

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TAMPA BAY WATCH CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESTORING THE BAY EVERY DAY

**HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Tampa Bay Watch is a community based habitat restoration and education program that has helped us bring back to life the waters of Tampa Bay and its surrounding tributaries. This year marks the 15th anniversary of its great environmental work and I want to commend the staff, the members of the board, and most importantly the thousands of volunteers of all ages who give their time for this cause.

Peter Clark, Tampa Bay Watch's Executive Director, helped bring a vision to life and has mobilized more than 65,000 volunteers in what is the first environmental organization of its kind in the Southeastern United States. Together, these dedicated individuals helped a dying bay recover from decades on neglect.

Tampa Bay Watch's staff and volunteers coordinate a variety of coastal restoration events throughout the year such as salt marsh plantings, oyster dome and reef construction, coastal cleanups and storm drain markings.

The largest one-day salt marsh planting in Tampa Bay's history took place on September 29, 2007, bringing together 425 volunteers who planted 34,000 salt marsh grasses over 32 acres of newly constructed wetland habitat. Another milestone event took place on August 16, 2008 when more than 150 volunteers found 624 scallops at the Great Bay Scallop Search, the most scallops ever found in a single Tampa Bay Watch event.

Next to its enthusiastic volunteer base, one of Tampa Bay Watch's greatest assets is its Marine and Education Center constructed next to its Tierra Verde offices at the entrance to Fort De Soto Park. The education center, built in 2005 with funds provided by the House Appropriations Committee through an Economic Development Initiative, includes classrooms, outdoor wet labs, and two 5,000 gallon touch tanks that are used year-round during school field trips, summer camp programs, and community groups. It is home to the Estuary EDventures program, which builds environmental literacy and encourages environmental stewardship while educating students about estuarine and habitat restoration. More than 180 field trips have been held there during which 3,000 students contributed 14,600 hours to learn about and help restore Tampa Bay.

Madam Speaker, Tampa Bay Watch brings together families and neighbors to take care of our environment and to take pride in our environment. Nowhere is this more important than Florida where we are surrounded by water and Tampa Bay remains the linchpin linking the waterways of our entire region.

As Tampa Bay Watch celebrates its 15th anniversary, I want to salute three current and former board members who first brought this

program to my attention. Ed Alber, whose passing was a great loss to Tampa Bay Watch and our entire community, Angelo Catani, and Bob Hite have all invested considerable time and energy into restoring Tampa Bay and educating youth of all ages about the need for environmental stewardship. Other board members who have contributed so much of their time to the cause include Chairman Lawrence Weiner, Secretary/Treasurer Steve Stanley, Past Chairs Doug Williamson and Steve McCreary, board members Paul Avery, Matt Bisset, Rick Bourkard Jr., Leiza Fitzgerald, Mike Flynn, Richard Happle, Richard Hatcher, Debbie Kraujalis, G. Lowe Morrison, Robert L. Paver, Dr. Honey Rand, Stephen Reynolds, Joseph Saunders, John Semago, Nadine Smith, Ray Smith, and Dr. Richard Wilkes.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues in the House join in congratulating Tampa Bay Watch for remaining true to their simple mission statement to Restore Tampa Bay Every Day.

**MS. MARTHA MORGAN-NAYLOR'S  
100TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Ms. Martha Morgan-Naylor on a momentous milestone, her 100th birthday, which will be on January 22, 2009. Martha will be celebrating this milestone with family and friends on Sunday, January 18, 2009, at the First Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana. For 42 years, Martha's presence in the Gary school system allowed her the opportunity to touch the lives of countless members of her community.

Martha Morgan-Naylor was born on January 22, 1909, in Auburn, Alabama. She was the youngest of five children born to Clem and Amy Morgan. In 1917, the family relocated to Gary, Indiana, in search of better employment opportunities and school systems for their children. In 1926, Martha graduated from one of only a few integrated high schools in the state of Indiana: Froebel High School. Martha's passion for education led her on to graduate with a bachelor of science degree in physical education from Indiana State Normal School, now known as Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. Martha then decided to return to Gary to pursue a teaching career. She went on to teach physical education for 32 years at Roosevelt High School. Her career continued and she went on to teach for 11 years at Beckman Middle School until her retirement in 1974. Martha's many years of service as an educator have been a blessing to the youth and families in the Gary community, and she is worthy of our deepest admiration.

In addition to her impressive career, Martha serves her community as an active member and deacon at First Baptist Church of Gary.

Fully devoted to her congregation, she serves as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee at First Baptist, and is also a member of the Matron's Welcoming Committee. A lifelong teacher, Martha participated in the Purdue University/Hammond High School Oral History project in October 2008. The students involved researched "The Great Depression" and interviewed Martha on her reflection of living during that time. The interview was recorded and transcribed for historical records. Martha believes that she is blessed by God's grace and has always felt compelled to help others. It is this belief that has enabled her to enrich the lives of many people throughout the community.

Martha has many friends and loved ones who share a common respect for her commendable qualities, including her energy, wisdom, sharp mind, and her calmness in stressful situations. Martha's selfless devotion to education and the community of Gary is to be commended. She is truly an inspiration and a role model for us all.

Madam Speaker, Martha Morgan-Naylor has always given her time and efforts selflessly to the youth and the community in Gary throughout her illustrious life. She has taught her friends and members of her community the true meaning of service to others. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Martha a very Happy 100th Birthday.

**IN CELEBRATION OF KOREAN  
AMERICAN DAY**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Korean American Day on January 13, 2009.

The Dallas Korean Society, Korean American Foundation, and Korean American Coalition collaborated to designate this special day to celebrate the Korean community in Dallas. Their unique traditions and customs add to the growing diversity of Dallas and culturally enrich our neighborhoods. These organizations provide valuable assistance in helping immigrants assimilate to American culture and serve as a vocal and powerful advocate on behalf of the Korean community. They empower individuals to actively engage themselves in American society and participate in various civic organizations. While we celebrate our cultural differences, we are united as Americans and our firm belief in freedom and democracy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating the Dallas Korean Society, Korean American Foundation, and Korean American Coalition on their dedication and efforts to making this event a success.

• 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.

HONORING MELANIE BARKER

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melanie Barker as the outgoing President of the Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors. Ms. Barker will be recognized at the annual installation luncheon for the Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors on November 21, 2008 in Oakhurst, California.

The Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors (YGAOR) was first known as the Mountain Co-Op in 1998 with a group of eight volunteers. Today, the group has paid professional staff and ownership of the Association's building. YGAOR was responsible for developing one of the first computerized Multiple Listing Systems, which continues to operate with the latest technology. They work very closely with the California Association of Realtors by providing leadership at regional and statewide levels. YGAOR provides educational opportunities for members and fundraising activities that benefit local non-profit organizations and scholarship programs.

Under Ms. Barker's leadership, YGAOR had a very successful year. The 8th Annual Monster Rummage Sale was held earlier this year and raised over \$70,000, the highest since its establishment. The proceeds were donated to local non-profit charities. Over the years, the YGAOR Scholarship Golf Tournament has raised over \$84,000 for college scholarships for high school seniors from local high schools. Ms. Barker has been instrumental in the establishment of the Women's Council of Realtors. She was able to establish an "Affiliate Committee" to give the Association direct communication to the Office of the President. The committee structure within YGAOR has become stronger with her leadership by prioritizing structure and establishing goals to be discussed at biannual meetings. Ms. Barker has successfully brought the Senior Real Estate Specialist designation to the area through the efforts of the Education Committee.

With Ms. Barker's role at YGAOR, she has been a strong leader by providing a voice of optimism for local real estate. She has involved herself with many speaking engagements and editorial opportunities. Her goal was to provide a positive realtor image in the community and has accomplished this through her leadership during one of the toughest housing markets this nation has ever seen. She has been able to develop and build upon relationships with fellow realtors throughout the region and the state. She has also committed three weeks a year to further her education on the real estate industry and in turn, teach other members of YGAOR. Ms. Barker, the committee chairs and all of the volunteers have made 2008 a very successful year.

In 2008, Ms. Barker was also elected as Assistant Region 12 Chair for the California Association of Realtors and will become the Region 12 Chair in 2010. Prior to being named as President of YGAOR, she was the first Local Government Relations Chair and Government Affairs Director for YGAOR. In 2006, Ms. Barker became a California Golden R.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Melanie Barker upon her

achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Barker and the Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF  
THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES  
ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 43—Recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day. Of the many legacies left behind by this great leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of community building is one that resonates with us today.

Martin Luther King Jr. recognized that in striving toward equality, the true work begins in the neighborhoods and streets of our communities. King demonstrated power of service through his work spreading his message across the United States. We not only pause on January 19, 2009, Martin Luther King Day to remember his legacy, but we use this as a day to promote his message of service. Volunteers across this great nation are working on service projects to commemorate his vision and teachings. In addition to asking Americans to serve, President-elect Obama, Vice President-elect BIDEN, and their families will participate in service activities. President-elect Barack Obama leads by example as a former Chicago community organizer, helping people one at a time. When he calls for progress and change he asks the American people to participate in that change. Martin Luther King Day should inspire us all to participate in serving our communities throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration and celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In addition, in the coming days and beyond, I encourage my fellow Americans to both celebrate great change that has come and strive to be the change that we need as we progress towards King's vision of the "beloved community."

COAL ASH RECLAMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY ACT OF 2009

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, years ago a coal miner from West Virginia wrote a letter to me noting that every single federal law regulating coal was penned in blood. He was referring to the fact that it took an explosion claiming 78 souls in 1968 at a mine in Farmington, West Virginia, to give rise to the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. And that it took the failure of a coal slurry impoundment at Buffalo Creek, in Logan County, West Virginia, that killed 125 people, for the Congress to finally pass the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

Just a few weeks ago, in December, a facility owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) gave way, unleashing an avalanche of coal ash sludge that covered more than 300 acres. This time Heaven intervened, and thankfully no lives were lost.

This disaster—which could have been avoided if TVA had exercised appropriate engineering and monitoring regimes at its Kingston facility in Harriman, Tennessee—was a clarion call for action. Now is the time to take that action, before any lives are lost to a similar disaster.

Simply put, there are no federal standards for coal ash impoundments. They are constructed and maintained under a patchwork of State requirements, or on a voluntary basis.

Today I am introducing legislation to impose uniform federal design, engineering, and performance standards on coal ash impoundments. These standards are aimed at ensuring the structural stability of these impoundments, and requiring adequate monitoring and inspection regimes to avoid a repeat of what happened at Kingston, Tennessee, and what almost happened just last week at another TVA facility in Alabama.

Coal ash is a byproduct of the combustion of coal at electric utility powerplants. Some of the coal ash produced is recycled, usually as construction materials like concrete, Portland cement, and wallboard. However, the majority of coal ash is deposited in impoundments, landfills, or mines.

The larger issue here is how to regulate coal ash, and, in this respect, the track record is woefully inadequate. Back in 1980, former Representative Tom Bevill of Alabama and this gentleman from West Virginia successfully offered an amendment to what became the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1980 requiring the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine how to regulate coal ash.

I am sorry to say that after 29 years the EPA has yet to do so. Over the years, I have cajoled the agency to move forward. It came close to making a decision under the Clinton Administration, then retrenched under the Bush Administration. I called for a study by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences on this issue, which was completed in 2006. Following up on that study, last year our colleague, Rep. JIM COSTA, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Energy and Minerals Subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee, held a hearing on coal ash. The study, and the hearing, all pointed to the pressing need for a federal regulatory regime governing the disposal of coal ash, whether in impoundments, landfills, or in mines.

I have no doubt that the Obama Administration will finally take action on this issue. In the meantime, however, the purpose of my legislation is to address the engineering aspects of the impoundments themselves.

For its part, the electric utility industry says it complies with voluntary guidelines in this matter. And some States claim they have adequate requirements. Yet, as it stands, one State might require strict standards for the construction of a coal ash pond, while the State next door largely ignores how coal ash ponds are constructed. Pennsylvania, for example, requires a solid waste permit for all surface impoundments that receive coal ash, while Illinois and Indiana are among the states that regulate surface impoundments as water

pollution control facilities, rather than solid waste management units.

Similarly, requirements for liners for coal ash ponds vary State by State. For example, Alabama and Florida do not require liners for surface impoundments for coal ash, while Wisconsin does.

The argument that all States have adequate regulations for coal ash is not substantiated by the facts. It is impossible to write off the disaster in Tennessee as a freak accident. The absence of national standards for coal ash has resulted in environmental damage throughout the country—not just last month, or last year, but for decades. In 2007, the EPA recognized 67 contaminated sites in 23 states where coal combustion byproducts have polluted groundwater or surface water. This may be just the tip of the iceberg, because most coal ash sites in the United States are not adequately monitored.

The “Coal Ash Reclamation and Environmental Safety Act of 2009” requires minimum design and stability standards for all surface impoundments constructed to hold coal ash. The bill draws on the regulatory model for impoundments that is used for coal slurry management under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Requirements for coal slurry impoundments that would be made applicable to coal ash impoundments under 2 this legislation cover aspects of design, construction, operation, and closure, including:

Regulations detailing the engineering and stability of the embankment.

Regulations requiring all applications for an impoundment to have a foundation investigation to determine design requirements for stability.

Each design plan must include a geotechnical investigation of the embankment foundation area.

Each impoundment plan must include a survey describing the potential effect on the structure from subsidence of the subsurface strata resulting from past mining operations in the area.

Plans for impoundments must be reviewed by a geologist or an engineer.

Regulations requiring that a qualified engineer, with experience in construction of impoundments, inspect each impoundment regularly during construction, upon completion of construction, and periodically thereafter.

The “Coal Ash Reclamation and Environmental Safety Act of 2009” also requires immediate development of a detailed inventory and analysis of all existing coal ash disposal sites, to guide informed and prompt decisions on how to bring that universe of ponds and lagoons up to safe standards, now.

For States that already have careful standards for coal ash disposal, the bill I am introducing will not be a problem. For those that do not, the “Coal Ash Reclamation Environmental Safety Act of 2009” will require immediate attention to shocking gaps in coal ash management.

As a witness at our hearing last year so preciously reminded the Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals: “the cost of safe disposal [of coal ash] is not burdensome to industry, although it has proved, at site after site, to be catastrophic to the public and the environment.”

The time to act is now.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009: JANUARY 9, 2009

### HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am today pleased to introduce the Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2009.

There are 7 species of marine turtles which were once abundant throughout the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans. Sadly, 6 of those species including the Green turtle, the hawksbill, the Kemp's ridley, the leatherback, the loggerhead and the Olive ridley, have experienced tremendous over-exploitation and they are now listed as critically endangered under our Endangered Species Act. In fact, only the flatback turtle which lives in the inshore waters of Australia has managed to maintain a healthy population.

While there are many reasons for the dramatic decline in marine turtle population numbers, the leading factors include foreign fishing practices, the destruction of essential nesting habitat, massive poaching of turtle eggs, meat and shells, the degradation of grass beds and coral reefs, light pollution from onshore development and the dumping of tons of plastic products into our oceans.

In response to this crisis, the Congress enacted the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 which I strongly supported. While this law authorized up to \$20 million in Federal funds over the past 4 fiscal years, only \$2.2 million has been appropriated to finance worthwhile conservation projects. Despite these funding limitations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has leveraged nearly \$4 million in private matching funds and together this money has funded 78 meritorious conservation projects in more than 60 countries. While more than 200 grant proposals have been submitted, sadly, the Service has only awarded grants to less than 40 percent of the eligible recipients.

Nevertheless, a number of extraordinary projects have been funded. These included a project to assist loggerhead turtles in Oman which has the largest nesting population of this species in the world; a project to protect leatherback turtles at their 4 primary nesting beaches in Mexico and a project to assist the highly depleted Chiriqui Beach hawksbill nesting population in Panama.

Madam Speaker, marine turtles have been a vital component of our ocean ecosystems for more than 100 million years. They have long symbolized longevity, fertility and strength. We are proud of the fact that populations of loggerhead sea turtles nest on our beaches in South Carolina where they are highly protected.

Like canaries in a coal mine, declining populations of marine sea turtles are a bellwether species for the health of the world's oceans. The Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 sent a powerful message of the international community that the United States was willing to take proactive conservation efforts to save these flagship species from extinction. It is essential that this law which has yet to reach its full potential be reauthorized beyond this fiscal year.

The legislation I am introducing today would extend the authorization of appropriations for the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund until September 30, 2014. Despite severe funding limitations, this law has conclusively demonstrated that it is an effective and essential lifeline to marine turtle populations throughout the world. We should not allow any of these 6 species of marine turtles to disappear during our lifetime.

I urge early consideration of the Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2009.

### CONGRATULATING HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL USA

#### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hostelling International USA for 75 years of service to intercultural understanding and youth travel.

Hostelling International USA is a nonprofit organization founded in 1934 to promote hostels and hostel-related programs in the United States, especially among youth travelers. In doing so, it promotes cultural exchange through travel and supports tourism for local economies.

The North Carolina Council of Hostelling International USA promotes hostelling in North Carolina by offering workshops on world travel and intercultural understanding at local venues, including NC college campuses and through local Girl Scout troops. During the past year, the NC Council funded overnight stays for 51 young people and their group leaders, allowing them to stay at hostels in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, Philadelphia's Fairmont Park, and Washington, DC.

I congratulate Hostelling International USA for its 75 years of service to our country and our state.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I deeply regret that I was not able to vote on H. Res. 34 recognizing Israel's right to defend itself against attacks from Gaza and reaffirming the United States' strong support for Israel, and supporting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. On Wednesday, January 7, 2009, I had surgery on my knee and was not able to be present for voting.

Make no mistake about it, I fully support Israel's right to defend itself against all attacks. I would have wholeheartedly voted for H. Res. 34.

Presently, Israel, like any other country, is exercising its right to self-defense. If any country were attacked like Israel has been they would do the same.

How many attacks on an American city would we tolerate from our neighbors? Zero.

In July 2008, I visited Sderot, an Israeli town just over the border from Gaza. I toured sites where Israeli homes were destroyed by rockets launched from Gaza. I met with the U.S.

Security Coordinator and understand the daily threat Israelis live with every single day. The constant and deliberate attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilians are unconscionable. The Israeli people must be allowed to go about their daily lives—and the only way to do that is by defending themselves.

The United States has always been and must always be a steadfast ally of Israel. We will support Israel's right to defend itself and continue to push for a return to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

I, like so many throughout the world, hope for a peaceful resolution to the current fighting and look forward to a sustainable peace when Israelis and Palestinians alike can live free from terror.

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF MICHAEL C. BARRETT

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of my dear friend, Michael C. Barrett. He was a brilliant attorney, involved civic leader, and philanthropist always looking for ways to give back to his community.

Although born in Salt Lake City, Michael was a Texan at heart. He was raised in Sherman, Texas and went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1974 and the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University in 1977. His academic excellence in law school earned him the American Jurisprudence Award and membership with the Journal of Air Law & Commerce. After graduation, Michael practiced with various firms before deciding to start his own firm, Barrett Daffin Frappier Turner & Engel, in 1990. As the founder and Chairman, he turned this Texas-based company into one of the nation's leading mortgage banking law firms. He was a pioneer and a leader of the mortgage banking industry, serving as a trusted advisor on mortgage banking issues for the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Legislature.

Aside from his professional career, Michael was an enthusiastic supporter of many local nonprofit organizations and causes like the Addison Police Department and veterans support groups. His generosity extended to nonprofits such as Hope's Door, KickStart, Dallas Junior Forum, and the Special Olympics. In 2007, Michael founded the BDF Homeworks Foundation, which encourages employees to become more involved in their local community by providing volunteer and contribution opportunities. Not only did this provide valuable financial support to nonprofits, but also boosted the esprit de corps among employees.

Michael was always full of life and had an amazing ability to captivate people's attention with his stories. He was as wise as he was generous and loving. He cared deeply for his friends and family and will be greatly missed. May the peace of God be with those he loved and sustain them through this hour of sorrow.

TRIBUTE TO OLIVER B. CONOVER  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
THE LEHIGH ACRES CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

**HON. CONNIE MACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Oliver "Ollie" Conover of Lehigh Acres, Florida upon his retirement from the Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce.

Ollie served as the Executive Director of the Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce for the last seven years, and during that time, has helped to make the Chamber an influential organization in Lehigh Acres.

Ollie's community and public service didn't start with the Chamber, however. Ollie served in the Ordnance Corps in the U.S. Army and continued on to serve in the Reserves when his active duty service was completed.

Ollie's subsequent professional career spanned 22 years as an insurance agent and broker, and 25 years in non-profit fundraising for educational and cultural organizations. It's this unique experience that made him well-suited to take the helm of the Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce in 2002.

Since moving to Lehigh Acres 10 years ago, and serving with the Chamber for the last seven, Ollie has made an indelible mark on a community that is growing by leaps and bounds. In fact, Ollie has joined a number of community officials and activists on the Lehigh Acres Community Planning Corporation to put together a master plan for controlling the substantial growth in the area. Ollie's leadership and guidance on the issue of controlling Lehigh's growth while expanding opportunities for residents and businesses will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on the Corporation, its members and the people of Lehigh Acres.

Madam Speaker, Ollie's enthusiasm and passion for serving his community is inspiring. His efforts have helped to make Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent Ollie in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I wish Ollie and his family all the best during his retirement.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL  
ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT OF 2009

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Federal Election Integrity Act of 2009. This legislation would take the long-overdue step of prohibiting chief state election officials from taking part in the political campaigns of Federal candidates in elections over which the officials have supervisory authority.

As a former President of the League of Women Voters in San Diego and a proud American voter myself, I know that election officials are entrusted with a crucial responsi-

bility for our democracy. Their only allegiance must be to the will of the voters, not to partisan political agendas.

I think we can all agree that an inherent conflict of interest exists when a state's chief election official is responsible for monitoring and certifying the results of a Federal election while actively participating in the campaign of one of the candidates in that election.

In recent years, multiple Secretaries of State have captured national attention and incited great controversy because of their political involvement in elections they were responsible for overseeing.

Although such individuals may be honorable public servants with no improper intentions, it is of the utmost importance for the integrity of our democracy that we provide legal safeguards to ensure the public trust is never violated.

This is not a partisan issue. The record shows that officials of both parties have in the past held these two types of positions simultaneously. Rather, this is an issue of preserving the American people's faith in the integrity of our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to offer this important legislation to protect the public's trust in the electoral process.

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IN RECOGNITION OF RON  
SHELTON, NATIONAL APART-  
MENT ASSOCIATION'S CHAIRMAN  
OF THE BOARD FOR 2009

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ron Shelton, elected Chairman of the Board for 2009 for the National Apartment Association (NAA).

Ron has been a part of the multi-family housing industry for twenty-eight years. His career began with Lincoln Property Company where he started as a part-time grounds person while attending the University of Texas at Arlington. He quickly moved up the ranks into a leadership role that oversaw properties in Dallas and Houston before leaving to become Vice President of Operations for SBC Realty Company in 1989. Since then, he dedicated thirteen years to the Apartment and Investment Management Company (AIMCO) and subsequently moved over to Amalgamated Management Corporation.

Ron is committed to quality rental housing and meeting the housing needs of the public. He has served in numerous roles such as chairing the New Technology Task Force, President of the Apartment Association of Greater Dallas and the NAA's Education Institute. His career exemplifies his enthusiasm for NAA's mission. As Chairman Elect, Ron's hard work, skills, and insight garnered from his many years of experience will greatly benefit the NAA.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our best wishes to him on this special day.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to explain the reason for missing three votes on January 13, 2009. I was attending the swearing in ceremony for the 81st session of the Texas Legislature that took place yesterday in Austin, TX, where two former staff members from our office were sworn-in as newly elected State Representatives.

Carol Alvarado and Armando Walle were elected to represent Districts 145 and 140, respectively, on November 4, 2008. State Representative Alvarado worked in our office prior to working in Houston City Hall, and for the last six years as a member of the Houston City Council. Prior to being sworn in, State Representative Walle also worked in our office for over six years as Community Liaison.

Both these newly elected members of the State House have a tremendous record of service through their civic involvement, their time working for elected officials, and as elected officials. I wish them the best as they continue to serve the people of Texas in the State Legislature.

On the three votes I missed:

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 41, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2009;

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 50, Honoring the life of Claiborne Pell, distinguished former Senator from the State of Rhode Island; and

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 43, Recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promoting the holiday as a day of national service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES  
E. ALLEN

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the unsung heroes of the Intelligence Community. Mr. Charles E. Allen, who has ably and admirably served our Nation over the past fifty years, will soon retire from a long and legendary public service career.

Charlie began his career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) back in 1958 and climbed the ranks from analyst to liaison to program manager and beyond. He was assigned to the Department of Defense in 1982 and became a senior adviser on strategic mobilization planning for the Secretary of Defense. He returned to the CIA in 1985 to take on the responsibility of National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism and, a year later, was appointed the first Chief of Intelligence for the CIA's Counterterrorist Center.

Charlie's depth of expertise and dedicated professionalism led to the position of National Intelligence Officer for Warning, where, in July 1990, he made his mark as the guy who accurately predicted Saddam Hussein's invasion of

Kuwait in August 1990. Dismissed as a contrarian by others within the CIA, the conclusions in Charlie's "warning of war" memorandum bore out his sharply analytic judgment.

In recent years, I have had the pleasure of working with Charlie as he undertook the Herculean challenge of organizing and integrating the Department of Homeland Security's intelligence programs and coordinating these activities with the Intelligence Community writ large. When he first came to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as the Chief Intelligence Officer and the Department's then-Assistant Secretary for Informational Analysis, Charlie worked tirelessly to focus resources on counterterrorism and find a new way to move forward in the aftermath of 9/11. For all of his efforts, Charlie was rewarded with an elevation to Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, where he continued to—and will continue to—mold, shape, and guide the identity of DHS's intelligence operation. He created the foundation for all who will come after him.

On one occasion in August 2007, Charlie came down to the University of Texas El Paso's Border Security Conference to speak on the critical area of diversity in the intelligence workforce. I was really excited to hear him speak, because I understood that he is a great speaker, and he certainly always has something of substantive importance. As it turned out, though, I never got to hear his speech, because my daughter went into labor with my third grandchild. Charlie was gracious and understanding about it, since he's a grandfather himself. Every time I see him, he remembers to ask about that grandson.

I would be remiss if, outside of his exemplary resume, I didn't honor Charlie for his singular commitment to our country. Charlie has proved himself a dedicated public servant with a reputation as a workaholic, intent on giving America his best. While he has been honored time and time again for his service, receiving the CIA's highest and most coveted award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, he neither seeks recognition nor expects accolades.

Charlie is a straight-shooter. He will always give you the truth. And I will deeply miss his leadership in the Intelligence Community.

CONDEMNING RECENT VANDALISM  
AND THREATS AGAINST JEWISH  
INSTITUTIONS IN CHICAGO

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to draw my colleagues' attention to recent attacks on synagogues and Jewish day schools in my district and the Chicagoland area. These acts of intimidation and destruction are hate crimes, and I strongly condemn them.

On Saturday, January 10th, vandals shattered windows, broke down doors, and scrawled slogans including "Death to Israel" on Jewish synagogues and schools in the Chicago area, including Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation, Lubavitch Mesivta, Young Israel Synagogue of West Rogers Park, Congregation Anshe Motele, and Hanna Sacks Girls High School.

These recent attacks came just over a week after a Molotov cocktail was thrown at Temple

Sholom in Chicago, Illinois; and a bomb threat naming several area Jewish schools was mailed to the Ida Crown Jewish Academy. Local police are working with the FBI to determine if these attacks are linked.

Regardless of anyone's political views, attacks against religious groups, threats to schoolchildren, and the desecration of places of worship are contrary to the principles of religious tolerance upon which our country was founded and are serious crimes.

Similar crimes have been reported in other cities and communities across the country. In Knoxville, Tennessee, vandals threw rocks at two synagogues, smashing four stained glass windows. Signs supporting Hamas and comparing Israeli actions in Gaza to the Holocaust were reportedly posted at two synagogues in Irvine, California.

As a proud member of Chicago's Jewish community, I know that we are strong, vibrant, and resilient. The day after the vandalism, synagogue members put tarps over windows and returned to classes and other activities, while several hundred people gathered to denounce the attacks. Both the American Jewish Committee and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee have condemned the vandalism, and local and national groups, including the Jewish Federation of Chicago and the Anti-Defamation League, are working tirelessly in support of our community. I am proud that people of all religions in my district have come together to decry these hate crimes, just as they have come together in the past to condemn attacks on people of other religions.

Madam Speaker, what we have seen in Chicago in recent days goes beyond politically-motivated demonstrations. The intimidation and terrorization of the Jewish community is a hate crime, perpetrated against these institutions because of their religious identity. I hope that these prove isolated incidents and not a pattern of violence. I have every confidence that the police and FBI, working with the local community, will find and prosecute those responsible for these crimes.

HONORING MICHAEL MUSSER

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Michael Musser. Mr. Musser passed away on November 3, 2008.

Michael Musser was born and raised in Fresno, California. He graduated from Fresno High School in 1968. Just four years later he was married to Anna. They lived a happy life together. They have two children; Jason and Julie. His children and five grandchildren still live in the Fresno area. Mr. Musser was an avid golfer. However, if there was a family event, his family would always come first.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Musser. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CATHY BRYCE, HIGHLAND PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Cathy Bryce, the Superintendent of Schools of Highland Park Independent School District (HPIISD) who stepped from this position on December 19, 2008.

After serving in various administrative roles in surrounding school districts, Dr. Bryce joined HPIISD in July of 2001. In this role, she quickly demonstrated her ability to work with the community to develop a comprehensive education program and build broad based support for a large bond issue. She sought higher standards for student achievement and better school accountability. Dr. Bryce has a well earned reputation as an advocate for children and has made every effort to help children reach their fullest potential. Dr. Bryce's commitment to community service extends beyond parameters of the school district. She is actively involved in the Dallas YWCA, Dallas Museum of Natural Science, and the Park Cities Rotary Club among many other local organizations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating her and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

### CAPITAL GAINS AND ESTATE TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2009

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, earlier today my colleague Representative MARK KIRK and I introduced the Capital Gains and Estate Tax Relief Act of 2009, a bill to extend critical tax cuts that will help middle-class families in my district and across the country.

If enacted, this legislation would make recent cuts to capital gains and estate taxes permanent. If Congress does not act, these tax cuts will expire at the end of 2010.

At a time when we so desperately need to encourage economic growth and investment, I believe it is wrong to raise these taxes.

Last month, the United States lost 524,000 jobs, bringing the total number of lost jobs in 2008 to 2.6 million. In December, unemployment rose to 7.2 percent, the highest rate since January 1993.

Arizonans, like all Americans, are feeling this pain and factoring the sluggish economy into their decision making. Home sales have slowed, small businesses are struggling and people are taking a hard look at their IRAs and 401Ks. With the economy weighing down important decisions about how, where, and when to buy a home or make other critical investments, Congress should not add to this burden by allowing capital gains and estate taxes to increase.

Several years ago, these tax cuts were championed by President Bush and a Repub-

lican Congress. Since then, the political winds have clearly changed. But in our haste to distance ourselves from the past, I implore my colleagues to give careful consideration to these tax cuts before dismissing them.

These tax cuts are sensible. They help millions of middle-class Americans, and making them permanent would make our tax code fairer and more predictable. They affect small businesses. They affect stockholders. They affect anyone who owns a home.

Unfortunately, when it comes time to buy or sell a home or stock or make other basic investments, these taxes often act as disincentives toward optimal financial decision making. At this difficult time, we need to keep these burdens as low as possible.

We need to incentivize investment and encourage growth, not penalize them.

Some have called for the outright elimination of these taxes. Still others have sought to rescind these tax cuts before they have a chance to expire.

Now more than ever, we must place pragmatism above partisanship, and do what is necessary to get our economy moving.

In 2007 and again in 2008, I voted against the Budget Resolutions, in part, because they failed to extend cuts to capital gains and estate taxes. At the time, I expressed frustration with both Democrats and Republicans for failing to work together to create a budget that incorporates good ideas from both sides of the aisle.

I believed then that we could do better, and I believe now that we must. So today, I challenge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the right thing for middle-class families, small businesses, stockholders, and homeowners. Consider this legislation, not on a partisan basis, but on its merits. Making these tax cuts permanent will help our middle class, and working together, I know we can make that happen.

### RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

SPEECH OF

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Service Day that is held on the third Monday of January each year, the same day that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is observed.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is well known for his peaceful march on Washington, D.C. where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech and other nonviolent protests. But as a minister and civil rights activist, his vision was to end discrimination and to improve the lives of all mankind. He focused on community organizing where he told others that they can make a change if they worked together.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. it is important for people to get involved in their communities and give back to those in need. Volunteering at a food bank, helping to clean up a neighborhood, donating blood are simple ways that people can participate in National Service Day.

It is time for us to get involved to help others and to improve our nation as a whole.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in three votes on the floor of the House of Representatives yesterday.

The first vote was H. Res. 41, supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The second vote was H. Res. 50, honoring the life of Claiborne Pell, distinguished former Senator from the State of Rhode Island. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The third vote was H. Res. 43, recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promoting the holiday as a day of national service. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

### THE PREVENTION FIRST ACT

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today, I am again proud to introduce the Prevention First Act. I first introduced this legislation in the 108th Congress as an innovative approach to reducing unintended pregnancies. The Prevention First Act achieves this goal by providing comprehensive access to all forms of contraception and sex education.

If we want to reduce the number of abortions in this country, the methodology is clear—empower women to prevent unintended pregnancies through education and access to contraception. And, that is precisely what the Prevention First Act does.

Throughout the years, our conservative leaders have sought to limit women's rights and freedoms by imposing stricter penalties and enacting laws to criminalize doctors and women, when one is faced with an unintended pregnancy. Yet, these leaders have done very little to ensure that millions of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, STD, are prevented in the first place. If they are opposed to abortion, they should be for preventing unintended pregnancies and they should be for this bill.

By emphasizing prevention first, my bill will help protect women's reproductive health, reduce unintended pregnancies, decrease the spread of STDs, and give women the tools they need to make the best decisions possible for themselves.

It has been more than 40 years since the Supreme Court said women could access contraception. This decision was revolutionary in that it allowed women to control when to get pregnant and how many children to have. Access to contraception single-handedly improved women's equality in American society.

That is why for most women, including women who want to have children, contraception is not an option; it is a basic health care necessity. Contraceptive use saves scarce public health dollars. For every \$1 spent on providing family planning services, an estimated \$3.80 is saved in Medicaid expenditures for pregnancy-related and newborn care.

Many poor and low-income women cannot afford to purchase contraceptive services and supplies on their own. About 1 in 5 women of reproductive age were uninsured in 2003, and that proportion has increased by 10 percent since 2001. Half of all women who are sexually active, but do not want to get pregnant, need publicly funded services to help them access public health programs like Medicaid and Title X, the national family planning program. These programs provide high-quality family planning services and other preventive health care, such as pap smears, to underinsured or uninsured individuals who may otherwise lack access to health care and alternative options for birth control. Each year, publicly funded family planning services help women to prevent an estimated 1 million unplanned pregnancies and 630,000 abortions. Yet these programs are struggling to meet the growing demand for subsidized family planning services without corresponding increases in funding. The Prevention First Act authorizes funding for Title X clinics and strengthens States' coverage of Medicaid family planning services.

Improved access to emergency contraception, EC, can further reduce the staggering rates of unintended pregnancy and abortion in this country. EC prevents pregnancy after unprotected sex or a contraceptive failure. The Alan Guttmacher Institute estimates that increased use of EC accounted for up to 43 percent of the total decline in abortion rates between 1994 and 2000. In addition, EC is often the only contraceptive option for the 300,000 women who are reported to be raped each year. Unfortunately, even with the recent FDA decision to allow EC to be sold over-the-counter to women 18 years of age and over, many women do not know about EC and many still face insurmountable barriers in accessing this important product. The Prevention First Act mandates that the Secretary of Health and Human Services implement an education campaign about EC and requires that hospitals receiving Federal funds provide victims of sexual assault with information and access to EC.

Contraceptives have a proven track record of enhancing the health of women and children, preventing unintended pregnancy, and reducing the need for abortion. However far too many insurance policies exclude this vital coverage. While most employment-related insurance policies in the United States cover prescription drugs in general, the many do not include equitable coverage for prescription contraceptive drugs and devices. Although 21 States now have laws in place requiring insurers to provide contraceptive coverage if they cover other prescription drugs, 29 States still do not have any laws. Out of pocket expenses for contraception can be costly. Women of reproductive age currently spend 68 percent more in out-of-pocket health care costs than men, much of which is due to reproductive health-related supplies and services. The Prevention First Act requires that private health plans cover FDA-approved prescription contraceptives and related medical services.

Teens face additional barriers regarding access to services and information. Sixty percent of teens have sex before graduating high school. Teens who receive comprehensive sexuality education that includes discussion of contraception as well as abstinence are more likely than those who receive abstinence-only messages to delay sex, to have fewer partners, and to use contraceptives when they do become sexually active. Efforts by conservatives to restrict access to family planning services and promote abstinence-only education programs, which are prohibited from discussing the benefits of contraception, actually jeopardize adolescent health and run counter to the views of many mainstream medical groups.

Nearly 50 percent of new cases of STDs occur among people ages 15 to 24, even though this age bracket makes up just a quarter of the sexually active population. Clearly, teens have the most to lose when faced with an unintended pregnancy or an STD infection.

Moreover, 1 in 3 girls becomes pregnant before the age of 20, and 80 percent of these pregnancies are unintended. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school. Furthermore, children of teenage mothers have lower birth weights, are more likely to perform poorly in school, and are at greater risk of abuse and neglect. Improving access to contraceptive services and information does not cause non sexually active teens to start having sex. Instead, teens need information to help them both postpone sexual activity and to protect themselves, if they become sexually active. A November 2006 study of declining pregnancy rates among teens concluded that the reduction in teen pregnancy between 1995 and 2002 is primarily the result of increased use of contraceptives.

The Prevention First Act provides funding to public and private entities to establish or expand their teenage pregnancy prevention programs. This bill also provides for comprehensive, medically accurate sex education programs that teach young people about abstinence, health, and contraceptives. Moreover, my bill requires federally funded programs that provide information on the use of contraceptives to ensure that the information is medically accurate and includes health benefits and failure rates.

Reducing unintended pregnancy and infection with STDs are important public health goals. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention included family planning in their published list of the "Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century." My bill, the Prevention First Act, will improve access to family planning services for all women in need and will go a long way in fulfilling the promise of this important public health achievement.

Madam Speaker, I urge every Member to join me in this comprehensive, nationwide effort to reduce unintended pregnancies.

#### TRIBUTE TO LEE VAN VOORHIS

### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lee Van Voorhis, a

World War II veteran living at the New Horizons facility in Marlborough, MA. Mr. Van Voorhis recently wrote an essay calling for the establishment of a Department of Peace. I was honored to visit with Mr. Van Voorhis on January 12. Below is a story about Mr. Van Voorhis from the Marlborough Enterprise, which includes a copy of his remarkable essay.

#### WORLD WAR II VET URGES "SECRETARY OF PEACE"

(By Mary Wenzel)

MARLBOROUGH.—World War II was underway and a poster, hanging in the Montclair, N.J., Post Office, calling for 50,000 pilots, was meant to catch the attention of young men. And it did.

"As a teenager, flying a plane seemed like an exciting kind of thing to do," said Lee Van Voorhis, a senior at the local high school, who during his junior year had been an air raid warden for his neighborhood.

Like many of the young men of his generation, Van Voorhis signed up for the flight training program and became a pilot for the B-25 medium bomber.

"It was the work horse of the Army Air Corps," said Van Voorhis who served from June 1943 to November 1945.

"My grandfather was in the Civil War, my father in World War I and I was in World War II," reminisced Van Voorhis who also saw a son serve in Vietnam.

"I remember very distinctly my father being very emotional about my going off to war," said Van Voorhis, "because he thought that when they fought World War I, it was the war to end all wars, and he was so upset because he saw his son going off to a second World War."

However, for this pilot, a Second Lieutenant, United States Army Air Corps, his service would be short lived.

"The war was winding down," he said, "and there were surplus pilots."

For Van Voorhis and many of his fellow servicemen, it was off to college on the GI Bill when he entered Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

"When I was in college, my philosophy professor was dynamic, always asking us questions," explained Van Voorhis.

In spite of a half century since he sat in that classroom, Van Voorhis remembers this professor pacing up and down and asking the students, half of whom were GIs, a question that they couldn't answer, "What's the cause of war?"

"You're GIs and you fought the greatest war the world has ever known and you don't know the cause," the professor said with great passion.

"It's a lack of communications," the professor stated answering his own question. "What should you do when two countries are having problems getting along with each other? Send 100 ambassadors, send 10,000 ambassadors."

Van Voorhis still remembers the final exam for this philosophy class and the blue book to be filled with the answer to only one question, "What would you do when two countries are not getting along well and explain in detail."

"I had an hour to answer the question," said Van Voorhis. "I poured sweat because I tried so hard to think of all the things that you could do following his (the professor) idea of communications."

That was in 1948 and now in 2008, 60 years later, Van Voorhis has found a way to express himself in a way that he didn't know he had so many years ago.

Nena Van Voorhis, Lee's wife of 61 years, signed up for a Creative Writing Class that had begun at New Horizons, off Hemenway Street, where the couple reside.

"I love this class. It keeps me writing and thinking," said Nena Van Voorhis, who urged her husband to join her.

Reluctantly Lee Van Voorhis went to the class, taught by Gloria Goostray, and in a short time found the class to be an exciting thing.

"This class is fantastic. You realize you have a mind that's full of ideas," he explained. Van Voorhis had finally found a way of putting into words his thoughts about that question posed to him six decades ago.

"I have always loved the Robert Frost poem, "The Road Not Taken," said Van Voorhis.

"We all pray for peace," explained Van Voorhis, "but the road to peace, like I described here, you have to work at it. I mean a very specific effort as much as you have to work on your defenses."

Nena and Lee Van Voorhis are the parents of four, three sons and one daughter, and the grandparents of 12.

Following is an essay Van Voorhis wrote for the class that is included in a book called "Writings from the Heart," a collection of short stories published by the 2007-2008 Creative Writing Class.

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN  
(By Robert Frost)

"I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference."

So it has been through human history the most traveled road has been the road to war. Every nation carefully records all its wars and usually marks them with various memorials, statues, and honors for all the veterans.

The road less traveled leads to peace. This is desired by everyone worldwide. We all want to raise our children in peace. Going on the road to war is easy. My country is right and your country is doing something wrong or starting open conflict in some disputed area then the threatening words start escalating. Each side putting out aggressive words like "you need to be punished" or "face sanctions" or calling them "an axis of evil." Our people hate you and you hate us. Now each country believes the other country is evil and we must settle our differences with war.

"The road less traveled by" is the road to peace. This improves your communication with other countries, then we better understand the real root of each other's concerns and will be more compassionate and try to find common ground for peaceful solutions. Going on the road to war means we immediately start thinking of our military defenses and start cutting communications with the country we disagree with.

Ping-pong games opened China for President Nixon. The N.Y. Philharmonic's visit to N. Korea gave us the opportunity to try to negotiate with N. Korea. As Robert Frost said about the road taken, "I, I took the one less traveled by and that has made all the difference."

We must think of every possible way to improve our communication with the countries we have problems with. How about such things as starting a worldwide Art Olympics in which there would be various themes either taking or on the road to peace with various categories for children and adults?

To stimulate these ideas helping peace, how about a Secretary of Peace in our President's cabinet, charged with nothing but encouraging ideas and actions for peace. (The Secretary of State's job is charged with protecting American interests, and official dealings with foreign countries only.)

As Robert Frost said about having taken the road less traveled "and that has made all the difference."

So let's go for the road less traveled—  
Peace will make all the difference.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNITED PARCEL SERVICE LEADING THE NATION IN UNITED WAY DONATIONS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate United Parcel Service (UPS) and its employees for its generosity.

For the past nine years, UPS has consecutively led the nation in donations to United Way. This year's annual campaign raised over \$53 million for United Way and with a matching contribution by the UPS Foundation, the total is expected to exceed \$60 million—more than any other participating company. In total, over the past twenty-five years UPS has contributed over \$924 million to United Way. Their charity extended beyond their financial contributions. Employees gave generously of their time with over 900,000 hours of community service through the Global Volunteer Month and UPS's Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. The emphasis on philanthropy and improving local communities through its partnership with United Way can be seen at all levels of the organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to UPS on this remarkable achievement and for their commitment to helping others.

INTRODUCING WE THE PEOPLE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the We the People Act. The We the People Act forbids federal courts, including the Supreme Court, from adjudicating cases concerning State laws and polices relating to religious liberties or "privacy," including cases involving sexual practices, sexual orientation or reproduction. The We the People Act also protects the traditional definition of marriage from judicial activism by ensuring the Supreme Court cannot abuse the equal protection clause to redefine marriage. In order to hold Federal judges accountable for abusing their powers, the act also provides that a judge who violates the act's limitations on judicial power shall either be impeached by Congress or removed by the President, according to rules established by the Congress.

The United States Constitution gives Congress the authority to establish and limit the jurisdiction of the lower Federal courts and limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The Founders intended Congress to use this authority to correct abuses of power by the Federal judiciary.

Some may claim that an activist judiciary that strikes down State laws at will expands individual liberty. Proponents of this claim overlook the fact that the best guarantor of

true liberty is decentralized political institutions, while the greatest threat to liberty is concentrated power. This is why the Constitution carefully limits the power of the Federal Government over the States.

In recent years, we have seen numerous abuses of power by Federal courts. Federal judges regularly strike down State and local laws on subjects such as religious liberty, sexual orientation, family relations, education, and abortion. This government by Federal judiciary causes a virtual nullification of the Tenth Amendment's limitations on Federal power. Furthermore, when Federal judges impose their preferred polices on State and local governments, instead of respecting the polices adopted by those elected by, and thus accountable to, the people, republican government is threatened. Article IV, section 4 of the United States Constitution guarantees each State a republican form of government. Thus, Congress must act when the executive or judicial branch threatens the republican governments of the individual States. Therefore, Congress has a responsibility to stop Federal judges from running roughshod over State and local laws. The Founders would certainly have supported congressional action to reign in Federal judges who tell citizens where they can and can't place manger scenes at Christmas.

Madam Speaker, even some supporters of liberalized abortion laws have admitted that the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, which overturned the abortion laws of all 50 States, is flawed. The Supreme Court's establishment clause jurisdiction has also drawn criticism from across the political spectrum. Perhaps more importantly, attempts to resolve, by judicial fiat, important issues like abortion and the expression of religious belief in the public square increase social strife and conflict. The only way to resolve controversial social issues like abortion and school prayer is to restore respect for the right of State and local governments to adopt polices that reflect the beliefs of the citizens of those jurisdictions. I would remind my colleagues and the Federal judiciary that, under our constitutional system, there is no reason why the people of New York and the people of Texas should have the same policies regarding issues such as marriage and school prayer.

Unless Congress acts, a State's authority to define and regulate marriage may be the next victim of activist judges. After all, such a decision would simply take the Supreme Court's decision in the *Lawrence* case, which overturned all State sodomy laws, to its logical conclusion. Congress must launch a preemptive strike against any further Federal usurpation of the States' authority to regulate marriage by removing issues concerning the definition of marriage from the jurisdiction of Federal courts.

Although marriage is licensed and otherwise regulated by the States, government did not create the institution of marriage. Government regulation of marriage is based on State recognition of the practices and customs formulated by private individuals interacting in civil institutions, such as churches and synagogues. Having Federal officials, whether judges, bureaucrats, or congressmen, impose a new definition of marriage on the people is an act of social engineering profoundly hostile to liberty.

It is long past time that Congress exercises its authority to protect the republican government of the States from out-of-control Federal judges. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the We the People Act.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 11, I was caught in traffic from Dulles, and had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

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HONORING ERNIE GEMPERLE

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from California Mr. CARDOZA to honor the life of Ernie Gemperle for his dedication and service to his community and family. Mr. Gemperle passed away at the age of seventy-nine on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at Emanuel Medical Center in his home town of Turlock, California.

Ernie Gemperle was born on June 7, 1929 in Bischofsell, Switzerland and was one of twelve children. He graduated from the International Poultry School in Bern. Mr. Gemperle emigrated from Switzerland in 1949 with nothing more than his degree. Upon arriving to the United States, he was drafted into the Army, where he served at Fort Ord during the Korean War. In October 1955, he went back to Switzerland to marry his childhood sweetheart, Annemarie Dezhlofer. They returned to the U.S., settled in Turlock, California and began an egg business, Gemperle Enterprises. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Gemperle raised seven children and developed a successful business.

Gemperle Enterprises has been an industry leader as egg production moved from small, scattered henhouses to the concentrated, automated operations of today. The business was one of the first egg farms to use bulk, rather than sacked, feeds. Mr. Gemperle upgraded the packing system in other areas of the operation with the goal of providing quality eggs at a lower price. The eggs were marketed under the Nulaid label. He soon joined with other egg producers to create NuWest Milling, which built a feed and grain terminal near Hughson, California and the NuCal Foods distribution cooperative in Ripon, California. Mr. Gemperle was a pioneer for the egg industry, including organic and other specialty eggs. He was willing to purchase the newest equipment with the latest technology to insure the safety of the hens and provide the lowest prices for the consumers. Today, the family business has grown to include over one million hens on several farms.

Mr. Gemperle and his family have tirelessly supported numerous causes, including their church, healthcare, higher education and the arts. The Greater Yosemite Council of Boy Scouts was his number one cause. Mr. Gemperle served as Council President for two terms from 1990–1991. He received the Silver

Beaver for his service to Scouting in 1991. He also served as the head of the council's Investment Committee from its inception in 2006. He has also served on the Executive Board of the Council from the early seventies until his recent passing. His son, Michael, serves as the Scouting Nominating Committee Chair and as the Executive Vice President of the Council. Michael is slated to become President in 2010. Since 1971, the Gemperle Family Bar-B-Que has raised money for Scouting each year. The event is held at the family home and the food is served by family members. It is estimated that over \$500,000 has been raised from this BBQ.

Mr. Gemperle was considered a leader in his local community. He served as Rotary President and a Rotarian for forty years. He has been a driving force behind many of the City Council's initiatives, including the building of the Rogers Service Center in 1999–2000. He served on the boards for both Emanuel Hospital and Doctors Hospital in Modesto. He was past chairman of Catholic Charities of the Stockton Diocese and was instrumental in the construction of Sacred Heart Church and the California State University, Stanislaus Newman Center. Recognition of his service is great; including Agri-businessman of the Year (1980 Turlock Chamber), Paul Harris (1985 Rotary), Liberty Bell (1990 County Bar), University Medal (1991 CSUS) and Good Samaritan (1999 EMC) just to name a few.

Mr. Gemperle's leadership and generosity has been passed down to his children who now run Gemperle Enterprises. All of his children are active in the community and serve on the boards or committees for various organizations and causes that Mr. Gemperle supported. He was a strong supporter and advocate of California State University, Stanislaus, United Samaritan's of Turlock, Emanuel Hospital of Turlock, Sacred Heart Church and the Boy Scouts of America. The family was honored at the "Distinguished Citizen's Dinner" by the Council in 2005 for their continuous work and dedication to the community.

Annemarie Gemperle preceded her husband in death in 1999. Mr. Gemperle is survived by his second wife, Maria Gemperle; sons Peter, Richard, Stephen and Michael all of Turlock; daughters Heidi Gemperle of Seattle, Anita Mahaffey of San Diego and Susan Abdo of Boise; two step-daughters Brigit Johnson and Barbara Masterson; twenty-one grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; brother, Walter Gemperle of Turlock and six siblings in Switzerland.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Ernie Gemperle for his leadership and dedication to his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

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RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 43, which recog-

nizes the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promotes the holiday as a day of national service.

During his life, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized the power of service to strengthen communities. In 1994, Congress made Martin Luther King Day a national day of community volunteerism to further commemorate Dr. King's commitment to others.

This King Day, as part of inauguration festivities, President-elect Barack Obama has encouraged all Americans to not only use this day to volunteer, but to also make a long-term commitment to community service.

At home in Minnesota, and across the nation, many will volunteer to serve their communities by working at food banks, helping the homeless, and improving schools. Minnesotans have a proud tradition of civic engagement. In a study conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Minneapolis-St. Paul was ranked number one for volunteer rates in a large city.

As we begin this new Congress and new White House Administration, I can think of no better way to strengthen our country than to help create change in our communities. I encourage everyone to get involved this Martin Luther King Day and to browse <http://www.usaservice.org> for volunteer opportunities. I also want to thank every American who will volunteer on Monday and those that continue to serve throughout the year.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVE KAGEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in four votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on January 9, 2009, as I was recovering from knee surgery.

The first vote was rollcall vote No. 7, a motion to recommit H.R. 12, the Paycheck Fairness Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The second vote was rollcall vote No. 8, on final passage of H.R. 12. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

The third vote was rollcall vote No. 9, on final passage of H.R. 11, the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

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IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTINA MELTON CRAIN

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christina Melton Crain who is being recognized by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) with the dedication of a unit after her namesake.

Christina was first appointed to the Texas State Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ) in April 2001 and in February 2003 she became the first woman in Texas history to lead the nine-member board as its new Chair. Under her leadership, she worked closely with the TDCJ,

determined to make its operations more efficient and effective. Her passion stems from her professional career as an attorney where she encountered numerous cases of minors that had been negatively impacted by a parent under correctional supervision. She personally committed herself to the GOKIDS (Giving Offenders' Kids the Initiative and Direction to Succeed). Initiative, which launched in 2004 and is dedicated to reaching out to the offenders and their families. Christina foresaw a safer and better Texas and a brighter future for all Texans and took every effort to make this goal a reality. The State of Texas has greatly benefited from her dedication, passion, leadership and her vision.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Christina on her hard work and dedication that has led to this great honor.

### PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 9, 2009*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This legislation will put an end to pay disparities based merely on gender and ensure that employee rights enforced through the Equal Pay Act fulfill the act's original intent. Specifically, this legislation will require employers to prove that pay disparities between men and women have a business justification.

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau statistics, year-round full-time female workers make 77.8 percent to the dollar of their male counterparts. Specifically, the median income for year-round full-time male workers is \$45,113. In contrast, the median income for year-round full-time female workers is \$35,102. Based solely on statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, the apparent wage disparities between men and women clearly indicate that the provisions contained within the Equal Pay Act need to be revised.

I believe that this legislation will strengthen current law to make certain that wage discrimination based on gender ceases to exist.

Before I close, I would like to thank Representative ROSA DELAURO for having introduced this legislation since 1997 and praise her for being a champion of this issue.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting in support of this important measure to ensure its swift passage.

### RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the National Service Caucus, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 43, recognizing the importance of national service,

supporting the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day, and promoting the Martin Luther King Day holiday as a day of national service.

During the 1950s and '60s, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals. King's ideas of unity and purpose highlighted the great things that can happen when we work together toward a common goal, and these ideas are as important today as they were 50 years ago.

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act to transform the King Holiday into a national day of service to meet community needs. Since that time, millions of Americans have participated in community-building activities on King Day, treating the holiday as "a day on, not a day off."

The day before President-elect Obama's inauguration is the Martin Luther King holiday. With thousands of projects planned across the country, in addition to a call to serve from President-elect Obama, the 2009 King Day of Service on January 19 promises to be the most successful national service effort to date.

Both President-elect Obama and Vice-President-elect Biden, along with their families, will be participating in service events to honor Martin Luther King and commemorate the holiday. I encourage my colleagues and their staff to share in the spirit of volunteerism and unity by participating in a service opportunity here in Washington, DC, or back home with their constituents on January 19.

I am pleased that the President-elect has been part of the call to ensure that this day be a day devoted to service. However, I know, as President-elect Obama knows, that one day of good deeds is not enough. Throughout the presidential campaign, the President-elect spoke about a new era of civic engagement, and I hope that the passage of H. Res. 43 will build on Martin Luther King day and the Inauguration and reaffirm our ongoing commitment to service.

### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICES OF JOHN DE LORENZO, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD IN CALIFORNIA

#### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize John De Lorenzo as he retires after 18 years of public service with the city of Fairfield.

Mr. De Lorenzo's career with Fairfield began when he was hired as the city's community services director in 1990. During his tenure, the Community Services Department was recognized with many State-wide, regional and national awards including two Helen Putnam Awards of Excellence from the League of California Cities.

In addition to his outstanding service in Fairfield, Mr. De Lorenzo has also served as both the president and the administrators' representative of the California Park and Recreation Society, District 1, and was a member of the Annual Conference Planning Committee for the California Park and Recreation Society.

He has also served as a member of the League of California Cities Administrative Services Policy Committee, and also was a member of the Annual League Conference Planning Committee.

The honors and awards Mr. De Lorenzo helped bring the Fairfield Community Services Department and his involvement with the numerous committees he has served on over the years are a testament to his hard work and dedication to local concerns.

As John De Lorenzo retires from his position as the director of the Fairfield Community Services Department, I would like to thank him for his leadership and dedication to improving the quality of life for the residents of the city of Fairfield. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday January 13, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote No. 11 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 41), "yes" on Rollcall vote No. 12 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 50), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 13 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 43).

### CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. ROBERT J. SMITHDAS

#### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding humanitarian, Dr. Robert J. Smithdas, whose personal accomplishments and dedication to the U.S. deaf-blind community are truly remarkable. Dr. Smithdas is retiring as director of Community Education at the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, HKNC, after many years of dedicated service.

Having contracted meningitis at the age of four, Dr. Smithdas eventually suffered a total loss of both vision and hearing. With great determination, he embraced educational opportunities at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind and the Perkins School for the Blind. Assisted by individualized instruction and speech therapy, Dr. Smithdas thrived in scholastics, earning an average of 98.6. After graduating in 1945, he was accepted to the Industrial Home for the Blind, IHB, and earned a fellowship to St. John's University in New York. Dr. Smithdas earned his BA cum laude in 1950 and later attended New York University, where he became the first deaf-blind individual to earn a master's degree. Dr. Smithdas also earned honorary doctoral degrees from Gallaudet University, Western Michigan University, Mount Aloysius College, and St. John's University.

Dr. Smithdas' commitment to education prepared him for his lifelong service to the deaf-blind community. Having worked in several management capacities at IHB, Dr. Smithdas played a crucial role in offering the kind of rehabilitative services necessary to expand the horizons of succeeding generations of deaf-blind individuals, including the development of appropriate legislation. With Helen Keller herself and deaf-blind community advocate Peter Salmon, Dr. Smithdas played a vital role in helping to enact the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, which sanctioned the creation of the Helen Keller National Center.

Leading by example, Dr. Smithdas has demonstrated that with rehabilitative training, deaf-blind individuals can be active members of our society, and that they have much to contribute. Dr. Smithdas' numerous national awards and achievements include being named both The Poetry Society of America's "Poet of the Year" and "The Handicapped American of the Year" by the President's Committee on Employment of People Who Are Disabled, as well as being inducted into the National Hall of Fame for Persons with Disabilities.

Dr. Smithdas' impact on the lives of the deaf-blind—both those he has met and those who have just benefitted from his good works—is truly immeasurable. And those who have had the privilege to read his works, attend his lectures, and take advantage of the programs he developed know that he is a truly exceptional American. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to please join me in honoring and thanking Dr. Robert J. Smithdas for his lifetime of dedication to the American deaf-blind community.

RECOGNITION OF KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 14, 2009*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Korean-American Day, which was celebrated yesterday. Korean Americans have played an essential part in shaping our country into its current form. Ever since the signing of the first treaty between the United States and Korea, the Jemulpo Treaty in 1882, our two countries have engaged in an important relationship. In addition, Korean Americans have helped shape the United States into a powerful and influential Nation.

The history of Koreans in America is a proud one. When Koreans first started immi-

grating to the United States, they worked in places such as farms and railroads. These were hard workers who came to this country to seek new opportunities and a better life for their children. At that time, they could not have imagined the amount of success Korean Americans would enjoy over time—nor how large their community would become. After years of steady immigration, which blossomed in the 1960's, Korean Americans became one of the top 5 immigrant groups to the United States. Today, there are about 1.5 million Korean Americans living across the country.

In the past Congress, we passed several pieces of legislation to strengthen the U.S.-Korean relationship. The first was H.R. 5443, the U.S.-Republic of Korea Defense Cooperation Improvement Act, which granted South Korea the same preferential treatment enjoyed by members of NATO. Another important bill passed in the 110th Congress was H. Res. 295. This legislation expressed appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its contributions to international efforts to combat terrorism. A final, integral bill was H.R. 1, which supported efforts to include South Korea in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

As we move forward in the 111th Congress, I trust that we will keep the Korean-American community in mind. Korean Americans play an important role in shaping American culture and Korean-American Day is a celebration that I am proud to recognize.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ATTACKS FROM GAZA

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 9, 2009*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East, during her time of need. Israel's unstable situation continue to get worst. Since 2005, Israel has attempted to promote peace with the Palestinians by withdrawing its civilians and soldiers from Gaza in hopes of lessening day to day conflicts.

Now for more than two weeks, the Hamas leadership in Gaza continues to hold Palestinian civilians as hostages to its terrorist agenda and Israelis now find themselves within range of Hamas rockets. The bloodshed and conflict of this situation will only lead to more devastation. Every day more innocent civilians on both sides of the Gazan border are suffering.

The United States supports Israel and all efforts to promote a cease-fire and a durable and sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I urge my colleagues to remember that our strongest ally in the Middle East is Israel and we must support her efforts towards peace during this time.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 21

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Timothy F. Geithner, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Organizational business meeting to consider committee's rules of procedure for the 111th Congress, and any pending nominations.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the financial crisis and the breakdown of financial governance.

SD-342

JANUARY 27

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine challenges facing the Department of Defense.

SD-106