560 KWTO Radio will celebrate its 75th year of operations and its continuing dedication to serving the Ozarks. I wish KWTO and its current owner Kenneth Myer continued success and many more years of "Keep Watching the Ozarks."

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE MARILYN MUSGRAVE ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable MARILYN MUSGRAVE for her service to the people of Colorado and the United States House of Representatives. Congresswoman MUSGRAVE has represented the Fourth Congressional District of the State of Colorado for the past six years.

Born and raised in Weld County, Colorado, MARILYN cleaned houses and waited tables to earn a degree from Colorado State University. She married her high school sweetheart, Steve, during college and taught school for several years before deciding to stay home to raise their four children. MARILYN and her husband have owned and operated a farm equipment business in Eastern Colorado for over 20 years.

In 1990, MARILYN won her first election to the Morgan County School Board. Two years

later, she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, and in 1996, she was elected to the state Senate.

Elected to Congress in 2002, MARILYN quickly stood out from her peers. She was named by Newsweek magazine as the "Rising Star" in the House and the National Journal referenced her as one of two freshman congressmen to watch. She is probably most known as the chief House sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, MARILYN has upheld her strong conservative views as a vocal member of the Republican Study Committee Caucus as well as founder of the Congressional Second Amendment Caucus. She served on the Small Business Committee and as chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs.

As the top-ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee's Specialty Crops Subcommittee, MARILYN served as a member of the Farm Bill conference committee, where she was a leading voice in the crafting of the legislation. She worked to obtain nearly \$3 billion in emergency funding for farmers and ranchers who have been plagued by a multitude of natural disasters over the past six years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know her family, her husband, Steve; her four children, Chad, Becky, Amy, and John; and her many friends and colleagues join me in honoring her accomplishments and extending thanks for her service over the years on behalf of the State of Colorado and the United States of America.

MARILYN will surely enjoy the well deserved time she now has to spend with her family and loved ones. I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEE BASS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Mr. Lee Bass. His successes are many, but it is his unabashed willingness to serve Arkansas that demands recognition. I am proud to honor Lee Bass for his 34 years of federal service as Chief of the Operations Division of the Little Rock Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Bass holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas and has completed postgraduate courses from the University of Arkansas, University of Denver and the University of Santa Clara.

Bass is recognized as a leader throughout the Corps of Engineers and has received numerous performance awards in a variety of jobs and districts. He received two Hammer Awards from the Office of the Vice President of the United States and was once recognized as Civilian of the Year. His staff nominated him for Federal Manager of the Year in Arkansas, which he won. He was recognized and inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineers. He is a past president and regional director of the State Chapter of the American

Society of Civil Engineers. He was the chapter director of the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers, and served in various offices of the Razorback Post of the Society of American Military Engineers.

Lee Bass's career has numerous milestones but he will be remembered most for his dedication to excellence and his vision of serving the Army Corps and his employees to the best of his ability. His wide-ranging experience in civil works activities far exceeded the norm and has allowed the region to plan, build and operate many water management projects in the Arkansas.

On behalf of the Congress, I extend deep appreciation to Lee Bass for his decades of leadership and his dedication to the area's infrastructure. We salute his efforts that have made Arkansas' waterways safe and efficient and has thank him for making our state and nation a better place to work, live and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING ACTS OF COMPASSION AND THE SUPPORT OF A COMMUNITY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, make no mistake about it: what we do in this chamber, the decisions we make as Members of Congress, have far-reaching implications for the Americans we represent and people around the world. I sometimes worry, though, that citizens look first to government to solve problems rather than searching within themselves for the power to make a difference. I'd like to share with you a story about one family that proves the way we change the world happens one person at a time.

Over the last several months, I have had the privilege of assisting a professor and his family attempt to make our world a better place. Dr. John Simmons, a life sciences instructor at Barton County Community College in Great Bend, Kansas, and his wife Lori, along with their four biological children, will travel to Ethiopia at the end of this month to adopt two orphaned sisters.

Famine, AIDS, and other diseases have created a sad situation in Ethiopia where 25 percent of the children are orphaned by age 12. While orphanages do their best to provide for these children and see that young girls and boys have a bright future, what these children really need is a mom and dad who will care for them as their own. Few acts are more generous and loving than welcoming another as part of one's own family. I have great respect for the Simmonses and all those who choose to adopt.

While adopting 2 young girls is alone commendable, what sets John and Lori apart is their effort to serve other children at the orphanage and involve the Great Bend community in that mission.

This summer, John launched a fundraising effort to feed and clothe the children at the orphanage, purchase humanitarian supplies and pay for their shipping costs. John's goal of raising \$10,000 was accomplished primarily by selling "Barton to Africa" t-shirts for \$30 each. The shirts were printed with "Barton" in Ethio-

pia's official language on the front and a map of the United States on the back with a star in the center of the country, marking Barton County, Kansas. John even created more excitement for the fundraiser by promising to shave his head if the community helped him reach his goal by November 8.

After nearly 5 months of speaking with civic clubs, church members, neighbors, colleagues and students, John exceeded his fundraising goal and at halftime of a Barton County Community College basketball game, he and Barton County Community College Admissions Representative Louie Ochoa had their heads shaved.

I imagine most people would rest on such an accomplishment. But, John dreams of more. It is his hope that the trip to Ethiopia this month will be the beginning of a long-lasting relationship between Ethiopians and the citizens of Great Bend who joined him in his effort. John envisions providing orphans with educational opportunities at Barton County Community College. Doing so would not only offer disadvantaged children a brighter future but also further facilitate relationships between Kansans and Ethiopians.

John's fundraising effort raised awareness about the needs of others in a far corner of the world. It galvanized the community around a common goal and showed that when people work together, there is no limit on what can be accomplished.

I rise today to commend and congratulate John and Lori Simmons, their family and the citizens of Great Bend. Their compassion and effort will help make the lives of orphaned children in Ethiopia better.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE CHRIS SHAYS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable CHRISTOPHER SHAYS for his service to the people of Connecticut and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman SHAYS has represented the Fourth Congressional District of the state of Connecticut for the past 22 years.

Born in the city of Darien, CHRIS is a lifelong resident of the state of Connecticut, attending school at Principia College where he received his bachelor of arts in American history and political science. Following college, CHRIS and his wife, Betsi, spent two years in the Fiji Islands as Peace Corps volunteers. CHRIS later attended New York University where he received his master of business administration in 1974, specializing in urban affairs and economics, followed by his master of public administration in 1978.

CHRIS began his political career at the age of 29 in the Connecticut State House of Representatives, serving from 1975 to 1987. In 1987, CHRIS was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives by a special election to fill the seat of the late Stewart McKinney. During his long career in Congress, CHRIS has served on

the Financial Services Committee, the Committee on Homeland Security, as well as the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where he is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs.

Known as a “maverick” and an “independent thinker,” one of his most well-known legislative accomplishments is probably the Shays-Meehan bill, which was signed into law as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. In his work on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, CHRIS played a key role during the debate to create the new Department of Homeland Security.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife, Betsi; his daughter, Jeremy; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the state of Connecticut and the United States of America.

CHRIS will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE “HELPING OUR HEROES FOUNDATION”

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Helping Our Heroes Foundation (HOHF) for its many accomplishments, and their volunteers for their support of our servicemembers and their families.

The Helping Our Heroes Foundation, founded in October of 2004, is preparing to conclude its mission at the end of this year. Over the past four years, the Helping Our Heroes Foundation has provided funding and services and organized volunteers in support of servicemembers injured in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Helping Our Heroes Foundation has done so through a partnership with the Department of the Army. This partnership has improved the quality and scope of services and opportunities made available to our veterans during and after their recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. The support provided by the Helping Our Heroes Foundation has boosted morale for our veterans and assisted their families with challenges associated with recovery.

Among its many initiatives, the Helping Our Heroes Foundation has supported our wounded heroes by sponsoring baby showers for expectant mothers who are spouses of injured servicemembers, resume writing workshops for veterans ready to transition to the civilian workforce, scholarships to enable advanced education and training, and activities to bring the community together. The Helping Our Heroes Foundation also has excelled in its goal of securing charitable donations in support of veterans programs. These are a few examples of the Foundation’s overall efforts.

Volunteers are at the heart of the Helping Our Heroes Foundation’s success. The leadership of its Board of Directors and its founding

donors has enabled the Foundation to fulfill its goals. In particular, Ms. Karen Theobald-Conlin, who serves as President of the Helping Our Heroes Foundation, is to be recognized for her initiative and commitment. On this occasion, communities and veterans across the country are joining together to recognize the support provided by the Helping Our Heroes Foundation, its Board of Directors and volunteers, to our wounded heroes and their families. As a Member of Congress who has taken part in their activities at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and witnessed the good work of their volunteers, I join others in recognizing the role the Helping Our Heroes Foundation has served for our veterans. We will continue to honor our veterans based on the foundation established by the Helping Our Heroes Foundation.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN DAVIS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Karen Davis. Karen recently celebrated 10 years of service in my Omaha Congressional Office. She is a dedicated servant to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. She works hard and deserves accolades.

Karen Davis serves as Outreach Coordinator for my Omaha Congressional Office. Karen is the epitome of customer service. Karen has the skill and understanding to help seniors make sense of complex issues such as Medicare and Medicaid. Although at times carrying a crushing workload while being a working mother, she is accessible, helpful and always puts constituents first. Her dedication to service has touched thousands of individuals during her 10 years. I should also point out that Karen’s dad was a Tuskegee airman—a point of pride for not only Karen but all of us in our office.

Karen, today I offer you a heartfelt thank you. Thank you for your vision, passion and understanding. You should be proud of the many things you have accomplished over the years. I know I am. I consider you a friend and I am grateful to have you on my team. Thank you.

WEYERHAEUSER: CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgment of the wonderful and continuous success of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, located in my home state of Washington. This past October, Weyerhaeuser was named to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index—an index that tracks North American companies in terms of their environmental, social and economic performance—and is the only North American company named in the category of forestry and paper products.

Weyerhaeuser, one of the largest pulp and paper companies in the world, and the world’s

largest private owner of softwood timberland, is indeed a global leader in terms of sustainability. Along with many other innovative environmental initiatives, they have committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by the year 2020 based on their 2000 levels and have already made great strides. They also employ over 40,000 people all over the world who contribute positively to each community they reside in and, in 2007, sales at Weyerhaeuser totaled more than \$16 billion.

As a staunch supporter of conservation and the innovative environmental leadership of businesses both big and small, I congratulate Weyerhaeuser as a whole for the most recent acknowledgment of their environmental, social and economic success. Specifically, I salute Weyerhaeuser Chairman and CEO Steve Rogel, COO Richard Hanson and the Board of Directors for their fantastic leadership and vision.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE RIC KELLER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable RIC KELLER for his service to the people of Florida and the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman KELLER has represented the Eighth Congressional District of the State of Florida for the past eight years.

Born and raised in Orlando, Florida, Ric graduated first in his class at East Tennessee State University and received his law degree from Vanderbilt University. Before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Ric worked as a private lawyer in Orlando, helping write two state constitutional amendments to finance the cleanup of Everglades National Park. One, known as “Polluter Pays,” required sugar companies to contribute to the restoration of the Everglades.

Raised by a single mother on a secretary’s salary, Ric used Pell Grants, federal grants for low-income college students, to help pay for his college education, and since coming to Congress, he has been a leading champion of Pell Grants. As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, as well as founder and chairman of the Pell Grant Caucus, Ric was successful in pushing to raise the maximum grant from \$3,750 to \$4,050 a year.

Ric is also a member of the House Judiciary Committee, from which post he has been a leading advocate of the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program, which makes law enforcement officers more visible by taking them out of patrol cars and putting them on neighborhood streets.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife, Dee Dee; his four children, Nick, Christy, Kaylee and Kate; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of Florida and the United States of America.

RIC will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF PACIFICA CITY COUNCILMAN CALVIN HINTON

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Pacifica City Councilman Calvin Hinton, who retires this month after twelve years of admirably and honorably serving his community.

Madam Speaker, the United States Marine Corps once recruited with the slogan, "We're looking for a few good men." In 1945, they got exactly what they were looking for with Cal Hinton. Little did they know that the young recruit from Indiana would go on to serve his country in so many ways.

Following his service in World War II, he moved to Northern California where he attended The College of San Mateo, University of San Francisco and Stanford University.

Cal Hinton first served his adopted hometown of Pacifica by joining the Fire Department in April, 1959. There, his work ethic and natural leadership ability propelled him through the ranks until, after a stellar term as Fire Captain, he was named Chief of the City of Pacifica Fire Department on January 13, 1970. Chief Hinton remained in that job until his retirement in 1983.

In 1996, Cal offered his services in a different capacity by seeking—and winning—a seat on the city council. Twice more the voters of Pacifica returned him to office.

Earlier this year, Cal showed just how tough he is when, while recovering from hip replacement surgery, he was struck by an out-of-control SUV while walking in downtown Pacifica. The vehicle hit Cal before coming to a stop inside a local restaurant where fortunately, no one was seriously hurt. As for Cal, he broke the same leg where he just received the new hip. Despite being 81, he was able to bounce back and, before long, returned to the City Council.

Retirement will allow Cal to spend more time with his family, including his lovely wife Marilyn.

Madam Speaker, California's 12th Congressional District, and indeed our nation, is better off because of the service of Calvin Hinton. On behalf of you and the United States House of Representatives, I thank him for a lifetime dedicated to helping others.

OFFERING A POEM BY ALBERT CAREY CASWELL

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 10, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, a good friend to a lot of us in the House of Representatives, Albert Carey Caswell, who works for the U.S. Capitol Guide

Service, recently shared with me a poem he wrote about his admiration for the Make a Wish Foundation. As a grandfather of five, and out of respect for the work of the Make a Wish Foundation, I wanted to introduce his poem in to the RECORD so others may enjoy it in the future.

CLOSE YOUR EYES

Close your eyes . . .
 And Make A Wish . . .
 This most precious time together, is but our gift . . .
 For families, with heart's of gold . . .
 Moments to carry with you, as you grow old . . .
 All in the coming years . . .
 We will remember, what we do here!
 All in our tears . . .
 Close your eyes, my precious child . . .
 And Make A Wish . . .
 Make A Smile . . .
 As to your fine hearts, so graciously we give this . . .
 And wipe all of those tears, from your eyes . . .
 Oh how, your most courageous hearts . . .
 Make's us cry . . .
 Forget all of your pain and heartache . . .
 Watching you, oh how our heart's break . . .
 As we see those little smiles, upon your face . . .
 For you give to us, far . . . far . . . much more, than you take!
 Little hearts which beat so loud . . .
 Who make, The Angels Up In Heaven Proud . . .
 Magnificent families, who make each moment count!
 Teaching Us . . . and Reaching Us . . .
 Blessing your heart so very loud . . .
 What life is truly all about!
 Close your eyes . . .
 And Make A Wish . . .
 All for you, we do this . . .
 Make, Dreams Come True!
 All for you . . .
 Close your eyes, And Make A Wish . . .
 Little soldiers, children should not have to be . . .
 But, this is what our Lord God make's us see . . .
 To Teach . . . what counts!
 That no greater heart could ever beat!
 No finer soul for Heaven, could so compete!
 Families, who are like our soldiers too . . .
 and their families, who must now so weep . . .
 For every day, you fight a war . . . a battle so for sure . . .
 With hearts of courage full, oh what you endure . . .
 Families living close . . .
 As you know, each and every moment but means the most!
 Is that but not what Heaven is for?
 Close your eyes my dear child . . .
 And Make A Wish . . .
 Oh how you bless this world, with your most heroic gifts . . .
 To be a child!
 To wear a smile . . .
 To forget all of your heartache, but for a little while . . .
 I close my eyes . . .
 And Make A Wish . . .
 That, I might bless and but live such a fine life as this!

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF MR. ANTHONY "BEN" BORDA, JR.

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Anthony "Ben" Borda, Jr. of Huntington, WV and his 36 years of service to the State and people of West Virginia. For the past 36 years, Mr. Borda has served in the Federal Government, 34 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and 2 years with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining. Mr. Borda currently serves as the Acting Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Huntington District and New River Navigator for the New River American River Heritage Initiative and is now set to retire on January 2, 2009.

Born and raised in Fairmont, West Virginia, Ben has devoted his life to protecting West Virginia's God-given natural resources. He earned a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from West Virginia University in 1972 and a Masters in Biological Science from Marshall University in 1994.

For nearly four decades, Ben has been a godsend to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Huntington District, helping manage land and water usage, and has played a powerful role in dozens of district projects covering three states. From Landscape Architect to Acting Chief of the planning Branch, Ben has left his mark on virtually every aspect of the Huntington District and improved the lives of the people of southern West Virginia.

Additionally, Ben is the longest serving New River Navigator in the country, having served for the past ten years as the Federal Liaison for the New River under the American Heritage Rivers Initiative. In this capacity, he has helped the New River Community Partners leverage millions of dollars in federal, state, local, and private funds to help bring economic, conservation and preservation, education, and transportation projects to the New River Area and was awarded the American Heritage Rivers Initiatives' Navigator Award in 2006 for his success.

Ben's list of accomplishments far exceeds his years of service. His leadership and vision have been invaluable to the Huntington District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and helped shape environmental policy across southern West Virginia. His dedication to his work and commitment to helping others are examples to us all.

I again congratulate Ben for his 36 years of dedicated service to the State and people of West Virginia and wish him continued success in retirement and all his future endeavors.

FORMER FIRST LADY ALICE KING

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, Like so many New Mexicans, Alice King's biggest contribution to our state was her children. Unlike other New Mexicans, though, Alice's children include thousands of young New

Mexicans helped by her work over nearly three decades.

Every girl who has experienced New Mexico's Girls Ranch; every boy treated at Carrie Tingley Children's Hospital; every child protected by the Children, Youth and Families Department: all owe a debt of gratitude to the inimitable Alice King. She will be remembered for her charm; her down-to-earth dignity; and, her fierce commitment to public service.

Alice's journey from the ranches of Moriarty to the Governor's Mansion might have changed a woman with less courage and confidence. But Alice never forgot the values she had been raised with. She never turned her back on the small towns of our state. And she never lost the strong sense of community obligation that she learned in Moriarty. She remained rooted in a place and a time where your neighbor's children were your responsibility, and she brought that sense of duty to her work in Santa Fe and around the State.

Jill and I send our prayers to Alice's son Gary and the rest of her remarkable family. They, and the rest of New Mexico, have lost a truly great woman.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHOEBUS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself, Congresswoman THELMA DRAKE and Congressman ROB WITTMAN to call attention to a group of young students from Hampton, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Phoebus High School Phantoms football team had a remarkable 2008 season. On December 6, the Phoebus High School Phantoms won their 4th state football championship this decade, defeating Dinwiddie High School of Dinwiddie 37-13, at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, Virginia.

The Phantoms finished the season with a 15-0 record. Phoebus never trailed in a game this season, and scored 720 points while allowing 53. This latest championship is just another accolade for the City of Hampton's youngest school, founded in 1975. The football team, under Coach Bill Dee has won the State Football Championship three previous times: 2001, 2002, and 2006.

Phoebus High's legacy of excellence is not limited to just the field of athletics. Under the Direction of Principal Robert Johnson, the Phoebus faculty seeks to inspire students to strive for excellence and achievement in the classroom, in their extracurricular activities and in their communities. Phoebus has two innovative programs that expand the learning experience outside of the traditional classroom. Phoebus hosts the Hampton School Division's Center for High Technology. This magnet career academy includes classes in pre-engineering, design and drafting, and Cisco network administration, preparing students for college classes and jobs in the technology sector. Phoebus is also home to the Blue Phantom Inn. This student-run restaurant gives students an opportunity to develop their culinary arts skills, and was nationally recognized in Southern Living magazine.

The Phantoms' excellence in football is also characteristic of the quality of athletics in the Peninsula District of Virginia. Phoebus High School's championship this year marked the 12th time in the last fifteen years that a Peninsula District team has won a state title in football. To quote from our hometown newspaper, the Daily Press, "High school football on the Peninsula is championship football."

We would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to Coach Bill Dee, his coaching staff and all of the players on the Phoebus High School Phantoms, the 2008 Group AAA Division 5 Virginia High School League state football champions.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

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

It is December 10, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sunset today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 13,106 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

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

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Mr. Speaker, it is who we are.

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

So Mr. Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 13,106 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

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

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

It is December 10, 2008, 13,106 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, when the 110th Congress finally adjourns sine die, I will come to the end of my time as a Member of the House of Representatives.

I look forward to service in the other body upon the convening of the 111th Congress, but today I want to express my appreciation for all that it has meant to me to have the privilege of membership in this extraordinary body with you and with all the other Members—past and present—with whom I have the honor of serving.

We've all heard that it takes more than moving in to make a house a home.

But I have to say that in my case, I have very much felt at home here in the House since the 106th Congress first convened in 1999, because so many people went out of their way to welcome me and to help me learn what I needed to know.

Thanks to them, I was able to do a better job of trying to properly represent the people of Colorado's Second Congressional District and to contribute to the search for ways to advance their interests and those of our state and our country as a whole.

So, Madam Speaker, today, I want to say “thank you” to all the Members and to the many talented and dedicated staff of the House and its Committees who have helped me do a much better job than I could have done without their advice and assistance.

And, while I am hesitant to mention anyone in particular—for fear of accidental omissions—I cannot conclude without giving special thanks to some of those who have been my special mentors.

On the Natural Resources Committee—which used to have a different name—the gentleman from West Virginia, Mr. RAHALL, has been an example of courteous and effective leadership both as Ranking Member and more recently as Chairman.

I greatly appreciate all his many courtesies to me and his assistance in connection with matters of importance to Colorado that I have brought before the Committee.

I also appreciate having had the opportunity to work with the gentleman from Alaska, Mr. YOUNG, when he chaired the Committee and in his current role as Ranking Member.

DON YOUNG and I do not always see eye to eye, but there have been many instances in which we were on the same side, and I am glad to have had the chance to join forces with him in connection with those matters—as also was the case with respect to his prede-

cessor as Chairman, our former colleague from Utah, Mr. Hansen.

On the Committee on Science and Technology, the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. GORDON, has been unfailingly generous and has provided outstanding leadership. It has been my good fortune to have served with him and with the other members, from both sides of the aisle, as the Committee has dealt with many matters of great importance to Colorado and the country.

I also appreciated having the chance to serve with his predecessor as Chairman, the gentleman from New York, Mr. BOEHLERT, who was always kind and accommodating to me during the time we served together.

Similarly, I made many good friends during my service on the Committees on Small Business and Agriculture and benefitted from the opportunity to learn about the matters within their jurisdictions.

Finally, I cannot fail to mention my deep appreciation for having had the opportunity to be a Member of the Committee on Armed Services. I was privileged to serve with an outstanding chairman, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON as well as with his predecessor, the gentleman from California, Mr. HUNTER.

My years on the Committee have been memorable ones, as we have wrestled with so

many complex and difficult issues related to the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and the other challenges that face our Armed Forces and our country in connection with the threat of international terrorism and other threats. Bonds among Members of the committee are strong, and I feel honored to have been part of such a talented, dedicated and hardworking group of Members and highly-professional staff.

Madam Speaker, I could cite many others to whom I owe a debt of thanks—but the list would be longer than the time available, because they are literally too many to mention.

Therefore let me conclude by simply saying that although in the new year I will have a new job, some things will not change.

I am and will remain a “man of the House,” and while I will be spending more time on the other side of the Capitol, I look forward to continuing to work with you, Madam Speaker, and with the rest of our colleagues here.

So, tonight I choose not to say “farewell”—because this is far from goodbye—or even “so long,” as the Western expression goes.

Instead, let me close with a wish to everyone for happy holidays and a promise that I will “see you later,” in the New Year.

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 infor-

mation, 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, December 11, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.