

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF SGT JOHN SAVAGE,
USA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the State of Texas and of our Nation.

Sergeant John J. Savage was a soldier in the United States Army and a true American hero. John gave his life in the service of his country on December 4, 2008, when an explosives-laden SUV broadsided Sergeant Savage's armored vehicle in Mosul, Iraq.

Assigned to 2nd 103rd Engineer Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, Sergeant Savage did his part during a time of war, an action that speaks volumes far greater than words about his character and patriotism.

A native of Weatherford, Texas, John had aspirations for a life in the military from a young age. As stated by his mother, "He loved the military. It was a lifelong dream of his."

John had been on active duty in the United States Army for 6 years. He spent 3 years stationed in Germany prior to his first deployment to Iraq in 2005 and was then deployed for a second tour in September of 2007.

Sergeant Savage's three-year-old daughter, Nicole, will continue to learn of her father through family and friends. John's father, a retired Master Sergeant from the United States Army, commented on his son by stating, "His family was his number one priority."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Savage's daughter, parents, siblings, and all of his family and friends. His community and Nation honor his memory, and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Sergeant Savage will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

CELEBRATION OF MRS. MAGGIE
KATIE BROWN KIDD'S 104TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as the Proverb states, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." I rise today to recognize a truly virtuous woman whose life is not only far above rubies, but one of great milestones and accomplishments that is worthy of celebration. On December 8, 2008, Mrs. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd will turn 104 years old and I am honored to serve as a spokesman for Mrs. Kidd's family members

and friends who will recognized her birthday with a party in November of last year.

Born during President Theodore Roosevelt's second term in office, Mrs. Kidd has been blessed to see 17 Presidents in her lifetime. The eleventh and youngest child of William and Lucy Brown, Mrs. Kidd learned the importance of hard work and faith in God at an early age. Baptized at the Mount Zion Baptist and her dedication to the church never left her and she instilled the traditions of faith and her work in her own family. She married the late Willie Kidd, III on November 30, 1940, and together they raised their two children, John and Rosalyn. She is also the proud grandmother to four and the great-grandmother to three and serves as the matriarch of her loving family.

Mrs. Kidd's family describes her as a loving and selfless member of her community, offering her time and whatever she has to those in need. She is also an avid quilter and participates in family gathers and activities outside of Georgia. Her most favorite moments, however, are the ones on a quiet afternoon stitching in her favorite chair.

Madam Speaker, I am so honored to serve Mrs. Kidd's representative. Her life is a living history of the times and events that have shaped our great land and is a monument to how far we've come as a Nation. Moreover, her life serves as a testament to individuals and families everywhere that a strong unbinding faith in the Lord, coupled with hard work and a dedication to family will carry you far in life. As the Proverb states, "favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised". Mrs. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd truly embodies the example of a virtuous woman and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her life by wishing her a very happy 104th birthday.

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
DONATION REFORM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Presidential Library Donation Reform Act.

I have long been troubled by the fact that fund-raising for Presidential libraries is completely unregulated and therefore ripe for corruption.

By making information about donations publicly accessible—including the amount, date of the contribution and the name of the contributor—through a free, searchable, database managed by National Archives, we take an important first step toward the accountability due these national landmarks.

However, I do not think that this legislation goes far enough as it does not limit donations in any way, it only discloses them.

While the majority of people who contribute to Presidential libraries do so for the right reason, there are some who do not, including those who do not share our national interests.

In fact, while donations to Presidential election campaigns are limited in amount, and restricted altogether from foreign governments, amazingly, foreign individuals and foreign corporations can donate to Presidential libraries even when the President is still in office.

In November I wrote to President Bush urging him not to accept any money from the Chinese government to help fund his Presidential library.

I did not want his library to be tainted by contributions from a government with such a deplorable human rights record. I am similarly concerned by the \$41 million that former President Clinton's foundation has collected from foreign nations including the likes of Saudi Arabia, which is widely known to promote the radical Wahhabi interpretation of Islam within its own borders and in schools and madrassas around the world.

Transparency in government builds accountability. And accountability is good for our democracy. It is long overdue for the American public to know who is contributing to these libraries, and how much, especially when it involves sitting Presidents. This legislation will help—but we must do more.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 293, THE
HOMELESS WOMEN VETERAN
AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH
CHILDREN REINTEGRATION
GRANT PROGRAM ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Homeless Women Veteran and Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Grant Program Act of 2009. Madam Speaker, veterans of all conflicts often face challenges that are unique to their military service and that too often result in their becoming homeless.

For veterans, especially women veterans and veterans with dependent children, those challenges can become nearly insurmountable when combined with a lack of appropriate housing. This legislation seeks to provide appropriate housing for women veterans and family-style housing for any homeless veteran with dependent children. Specifically, this bill creates a new grant for providers that offer family-style housing for homeless veterans with dependent children.

The bill also requires recipients to provide employment counseling, placement assistance, literacy, job skill training, and child care services as well as the unique services that

• 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.

are needed for homeless veteran families and women veterans. The Department of Labor's Veteran Employment and Training Service would administer the program within their successful Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP).

The bill also requires that the current biennial reports to Congress include data that shows results and outcomes of the services provided to the homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with dependent children. The bill authorizes appropriations of \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year for the program.

If this bill is enacted, it would provide valuable services to this vulnerable population of veterans and help stem the tide of chronic homelessness. I urge my colleagues to support and co-sponsor the measure.

HONORING DAVID "NICK" LYNCH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Suitland High School head football coach David "Nick" Lynch, who was killed in a car accident last week, at the age of 43. Nick Lynch was one of the most respected football coaches in Maryland, leading the Suitland High team for 12 years and taking it to two state championships.

More than his coaching success, though, Coach Lynch was set apart by his devotion to his players and outsized role in the Prince George's County community. As Suitland Principal Mark Fossett said, "He's had an impact on so many people's lives—not only football players, but students in general. It wasn't like Nick was just the head coach of football. This is a devastating loss to our community, to our family." Many of his current and former players echoed that thought, speaking of Coach Lynch's commitment to shaping the lives of his players off the field, inviting them to church and meals, and acting as the caring authority figure that many of them had lacked. Keith Brown, one of Suitland's players, put it simply after Coach Lynch's memorial service: "That's my father."

At a service in which some mourners squeezed into stairways or sat in aisles, nearly 3,000 members of the Prince George's community gathered to honor Nick Lynch's impact on the lives of so many young men. Though Coach Lynch is gone, his influence will no doubt endure in all the lives he touched.

HONORING LEROY RADANOVICH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Leroy Radanovich. Mr. Radanovich was recognized by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2008.

Leroy Radanovich was born and raised in Mariposa County, CA. As a child, Yosemite National Park was his playground. He grew up

learning to appreciate his surroundings and his community. Through his love of nature, Mr. Radanovich began photographing areas of Mariposa and Yosemite Valley. Because of his talented eye for beauty today many of his photographs can be found in numerous books and museums. Although his photography has spread his name around the world, it is his community activities that have made him a leader in Mariposa.

Mr. Radanovich is a local business owner. Though retired from the pharmacy business, he currently operates a photography business. He has served his community as a volunteer firefighter, past president of the Lions Club, and past president of the Mariposa County Water Agency. He served as president of the Mariposa Chamber of Commerce and assisted in establishing multiple tourism and economic development programs. From 1985 through 1988, Mr. Radanovich was elected as the supervisor of District 4 in Mariposa County. During his role as supervisor he served as the chairman of the board in 1987 and the president of the San Joaquin Valley Supervisors Association in 1988. In 1987 he was instrumental in obtaining the designation of the Kern and Merced Rivers as "National Wild and Scenic River" by the Federal Government. From 1996 until 2003 he was a member of the Mariposa Planning Commission and assisted in developing the comprehensive update of the General Plan. Mr. Radanovich is a member of the Historical Sites and Records Preservation Commission, the Cemetery Advisory Committee, and was influential in the restoration of the Mariposa County Courthouse. Since 2006, he has served as the director of the Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau. Mr. Radanovich has been involved with nearly every significant project in Mariposa County since the 1960s.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Leroy Radanovich. Although he is going to move away from the public role, I am certain that his influences will still be noticed. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his accomplishments and wishing him the best in future endeavors.

HONORING JAMES ALBON MATTOX

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the late James Mattox.

Jim Mattox was a lifelong Dallasite. A graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, he also worked his way through the Baylor School of Business and earned a law degree from SMU. He served as an assistant district attorney in Dallas County before beginning his long political career in 1973 when he took office as a State representative from East Dallas. From there he was elected to Congress for three terms and ended his political service in 1991 when he stepped down from his post as Texas attorney general.

Jim Mattox will be remembered as a man who fought for average, working Texans, and who left an unforgettable mark on Texas government in politics. He took on airlines and the insurance industry—among many other cor-

porations—on behalf of Texas consumers. He was one of the greatest attorney generals in the State's history.

After his political career Jim Mattox became known as the "People's Lawyer" and built a truly modern law practice. He and his staff handled more than 2 million cases, won judgments totaling more than \$2.5 billion for the State, and opened up the diversity of the office by hiring more women and minority lawyers than the top 10 Texas law firms of that era combined.

Madam Speaker, Jim Mattox is survived by his wife Marta and their two children, Jim and Janet, as well as his sister, Janice, and brother, Jerry, both of Dallas. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the memory of Jim Mattox. Although he has departed from us in body, his memory will live on in each of us.

HORSE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY
ACT OF 2009

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today Representative STEVE COHEN and I introduced the Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2009.

In Wadsworth, IL, on Saturday, October 27, 2007, a double decker cattle truck carrying 59 Belgian draft horses overturned when the driver ran a red light and hit another vehicle.

Residents at the scene could hear the animals kicking and screaming, panicked by their inability to escape. Eight horses died on the scene while another ten had to be euthanized. After the crash, Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States said, "What a gory mess we saw recently in Illinois. It must never happen again . . ."

It is time that we heed these words by putting an end to using double decker trucks to transport horses. This legislation, endorsed by the Humane Society, Animal Welfare Institute, Hooved Animal Rescue and Protection Society, and the Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses would take steps toward preventing this disaster from occurring again.

This bill prohibits the interstate transport of horses in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another as well as creates civil penalties between \$100 and \$500 for each horse involved.

In my own State of Illinois, the State General Assembly has already moved forward and passed similar legislation. I urge my colleagues to become a cosponsor of this bipartisan commonsense legislation.

STEVE AND SHARON RUSNAK TO
RETIRE: 70 YEARS OF COMBINED
SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the support staff that keeps the House up and running year-

round and regardless of which party is in power. Specifically, I would like to pay tribute to Steve and Sharon Rusnak, a truly unique couple who will both be retired within the next few months after serving “behind the scenes” in the House of Representatives for a truly remarkable combined service of 70 years.

Most of our colleagues, along with countless numbers of our constituents, have been on the other side of Steve’s camera lens and have benefited from the skill, talent, and quiet dignity that he has brought to his work in the Office of Photography for the past 32 years. Steve joined the staff of the House in January of 1977 and has been witness to and chronicled the tremendous changes that have occurred within the Congress and the Nation for more than three decades.

After attending Ohio State University, Steve began his career as a lab technician and just retired from the House as senior photographer, having also served as acting manager for the Office of Photography last year. Through his skill, hard work, and long hours Steve has made an important contribution to the archives of the House, providing a visual recorded history and account of the House’s work for these many years.

In addition to being on hand to photograph the annual State of the Union Address and other official events inside and outside of the House chamber, Steve has traveled the four corners of the world to record on film the work of Members of the House. And for so many years he has rushed from office to office and to the steps of the House chamber, in all kinds of weather, to photograph the visits made by our constituents and other groups to Washington.

In addition to the professionalism and ability he brings to his job as an official House photographer, his kind manner and ready smile have put many people at ease and given them a visual reminder of their visit to Capitol Hill which for many is a once in a lifetime opportunity. There is no telling how many people Steve has photographed and touched in such a unique way. Steve worked long hours and missed many lunches to do his job and to do it so well, and he was supported throughout the process by a woman who is no stranger to the long hours and unique workplace that exists here in the “people’s House.”

Sharon Rusnak began her service in the House in 1967, as a summer intern to the late Congressman Carl D. Perkins, D-KY. After graduating from Berea College, she worked in his official office and went on to serve as executive assistant for him, and after his death, for his son Carl C. Perkins until 1993. In addition to maintaining a very full Hill schedule, Sharon earned a master’s degree in education from George Washington University.

After serving as office manager to former Representative Lynn Schenk, D-CA, Sharon joined the staff of former Congressman E “Kika” de la Garza, D-TX, and served as scheduler for the House Committee on Agriculture until Kika’s retirement in 1996. For the next 8 years, she served as office manager for the committee’s ranking minority member, former Congressman Charlie Stenholm, D-TX. Sharon is currently serving as chief administrative officer for the Agriculture Committee chaired by Congressman Collin C. Peterson, D-MN, and will remain in that position for the next few months.

Despite the long hours and hectic schedules, Steve and Sharon Rusnak have enjoyed

a happy and productive life away from the halls of Congress. They married in 1973 and raised two daughters, Shelley Brooke and Stacey LeeAnn, and took an active hand in helping nurture their children’s educational and athletic abilities. Steve served as a youth basketball coach, youth soccer coach, and little league coach. A soccer player in her own right, Sharon also coached youth soccer, worked as a referee, and has experience as a liturgical dancer.

Steve and Sharon’s commitment to their children is clear. Shelley graduated from Christopher Newport University and Stacey took her first degree from Virginia Tech, subsequently earning a nursing degree from Marymount University in Arlington, VA.

There is an expression that “slow and steady wins the race.” For more than three decades the House of Representatives has benefited from the tireless service of these very capable civil servants. You won’t see their names on the election ballot every 2 years, but the work of this body would be impossible without individuals such as Steve and Sharon Rusnak. Their dedication to their jobs, their country and their family are an inspiration to us all and I would like to thank and commend them for their selfless service to this body. And I hasten to wish them a long, happy, and healthy retirement. They have certainly earned it.

VIOLENCE IN ISRAEL AND GAZA

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that is very much on the minds of my constituents right now—the violence in Israel and Gaza.

This is a difficult time for Israel, and as its ally, I believe we must support its right to self-defense.

Before I joined Congress, I had the privilege of visiting Israel. It was a trip that I will never forget. I have always considered myself a friend of Israel, but that trip made me realize just how much our two nations have in common.

We all want peace, Madam Speaker, but clearly there can be no peace while Hamas continues to launch unprovoked rocket attacks into Israel.

We would not let Hamas launch rockets into the United States, and I do not know how we could expect Israel to permit these attacks either.

I am deeply saddened by the casualties the recent conflict has inflicted, especially the civilian casualties. Each one of these is a tragedy, and I sincerely hope that both sides will do everything possible to avoid them.

I am encouraged by Israel’s decision to temporarily pause its military operations to allow delivery of humanitarian aid, and by Hamas’s decision to cease rocket launches during these deliveries. While only three hours, this is an important step forward. I hope that a longer lasting peace can be achieved soon.

CONGRATULATING RIVERHEAD BLUE WAVES FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the exceptional achievements of the Riverhead Blue Waves Football Team: 2008 Long Island Class II Champions and the first Long Island squad in history to compile a record of 12–0. The Blue Waves also earned the overall championship for Suffolk County and the Rutgers Award as the county’s consensus best team.

As always, Riverhead’s success was built on strong teamwork, solid coaching, and the contributions of talented individuals. Anchoring a potent offense that averaged 35 points per game, senior running back Miguel Maysonet was voted the top offensive player in Suffolk County by opposing coaches. The same group recognized one of their own, Riverhead Coach Leif Shay, as coach of the year.

Madam Speaker, the success of Riverhead’s football team has brought great pride to their school and the community. I am pleased to join all residents of Riverhead in congratulating the Blue Waves on their accomplishments, and wish the departing seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL WEYRICH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on December 18, Paul Weyrich, one of the founders of the modern conservative movement, died. He successfully worked to evolve conservatism from a status of negativism to a dynamic movement promoting creative and meaningful reforms. I personally saw his success firsthand with the American Legislative Exchange Council developing State legislative reforms. And with Dr. Robert Kriebler, I served on the delegation in August 1991 of the Kriebler Institute to Sofia, Bulgaria, where Paul Weyrich gave presentations to the newly elected democrats of the National Assembly who helped Bulgaria emerge from the darkness of totalitarian Communism. Bulgaria today is a model free market democracy as a valued member of NATO and the European Union. His service to our nation will always be appreciated.

John Gizzi, columnist for Human Events professionally penned the following thoughtful tribute to Mr. Weyrich on the day of his passing.

[From Human Events, Dec. 18, 2008]

PAUL WEYRICH: RIP

(By John Gizzi)

Paul Weyrich—“The midwife of the New Right” . . . “Pope Paul” . . . “The Man Who Taught Conservatives to Network”—passed away this morning after a long illness.

Weyrich was called a lot of things—and some of them that originated on the left are unprintable—but one thing admirers and enemies of Paul Weyrich found inarguable: that in 66 years of life, the man who

launched the Heritage Foundation and Free Congress Foundation and played a key role in mobilizing cultural conservatives into political battle was someone who left postwar conservatism and the world a different place than it was before he came on the political scene. In short, he was a man of consequence.

Born in Racine, Wisconsin, Weyrich had a passion for politics almost since childhood. Active in Young Republicans at the University of Wisconsin (Madison), the young Weyrich quit college to become a political reporter for the Milwaukee Sentinel and later became a television reporter in Kenosha, Wisconsin and then in Denver, Colorado.

In 1967, Weyrich came to Washington as press secretary to conservative Sen. Gordon Allot (R.-Col.). At one point, Weyrich later recalled to me, he had received an invitation by mistake to a luncheon of liberal staffers on Capitol Hill Weyrich attended anyway and, in his words, "I saw all the liberal groups and staffers going through issues, giving assignments to people, and agreeing to meet again. Conservatives needed to be doing the same thing and I decided to do something about it."

Beginning with staffers from conservative House and Senate offices, and later with leaders of national right-of-center groups, Weyrich began regular lunches and meetings that are today a staple of the modern conservative movement. With the financial support of Colorado beer baron Joseph Coors, Weyrich and fellow Hill staffer Ed Feulner launched the Heritage Foundation in 1973. A counterforce to the liberal Brookings Institute, Heritage would grow into one of the most respected "think tanks" and provide the intellectual firepower in the Reagan Administration in 1980 and to Congress after Republicans won control of both Houses in 1994.

In the 1970s, Weyrich helped launch the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress (which later became the Free Congress Foundation) and the Moral Majority. Both groups were pivotal in mobilizing religious conservatives into political activity for candidates and, in 1978, played critical roles in the elections of such conservative titans as Sens. Bill Armstrong (R.-Col.) and Gordon Humphrey (R.-NH) and Reps. Newt Gingrich (R.-GA) and Dan Lungren (R.-CA).

Quoting Napoleon's celebrated question "How many legions does the Pope have?" Weyrich once told me, "Believing Christians now have many legions—and they're voting." (Raised a Roman Catholic, Weyrich himself became angry when a priest attacked something his then-boss Allott was supporting in the Senate; he thereupon joined the Eastern Rite Orthodox Church and later became a deacon.)

Weyrich attempted to bring change and fresh activity to every aspect of politics. As more and more countries became democratic and elected their leaders, Weyrich became president of the Kriebel Institute from 1989–96 and trained political activists in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. (At one point, he and fellow Kriebel trainer Gary Hoffmeister performed a vaudeville skit to demonstrate campaigning to budding Russian politicians.) The former TV newsmen founded the satellite television station National Empowerment Television and later hosted a talk show on satellite radio.

Occasionally, Weyrich critics on both the right and left would bring up his penchant for abrupt replies and gruffness. His response to me was "I never wanted everyone to like me—just enough people so we can get political change."

In September of this year, more than 400 friends, Members of Congress and other political leaders packed the Four Seasons

Hotel to pay tribute to the activist, who had been in failing health from a spinal injury in '01. In thanking his friends, Weyrich recalled how, in spite of his health problems, life had been good to him: an only child, he had had a strong marriage to wife Joyce that produced five children; interested in the U.S. Senate all his life, he got to work there; a lover of trains, he served on the national board of Amtrak and the Amtrak Reform Council; a lifelong conservative, he played a major role in shaping its modern form.

And, even when we disagreed or he took issue with Human Events, Weyrich was a faithful reader who would frequently cite columns in our publication. I already miss Paul Weyrich very much. We all will in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today, my distinguished colleague Mr. MICHAUD and I, along with several of our other colleagues, are introducing the bipartisan Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, Energy Sustainability Act of 2009. This legislation would establish strategic and long-term plans for energy sustainability and conservation within the VA.

Addressing our Nation's energy problem calls for Congress to adopt a multi-faceted approach to include the use of alternative fuels, restructuring building systems, and encouraging the use of energy efficient systems and vehicles. Our bill would require a report on the installation of alternative fuel stations at VA facilities, as funded in P.L. 110–329, and require a feasibility study regarding the installation of energy efficient and renewable energy systems in Department buildings. Such systems include solar technologies, energy efficient roof and building envelope systems, wind technology, and wood-based bio-fuels.

As our country adapts to the increased global demand for energy resources, it is imperative that we effectively implement wise consumption policies and take real steps to mitigate the impact of increased costs. This bill would create a VA Office of Energy Management, and an Energy Advisory Committee consisting of VA officials and private sector experts on energy management. The Office of Energy Management, with the advice and recommendations of the Energy Advisory Committee and national laboratories such as those at Lawrence Livermore and Oak Ridge, would be responsible for helping VA meet a number of specific energy sustainability goals. This includes compliance with Presidential Order 13423, VA Directive 0055, and the long term sustainable energy plans in this legislation. The Office would also establish a database to track VA's energy and water consumption.

In an effort to assist our Nation's veterans in their individual efforts to become more energy efficient, our bill would provide an additional amount of up to \$10,000 for high efficiency systems for veterans who qualify for specially adaptive housing grants under section 2101(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code. Additionally, it would provide veterans who qual-

ify for a specially adapted auto grant, under section 3902(a) of title 38, United States Code, the additional amount necessary to purchase alternative fuel vehicles.

Finally, VA would be authorized to conduct a pilot program for the sale of air pollution emission reduction incentives, also known as emission reduction credits, and VA would be authorized to retain proceeds from the sales. America's veterans should benefit from the VA's efforts to produce cleaner energy.

Madam Speaker, as the cost of fossil fuels rises and resources become scarcer, our nation must provide services for our veterans in an energy efficient manner. A sustainable energy program at VA will conserve energy and financial resources that can be used to provide care for our veterans. I encourage my colleagues to support the bipartisan Department of Veterans Affairs Energy Sustainability Act of 2009.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION HONORING "GO FOR BROKE" REGIMENTS WITH CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation recognizing the Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, commonly known as the "Go For Broke" regiments, for their dedicated service to our Nation during World War II.

These brave men served with pride, courage and conviction, waging a war on two fronts—abroad against a forceful and oppressive fascism, and at home against the intolerance of racial injustice. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor incited doubts about the loyalty of Japanese-Americans, these brave men who enlisted to fight to protect our Nation were faced with segregated training conditions, families and friends relocated to internment camps, and repeated questions about their combat abilities. At a time when they could have easily turned their backs on a country which had seemingly turned its back on them, these men chose the nobler, bolder, and more difficult route.

The "Go For Broke" regiments went on to earn several awards for their distinctive service in combat, including: 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals, and over 4,000 Purple Hearts, among numerous additional distinctions. For their size and length of service, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were the most decorated U.S. military units of the war. However, these regiments have yet to be honored with a Congressional Gold Medal.

To answer the call of duty requires exceptional courage and sacrifice, but to respond with a vigor and persistence unaffected by those who sought to malign and impede their every achievement reveals an incredible spirit and admirable will. Please join me in honoring these courageous men by supporting the granting of a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry

Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL HURRICANE RESEARCH INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague and good friend from Florida, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN, and almost 20 bipartisan original cosponsors to introduce a very significant piece of legislation, the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2009.

This legislation is largely based on the recommendations presented in a 2007 National Science Foundation, NSF, report, Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative.

The report delivered a stern warning: "Relative to the tremendous damage future hurricanes will inflict, the current federal investment in hurricane science and engineering is entirely insufficient."

The state of science today is not advanced enough to inform us reliably about when or where hurricanes are going to strike or what their precise impact on our communities will be.

Since 2001, hurricane damage has cost our Nation almost \$36 billion in economic losses per year. In 2005, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma accounted for over \$160 billion in total damages and the loss of almost 1,500 innocent lives. Further, the impact from inland flooding and tornadoes, which can result from the onset of hurricanes and tropical storms, can be felt throughout the entire United States.

Currently, 50 percent of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of the coastline. As populations and economies continue to expand in these high risk coastline areas, the economic and societal costs will only increase when future hurricanes strike our Nation.

Our Government can ill afford to ignore the advice of its premier scientists and put our populations and infrastructure at risk. We need to nationally invest in new research to better prepare, respond and mitigate these disasters.

This comprehensive hurricane research bill will improve hurricane research dramatically in the United States. The bill authorizes \$2.35 billion in critical hurricane research funding to help scientists study and better understand how hurricanes form and intensify, as well as enhance early warning systems, infrastructure durability standards, and hurricane tracking and prediction capabilities.

The entire Nation would deeply benefit from enhanced, coordinated hurricane research. Better intensity forecasting, long-range projections of hurricane activity, emergency management, and hurricane mitigation would be advantageous to everyone—from improving the ability of local communities to respond to hurricanes to reducing the Federal Government's share in recovery efforts by billions of dollars.

Madam Speaker, our Nation and my State of Florida in particular are all too familiar with the immense damage hurricanes can inflict. It is imperative that we take significant actions to

increase Federal investment in new research to better prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the devastating impacts of hurricanes. Let us resolve to act promptly to address ways to prevent and respond to future hurricanes before the next hurricane strikes.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the House leadership to bring this legislation to the floor for its swift consideration. There is no time for further delay.

LESLIE POHLEY HONORED AS FLORIDA'S OUTSTANDING MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Leslie Pohley, a teacher I represent at Largo Middle School, who has been named Florida's Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Pohley was honored by her peers at the Florida Association of Science Teachers. Her principal Fred Ulrich told The St. Petersburg Times, "She is the science teacher every principal would love to have on staff. She cares about her students."

A teacher at Largo Middle School for 30 years, Ms. Pohley grew up in Pinellas County, Florida where she now teaches. She graduated from Clearwater High School in 1973 and holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of South Florida. One degree is in science education and the other in biology.

Previous honors for Ms. Pohley include being named the 2003 Air Force Association Science Teacher of the Year, the 2004 recipient of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Education Award, and being selected for a National Science Foundation fellowship program at the University of Georgia.

Madam Speaker, at a time when the education of our children is a top national priority, especially in the fields of math and science, I salute Leslie Pohley for her lifelong dedication to teaching. Throughout the past 30 years, teaching from the same classroom at Largo Middle School, she has touched the lives of thousands of students and impressed upon them the value and importance of the sciences.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHARING THE DREAM CELEBRATION IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the "Sharing Dr. King's Dream Celebration" in Arlington, Texas, which marks its 20th Anniversary this year.

It is one of the longest Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrations in the country, with citywide events taking place over four days starting January 16th

The city's first MLK, Jr., celebration was held back in 1989. The organizing committee included groups from all over the community, including the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, City of Arlington, Arlington Independent School District, Arlington Ministerial Association, Black Citizen's Advisory Council, U.S. Postal Service, Marion Anderson Society, Fort Worth Star Telegram, The University of Texas at Arlington and Tarrant County College—South East campus.

That first event attracted nearly 1,000 participants. Over the years "Sharing the Dream" has continued to grow and it now includes diversity training, sensitivity workshops, banquets, festivals and other multicultural events. This celebration truly embodies what Dr. King's vision was all about and that is a reflection of all communities coming together.

And Arlington's MLK, Jr. Celebration committee continues to expand the event. Each year, in cooperation with the United States Postal Service, they produce an official cachet envelope and a special pictorial cancellation postmark to commemorate the citywide celebration. These special envelopes and postmarks have become favorites of collectors all over the nation.

The theme for this year's cachet envelope and postmark is "20th Anniversary—Sharing the Dream".

The design is always chosen from student submissions to various art or essay contests organized by the Arlington Independent School District. The celebration also recognizes special individuals who have taken the time to make a difference within their respective communities in the areas of Education, Community Service and Government.

This is a unique and very special celebration that each year honors the contribution's of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and on its 20th Anniversary, I am proud to recognize the individuals and organizations that have helped make this event possible over the years and all of the people who have shared Dr. King's dream by attending.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 294 THE VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS PROMOTION ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Veteran Owned Small Business Promotion Act of 2009. As this body ponders legislation to stimulate the economy and create new jobs, I believe the best economic stimulus we can offer is to empower those who have defended America, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs should play a major role in that effort.

This legislation includes our nation's veterans in our economic recovery by promoting veteran-owned small businesses. Those who have done so much to protect the American economy deserve every opportunity to start and grow a viable business. This bill would renew VA's authority to guarantee small business loans up to \$500,000 for small businesses owned and operated by veterans. VA would be authorized up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees for each fiscal year. The previous

program was terminated in 1986 and it is time that VA once again became a leader in promoting veteran-owned businesses.

It is not right that some set-aside programs get a competitive advantage over veteran-owned businesses, so my bill also includes provisions to have veteran-owned small business evaluated and awarded contracts under the same rules as 8(a) businesses.

If this bill is enacted it will be a win-win for all Americans, as it will provide a valuable boost to our veterans who want to start a business, while stimulating the economy at the same time. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor and support this measure.

PORT JEFFERSON VOLUNTEER
AMBULANCE CORPS' 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps in celebrating 50 years of dedicated service to our community. An historical shipbuilding town renamed in honor of our third President, Port Jefferson is now a thriving village of nearly 8,000 residents, growing in the summer with the arrival of tourists from Connecticut on the Cross-Sound ferry.

In the fifty years of its existence, the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps has expanded to meet the growing needs of the wider community, including the villages of Belle Terre and Mt. Sinai. Starting with a single ambulance, the Corps now operates three ambulances and a first-responder car, with 120 volunteers ready to answer the call 24 hours a day.

Madam Speaker, ambulance volunteers embody the best aspects of the American spirit and play a vital role in keeping our communities safe and healthy. I am proud to represent the membership of the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps and to join them in marking fifty years of service to their neighbors. I wish them the best as they continue their important, frequently life-saving mission.

THE TURNABOUT RANCH IN
GARFIELD COUNTY, UTAH

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would correct a drafting error that involves a 25-acre parcel of Bureau of Land Management, BLM, land, and land that is part of the Turn-About Ranch, which rehabilitates troubled youth.

An erroneous survey in January 1999 was the cause of this trespass conflict when Congress approved a major land exchange, P.L. 105-335, between the State of Utah and the border of the Grand Staircase Escalante, GSE, Monument. This legislation makes a minor boundary change to resolve the trespass conflict. It would grant the owners of the ranch to purchase the erroneously surveyed

land at a fair market value, enabling this important and effective program for troublesome youth to continue unimpeded.

The Turn-About Ranch has graduated approximately 500 troubled and at risk teenagers through an intense program of training and rehabilitation. The ranch also employs about 35 Garfield County residents. The Turnabout Ranch has strong support from the local community, and the Garfield County Commission, as well as approval from the parents of the troubled youth.

The Government-owned land administered by the BLM surrounds the congressional action by passing this legislation in Congress. The land was historically used for agriculture and grazing purposes. The Townsend family purchased the ranch and then leased the land to the Turn-About Ranch, Inc., for the sole purpose of rehabilitating the troubled youth, and restoring the values and self-esteem to these wayward teens.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a fair resolution to a technical problem. I hope Congress can implement this legislation and resolve this problem to continue helping our troubled adolescent teens.

SITUATION IN GAZA

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I strongly support Israel's right to defend itself against the rocket attacks by Hamas—attacks which have killed and injured many Israeli citizens. Israel's actions are understandable. We must stand by our ally and be involved in any negotiations. I'm heartened to learn of a possible cease fire proposal. However, any cease fire must ensure an end to the terrorist attacks by Hamas.

ADDRESSING THE SITUATION IN
GAZA

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my concern about events in Israel and Gaza, and my support for Israel's right to defend itself against rocket attacks launched from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. The region must have a meaningful resolution that will permanently end these rocket attacks and open a pathway to alleviate civilian suffering and develop a secure and prosperous Palestinian society. Hamas' rocket attacks targeting civilians triggered the current crisis. Any country is compelled to defend its civilians against attack.

The situation in the region has reached a new level of violence, and each civilian death is tragic. The images of suffering innocents, especially children, in both the Gaza Strip and Israel are a stark reminder that it is long past time for this region to know peace. The United States must be deeply involved in the peace process while vigorously working for short and long term solutions that will provide security to

Israel and the means for a better future to Palestinians.

HONORING MADELINE DELOACH
FRANKLIN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Madeline DeLoach Franklin. A loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, and compassionate soul, Madeline will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Madeline passed away on December 21, 2008, at the age of 94, less than 1 month short of her 95th birthday.

Born on January 17, 1914, Madeline had a long and fascinating life. She not only witnessed the most transformative periods in our Nation's history, she actively participated in them. Madeline Franklin was a vanguard of the pre-civil rights era and an inspiring political mother to many activists from the civil rights movement up until the present.

Madeline was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her parents, William and Dora C. DeLoach, moved the family from New Orleans to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during World War I. In Philadelphia, Mr. and Mrs. DeLoach founded St. Philip's Lutheran Church and raised their children in the spirit of community service. Growing up during the first decades of the 20th century, Madeline shared a simple and happy childhood with her nine older siblings. It was during this time that Madeline developed her strong social values, faith in God, and belief in the necessity of justice and human dignity for all people. She would carry these values with her and teach them to those fortunate enough to know her for over 70 years.

After graduating from the prestigious Philadelphia Girls High School, Madeline returned to New Orleans to attend Dillard University, where she pledged as a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She graduated in 1939, and by that time had already fulfilled one of her dreams by becoming an accomplished pianist. Madeline was living in Pass Christian, Mississippi, and it was during this period that she decided to formally pursue a career in education and become politically active in the most important efforts of her time—actions that would serve as the precursors to the civil rights movement in America. Even before Rosa Parks' famous refusal to give up her bus seat to make room for White passengers in 1955, Madeline DeLoach was refusing to sit on wheel covers or wait for the next bus to come in the 1930s in Jackson, Mississippi.

During that same period she met her future husband, Dr. Charles L. Franklin, who was living in New York after graduating from Columbia University in 1936 at the age of 25. At that time, Dr. Franklin was one of the youngest PhDs in the country, and the only African-American with a doctorate degree in his field. A specialist in social legislation, labor economics, and statistics, Dr. Franklin was an energetic intellectual at the forefront in the struggle for employment integration in the Federal government. On his own merit he received the highest average of all of the competitors in the

New York State Civil Service Examination, bringing mass attention to the issue of inequality. Madeline and Charles were wed on May 24, 1943.

Although not related by blood, Madeline was part of my extended family who I loved dearly. She was a wise woman who inspired me and supported me in all of my efforts. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Madeline was an incredibly intelligent, sophisticated, and talented individual. She was an African-American woman born in the American south at the turn of the century, a teenager and young woman of the Great Depression, an adult of the pre-civil rights era, and a mentor of the civil rights movement. Undoubtedly, Madeline faced every conceivable challenge of her generation, gender, and as a person of color. However, not only did Madeline survive these difficult and tumultuous times, she triumphed and brought countless others up behind her.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes Madeline DeLoach Franklin, honoring her incredible life and inspiring legacy. We thank her family for sharing this amazing spirit with us, especially her three children, Charles L. Franklin, Jr., Dolores Mercedes Franklin, and Estelle Diane Franklin, her grandchildren, Sharath Smith and Michelle Franklin, Lynnette Franklin and Charles Franklin, her great-grandchildren Brian and David Smith, her daughter-in-law Alexis M. Herman, her grandsons-in-law Jeffrey Smith and Christian Duffus, and a host of additional family members and friends. May her soul rest in peace.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 295, MORE
JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the More Jobs for Veterans Act of 2009. Madam Speaker, having the right skills is critical to finding good-paying employment in today's job market. The Assistant Secretary of Labor administers the Veterans Workforce Investment Program, VWIP, a grant program to State and local governments, private, not-for-profit organizations including community based and faith based organizations to fund a wide range of employment and training programs for veterans. Eligible veterans are those with service-connected disabilities, significant barriers to employment, veterans who served on active duty during a war or a recognized campaign or expedition, and recently separated veterans.

It makes no sense to spend millions on State employment placement systems if veterans lack relevant job skills. Unfortunately, funding for training programs such as VWIP, which directly targets veterans, is severely underfunded. This legislation would change that by authorizing \$20 million annually, almost triple today's funding level.

Madam Speaker, the current \$7 million appropriation is a small drop in the bucket towards meeting the skills-improvement needs of today's 651,000 unemployed veterans. This bill would significantly improve education and training opportunities for those who have worn the uniforms of our armed forces.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support the measure.

HAMAS IS TO BLAME FOR MOST
RECENT CONFLICT IN GAZA

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, today we are saddened by the loss of innocent lives in Gaza; people being killed and wounded, bodies of children torn apart, all of this is a horror story. If we are serious about ending this tragedy we must be brutally honest, and not give in to ignoring hard truths. In this case the hard truth is that the real blame for this carnage in Gaza is traced to actions taken by Hamas, radical Islamists, and those who supply them with rockets and other weapons.

There was a tremendous opportunity for peace when Israel withdrew its troops from Gaza in 2005. Instead of moving forward and building a Palestinian homeland, irreconcilables have launched nearly 7,000 rockets and mortar rounds into Israel since Israeli troops left.

The hate-filled radicals who launched missiles into Israel—Hamas triggermen, not Israeli pilots—are the ones who are really responsible for the horrible mayhem we are witnessing in Gaza. The radical Islamists ruthlessly and without any remorse did what they knew would bring retaliation and result in the slaughter of their own people. The hatred of Israel in the hearts of these Hamas radicals clearly outweighs their commitment to the safety and well being of their own people. That's a hard fact. And that after shooting rockets into Israel, they hide among and behind non-combatants—women, and children—makes their actions even more despicable.

An honest assessment leads to the conclusion that Hamas doesn't want peace with Israel and has no desire for a two state solution. Hamas wants a war that will destroy Israel. This commitment is the real cause of the current bloodshed in Gaza. Once Israel left Gaza, Hamas should have used its resources, their money, our money, on health care, education, roads and economic development in Gaza. Instead they have chosen death and destruction.

Recently China's representative to the U.N. Security Council voiced concern about, "large-scale Israeli air attacks against Gaza." Now, that takeschutzpah! Many of the rockets fired into Israel "were manufactured in China. These Chinese rockets were smuggled into Gaza after the Sinai border wall was blown up by Hamas in January." Making matters worse the State Department and the White House hasn't mentioned a word about the China connection to the turmoil in Gaza, just as they're mum about Chinese complicity in crimes elsewhere.

Yes, the bloodshed is horrible, and yes, Israel is doing what any other sovereign nation would do. It is protecting its people by retaliation when attacked. Those who shoot rockets into Israel know there will be retaliation, thus they are the responsible party for the bloodshed we are now witnessing. It's the hard truth we can't ignore if we are to someday end this terrible heart-wrenching violence.

THE ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I have been closely following the troubling events and escalating violence in the Middle East. We in the United States must continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in support of our friend and ally Israel as it defends itself against Hamas' unrelenting rocket attacks from Gaza.

I'm encouraged by the recent cease-fire negotiations underway in the region. The talks must seek to end the intolerable rain of rockets on southern Israel and stop the violence and killing of Israelis and Palestinians. Until a cease-fire agreement is reached, I hope that every effort and scrupulous care continues to be taken to avoid the death of innocent civilians.

I've long believed that the only route to a sustainable peace in the Middle East is through diplomatic means, not military might. The United States must once again take a leadership role and actively engage in the multilateral effort to build a permanent path to peace between the Israeli and the Palestinian people.

HONORING ARTHUR HILL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California Mr. COSTA to commend and congratulate Captain Arthur Hill (U.S. Army retired) upon being honored with the Citizen Soldier Award. Mr. Hill was honored on November 7, 2008 at the Fresno City College Veterans Day 2008 Memorial and Dedication Ceremony.

Mr. Hill was born on July 16, 1916. Shortly after the bombing at Pearl Harbor he began volunteering for the Army Engineers, he was 27 years old. He has a background in construction, so in 1942 he was sent to Camp Claiborne, LA to a Special Service Engineer Regiment. On December 23, 1942, Mr. Hill graduated from O.C.S. and the Heavy Equipment School at Fort Belvoir, VA as a Second Lieutenant. At Camp Swift, TX, he was assigned to the 146 Engineer (C) Battalion as the Headquarters Company Commander with the additional duty of Battalion Motor Officer. He held this command, as a Captain, with various additional duties until the end of the war.

During the war his battalion moved to England's North Coastal area of Saunton Sands. They helped build and operate an assault training center of enemy fortifications duplicated during their time overseas. These fortifications were from secret aerial reconnaissance photos of the landing beaches and Siegfried line defenses. This led to the spearheading of the Omaha Beach "D Day" landing at the "H" hour plus 3 minutes across the English Channel on June 6, 1944. The five European campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe followed.

After the collapse of Germany, the 146th (C) Engineers, along with other engineer groups of V Corps were assisting with the debris clearance and the restoration of utilities of battered Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. In Pilsen, Captain Hill was named director of the XXII Corps Heavy Equipment School for approximately 65 Czech civil engineers and equipment operators from the V, VII, and XXII Corps. Captain Hill was later given the title of Base Commander at one of several embarkation centers that were responsible for upgrading facilities for pending troop movement. While at the Biarritz American University in Southern France, he learned that he had received a Foreign Award, the Czech Military Medal.

Upon returning home, Captain Hill was discharged on January 8, 1946. He began his civilian life and worked in the petroleum industry for 30 years. He and his wife, B.J. (now deceased), were married for over 50 years. Since April 1992, Mr. Hill has enjoyed his time as a volunteer at the National Legion of Valor Museum in Fresno, California, where he is also an honorary lifetime member. He became the museum Director in July 2001. From 1995–1996, he also served as the American Legion Commander of Fresno Post No. 4.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Arthur Hill upon his achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Hill many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO I. BERNARD
WEINSTEIN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Dr. I. Bernard Weinstein for his significant accomplishments as a scientist, professor of medicine, physician, mentor, colleague, advisor, administrator, and humanitarian, who passed away on November 3, 2008 at the age of 78.

Dr. Weinstein was a world authority in the fields of chemical carcinogenesis, cancer treatment and prevention, and a founder of the field of molecular epidemiology. His pioneering discoveries and visionary theories, including the breakthrough concept of “oncogene addiction,” opened up new frontiers in cancer research and led to the development of new, effective, life-saving therapies for patients.

For more than 47 years, Dr. Weinstein was on staff at Columbia University Medical Center, where he also served as Frode Jensen Professor of Medicine, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences; Professor of Genetics and Development; and, for a decade, Director of the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center. In recognition of his groundbreaking, seminal scientific work, Dr. Weinstein received some of the most prestigious national and international awards in his field. Additionally, he was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science, a fellow of the National Foundation for Cancer Research, and he served with great distinction as president of the American Association for Cancer Research. Dr. Weinstein also provided his renowned exper-

tise and wisdom as a valued and respected member of many scientific advisory and editorial boards.

In addition to his scientific discoveries, Dr. Weinstein also leaves a remarkable legacy as a mentor and a teacher, having helped train many generations of leaders in cancer and biological research. Dr. Weinstein guided and inspired scores of devoted students, who mourn the passing of this great scientist and remarkable man. It's a loss also deeply felt by his family, to whom he was so loyal and so loving.

In honor of this great American scientist and his commitment and contributions to the field of oncology, I express my gratitude to Dr. Weinstein for devoting his life to preventing and curing cancer. America mourns his passing while also celebrating his inspiring legacy. He is survived by his son Matthew, his two daughters Claudia and Tamara, and two grandchildren.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ARMED
FORCES DISABILITY RETIRE-
MENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF
2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Armed Forces Disability Retirement Enhancement Act of 2009. This measure would simplify and streamline the daunting process injured men and women must endure when navigating the Department of Defense, DOD, disability retirement system. The system is too complex, and it is unfair to confront wounded warriors with such a mess when their focus should be on recovery and their loved ones.

These systemic problems were identified more than 2 years ago when the President's Commission on Care for America's Wounded Warriors and the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission interviewed injured service members, but the problems have yet to be resolved. This bill would ensure that those found unable to serve would automatically receive military retirement benefits based on rank and years of service. This provision would resolve the ‘concurrent receipt’ issue, and it would replace confusing, piecemeal programs.

Those found unfit for service would also automatically receive health and dental coverage. Currently, such eligibility hinges on the findings of a military physical evaluation board. Severely injured servicemembers undergoing the emotional and physical pain of recovery and rehabilitation should not have to endure the added, unnecessary worry as to whether physical evaluation board determinations will grant disability benefits.

It's well past time to eliminate these burdens for those who have already sacrificed dearly for our country. I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address this difficult issue now rather than leaving it to future generations to resolve.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SENIOR CORPORAL NORMAN
SMITH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Senior Corporal Norman Smith who died in the line of duty on January 6, 2008. An 18-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department, Sr. Cpl. Smith spent his career bravely serving the residents of Dallas, TX. With a heavy heart, I pay tribute to him and the impact he made in our city. My condolences are extended to his family and his fellow officers who are mourning the loss of a husband, father and friend.

Sr. Cpl. Smith, 43, joined the Dallas Police Department in 1991 and most recently served as a member in the Gang Unit for the past 12 years. Deeply committed to stamping out the influence of gangs, he worked tirelessly to free neighborhoods crippled with violence, crime and drugs. He was instrumental in taking back neighborhood blocks long controlled by gangs in Dallas for years. His work in this area is now credited as a textbook case for Federal and local officials working to rid communities of criminal organizations. Throughout his career, he received numerous commendations and was honored as a Dallas Police Department Officer of the Year.

There is no doubt that Sr. Cpl. Smith was not only exemplary of those who choose to serve and protect, but admired and deeply respected by all he met. He will be remembered for his strength of character, respect for all those he encountered and his deep commitment to his police work. He is described by his own Police Chief as having the “heart of a warrior.” Dallas has truly lost a hero, and we will forever remember the positive changes he brought to the community. His life was a testament to all that can be achieved through dedication to public service.

My prayers are with his wife, Dallas Police Lieutenant Regina Smith, and his teenage son and daughter. He first met his wife while she was a young police officer, noting that she was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. During the time they had together, there is no doubt there was much happiness and a unique shared passion for their life's work.

Madam Speaker, today we mourn the loss of one of Dallas' finest—Sr. Cpl. Norman Smith. Our city is forever grateful for the sacrifice he has made in the line of duty. His legacy will live on in our hearts and in the community he served.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
AWARD DR. JOSEPH B. KIRSNER
THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce this bill to award Dr. Joseph B. Kirsner the Congressional Gold Medal for his

outstanding work in the medical field of gastroenterology.

The son of Russian immigrants, Kirsner overcame adversity as a young man and graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine at the top of his class. He went on to earn his medical degree at the University of Chicago. While training in Chicago, he became an expert in gastroenterology and helped to make the University of Chicago the premier center for research and therapy of inflammatory bowel disease. His leadership and research led to unprecedented medical advances in the field of gastroenterology, enhancing the lives of people across the world.

Despite his devotion to his research, Kirsner was compelled to join the armed forces in World War earning a third Battle Star in the battle of the Philippines before serving under General Douglas MacArthur in Japan. Following the war, Kirsner became a full Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago. During his time as a Professor, he published over 700 papers and 15 books, and gave over 25 named lectureships. He has served as a leader on a number of boards and foundations, such as the National Institutes of Health, the American Gastroenterological Association and the Chicago Medical Society. Despite all of his world-renowned successes, he continues to provide personal care to patients from across the country.

Dr. Kirsner, a World War II veteran and devoted civil servant to the field of medicine, has lived his life in service to others, deserving of national recognition for his honorable contribution to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in two votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on January 7, 2009.

The first vote was H.R. 35, to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on that question.

The second vote was H.R. 36, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on that question.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF BOB WATERSTON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California Mr.

RADANOVICH and Mr. NUNES to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Bob Waterston. After 8 years with the Fresno Board of Supervisors, including two as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Mr. Waterston is retiring as Supervisor for the 5th District in Fresno County, California. We thank him for his hard work on behalf of the county.

Bob is a lifelong Fresno native. Prior to embarking on his distinguished career with Fresno County, Bob was a twenty-nine year veteran of the Fresno Fire Department serving 4 years as a firefighter, 8 years as a driver and 17 years as a fire captain. He also served on the Clovis City Council as an elected member and then as a Mayor Pro Tem. Bob has also been a State certified paramedic for 24 years. His professional career includes Board Certified Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Life Support Affiliate Faculty for the American Heart Association. Most recently he became a California State licensed Contractor specializing in swimming pool construction and has maintained his commitment to the community as a County Supervisor all while managing his home business.

Bob Waterston's involvement in his community has been far-reaching, ranging from Chairman of the America Health Walk in 1998 to the Fandango Advisory Board Committee in 1999 and as Community Advisor for the Junior League of Fresno in 2000 and 2001. Bob served on Community Services for the California League of Cities, and he was an Executive Board Member of the Sequoia Council Boy Scouts of America in 2004. Bob has also given back to his fellow firefighters by serving as a past Chairperson for the CPR Committee with the Central Valley Fire Agencies, and he is a founder of the annual "Firefighters Creating Memories" program at the Fresno District Fair.

Throughout his distinguished career, Bob Waterston has served on numerous boards and has given back to his community. He served on the board of directors of the Fresno Business Council, the Economic Development Corporation of Fresno County and the Fresno Regional Foundation. He is also a member of the "Make a Wish" Foundation, the American Heart Association Board of Directors, and the Public Education Committee for the Fresno City Fire Department. He is also a past board member for the Fresno Firefighters Association Benefit Fund and the South San Joaquin Division Committee on California League of Cities.

Bob's accomplishments were recognized as early 1989, when he was awarded the first Fresno Fire Department Employee of the quarter. He was also honored by Governor George Deukmejian for "Recognition in Excelling in the Performance of Duty." In 1996 Bob was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars as Peace Officer of the Year, and he was honored by Exceptional Parents Unlimited for his efforts to "Silence the Violence."

I commend Bob for dedicating his life to his family and his community. His accomplishments have touched the lives of many, and his impact on our community will be long remembered. I extend my best wishes for his continued health, happiness, and service. Bob Waterston is a distinguished member of the community, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize him today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING CONSUMERS THROUGH PROPER FORBEARANCE PROCEDURES ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Protecting Consumers Through Proper Forbearance Procedures Act. This legislation, which I also introduced during the 110th Congress, is intended to correct persistent procedural problems created by two words in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this common sense legislation.

Section 10 of the Communications Act permits a telecommunications carrier to file a petition with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) asking the FCC to forbear from applying certain statutory or regulatory requirements to it. In turn, the FCC may grant forbearances if it finds that doing so is in the public interest.

As I have stated in the past, the Congress certainly has the prerogative to create a statutory regime that permits a regulatory agency to forbear from applying a statutory requirement, so long as the agency finds that consumers will continue to be protected and well served. What is problematic about this circumstance is that the Communications Act states that the carrier's petition will be "deemed granted" if the FCC does not act within a prescribed timeframe. In simpler terms, if the FCC cannot agree on the merits of a petition, it is automatically granted.

We must act to correct this untenable situation for two reasons. First, in the case of a petition that is "deemed granted" without an accompanying written order, it is impossible for the Congress or the courts to ascertain the scope of relief granted or the legal rationale supporting the FCC's action. This makes it difficult for the Congress to conduct proper oversight of the implementation of the Communications Act, as well as oversight of the telecommunications industry.

Second, the "deemed granted" language leads to unsound decision-making at the FCC. When faced with contentious and complicated issues, which are often the subject of these petitions, the FCC now routinely waits until the last moment to make a decision. At the same time, the threat of an automatic grant of forbearance hovers over the proceedings. It is unlikely that such a disjointed process results in public policy that benefits consumers.

The Communications Act, as amended by this bill, would still permit carriers to seek forbearance, which the FCC may also still grant. However, by removing the "deemed granted" language from statute, we will vastly improve the ability of the Congress and the courts to conduct appropriate oversight, better protect consumers, and restore transparency to the decision-making process. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 297, VETERAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Veteran Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Subsistence Allowance Improvement Act of 2009. The Department of Veteran Affairs' Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program should be the crown jewel in VA's benefit system for service-disabled veterans.

Most of the nearly 100,000 veterans participating in this program are enrolled in long-term education programs, typically those that lead to a college degree. Unfortunately, thousands of participants drop out of the Vocational Rehabilitation program because they need to work to support their families. This legislation would significantly increase the ability of veterans to support their families while undergoing rehabilitation.

Today's VR&E program, in addition to paying for the costs related to any education or training program, also provides a small subsistence per month allowance. For FY09, the basic allowance for full-time participation is about \$541 per month with small additional sums for dependents. Considering this modest amount, it is not surprising that thousands of veterans drop out of their rehabilitation program. This bill would increase the basic subsistence allowance to \$1,200 per month. The bill would also simplify VA's administrative burden by standardizing payments for all types of services under the program.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor and support the measure.

KIDNEY DISEASE EDUCATION BENEFITS ACT OF 2009

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Kidney Disease Education Benefits Act. As co-Chairman of the Congressional Kidney Caucus, I am proud to join with my fellow Kidney Caucus co-Chairman, Congressman JIM McDERMOTT (D-WA) to introduce this important initiative.

Each year, some 80,000 people are diagnosed with End-Stage Renal Disease. This stage of kidney disease occurs when the kidneys function at less than 10 percent and, as a result, are no longer able to maintain life. Patients with kidney disease require regular kidney dialysis treatments or a transplant to survive. Medicare pays for most renal patients at the cost of \$20 billion a year, nearly 7 percent of all Medicare expenditures, despite the fact that the kidney disease population represents just 1.1 percent of all Medicare patients.

Complications associated with kidney disease are common, but can be reduced if appropriate education is provided prior to the

onset of renal failure. There are a number of steps chronic kidney disease patients can take to reduce renal failure and better prepare themselves for dialysis, including making lifestyle changes, learning about renal replacement options, and seeking a compatible kidney donor. Medicare, however, does not provide coverage for education on nutrition, treatment options, venous access, or transplant coordination until after the patient has experienced kidney failure and is already undergoing dialysis.

To remedy this situation, we are introducing the Kidney Disease Education Benefits Act of 2009 to make counseling available to patients before they begin dialysis. This is a top National Kidney Foundation legislative priority. Our bill would provide reimbursement for an estimated \$10 million per year for up to six educational sessions for Medicare patients. These sessions would be offered one year prior to kidney failure to help prevent renal failure, better prepare these patients for dialysis, and save Medicare costs that can be associated with complications resulting from renal failure.

Kidney disease cannot be reversed, but, with appropriate education, its effects can be slowed, improving the quality of life for renal patients and reducing costs to taxpayers. I would like to thank Congressman McDERMOTT for joining me in the fight against kidney disease. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues on this important initiative.

HONORING FREDERIC VON RUEDEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California Mr. COSTA to commend and congratulate Frederic Von Rueden, U.S. Navy Retired, upon being honored with the Citizen Soldier Award. Mr. Von Rueden was honored on November 7, 2008 at the Fresno City College Veterans Day 2008 Memorial and Dedication Ceremony.

Mr. Von Rueden was born in Farihault, Minnesota, on October 25, 1917. In 1936 he enlisted in the Navy, went through "Boot Camp" at Great Lakes, Illinois, and underwent further training in San Francisco, California. From San Francisco he went to San Diego to board the Light Cruiser USS *Richmond* where he spent the next 9 years. The home port for the ship was Panama. He was in Valparaiso the day Pearl Harbor was hit. The ship escorted many convoys to the South Pacific and conducted regular bombardment off the coast of Japan in company with the USS *Salt Lake City*, where they often engaged the Japanese Fleet in battle. Mr. Von Rueden was a boiler technician. Most of his days were spent below deck in the engine rooms. At the end of World War II the USS *Richmond* was returned to Philadelphia and was decommissioned.

In Philadelphia, Mr. Von Rueden went through some schooling and was reassigned to the Battleship USS *Iowa* out of Long Beach, California for about 6 months. After that he spent some time aboard the USS *Topeka* and

the USS *Los Angeles* for tours. He decided to spend some time on land training at Port Huene, California. With this new training he was sent to Kwadjelen in the South Pacific for 18 months to do utility maintenance. After completing another tour aboard the USS *Theodore E. Chandler* he trained to be a Recruiter and was sent to the Fresno Recruit Center. He completed one more 18 month tour aboard the USS *Iowa* before returning to Fresno. In 1955, Mr. Von Rueden became a permanent resident in Fresno and retired to the Fleet Reserve on February 5, 1957.

After retiring from the Navy, Mr. Von Rueden was hired by the County of Fresno to work at Juvenile Hall. He attended school, part time, at Fresno City College on the GI Bill, and graduated with a degree in 1961. In 1968 he transferred to the County Public Works Department and was a maintenance engineer at Fresno County Hospital until he retired on March 1, 1980. Mr. Von Rueden and his wife reside at a retirement home in Clovis, California. He is still active in the Fresno Branch 249 of the Fleet Reserve Association.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Frederic Von Rueden upon his achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Von Rueden many years of continued success.

HONORING PFC GARFIELD M. LANGHORN, MOH

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, our brave men and women in uniform are all heroes. But the exceptional few who make the supreme sacrifice to protect the lives of their brothers-in-arms become more than heroes; they become legends. Today, I rise to honor U.S. Army Private First Class Garfield M. Langhorn, a resident of Riverhead in Eastern Long Island who received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Pleiku Province, Vietnam, 40 years ago this month.

As they attempted to rescue the crew of a downed helicopter, PFC Langhorn's unit was trapped under intense enemy fire. As night fell and U.S. air support was called off, enemy fighters began to probe their perimeter. The citation for PFC Langhorn's Medal of Honor reads:

"An enemy hand grenade landed in front of PFC Langhorn and a few feet from personnel who had become casualties. Choosing to protect these wounded, he unhesitatingly threw himself on the grenade, scooped it beneath his body and absorbed the blast. By sacrificing himself, he saved the lives of his comrades. PFC Langhorn's extraordinary heroism at the cost of his life was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army."

Madam Speaker, PFC Langhorn's sacrifice half a world away remains a credit to the Riverhead community, which is proud to celebrate his achievements on the 40th anniversary of his death. May his example continue to inspire all those who aspire to service "beyond the call of duty."

THANKING LONG-TIME STAFFER DAVID RANSOM FOR HIS SERVICE AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS MOVE TO A MAJOR LAW FIRM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today, I want to thank one of my former staffers, David Ransom, who recently left the Majority Leader's Office to join one of our Nation's premier law firms, for his 9 years of service as my principal speechwriter, as a key member of my communications team, and as a senior advisor who always offered strong recommendations based on solid reasoning.

There are few people who have served on my staff who know my position on issues better than David does.

At a going-away luncheon for David, I told the assembled staff that I needed them to step up as David had, and to give me their best advice and counsel—even if that meant that on occasion they might be disagreeing with me or other staff. As a good lawyer, David clearly appreciates the importance of making a compelling argument. But he also recognizes the necessity of anticipating and considering opposing points of view and policy positions.

This approach not only has made David a valued member of my staff, but also has enabled me to better serve my constituents in Maryland's Fifth Congressional District, this great institution and our Nation.

During his more than 9 years on my staff, David demonstrated that he is a team player and problem solver who has exceptional analytical, writing, and communication skills. Over that period, he drafted everything from short

statements, to countless Floor statements, to major speeches, to substantive policy documents, to advocacy materials for members of the Democratic Caucus.

While I am certainly sad to lose a trusted, valued member of my staff, I am very pleased that David has joined such a great law firm—McDermott Will & Emery, one of the top law firms in America. There's no question that his insight into the congressional leadership and the Members who serve here will be of great value to McDermott Will & Emery's clients.

I wish David and his family—his wife, Lori, and two children—all the best in the future, and again thank him for his efforts on my behalf.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE ALAN AUTRY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my distinguished colleagues from California, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. CARDOZA to pay special tribute to Mr. Alan Autry for 8 years of distinguished public service to the city of Fresno, CA. Mr. Autry has completed the maximum numbers of years of service allowable by city charter as the mayor of the city of Fresno. He is to be honored at a Roast and Recognition reception on Thursday, December 18, 2008.

During his two terms, Alan has remained strongly committed to fulfilling the mission of Fresno, as a "united city working together to ensure equal access to opportunity, education and quality of life for every man, women, and

child, regardless of their race, religion, age, or socio-economic status." Mayor Autry's efforts have focused on crime reduction, educational reform, economic development, availability of affordable housing, addressing homelessness, raising awareness on the water issues of our Central Valley and on government reform.

Throughout his notable career, Alan has served on numerous commissions and boards at the local, State and Federal levels. He has been a part of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Advisory Board, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Education Standing Committee, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Arts and Entertainment Standing Committee, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Strengthening America's Communities Secretarial Advisory Committee, the League of California Cities Board of Directors, the California Partnership Board, the League of California Cities Housing Task Force, the Fresno County Transportation Authority Board and the Fresno County Council of Government Board. Mayor Autry was a founding board member of the Operation Clean Air Board and the Regional Jobs Initiative Board.

His service and work have been acknowledged through countless awards and honors, not the least of which is his recognition as one of the most effective advocates ever in terms of garnering a fair share of State and Federal resources for the Central Valley.

Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that throughout his career, Alan Autry has proven to be a highly motivated leader, striving for excellence in public service, keeping his city safe and making it the best city possible for all the residents of Fresno. As he gets ready to spend more time on other endeavors, we thank him for his service and wish him continued success and fulfillment in the future.