Reverend Robert Stanley declared. Reverend Stanley continued saying, ''For him, the position of mayor wasn't a position of clout. It was a place to make change.'' Pompano Beach Mayor Lamar Fisher stated: ''his involvement in the city is immeasurable.'' When asked his legacy, Mr. Larkins said, ''I have always had a great affinity and love for this city. I hope when it's all over it's said that Pat gave it all he had.''

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mr. Elijah Pat Larkins. I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Larkin for his invaluable services and tireless dedication to the South Florida community.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR THOMAS M. LEIGHTON, RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 ''MAN OF THE YEAR'' AWARD FROM THE WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Wilkes-Barre Mayor Thomas M. Leighton, recipient of the 2009 ''Man of the Year'' award from the Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mayor Leighton began his tenure as the Mayor of the City of Wilkes-Barre on January 5, 2004. Prior to becoming mayor, he served three four-year terms as a city councilman, as Chairman in 1995, 1998 and 2002 and as Vice Chairman in 1994, 1997, 1999 and 2001.

A graduate of Bishop Hoban High School, Mayor Leighton earned a bachelor of science degree from King's College in Business Administration. In 1996, he became president and owner of C.A. Leighton Company, Inc., a real estate, insurance and appraisal business located in downtown Wilkes-Barre since 1921. To fulfill his professional licensing, Mayor Leighton has successfully completed numerous continuing education programs over the years in the fields of real estate, appraisal and insurance and has retained membership in real estate professional organizations.

The combination of his municipal and business experience has provided him with the knowledge and familiarity to meet the financial and operational challenges he faces as Mayor.

An active alumnus of King's College, Mayor Leighton served as chairman of the 2006 King's College Alumni Phonathon Fund Drive as well as on the President's Council and the Century Club. He is a former coach of many community sports leagues including the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA, St. Theresa's Little League, Skyhawks Youth Soccer, Rolling Mill Hill Basketball, St. Nicholas/St. Mary's Basketball and he is also a certified PIAA referee.

Mayor Leighton is also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 302, third degree, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Elks Club, Saint Conrad's Club, North End Slovak Club and the Eagles Club.

Mayor Leighton and his wife, Patty, have three children: Kelly, Tom Jr. and Courtney.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mayor Leighton on the occasion of this auspicious event. Mayor Leighton's exemplary commitment to his family, his city and northeastern Pennsylvania is a clear reflection of his determination to play an active role in the improvement of the quality of life for everyone and, because of that, his selection as Man of the Year is a well deserved honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, due to a family emergency I was unavoidably absent from the House on March 4, 2009, and missed the following votes:

Rollcall vote No. 94, a motion by Mr. PASCRELL of New Jersey to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 201, a resolution recognizing Beverly Eckert's service to the Nation and particularly to the survivors and families of the September 11, 2001, attacks. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

Rollcall vote No. 95, a motion by Mr. CARNEY of Pennsylvania to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 195, a resolution recognizing and honoring the employees of the Department of Homeland Security on its sixth anniversary for their continuous efforts to keep the Nation safe. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

Rollcall vote No. 96, a motion by Ms. LOFGREN of California to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 45, a resolution raising awareness and promoting education on the criminal justice system by establishing March as ''National Criminal Justice Month.'' Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, and Wednesday, March 4, 2009, I was not present for recorded votes due to the death of a close personal friend. Please let the record show that had I been present, I would have voted the following way: roll No. 91—''yea,'' roll No. 92—''yea,'' roll No. 93—''yea,'' roll No. 94—''yea,'' roll No. 95—''yea,'' roll No. 96—''yea.''

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL MS AND PARKINSON'S DISEASE REGISTRIES ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, along with the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucuses on MS and Parkinson's disease, we are pleased to introduce the National MS and Parkinson's Disease Registries Act—which, for the first time, establish national Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Parkinson's disease registries at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Currently, a national coordinated system to collect and analyze data on MS or Parkinson's disease does not exist. Accurate incidence and prevalence information is critical to gain a better understanding of these diseases that are estimated to affect more than 1.4 million Americans. The current lack of core knowledge about who has MS and Parkinson's disease and why inhibits research, programs, treatment and services.

This legislation will remedy that by developing coordinated, separate national systems to collect and store existing MS and Parkinson's disease data on incidence and prevalence. These registries could help uncover and inform promising areas of MS and Parkinson's research such as genetic and environmental risk factors, and support the discovery of disease therapies, treatments, and one day a cure. The information collected through the registries will provide a foundation for evaluating and understanding many factors such as geographic clusters of diagnosis, variances in the gender ratio, disease burden, and changes in health care practices.

Madam Speaker, this legislation represents an opportunity to move neurological disease research in a meaningful way that aims to improve the lives of our constituents with Parkinson's and MS. I invite my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this much-needed bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to attend to several votes. Had I been present, my vote would have been ''yea'' on H. Res. 201, Recognizing Beverly Eckert's service to the Nation and particularly to the survivors and families of the September 11, 2001 attacks; ''yea'' on H. Res. 195, Recognizing and honoring the employees of the Department of Homeland Security on its sixth anniversary for their continuous efforts to keep the Nation safe; and ''yea'' on H. Res. 45, Raising awareness and promoting education on the criminal justice system by establishing March as ''National Criminal Justice Month''.

CONGRATULATING WALTER J. ZABLE AND THE CUBIC CORPORATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cubic Corporation, a San Diego-based company celebrating 50 years as a publicly traded entity. In fact, on March 5, 2009, executives from Cubic were invited to the New York Stock Exchange to ring the opening bell to mark the occasion.

Since its founding in 1951 and subsequent status as a publicly traded company in 1959,