

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 254, a resolution recognizing the unique and distinguished role that Irish Americans have played in the history of our nation.

They have provided the backbone of our workforce, enlivened our art and culture, defended our country, and served in this Congress and as President of the United States.

In fact, there isn't an aspect of our nation that hasn't been improved by the efforts of Irish Americans.

Today, almost one in four Americans can trace their heritage back to Ireland.

With such a large and growing population, it is guaranteed that Irish Americans will continue to have a significant impact on our country for generations to come.

I'm proud to stand today with my colleagues, those lucky enough to be Irish American, as well as those who aren't, and honor this group that has been so important to our nation.

HONORING THE STRATFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNI- VERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the community of Stratford, Connecticut in marking the 100th Anniversary of the Stratford Fire Department. This is a remarkable milestone and a testament to the dedication and commitment of those men and women who devote their professional lives to protecting the Stratford community.

One hundred years ago the town's paid firefighting force was established with the hiring of the first paid fire chief and then volunteer, Allen Judson as well as the merging of two volunteer units, the Mutual Hook and Ladder Company and the Chemical Hose Company. In its earliest years, Chief Judson was the sole paid employee of the Department and he would lead the Department for the next forty-three years. Volunteers were called to emergencies by the ringing of the church bells with Chief Judson coordinating the "bucket brigades," the hand-drawn hook and ladder apparatus, as well as the manually operated water pump. By day the men who worked in Stratford Center responded and by night those who lived within a thousand feet of the Center

responded while horses drew the fire apparatus. Nine years after its establishment, the second paid member of the Department, Assistant Chief William Anthony, was hired and by the 1930s there were more than half a dozen paid members.

Many changes have occurred since those early days of the Department—its responsibilities expanding dramatically and the job becoming more complex and dangerous. Today's 97-member Department staff four stations throughout Town and respond to fires, Haz-mat calls, vehicle extrications, medical calls, as well as plane incidents. Department members also participate in a variety of community activities aimed at fire safety and prevention as well as annual celebrations such as the Memorial Day Parade. The Department does all of this in a Town which today has 50,000 residents, is bordered by eighteen miles of shoreline, is intersected by Interstate 95, the Merritt Parkway, and the Metro-North railroad, and has an airport within its borders.

What makes this centennial celebration even more special is that the proceeds from the parade and festival will benefit the Stratford Professional Firefighters Burn Foundation—a non-profit organization founded in 1999 by the members of the Stratford Fire Department, Local 998 of the International Association of Firefighters to provide economic support to the funding of projects in the areas of fire and burn prevention through education, research, and public awareness programs.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the men and women who dedicate themselves to the protection of our communities as firefighters. They face risks that few of us can truly comprehend. Each day, they must be ready to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations. For one hundred years, the men and women of the Stratford Fire Department have ensured the health and safety of the Stratford community and I am proud to rise today to pay tribute not only to their rich history but to their outstanding and unwavering commitment to public service.

THE PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Plastic Bag Reduction Act," legislation that will protect our watersheds, and ultimately the marine environment, by reducing a major source of coastal and marine debris, single-use packaging.

Trash in our watersheds interferes with public use and enjoyment of natural resources, can be hazardous to wildlife, and can break down into tiny "microplastics" that enter the food chain, carrying toxins with them. Trash is a serious problem in the Potomac and Anacostia River watersheds, where every year

cleanup efforts retrieve tons of plastic bags and beverage containers.

Much of the trash that reaches major watersheds does not stay in the watersheds—it is washed out to sea and becomes marine debris. Scientists are becoming alarmed about massive "garbage patches" that are building up in nearly all of the world's oceans. The best-known patch consists of an estimated 100 million tons of plastic debris that has accumulated inside a circular vortex of currents known as the North Pacific gyre. It is estimated to be anywhere from 270,000 square miles to almost 580,000 square miles—between six and thirteen times the size of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Eighty per cent of the plastic in these ocean gyres is believed to come from the land.

The debris that chokes our inland watersheds, our coastlines, and the marine environment sickens and kills thousands of animals every year. Over 267 species worldwide have been impacted by plastic bags and other litter through entanglement or ingestion. Scientists are also realizing that the increasing volume of plastic that is slowly decomposing in the world's oceans may present a longterm problem for marine food chains. As plastic items break down, any toxic additives they contain—including flame retardants, antimicrobials, and plasticizers—may be released into the ocean environment. Not only are the components of the plastics themselves entering the food chain, but so are toxic chemicals that attach to the plastic particles because of plastic's molecular tendency to attract oils.

Many of these chemicals may disrupt the endocrine system—the delicately balanced set of hormones and glands that affect virtually every organ and cell. In marine environments, excess estrogen has led to discoveries of male fish and seagulls with female sex organs.

The Plastic Bag Reduction Act encourages consumers to choose reusable bags by imposing a 5 cent tax on single-use carryout bags beginning January 1, 2010. On January 1, 2015, the amount of the tax increases to 25 cents per bag. The tax applies to paper as well as to plastic single-use carryout bags. Of each 5 cents charged to the customer, the retail seller may apply for a tax credit of one cent for carrying out a qualified carryout bag recycling program. Of each 5 cents charged to the customer, one cent will be transferred to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Finally, the bill directs the Comptroller General to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the provisions of the legislation and evaluate whether imposing a tax on other products, such as food wrappers and containers, could reduce the use of those products.

I am also co-sponsoring Congressman MARKEY's "Bottle Recycling Climate Protection Act of 2009." This legislation will impose a 5 cent deposit on beverage containers, which will reduce the number of bottles and cans that end up as trash in oceans and inland watersheds.

Madam Speaker, human health is directly linked to the health of our watersheds and

• 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.

oceans. Each of us needs to take responsibility for protecting these essential resources. We can do so through the simple step of taking reusable bags with us when we shop. The Trash Free Watersheds Act creates a tax that I hope no American will choose to pay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I regret my absence from the House on April 21st and April 22nd, but I was in my district welcoming President Obama to Newton, Iowa, former home of Maytag, and now home to a growing wind power industry, where we celebrated Earth Day and focused on alternative energy development and the green collar jobs this will create. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, and 199, and I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 198.

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF
ITASCA

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Itasca in my Congressional District. Through a dedicated community-wide effort, Itasca has earned the designation of an International Safe Community from the World Health Organization.

This impressive effort places Itasca at the forefront of public health and safety efforts as the only Illinois community, and one of only five communities across the nation to receive this prestigious designation.

By developing community programs including self defense classes, home safety inspections, an unused prescription drug disposal program, investing in defibrillator equipment and training, and establishing a Community Emergency Response Team; the Village of Itasca has worked to engage its citizens, first responders, and local leaders in making Itasca a healthier, safer place to live and work.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Village of Itasca for achieving this challenging goal and setting an outstanding example for all Illinois communities to work together to tackle public health and safety challenges.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
JAMES GRIFFIN BOSWELL II

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from the House, Mr. NUNES and Mr. RADANOVICH, and from the Senate, Mrs. FEINSTEIN to pay a special tribute to the life of an agricultural icon of California,

Mr. James Griffin Boswell II of Indian Wells, California. James passed away on April 3, 2009 at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife Barbara Wallace Boswell, three children and several grandchildren.

Mr. James Griffin Boswell was born on March 10, 1923 in Greensboro, Georgia to William Whittier Boswell, Sr. and Kate Hall Boswell. James graduated in 1941 from the Thacher School an exclusive private boarding school in Ojai, California. In 1946 he received his B.S. in Economics from Stanford University. Prior to graduating from Stanford, "JG" as he was most commonly known, served in the United States Army during World War II where he was stationed in the South Pacific.

At the age of twenty-nine, James inherited one-third of the JG Boswell Company after the death of his uncle, JG Boswell I. At that time the company held 150,000 acres in California. During the next half century, James spent a good portion of his time transforming the family farm located near Corcoran, California in the San Joaquin Valley.

The diversification of the JG Boswell Company created many industry leading developments. Mr. Boswell's labs developed new, highly productive seed varieties as well as technological improvements that increased their capacity. He was an innovative water user, one of the first to employ lasers when leveling fields allowing water to flow evenly and efficiently. His careful water management also included hiring agronomists to determine when and how to irrigate. This allowed the Boswell farms to produce more cotton with less water than their competitors. James remained a very private man, in spite of periods of growth and success for his enterprises, which included such things as diversification into real estate development and farming ventures in Australia. His family business maintained that private reputation throughout his life.

James Griffin Boswell served as Chairman, President and CEO of the JG Boswell Co. from 1952 and continued until his retirement in 1984. After his retirement James continued to serve on the Boswell Company Board of Directors until his passing. In addition, Mr. Boswell served on the Boards of Safeway, General Electric, Security Pacific Bank, Bank of America, and Up with People. James was a trustee of the California Nature Conservancy, Cal Tech, Thacher School, the James G. Boswell Foundation in California and the Boswell Family Foundation in Idaho. Many were the recipients of Mr. Boswell's generosity.

It goes without saying that Mr. James Griffin Boswell's dedicated involvement to the cotton industry earned him a reputation of respect and enormous appreciation from Central Valley cotton farmers, and the agriculture industry in general. James was known as the Cotton King. My colleagues and I are honored and humbled to join his family today in celebrating the life of this amazing man. His presence will be dearly missed in our community in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF U.S. CAPITOL POLICE LIEUTENANT DOMINICK COSTA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Dominick Costa for his more than 31 years of public service to the U.S. Capitol Police Department and our congressional community.

Since his appointment to the U.S. Capitol Police on October 3, 1977, Lieutenant Costa has held several important positions within the Department. He has served in the House and Senate Divisions, Capitol Division, and the First Responder Unit. As an instructor and as a supervisor in the Training Division, he helped develop and enhance the skills of fellow officers. Over the years, Lieutenant Costa also worked as a Crime Scene Research Officer, a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Department's Ceremonial Unit and as an Administrative Sergeant in charge of the Department's Victim Witness Program. After being promoted to Lieutenant in November 2004, Lt. Costa served as the Watch Commander, providing area command for all Department operations and serving as the U.S. Capitol Police Chief's representative in his absence.

On January 3, 2009, Lieutenant Costa retired after over three decades of exemplary service as a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Department. He is currently residing in La Plata, Maryland with his wife Barbara of 28 years and daughter Danielle. His unwavering commitment to the public serves as an inspiration to all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I rise to once again praise Lieutenant Dominick Costa for his outstanding public service to the Congress and to his country. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Lieutenant Costa well in his retirement and thank him for all his years of service.

HONORING ST. PAUL INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHOOL AND MR. JAMES WILLIAM SMOTHERS AND MRS. ALICE OLENZA SMOTHERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Paul Industrial Training School and the dedication of a Texas State Historical Marker in commemoration of this institute.

St. Paul Industrial Training school was founded in Henderson County, Texas by James William Smothers and Alice Olenza Smothers in the 1920's. This couple placed a particular emphasis on educating orphaned and abandoned children, and throughout the course of six decades, thousands of African American students received instruction at their institute. The Smothers' dedication to service was unwavering, and even when a tornado leveled the campus in 1942, the couple resolved anew to continue their work. Today, St. Paul Industrial Training School, Inc. continues

the legacy of this couple and their school by offering financial assistance to needy, college bound students.

Institutions of this nature played an important role in our nation's history, and the work of educators like the Smotherses was integral in advancing the civil rights movement. They worked diligently to make sure that every child had the opportunity to learn and succeed, and they felt that it was vital to ensure these youths had the ability to make a lasting contribution to society.

The placement of this historical marker will take place on May 2, 2009, and I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing St. Paul Industrial Training School and its founders, Mr. J. W. Smothers and Mrs. Alice O. Smothers.

HONORING THE ROSELLE LIONS CLUB

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Roselle Lions Club in my Congressional District. On April 26, 2009, the Roselle Lions will mark more than 75 years of dedicated community service.

Through the years, the Lions Club has been instrumental in aiding those with hearing and vision impairments by providing members of the local community in need with hearing aids, glasses, and support groups.

With local events like The Lions Carnival, National Night Out, and the Children's Christmas Party, the Lions Club has raised funds for these worthy causes and provided a fun and safe environment for families to spend time together. The extent of the Roselle Lions' dedication and generosity can be seen in the countless library, school, and civic projects they have supported financially, and with their time and energy.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, the Roselle Lions Club has worked tirelessly to make their local community a better place to live, work and raise a family. They have brought compassion to those in need and been a tremendous asset to the citizens of Roselle.

Please join me in recognizing the impressive work of the Roselle Lions Club, and wishing them every success in their next 75 years of fellowship and service.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN VANCE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an invaluable member of the Santa Cruz community, and his humanitarian efforts all over the world. After decades of service and devotion to aiding developing countries, Stephen Vance lost his life serving

the people and countries for whom he always cared.

After graduating from the University of California at Santa Cruz, Stephen became immersed in work for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In his role at USAID, Stephen spent more than twenty years working the issues of developing countries. He held numerous Country Director and Chief of Party assignments with USAID contractors and directed the USAID Mission experience. He served as the Senior Economic Development Advisor for USAID in Timor-Leste, where he managed USAID's economic growth team. Earlier, he served two years as the Executive Director of the Soros Foundation in Mongolia. While there, he spearheaded the foundation's transformation from a grant-making organization with more than 20 programs and 500 projects to an independent, non-partisan center for policy research and analysis and a platform for citizen participation and advocacy. Stephen designed and developed new projects in enterprise development, trade diversification, foreign investment promotion, rural and agricultural finance and agricultural development.

Stephen's years of work reflected his desire to improve living situations and stimulate economic growth and self-sufficiency in developing countries. Though he sought to create a more perfect, peaceful world, Stephen's life was lost at the hands of gunmen in Pakistan. At the time of his assassination, he was working for Cooperative Housing Federation International. There he directed "Livelihoods Project" in the FATA region, a program intended to infuse \$750 million in economic development into the area.

Stephen was loved by many; his upbeat and optimistic attitude, as well as his zealous and vivacious approach to dealing with situations made him always a pleasure to be around. His humanitarian efforts gained him the respect and friendship of people all over the world; his zest for life and creative nature made him a person who will not soon be forgotten.

The City of Santa Cruz and the rest of the world will miss Stephen's vision and leadership, but there is no doubt that he has left us a better place than when he first arrived.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States of Congress, I would like to honor the many accomplishments of Stephen Vance and express sincere gratitude for his contributions locally and internationally.

PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESEARCH AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE (PARAID) ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing along with my colleague Representative CLIFF STEARNS, the Prevention, Awareness, and Research Autoimmune Disease (PARAID) Act.

I am introducing this legislation to address the critical issue of autoimmune diseases in our population. The National Institutes of

Health (NIH) estimates that between 14 and 23.5 million Americans have an autoimmune disease and the prevalence is rising. Seventy-five percent of those afflicted are women with most cases occurring during the childbearing years. The chronic nature of these diseases accounts for its incredible cost to the individual and staggering drain on our nation's healthcare resources. The National Institutes of Health estimates that annual direct health care costs for autoimmune disease are in the range of \$100 billion.

Autoimmune diseases encompass more than 100 interrelated diseases, such as lupus, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren's syndrome, polymyositis, pemphigus, myasthenia gravis, Wegener's granulomatosis, psoriasis, celiac disease, autoimmune platelet disorders, scleroderma, alopecia areata, vitiligo, autoimmune thyroid disease, and sarcoidosis. Basic research into the mechanism that drives the autoimmune response is the fundamental knowledge needed to cure many of these diseases.

This legislation will increase awareness of autoimmune diseases, increase research on environmental triggers of autoimmune diseases, enhance education on the relationship between autoimmune and mental illness, and provide loan repayment for physician research on autoimmune disease. This support will help alleviate the suffering of millions of Americans, who suffer every day with the symptoms of these diseases, many times unable to fully participate in their work and family life as a result.

For these reasons, I urge you to give full consideration of this bill as quickly as possible.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. WALZ. I rise in sadness today and also in hope, as we commemorate the Armenian genocide that happened in the second decade of the twentieth century.

There is nothing easier than to forget the victims of history, and nothing more tragic, and for those very reasons, there is nothing more important than to remember them. And that is what we are here for.

The genocide of the Armenian people is a fact of history. It is a sad fact of history.

But the very fact that we are here, together in the U.S. House of Representatives addressing the issue is reason for hope. Armenians' determination to carry on, and in the United States' historic support for them, and in our joined determination to make sure that we recognize the facts of history—there is great humanity and hope.

I remain committed to the public recognition of the fact of the Armenian genocide. It is the only way to make sure we are forever vigilant to prevent genocide in the future.

I have hope, that we can all move forward, not in an exercise in collective guilt, but in the simple recognition of what happened, that a genocide was perpetrated upon the Armenian people, and that such a thing, quite simply, never should have happened and must never happen again.

HONORING BOY SCOUT TROOP 457
OF MIAMI, FL

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and commend Troop 457 of Boy Scouts of America in my district of South Florida. On Saturday, April 25, 2009, the troop will conduct their Court of Honor, honoring 13 of their own with the most prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts of America is a tremendous organization that my husband, Dexter, and I have continuously supported. With Dexter being a Eagle Scout, and me previously serving as a Girl Scout Troop Leader, we fully understand and appreciate all of the hard work and dedication invested into achieving the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

These 13 young men have distinguished themselves in the South Florida community as leaders of tomorrow through their countless hours of service toward improving South Florida. It is with great honor that I ask that the names of these 13 individuals be submitted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

William David Cochran, Kenneth Lewis Baer, James Phillip Baer, Joshua Rothenberg, Michael Thomas Dannelly, Leo Benjamin Kaplowitz, Wade Morgan Judy, Timothy Young Hunter, David Benjamin Shapiro, Alexander Pergakis, Jonathan A. Muench, Jonathan O. Lopez, Gabriel Cespedes.

OBSERVANCE OF THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in sorrow and in solidarity with Armenians, with our fellow citizens of Armenian descent, and with all men and women of good will to recall the atrocities Armenians suffered in the early years of the last century. Contemporary accounts leave no doubt that indiscriminate massacres took place.

I understand that this topic evokes painful memories and raises difficult issues of national identity for persons of both Armenian and Turkish ancestry. Nonetheless, I believe that we must call genocide by its proper name and acknowledge it when it has occurred so that we may better learn to recognize and resist its horrors in the future. That includes recognizing the policies of the Ottoman Empire during World War I and its aftermath as genocidal.

International response to genocide has historically been inadequate at best, and we must do all we can to strengthen our resolve to prevent and punish such atrocities. Moreover, I believe that nations can move forward in fellowship when the past is confronted with honesty and courage. I hope to see the republics of Armenia and Turkey cooperate and jointly contribute to the stability of their troubled region.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY
MUSEUM OF ART

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey Museum of Art for their fifty years of service dedicated to the stewardship and celebration of the artistic legacy of the Monterey Peninsula. On behalf of the whole House, I am honored to extend to the Monterey Museum of Art the gratitude of the Congress and the American people for their past and future service.

Monterey County, in Central California, is a region that has inspired artists since the late 1800s. Artists flocked to the area, which was then and still is a region of pristine beauty. They brought with them the tradition of plein air painting, still in evidence today with artists painting the land and seascapes of "the greatest meeting of land and sea."

The Monterey Museum of Art was founded in 1959 in Carmel as a Chapter of the American Federation of the Arts by a group of civic minded individuals who sought to create an arts space for that seminal arts colony. In addition to celebrating pioneers of early California art such as Armin Hansen, the museum collects and exhibits contemporary photography by such renowned artists as Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, and Imogen Cunningham, contemporary artists working locally, in California and nationally.

Now comprising two locations, after the bequest of an historic adobe in the early 1980's by Frank Work, the museum serves nearly 40,000 visitors annually from around the world, including thousands of local schoolchildren. The museum is reaching out to families and children with new activities and programs geared to inspire a passion for the visual arts in accordance with their mission.

The mission of the Monterey Museum of Art is to collect, preserve, and interpret the art of California from the nineteenth century to the present day, within a national and international context. In this way, they expand the appreciation of their evolving artistic legacy and inspire a passion for the visual arts. We look forward to the next fifty years of their endeavors in this area.

Madam Speaker, I want to hold up the Monterey Museum of Art as a model museum and cultural institution, an expression of what makes our nation a worldwide leader in arts unique to our land. May their continued success inspire many more generations to celebrate our nation's artistic heritage and participate in its future.

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES EARNS
TWO PULITZER PRIZES FOR
JOURNALISM

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, The St. Petersburg Times earned a rare honor Monday by collecting multiple Pulitzer Prizes for journalism excellence.

Washington Bureau Chief Bill Adair and his team won the only Pulitzer Prize awarded this year by Columbia University for content created for the web. They earned the honor in the National Reporting category for PolitiFact, a website at www.politifact.com conceived by Bill Adair to test the validity of political statements.

Times Staff Writer Lane DeGregory won the second Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing for her story "The Girl in the Window", which is about a Plant City child who was locked in her room by her adoptive parents.

This is a great honor for Paul Tash, the Editor, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer of The St. Petersburg Times and his team of writers, editors, and support staff in this the newspaper's 125th year.

Madam Speaker, following my remarks, I will include for the benefit of my colleagues a story from the Times by Stephen Nohlgren with more background on these awards and the six Pulitzer Prizes earned previously by St. Petersburg Times reporters and editors.

The creation of PolitiFact will be of special interest to our colleagues in the House. The PolitiFact team, led by Bill Adair, included editors Scott Montgomery and Amy Hollyfield, reporter and researcher Angie Drobnic Holan, reporters Robert Farley and Alexander Lane, news technologist Matthew Waite and designer Martin Frobisher.

Together they searched through political ads, speeches and debates and determined the accuracy of political statements by presidential candidates and candidates for other offices. The information is accessible and searchable on the internet and is also published in the Times. PolitiFact became such a valuable source of information during last fall's campaign season that it was quoted regularly by national news organizations.

Madam Speaker, Please join me in congratulating Lane DeGregory, Bill Adair, and his team for a job well done in earning journalism's highest honor this week. They have set the standard for human interest and political reporting as judged by the peers in their field of work.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Apr. 21, 2009]

TIMES WINS 2 PULITZERS

(By Stephen Nohlgren), The St. Petersburg Times, April 21, 2009

For the first time in its 125-year history, the St. Petersburg Times has won two Pulitzer Prizes in a single year.

Staff writer Lane DeGregory, 42, captured the feature writing category for "The Girl in the Window," a moving account of a Plant City child whose mother kept her locked in a filthy room, and the adoptive family who worked to overcome her feral beginnings.

The Times staff won the national reporting prize for PolitiFact, a Web site, database and "Truth-O-Meter" that tests the validity of political statements.

That award reflected the growing influence of online media in public affairs. PolitiFact was designed for the Web at politifact.com, though its content also appears regularly in the Times' print edition.

The two awards are "so representative of our organization as a team, of the skill we bring to work every day," Executive Editor Neil Brown told the newsroom staff Monday amid cheers and popping champagne corks.

Like newspapers all over the country, the Times is navigating tough economic times, Brown said, but "this is old-fashioned journalism, great reporting and great writing."

Nothing has changed about that. This is what we do."

The Pulitzers, awarded by Columbia University, are widely regarded as journalism's highest accolade. The only other newspaper to win more than one prize in this year's 14 categories was the New York Times, with five.

The St. Petersburg Times previously had won six Pulitzers, its most recent coming in 1998.

Though Columbia tries to keep results under wraps until one nationwide announcement, reporters and secrets don't mix well.

By lunchtime Monday, grins, hugs and excited whispers spread through the newsroom. A few minutes before the 3 p.m. announcement, staffers congregated around one computer to await the Associated Press bulletin together.

After congratulations died down, DeGregory told her colleagues she was working at the Virginian-Pilot 10 years ago, when she read "Angels & Demons," a Pulitzer-winning series by then-Times reporter Thomas French about the murders of an Ohio woman and her two daughters in Florida.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, there's a newspaper that publishes real stories like that?'"

When she was hired at the Times in 2000, DeGregory said, "I thought it couldn't get any better than working at this place and working with these people. But today it got a little better."

"The Girl in the Window" was published last August, with photos by Melissa Lyttle.

Danielle was 7 when neighbors spotted her face through a broken window of her home. Detectives found her in diapers, her skeletal body raw from bug bites.

She couldn't speak. A Fort Myers family adopted her, and DeGregory chronicled their efforts to draw her from her silent shell.

Within a month of publication, more than 1 million people read the story online. Calls to authorities from Tampa Bay residents wanting to adopt foster children jumped 33 percent.

Times staff writer John Barry was a Pulitzer finalist in the feature category for "Winter's Tale," an account of a dolphin with a prosthetic tail and a disabled girl who befriended it.

PolitiFact was conceived by Washington bureau chief Bill Adair during the runup to the 2008 presidential election.

Adair, 47, felt frustrated in earlier campaigns by a lack of time and resources to fact-check political rhetoric.

"We had neglected this aspect of reporting too long," said Adair, a 20-year Times veteran. "With the Web, we had the tools to do reporting better and the tools to be able to publish in new ways."

With the green light from Times' brass, Adair skipped traditional campaign coverage and worked full time on PolitiFact.

The PolitiFact team included editors Scott Montgomery and Amy Hollyfield, reporter and researcher Angie Drobnic Holan, reporters Robert Farley and Alexander Lane, news technologist Matthew Waite and designer Martin Frobisher.

The team combed through political ads, speeches and debates, and summarized the findings on a "Truth-O-Meter," which labeled statements as True, Mostly True, Half True, Barely True, False or Pants on Fire.

A searchable database kept the rulings accessible.

Soon other media outlets were quoting PolitiFact as an authority on public discourse, and Adair was appearing on CNN and National Public Radio.

About 95 percent of the Web site's hits come from outside the Tampa Bay area and 10 percent from outside the United States.

"This is such a terrible time for newspapers, and I think our winning today is a sign that the Web is not a death sentence for newspapers," Adair said. "We need to look at it as an opportunity."

For the first time this year, the Pulitzer board invited entries in all categories from Web-only news operations. The Times won the only prize for content created for the Web.

Editor, chairman and CEO Paul Tash capped off Monday's newsroom toasts by recalling longtime owner Nelson Poynter, who willed the Times to a not-for-profit journalism institute so that public service, not profits, would drive the newspaper's corporate culture.

"Here's to a little guy, in a bow tie, who came from Indiana," Tash said. "He gave us the chance, and today our colleagues have vindicated his confidence."

Pulitzer Prizes at the St. Petersburg Times and Evening Independent

1998: Thomas French, feature writing, for "Angels & Demons," his narrative portrait of an Ohio mother and two daughters slain on a Florida vacation, and the three-year inquiry into their murders.

1995: Jeffrey Good, editorial writing, for "Final Indignities," his editorial campaign urging reform of Florida's probate system for settling estates.

1991: Sheryl James, feature writing, for "A Gift Abandoned," a series about a mother who abandoned her newborn child and how it affected her life and the lives of others.

1985: Lucy Morgan and Jack Reed, investigative reporting, for their reporting on Pasco County Sheriff John Short, which revealed his department's troubles and led to his removal from office by voters.

1980: Bette Swenson Orsini and Charles Stafford, national reporting, for their investigation of the Church of Scientology.

1964: Times staff, public service, for the investigation of the Florida Turnpike Authority, which disclosed widespread illegal acts and resulted in a major reorganization of the state's road construction program.

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I believe it is important that we all remember the past, whether it relates to people's positive actions or their negative. The saying that those who do not know their past are doomed to repeat it holds much truth. For that reason, today I rise to recognize a tragic event in human history that resulted in the loss of the lives of nearly 1.5 million Armenians during World War I.

On April 24, 1915, the then-Ottoman Empire began the systematic execution of Armenians, an event now known as the Armenian Genocide. While a large number of Armenians were killed outright, many others suffered and died of starvation and diseases which spread through their concentration camps. By 1923, the entire Armenian population previously inhabiting the landmass of Asia Minor and West Armenia had been eliminated.

As a Member of Congress, I have joined with nearly one hundred of my colleagues in support of legislation affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide and

urging the President to ensure U.S. foreign policy reflects an understanding of the human suffering relating to this genocide. I appreciate the efforts of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, which recently appealed to President Barack Obama requesting that he remain true to his previous statements and, as President, recognize the Armenian Genocide as, "a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence."

Madam Speaker, the United States serves as an example to the world of what can be achieved when basic human rights are protected and nurtured. It is in this role that we must recognize this methodic extermination of over one million Armenians during World War I. Moreover, I believe that through appropriate recognition, we can work to ensure that atrocities such as the Armenian Genocide are remembered, and not relived.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY VOLUNTEER BOB WILLIAMS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, during National Volunteer Week, to recognize Bob Williams, a man who has gone above and beyond in the call to serve his community and fellow American.

I first met Bob and learned of his story when he visited my office in his role as the American Cancer Society's Ambassador for New York's 27th Congressional District.

Bob, a cancer survivor himself, does not simply advocate on the fight against cancer, he lives it.

Bob is a volunteer with the American Cancer Society's "Road to Recovery" program which links patients in need of transportation to cancer treatments with volunteers willing to donate their time and the use of their car to provide free transportation.

With remarkable devotion and an overflowing heart Bob has made trip after trip—well over 500 in total—providing patients with comfort and companionship as they drive the over 120 mile round trip route between Chautauque County and Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Quickly the miles added up and with more than 100,000 miles under his belt Bob recently rightfully earned the title American Cancer Society Western New York Volunteer of the year.

Through the "Road to Recovery" program Bob has provided transportation to over 1,600 people, relieving patients of the fight to find a ride to treatment and allowing them to focus on the fight against the disease.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to honor Bob Williams, a man who with humility and compassion has set an example for us all on the enormous difference one person can make. Bob's volunteerism is admirable and inspiring and I am pleased to acknowledge his many contributions this Volunteer Week.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
ROSIE SEAMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor the career of beloved television host, author and community leader, Rosie Seaman.

A former preschool and kindergarten teacher, Rosie joined Mobile's WKRG-TV5 in 1974 as the host of "Rosie's Place," a locally-produced, weekly half-hour show for school-age children. For almost ten years, families across the central Gulf Coast welcomed Rosie into their homes. In 1976, "Rosie's Place" won the Alabama Arts and Humanities Award for best TV series in the state.

Rosie later went on to produce other children's programming at WKRG, including "Small Fry News" and "Youth Magazine."

Rosie has worn many hats over the course of her 35 year career with Mobile's CBS affiliate. She was the producer of the public affairs program, "Page 5," associate producer for the "We Are Mobile" tri-centennial movie project, and producer for WKRG's morning and noon news programs. Most recently, she served as segment producer at WKRG, booking guests for the station's news and public affairs programs.

Through her work at WKRG, Rosie ensured that civic leaders and organizations had frequent access to the airwaves. She helped organizations including the United Way, the American Cancer Society, the Salvation Army and the Child Advocacy Center reach out to viewers through the station's public affairs and talk segments on news shows.

Rosie was also the author of several nationally published educational books, which ranged in topic from arts and sciences to the teaching of moral values to young children. Mobile's Drug Education Council recently published one of Rosie's books on drug awareness for young children.

In recognition of her remarkable accomplishments, The Press Club of Mobile awarded Rosie its 2004 John Harris Lifetime Achievement Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. On behalf of all those who have benefited from her good heart and generous spirit, permit me to extend thanks for her many efforts in making Mobile and south Alabama a better place. Rosie Seaman is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of broadcast journalism.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST REFORMED CHURCH IN GRANDVILLE, MICHIGAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the First Reformed Church of Grandville, Michigan. On Sunday, April 19, 2009, a commemorative worship service and celebration will memorialize this extraordinary milestone, and it is a privilege to recognize and honor Reverend Christopher Wolf and the congregation of this remarkable church for the model of Christian service and the beacon of hope they have offered to the Grandville community over the past 150 years.

From the first service on April 13, 1859 up until today, First Reformed has faithfully served The Lord, the residents of Grandville, and the world through its ministries, involvement in the community, and missionary outreach. The commemoration of First Reformed's sesquicentennial anniversary during the April 19 service is the highlight of a year-long celebration of spiritual, historic and community events.

This remarkable anniversary reminds all of us that wonderful things do happen when we seek to serve and glorify God. Reflecting on the journey experienced by the congregants of First Reformed over the last 150 years, it is appropriate to reaffirm and strengthen our own faith, acknowledge the blessings bestowed upon us, and recognize the call to reach out to others and share God's love.

I am proud to represent the people who call First Reformed their church home, and am grateful to this congregation for their Christ-like example. I am honored to extend my best wishes on this sesquicentennial occasion, and look forward to their service and ministry to the people of Grandville for many more years.

HONORING DR. NANCY ZIMPHER

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Nancy Zimpher, President of the University of Cincinnati for her tremendous dedication to higher education. Unfortunately, President Zimpher will be departing us to become the new chancellor of the State University of New York on June 1. They will be blessed to have her.

A native Ohioan, President Zimpher became the University of Cincinnati's 25th president and first woman president in October of 2003. From the beginning, President Zimpher worked tirelessly to raise the University's profile. During her tenure she increased the University of Cincinnati's freshman class and total enrollments to new heights, while increasing retention and graduation rates. The caliber of students and educators at the University of Cincinnati has never been higher. President Zimpher's immense responsibilities have included managing 16 colleges, an academic

medical and research center, one billion dollar annual budget, and the most employees in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Away from the University, President Zimpher has given her time and talents to numerous civic causes, including serving on the boards of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati Center City Development, United Way of Greater Cincinnati, and many others.

As a proud graduate of the University of Cincinnati and a faithful Bearcat, it is with a heavy heart that I congratulate Dr. Zimpher on her new and exciting opportunity as chancellor of the State University of New York. The Cincinnati region and most importantly the University of Cincinnati are better off today due to President Zimpher's dedication and leadership. Good luck Dr. Zimpher, you will be missed.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican guidelines on earmarks, I submit the following statement for the record regarding H.R. 1105, the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: The Hon. FRANK R. WOLF

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force
Address of Requesting Entity: One Park Center Court, Manassas Park, VA, 20111

Description of Request: In response to increasing gang activity in northern Virginia, a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force was established in 2003 to more effectively respond to gang activity. As a result of the task force's efforts, criminal gang activity has declined by more than 50 percent. In order to sustain and maintain these impressive results, the task force requested \$2.5 million in funding, which is included in H.R. 1105.

Requesting Member: The Hon. FRANK R. WOLF

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northwest Virginia Regional Gang Task Force
Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 49, Berryville, VA, 22611

Description of Request: In response to increasing gang activity in the Shenandoah Valley, this task force was established to coordinate and share information with their counterparts at the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the entire northern Virginia region is a hotbed of gang activity. In order to better fight gang activity in this area, the task force requested \$750,000 in funding, which is included in H.R. 1105.

Requesting Member: The Hon. FRANK R. WOLF

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Capital Investment Grants
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 Aviation Circle, Washington, D.C. 20001

Description of Request: H.R. 1105 provides \$29.1 million to be used for extending the Metrorail system through Tysons Corner to Washington Dulles International Airport. Northern Virginia continues to be one of the country's fastest growing areas, but with that has come the distinction of being the second worst traffic congested region in America. Congressional funding to bring a much needed mass transit system linking the West Falls Church Metro station to Washington Dulles International Airport was first approved in FY 1999.

Additional Request: I also requested language in this bill that would prohibit the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) from reallocating previously appropriated funding for the Dulles Corridor Rapid Transit Project. Specifically, I requested that the funding from FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, FY 2006 and FY 2008 be protected.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT BRACKIN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the town of Loxley, Alabama, and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Franklin Roosevelt Brackin and pay tribute to his memory.

Known to his many friends as Frank, he was a native of Covington, Alabama and lived in Loxley for over three decades. Frank was known to everyone in Loxley for riding his bicycle adorned with American flags through town. He took it upon himself to monitor the flags flown on the town's public property, and he would notify the staff at Town Hall if he spotted a problem.

Each day, Frank ate breakfast at the Loxley Civic Center with other seniors, and he visited the Fire Department, Police Department and merchants along Alabama Highway 59. As Frank grew older and traffic increased, he began making his daily visits on foot, at which time, Loxley police provided him with an orange safety vest to make him more visible as he traveled throughout the community.

Frank was also a member of the Association of Retarded Citizens of Baldwin County (ARCBC). Each year, he and other ARCBC members traveled to either Disney World or Dollywood, which was always a highlight of his year. Frank was also active in the Baldwin County Strawberry Festival, serving on the cleanup committee for many years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Franklin Roosevelt Brackin will be dearly missed by his family—his two brothers, his sister, and the entire town of Loxley—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

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

A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS: A
TRIBUTE TO GEORGE K. STEIL,
SR.

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, a devoted husband, and a personal friend and mentor. George K. Steil, Sr. was a pillar of integrity and leadership in the Janesville community and the state of Wisconsin. George passed away less than a month ago at his home in Janesville, but not before leaving an indelible mark on the countless lives he touched—myself included. He will be sorely missed, but will never, ever, be forgotten.

George was born in Western Wisconsin in 1924, and served his nation with honor in World War II as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Amphibious Forces in both New Guinea and the Philippines. Shortly after his return from service, George married the beautiful Mavis Andrews in 1947 in Darlington, Wisconsin.

George is an institution at the University of Wisconsin—having received a Doctor of Law Degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1950, been named a lecturer at UW in 1974, and having received the law school's highest honor—the Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1991. He was appointed by Governor Tommy Thompson to the UW Board of Regents, serving as the Board's President from 1992–1994, as well as Chairperson of the UW Medical Foundation and member of the UW Hospital Authority.

He had among the most illustrious legal careers of any in the State of Wisconsin, serving on numerous statewide—and international—committees and associations. George was elected president of the State Bar in 1976, and later honored by the Wisconsin Bar Foundation as the 9th recipient of the Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding public service as a citizen, an attorney, and a humanitarian.

His leadership in the community was also unparalleled. He has served as President and Senior Partner of Brennan, Steil, and Basting in Janesville, having been with the firm from 1960 until his death. George had been President of Janesville's Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank One in Janesville; and took countless other leading roles in both the public and private sector. He had also been recognized for his commitment to the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Madison. George's commitment to faith was evident in all he did, as his service to God was manifest in his tireless service to others.

His long list of achievements and honors fails to do justice in describing the type of man George Steil was. My father was George's law partner, and I had the privilege of getting to know the Steil family during the formative years of my life. Because I lost my father at a young age, George became a mentor of mine. He gave me the kind of fatherly guidance and encouragement that I so desperately needed as I grew up and faced life's many challenges. Unlike any other, I looked to George as a role model, and was blessed to be taken under his wing.

George Steil dedicated his life to the service of others: to his fellow countrymen in the U.S. Army; to his neighbors—especially those most vulnerable—in Janesville, Rock County, and Wisconsin; to his clients, his customers, and fellow parishioners; and—most passionately—to his friends and his family.

To George's four children: George, Jr. and wife Patricia; John of Janesville; Michelle and husband Patrick; and Marcelaine and husband John. Your father will forever be one of Janesville's finest.

To his two great-grandchildren and ten grandchildren, including my former and future staffers Bryan and Allison Steil: your grandfather's zest for life and selfless commitment to service provides a guiding light for you to follow for years to come.

To his wife Mavis: For your unconditional love and support over the years, I will forever be in debt to you and to your husband.

My prayers and my eternal gratitude remain with the Steil family.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT E. "BOB"
WHEELER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Robert E. "Bob" Wheeler of Hot Springs, who passed away on April 16, 2009, at the age of 72. Affectionately called "Mister Hot Springs," Bob dedicated his life's work to Hot Springs, the city he loved and the city he called home.

Bob was a hard worker and an inspiring leader, and it was his vision that helped make Hot Springs the vibrant center of tourism, commerce and history that it is today. In response to the city's struggling economy in the 1980s, Bob was instrumental in passing bond issues that renovated and expanded the former Hot Springs Convention Auditorium into the Hot Springs Convention Center, a state-of-the-art conference facility that now hosts groups from across the country. He was also key in reopening the Magic Springs & Crystal Falls amusement park, as well as envisioning and seeing to completion Summit Arena, which now hosts major concerts and athletic events.

In an official capacity, Bob served as the City Director from 1986 until 2004, when he declined to run for re-election. He also served on the Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission for 15 years, being named the commission's only "Commissioner Emeritus" upon his retirement.

Bob was a successful businessman heading Wheeler Printing, and he was the motivation for making Hot Springs the permanent home of the Miss Arkansas Pageant, where he served more than 40 years as the state pageant's Executive Director.

Realizing the city's important contributions to Arkansas over the years, Bob's vision included a city that recognizes and honors its past and traditions while embracing change and economic development. Today, as a direct result of Bob's efforts, Hot Springs is a year-round destination for conventions and tourists and a thriving community in which to raise a family.

Most importantly, Bob inspired a new generation of leaders in Hot Springs all of whom embraced his vision and shared his infectious energy and passion that will carry the city well into the 21st century.

Unfortunately, Bob lost his long battle with Alzheimer's disease last week. Though he is no longer with us and will be deeply missed, Bob's legacy will live on as Hot Springs and its leaders continue to meet the expectations, dreams and goals outlined by the city's biggest champion.

HONORING THE SEXTON FAMILY'S
SERVICE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize and honor the service and sacrifice of the Sexton family. Thirteen Sextons have served bravely in our Armed Forces since World War II—several having served on the front lines in both the Atlantic and Pacific Theatres. This tradition of service and dedication to the United States of America has earned them due recognition and appreciation. I submit their names here for the RECORD:

Hugo "Doc" Sexton—served with U.S. Navy—WWII Veteran (1908–1982);

James Edward "Tad" Sexton—served with U.S. Army (1911–1945);

Harbon "Whitey" Sexton—served with the 30th Infantry Division; killed in action in France (1915–1944);

Joseph Howard "Tut" Sexton—served with 1st Infantry Division—WWII Veteran (1918–1983);

Jeff Jackson "Jodie" Sexton—served with 90th Infantry Division—WWII Veteran (1920–2003);

Willard "Pistol" Sexton—served with 1106th Combat Engineers—WWII Veteran (1922–2009);

Elurd Preston "Pete" Sexton—served with U.S. Navy—WWII Veteran;

John Daniel Sexton—U.S. Air Force Veteran (1930–2008);

Jim Sherman Sexton—retired from the U.S. Air Force;

Ernest Norman "Snag" Sexton—retired from the U.S. Air Force;

Robert Charles "Bobo" Sexton—retired from the U.S. Army (1937–1991);

Luther Madison "Luke" Sexton—retired from the U.S. Air Force;

Jonah Clark "Buster" Sexton—retired from the U.S. Air Force.

Hugo served in the Pacific Theatre. James entered the Army but was medically discharged shortly after he began service. Harbon, Joseph, Jeff, and Willard all landed in France as part of the American forces fighting in the Atlantic Theatre. Harbon was killed in action near Isigny, France, while the others fought throughout Europe until the end of the war. Joseph also landed with the 1st Infantry division in North Africa.

Pete was stationed in the Pacific after joining the Navy prior to the end of the war. John was on active duty just prior to the Korean War. The remaining Sextons, Jim, Ernest, Robert, Luther, and Jonah all spent more than

20 years each on active duty before retiring from their respective branches. At three different times between 1942 and 1968, there were five Sexton brothers wearing the Uniform of the United States Armed Forces at the same time.

CONGRATULATING CHANDLER
BRAMLETT ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Chandler Bramlett, on the occasion of his retirement from Infirmary Health System.

With a career spanning over 40 years, Chandler has served in administrative positions in healthcare facilities in Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama.

A native of Mobile and graduate of Murphy High School, Chandler received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Alabama in 1964 and an M.B.A. and Certificate in Hospital Administration from the University of Florida in 1996.

After graduation and before his induction into military service, Chandler served as an administrative assistant with Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. Later that same year, he joined the U.S. Public Health Service Office in Atlanta where he worked as a health services officer at the Division of Medical Care Administration Regional Office. Two years later, he was named vice president of the North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, Mississippi. In 1972, Chandler returned to Alabama as the administrator of Jackson County Hospital and Nursing Home in Scottsboro.

Chandler joined the Mobile Infirmary in 1976, initially as administrator of its Rotary Rehabilitation Hospital. In 1978, he was named executive vice president. Five years later, he became president/chief executive officer of Infirmary Health System, which today is the largest integrated healthcare delivery system in the Central Gulf Coast Region.

Today, the Infirmary Health System is the fifth largest private sector employer in the state. It is the parent company of five hospitals and one nursing home in Mobile and Baldwin Counties with 1,300 licensed beds, including Mobile Infirmary Medical Center, the largest not-for-profit acute care hospital in Alabama. Under Chandler's leadership, the not-for-profit healthcare system was created, a comprehensive partnership with the University of South Alabama's Mitchell Cancer Institute was developed, and a scholarship program to train nurses was created.

With more than three decades with the company, Chandler was the most senior healthcare executive serving in the state of Alabama at the time of his retirement in December 2008.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. I know his family, his wife, Polly; their daughters, Louise, Susanne, Patricia, and Amanda; his many friends; and past and present Infirmary Health System employees

join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the city of Mobile and the state of Alabama.

Chandler will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with family and loved ones. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP
SPECIAL RESOURCES STUDY ACT
OF 2009

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to authorize a special resources study of the World War II-era Honouliuli Internment Camp site in the State of Hawaii.

Unlike much of the mainland United States, Japanese Americans in Hawaii were not subjected to the mass roundups experienced by Americans of Japanese ancestry who lived on the West Coast of the U.S. mainland. Executive Order 9066, which called for removal of Japanese Americans from restricted areas, was not enforced to the same degree in Hawaii. Forcing all of Hawaii's Japanese American population into camps was simply not practical as they made up some 40 percent of the population at the time.

Executive Order 9066 put Hawaii under martial law. Interestingly, even before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the FBI had a "custodial detention list" of 337 people in Hawaii marked for arrest if America went to war with Japan. On December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, the FBI and the Army ordered the internment of everyone on the "custodial detention list."

Most of these initial internees were "consular agents," persons who worked on a volunteer basis to assist other Japanese in filling out reports of birth, marriage, and death to be sent back to the emigrants' original villages in Japan. Many of these volunteer "consular agents" were long-time residents of Hawaii but were not citizens because they were not born in Hawaii. At the time, Japanese immigrants were barred from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens on the basis of race. None of these "consular agents" were ever charged with espionage or sabotage. Shinto and Buddhist priests, language teachers, and community leaders were also rounded up and put in the camps.

Honouliuli Internment Camp was the largest and last-closed of the eight detention centers that operated in Hawaii. Honouliuli was also used as a prisoner of war camp. Each of the major islands had internment facilities for a period of time. Some 1,200 Japanese Americans and 100 Americans of Italian or German descent were interned in Hawaii between December 7, 1941, and September 14, 1945. Many were initially held in Hawaii and then transferred to internment camps on the U.S. mainland.

The story of the internments in Hawaii is not well known. Most people in Hawaii are not even aware of this history. Archeological reconnaissance surveys of the Honouliuli Camp

site have been conducted with the support of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Conservation Fund, National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the University of Hawaii. The landowner, Monsanto, has also been supportive.

The Honouliuli site, which is located in a gulch in an agricultural area on the island of Oahu, still contains many remnants of the camp. The special resource study authorized by this bill will evaluate the Honouliuli site, as well as associated sites on Oahu and other islands, regarding its significance in the history of World War II; in relation to the forcible internment of Japanese Americans, Italian Americans, and German Americans; and for its physical historic resources.

One of the things I am most proud about America is our willingness to examine painful and often shameful periods of our past. The experience of Hawaii in relation to Executive Order 9066 has not really been told before. The proposed resource study will provide a map of how we might move forward in preserving and interpreting the historical record of this period.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MICKEY CAFAGNA, MAYOR OF
POWAY

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of one of San Diego Counties most beloved citizens, Mayor Mickey Cafagna. Mayor Cafagna lost his battle to cancer on Saturday, April 11, 2009, and I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of this devoted public servant.

Mayor Cafagna has had a long history of serving San Diego County. In addition to being a successful businessman, he was elected mayor of Poway, served on the Poway City Council, was chairman of the Regional Solid Waste Association, and represented the city of Poway on the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) since 1998, serving two years as Chairman of the Board, where I had the privilege to serve with him.

A consummate family man, Mayor Cafagna is survived by his wife Sharon of 43 years, his two children and five grandchildren, who were the light of his life. Mayor Cafagna was widely known and respected for his goodwill to all, his ability to bring people together with warmth, humility, and good sense of humor. His accomplishments both personal and public are to be commended and I can say that he will be sincerely missed by the people of San Diego County, especially in the beautiful city of Poway.

It is with immense gratitude that I commend Mayor Cafagna for his long and distinguished service on behalf of his constituents and county. His humor and easygoing personality will be greatly missed by all who worked with him. However the stories and warm memories of this larger than life man will be shared by many. I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Mayor Mickey Cafagna.

HONORING DR. PADMANABHAN
“DAN” MUKUNDAN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on February 5, 2009 the City of Chicago and the nation lost an inspirational leader in community health, Dr. Padmanabhan “Dan” Mukundan. Dr. Mukundan, or “Dr. Dan” as he was warmly known, was a pioneering force in community medicine in Chicago for nearly 40 years. Dr. Dan held a lifelong commitment to caring for the medically underserved and he believed passionately in providing the highest quality of medical care to all persons regardless of health status or ability to pay.

Dr. Dan opened his first practice on Chicago’s South Side in the 1970s, and in the early 1990s he joined ACCESS Community Health Network where he served as the Medical Director. His drive and enthusiasm for quality community health care attracted other dedicated medical providers into the field and into ACCESS, which is now the largest community health center organization in the nation. With Dr. Dan’s support, ACCESS has grown to operating over 50 health centers serving over 215,000 patients annually in the greater Chicago area. Today, ACCESS is regarded as a national leader in providing quality primary and preventive medicine to uninsured and underinsured patients. Dr. Dan’s work was essential to enabling ACCESS to build a unique community health infrastructure in the Chicagoland area, an infrastructure leveraged through partnerships to provide patients access to the specialty, diagnostic and inpatient services they require. In addition, he expanded the scope of ACCESS’s program to include mental health and social services.

On Saturday, April 25, family, friends, colleagues and patients of Dr. Dan will gather to remember his life and his accomplishments. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Dr. Mukundan’s family and to those who will gather in his memory, including Donna Thompson, Linda Shapiro and other members of the ACCESS leadership team.

Dr. Mukundan’s work had an indelible impact on the fabric of health care in Chicago’s underserved communities and today I rise to recognize, and to direct my colleague’s attention to, this great Chicagoan.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF RAY-
RAY RUSSELL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor the memory of Ray-Ray Russell.

A native of Mobile, Ray-Ray graduated from Williamson High School in the Maysville community and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in communication from Alabama State University.

In 1996, Ray-Ray returned to Mobile and started working for WBLX-FM radio. He was

host of the station’s long-running radio show, “The Gulf Coast Wake-up Party.” For years, listeners across the central Gulf Coast tuned in every morning for Ray-Ray to help them start their day. He also broadcast Friday night high school football games for Comcast’s Port City 6.

However, Ray-Ray’s contributions extended far beyond the airwaves. He started the Rolling Reader program, in which disc jockeys read to elementary school children. In fact, Ray-Ray read to Mobile and Baldwin County classes at least once a week. He also participated in a number of charity events.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Ray-Ray Russell was an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of broadcast journalism, and at the age of 42, he was taken from us too soon.

On behalf of all those who have benefited from his generous spirit, permit me to extend thanks for his many efforts in making Mobile and south Alabama a better place. Ray-Ray will be deeply missed by his family—his seven children and his seven brothers and sisters—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING MITCH KING

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. I rise to thank and praise Mitch King for his exemplary 36 years of public service—a career which has spanned 11 Postmaster Generals and during which mail service has expanded to serve more than 149 million addresses every day, becoming the country’s largest retail network.

Mitch is the epitome of a true public servant: he was and is always professional, always ready to help with any issue, and always on the lookout for constructive solutions. It has been an honor to benefit from his contributions both on the House Appropriations Committee and in my District over the years, and it is only right that we should honor and salute him for his more than three decades of service.

Mr. King is one of several Managers in the Government Relations Department at the U.S. Postal Service Headquarters in Washington, DC, responsible for Congressional Liaison and legislative activities. He will retire from the Postal Service on May 1, after 36 years of service.

During the later part of his career, he managed Postal Service Congressional Liaison activities for the states of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and the District of Columbia. He was also responsible for postal-related legislative activity within the House Appropriations Committee. Additionally, one of his ad hoc activities included service on the Elections Center-sponsored Election Mail Task Force.

Mitch began his postal career in 1973 as a letter carrier in my District in Falls Church. Subsequently, he became a supervisor of letter carriers, before becoming an Instructor in

the Delivery Service Branch of the Postal Service Management Academy in Potomac, Maryland. By the spring of 1982, he began working in the Government Relations Department at the U.S. Postal Service Headquarters in Washington, DC. In 1992, he was promoted to the position of Government Relations Manager; a Postal Career Executive position.

Since then he has managed government relations activities with many Members of Congress, addressing an ever expanding variety of postal-related issues. He has also served as the principal postal contact for the House Appropriations Committee and the Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee. While the Postal Service receives only minimal funding to support free mail for the blind and overseas voters, Mitch has been an extraordinary resource to us in addressing a host of postal issues which have arisen in our committee.

Mitch and his wife, Mickey Fenyk-King, recently celebrated their 35th anniversary. Now, they look forward to having more time to spend with family and friends and to exploring the world together. They have surely earned our thanks and congratulations for a job well done and our very best wishes for their journeys ahead.

HONORING KATE DONAGHUE

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Kate Donaghue from Westborough, Massachusetts for her outstanding service to the people of my district and my home state of Massachusetts. On Sunday, April 26 of this year, Kate will be this year's recipient of the Democrat of the Year award from the Middlesex Worcester Coalition in appreciation for her lifetime of service.

For over 20 years Kate has given countless hours of her time to help promote social and political change in Massachusetts. Kate has been an avid volunteer with many groups and has worked tirelessly for the greater good for more than 40 years. She has served as an elected member of the Massachusetts State Democratic Committee for the past 13 years and has served in many capacities with the party. She is one of the founding chairpersons of the Middlesex Worcester Democratic Coalition and is also a board member of the recently formed Worcester Democratic League. She has also represented her district at countless state and national conventions.

Kate is also the founder of the widely read Donaghue's Democratic Dispatch, which she founded in 2000. This popular email newsletter provides information about political and civic events that are happening across the commonwealth. Thanks to her efforts, thousands of individuals are kept abreast about how to be engaged in local and national political efforts.

Kate has also worked tirelessly to get others involved in community service efforts. She has helped organize Earthday Clean-ups, food drives and clothing drives.

Madam Speaker, I commend Kate Donaghue for her dedication to Massachusetts and the political community in promoting activ-

ism in politics throughout the community. I congratulate Kate on receiving this award and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this fine example of civic engagement.

94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 94th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. It is morally imperative that we remember this atrocity and collectively demand reaffirmation of this crime against humanity.

For thousands of years, the Armenian people have been known for their perseverance in the face of great challenges. Today we honor the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide. We pay our respects to the Armenian people for their strength to overcome adversity.

It is a somber day as we reflect on the victims of the Armenian Genocide, the continued denial by the Turkish government, and our own government's inaction in using the word genocide to describe these events.

There is an absurdity about Turkey's inability to recognize its own past and something deeply disturbing about our government's complacency in this misrepresentation of history.

The Armenian Genocide is the first genocide of the twentieth century. Between 1915 and 1923, 1.5 million Armenians were systematically and deliberately killed by the Ottoman Turks.

Our own National Archives and writings from the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, display how the Ottoman government specifically decided to target the Armenians, move them towards what is the modern day Syrian Desert, and butcher men, women, and children.

It is a disturbing history, but one that needs to be retold, remembered, and reaffirmed to ensure its legacy and rightfully honor its victims and survivors.

We have stood by for too long as the Turkish government manipulates the issue of the Armenian Genocide. We have watched them pay millions of dollars to Turkish lobbyists to mislead and even threaten members of Congress. We have watched the Turkish government bring scholars and writers to court for insulting Turkishness just for writing the words Armenian Genocide. And two years ago we watched in profound disbelief when Hrant Dink was assassinated in Istanbul.

It is enough.

Armenian Genocide Recognition is not only important for Armenians, it is important for us as Americans. If we are going to live up to the standards we set for ourselves and continue to lead the world in affirming human rights everywhere, we need to stand up and recognize the Armenian Genocide.

To not do so sends a message that we are complicit in Turkey's denial. By not affirming the Armenian Genocide, we fail as Americans to take a stand against all genocides and we fail to end genocide denial.

We can reverse this path and officially speak the truth. We as Americans and as an

entire international community must recognize the Armenian Genocide so that we can renew our commitment to prevent such atrocities from occurring again.

I am hopeful that the U.S. Government can stand behind our statements and our promises.

HONORING CODY WAYNE JOHNSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody Wayne Johnson a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 70, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING ADDIE GREEN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and extend my congratulations to the Honorable Addie Green on the occasion of her retirement from elected office. Ms. Green will retire as County Commissioner for District 7 in Palm Beach County, and can look back on a proud career of service and distinction in community leadership.

Though she is a native Alabamian, Ms. Green has been a resident of Palm Beach County since 1965. She graduated from Stillman College with a Bachelor of Science degree and went on to receive her Masters Degree in Education from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida.

Ms. Green served as Mangonia Park's Vice Mayor in 1988 and Mayor in 1991. In 1992, she was elected to the Florida House of Representatives and served four consecutive terms as the District 84 Representative. While serving in the Florida House of Representatives from 1995 to 1998, I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Green. During her State tenure, she served on several influential House committees and was instrumental in securing vital resources for Palm Beach County.

The appropriations Ms. Green worked diligently to bring to Palm Beach County included: \$1.35 million for the Mangonia Residence for senior citizens; \$751,000 for Floridians stricken with Parkinson's disease; \$250,000 for the Belle Glade Business Park Wages Program to create new jobs; tax relief for NOAH, an organization that provides affordable housing to more than 400 families in

the Glades; \$249,000 for the renovation of the Lake Park Library; \$500,000 for the St. Mary's Medical Center Children's Emergency Room Wing; \$500,000 for Home Safe; and \$100,000 for project SOAR Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies.

Moreover, Ms. Green has helped to secure funding for projects beneficial to the Palm Beach community such as an aquatics facility in Riviera Beach, the Dan Calloway Recreation Complex, the Northwest Community Center, the Spady House Museum and C. Spencer Pompey Amphitheater in Delray Beach, the Wilson Recreation Center and Pool Renovation, the 1916 County Courthouse Restoration, and the 4-H Community Gardens. She arranged recreational and cultural funding in support of Heritage Fest, Children's Outreach, Mt. Olive Community Outreach Center, Roots Festival, the Soul of Delray, Annual Jazz & Blues Festival in Riviera Beach, Salvation Army, Teen Partnership Coalition, Operation Hope, and a host of school-based programs.

With the concerted efforts of many individuals and business leaders in the community, Ms. Green was able to organize the first Homeless Task Force for Palm Beach County. In 2007, she was named "Commissioner of the Year" by the Florida League of Cities for her extraordinary efforts of presiding over tough County transitions and improved relationships with cities throughout South Florida.

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work side by side with Commissioner Greene and it is a privilege for me to have this opportunity to recognize her before the esteemed House of Representatives. Now, in retirement, she embarks upon new challenges in life and I am certain her legacy of greatness will only grow and develop as she enters this new phase of life. I wish her every happiness and success.

HONORING RODNEY JOHN DIRIDON
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Rodney John Diridon, "Rod," on the 70th anniversary of his birth. In addition to celebrating the commemoration of a life well spent, I would like to acknowledge the dedication he has exemplified in serving the Valley of Santa Clara for over half of his life.

Diridon, the son of an immigrant Italian railroad brakeman, has focused on transportation issues for decades. A most effective proponent of public transportation, Rod Sr. is considered the "father of modern transit" in Santa Clara County and credited with countless achievements including building the light rail system. He is a former member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and a former candidate for the California State Assembly.

Upon his retirement from public office in 1994, the main train station in San Jose was

renamed "The Diridon Station" in his honor. He currently heads the Norman I. Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University, and is a former chairman of the board of the High Speed Rail Authority.

Rod's service to his community and country started much earlier in his life. From 1963 to 1967 he served in the U.S. Navy as a Fleet Officer and Combat Duty Officer in Vietnam.

In 1969, Diridon founded the Diridon Research Corporation, later renamed Decision Research Institute (DRI) in 1972. DRI conducted market research, needs assessment surveys and legislative consulting throughout the United States. As founder and president he developed a "shared survey" research procedure subsequently adopted by the UNICEF of the United Nations.

His political career began in 1972 as the youngest person ever elected to the Saratoga City Council. He retired because of term limits, after completing 20 years and six terms as chairperson of both the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Transit Board. He is the only person to have chaired the San Francisco Bay Area's (nine counties and 104 cities) three regional governments: the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Association of Bay Area Governments.

To find the basis for Rod's call to public service, one need only look at his family's roots. Rodney John Diridon was born in Dunsmuir, California in 1939 to Claude and Rhoda Diridon. As the son of Italian immigrants, Rod's father, Claudius Diridoni was compelled to change his name when bigotry in the railroad employment system kept him from being hired. After becoming a union member, Claude was protected from discrimination, thus starting the Diridon family's long appreciation of organized labor.

Although Rod was dyslexic, through hard work and determination, he was a good student and member of championship football teams in high school. While working his way through college as a railroad trainman, he attended Shasta Junior College and Chico State, each for one year. He then transferred to San Jose State University, where he was a student leader, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and an MSBA in Statistics.

He was married to Mary Ann Fudge from July 4, 1964 until 1999 and raised two children, Rodney Jr. born September 10, 1969, and Mary Margaret, born September 14, 1971. On June 10, 2001 he married Dr. Gloria Duffy.

Rod has chaired over 100 international, national, state and local community service programs and projects, most related to transit and the environment. He served, in 1993, as the chairperson of the American Public Transit Association in Washington, D.C., and more recently as the North American Vice President of the International Transit Association in Brussels. He has been an advisor to the Federal Transit Administration and in 1995 chaired the National Research Council's Transit Oversight and Project Selection Committee. Rod chaired the NRC's Transportation Research Board's study panel on "Combating Global Warming Through Sustainable Transportation Policy." He is frequently asked to provide testimony to Congressional Committees.

Diridon has received published recognition and numerous awards for his contributions

and has served on numerous organizations committed to community service at the national, state, regional and local levels. He has been most involved with transportation, the environment, arts and human rights fund-raising and advocacy.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT
AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT
OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Commission on Employment and Economic Security Act of 2009.

This legislation is a necessary and vital investment in the people of the American workforce and their families. This bill will establish a national commission to examine issues of economic and psychological insecurity within our workforce that have been caused by employment displacement. Further, it will propose solutions, including recommendations for legislative and administrative action, to Congress and the President.

Since the recession began in December 2007, more than 5.1 million jobs have been lost. Last month, the national unemployment rate reached an unprecedented 8.5 percent, the highest it has been since the recession of 1983 and it is much higher in many states like Florida, at 9.7 percent, and it has topped 12.6 percent in Michigan.

Over the past year, unemployment rates have increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The scope of the economic downturn is so large that its impact is felt virtually everywhere along the economic spectrum.

While Americans lose their jobs and their incomes shrink, too often, they face the loss of their family's health insurance and, subsequent to the loss of income, even their housing. According to a September 2008 survey by the American Psychology Association, 80 percent of Americans say the economy is a significant cause of stress, an increase from 66 percent since April 2008. Perhaps even more disturbing, calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline have increased by more than 20 percent from January 2008 to January 2009.

Madam Speaker, the mental health of the American worker will be integral on the road to economic recovery and Congress must face this problem head on and help the very people who are facing unemployment, loss of health insurance, home foreclosure, stress, increased violence, and depression. It is time that we create this Commission and get our nation back on track.

We have a solemn responsibility to ensure the greatest possible assistance to the American workforce, whose commitment to economic participation has been a defining feature of the cultural fabric of our country. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING DELANE GOWER
KINZLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Delane Gower Kinzler, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 345, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH CELEBRATE 125 YEARS OF MINISTRY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph. I would like to share some local history as provided by the Springfield Diocese.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield were founded in 1883 following a request by the pastor of St. Patrick's in Chicopee Falls. He needed help starting a parish school and so seven sisters from the New York Congregation moved to the Springfield Area. The small community grew slowly but steadily while educating poor immigrant children in central and western Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

By the mid 1960s, the ranks of the Springfield Congregation swelled to over one thousand women. The group had founded or staffed sixty schools and had established the Elms College.

Following the Second Vatican Council, the Sisters restructured their community life. Many moved out of convents and into small houses and apartments in local towns and cities. Their ministries expanded as well. No longer limited to schools, the Sisters worked in prisons, parishes, homeless shelters and other social services.

In the mid 1970s, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Fall River merged with the Springfield Congregation. In 2001, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland, Vermont joined the community which also covers Worcester, the Berkshires, Rhode Island and even Louisiana and Uganda. Today, the Springfield Congregation of about 300 Sisters continues to serve the people of God through a variety of Ministries.

Today we salute the Sisters of St. Joseph for 125 years of ministry as educators, pastoral ministers, innovators, evangelizers and social justice ministers. We thank the Sisters for their loving service to our communities.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have provided quality, values-based Catholic education to countless students and we are grateful for their immeasurable impact.

COMMENDING THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES ON ALLOWING
FAMILY TRAVEL TO CUBA

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the President for his leadership and commitment to improve the United States' relationship with Cuba.

Lifting restrictions on family members' travels to the island and removing restrictions on remittances to Cuban families responds to both Cuban-American and Cubans' needs as well as it builds bridges between the American and the Cuban people.

I believe that keeping the family ties alive and allowing family members to assist one another are essential for Cuban citizens' quest for reform and a critical step towards the building of a trustworthy relationship.

Cuban-Americans are the best ambassadors to the Cuban people for democracy's core values. Diplomatic relations can begin with familial and cultural exchanges. This is especially true with Jazz music, which has always shown the sense of freedom.

Cuba has a rich musical tradition that has many admirers throughout the World, particularly in America. As more Cuban-Americans travel to Cuba, there will be increased opportunities to access this rich tradition. Reaching out in an effort to expand our common interest in culture and the arts will deepen our understanding of one another and serve as a bridge builder to more substantial bilateral relations.

In that spirit, I would like to submit this letter, from the US-Cuba Cultural Exchange, into the RECORD. This letter, written last March, urges the President to build a respectful and critical dialogue between the United States and Cuba through cultural exchange.

US-CUBA CULTURAL EXCHANGE,

Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 3, 2009.

President BARACK OBAMA,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: We are artists, arts presenters, arts educators, cultural entrepreneurs and scholars, and cultural heritage and policy professionals from diverse political persuasions. We have been adversely affected by the cultural embargo imposed by the U.S. government against both Cuban and American artists and cultural institutions. We are writing to request that you make concrete changes in U.S. policy towards Cuba that will allow for the uninhibited flow of art, culture, information, ideas and debates, as well as travel by artists, cultural workers and professionals, and arts and cultural aficionados between the two countries.

U.S. policies towards Cuba—worsened many times over by the previous administration and criticized throughout the world—have prevented us from engaging in critical communication and collaboration with our Cuban counterparts, compromising our nation's cherished ideals of freedom of expression and preventing cultural interchange between two societies that share a historic relationship lasting over two centuries.

In 2007 we requested policy changes from the Bush Administration so that respectful, critical dialogue and principled exchange could take place between the peoples of Cuba and the United States and our respective governments. Our petition fell on deaf ears. As citizens, artists, scholars, educators and cultural workers from all artistic practices and from advocacy and service organizations in the arts, we now call upon your Administration to:

1. open a respectful dialogue with the government and people of Cuba in accord with established protocols supported by the community of nations;

2. end the travel ban that prevents U.S. citizens from visiting Cuba, and allow for Cuban artists and scholars to visit the United States, thus eliminating the censorship of art and ideas, and

3. initiate, by working with the U.S. Congress, a process that can result in the development of normal, respectful bilateral relations between our countries.

The artistic and cultural communities in the United States and in Cuba are catalysts of imagination and creativity. We are committed to serve as bridges for our fellow citizens. Now, we need our government to take leadership and re-open the pathways of exchange.

We look forward to working with you to advance the interests of the United States and of Cuba.

Sincerely,

(Sampling of over 1,100 signatures from arts & culture as of March 2, 2009)

Patch Adams; Michael Alexander, Exec Dir, Grand Performances* & Chair, California Arts Council*; Stuart A. Ashman, Cabinet Secretary, State of New Mexico Cultural Affairs; Stephen Bailey, Executive Director/CEO, Grand Opera House; Amiri & Amina Baraka; Harry Belafonte; Laura Bickford, Film Producer; Beth Boone, Artistic & Executive Director, Miami Light Project; Jackson Browne, Songwriter; Jimmy Cobb, NEA Jazz Master, Drums; James Early, Artists & Intellectuals in Defense of Humanity; Charles Fishman, Executive Producer, Duke Ellington Jazz Festival; Danny Glover, Activist-Actor; Charlie Haden, Educator/Musician; Herbie Hancock, Musician/Chairman, Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.*

Donald Harrison, Musician & Composer; Louis Head, US-Cuba Cultural Exchange; Oscar Hernandez, Musician/Composer; Mike Kappus, President, The Rosebud Agency; Robert Kraft, President, Fox Music; Vivien Lesnik Weisman, Filmmaker; Sandra Levinson, Director, Cuban Art Space/Center for Cuban Studies; Bill Martinez, Arts Attorney & Presenter, Martinez & Associates; Graham Nash; Lukas Nelson, Musician; Arturo O'Farrill, Musician & Founder, Afro Latin Jazz Alliance & 2009 Grammy Award Winner; Michael Orlove, Senior Program Dir, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; Eddie Palmieri; Armando Peraza, Musician; Dafnis Prieto, Musician.

Bonnie Raitt, Musician & Activist; Awilda Rivera, Radio Personality, WBGO-Jazz 88; Tito Rodriguez, Jr., Musician, Tito Rodriguez, Jr. Orchestra; Ann Rosenthal/Cathy Zimmerman, Co-Dirs, MAPP International Productions; David Rubinson, Music Producer; Poncho Sanchez, Musician; Carlos Santana, Musician; Pete Seeger; Scott Southard, Director, International Music Network; Mavis Staples and

Yvonne Staples, Singers; Ned Sublette, Independent Scholar; Yosvany Terry, Saxophonist & Composer; Dave Valentin, Latin Jazz Artist & Grammy Award Winner; Jesse "Chuy" Varela, Broadcaster/Writer, KCSM-FM 91/SF Chronicle; Howard Zinn, Author & Playwright.

CONGRATULATORY TRIBUTE TO DR. LARICE Y. COWAN ON THE ACCESSION OF HER RETIREMENT AS ASSISTANT CHANCELLOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN URBANA CAMPUS.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Larice Cowan, a fellow alumnus from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff who has distinguished herself as an outstanding academician and practitioner in the field of human relations and affirmative action. Dr. Cowan graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology in 1971; she subsequently earned a Masters Degree in Social Work at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and a PhD in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Illinois at Champaign.

Dr. Cowan began her career in civil rights and human rights as Director of the Community Relations Department for the City of Champaign, where she pioneered cooperative relationships between Champaign Police Department and the community. She partnered with a Lieutenant in the police department and two university professors to produce a research document titled "Police-community Relations: A Process, not a Product", this research actively is credited with helping to change police and citizens interaction within the City of Champaign.

After coming to the University of Illinois, Dr. Cowan devoted her life to a career in affirmative action and diversity. As Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration and Director of Affirmative Action for staff, she led the campus in establishing policies and procedures to advance campus affirmative action for faculty and staff. As Assistant Chancellor and Director of OEOA, she introduced the first major campus-wide diversity program which was attended by Deans, Directors, and department heads and instrumental in the development of the first video produced on sexual harassment prevention and the presentation of a series of campus programs on sexual harassment prevention. Currently, Dr. Cowan oversees the university's affirmative action policies and procedures, including companies such as The Americans with Disabilities Act: the investigation of internal and external complaints of alleged discrimination filed with federal and state civil rights agencies, the development and implementation of educational programs on diversity inclusion, sexual harassment prevention, disability issues and related topics for faculty and staff to improve campus climate and to facilitate campus and community out-

reach and interaction. Dr. Cowan is active in her local community where she serves on several boards dealing with education, substance abuse, women's issues and civil rights. She has received numerous awards and citations for her outstanding work. I am pleased to commend and congratulate Dr. Cowan on an outstanding career and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING SEAN IAN O'REAR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Ian O'Rear, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, which is observed by communities around the world on April 24th. It is of great importance that atrocities past are not forgotten, but rather serve as a solemn reminder of the importance of our continued vigilance and opposition to genocide today.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire arrested Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople, marking the beginning of an eight year campaign against Armenian civilians. By the genocide's end in 1923, roughly one and a half million unarmed men, women and children were rounded up, stripped of all their possessions and means of support, and sent on death marches or to concentration camps.

Nearly a century later, these events still resonate across the world. I am proud of the United States' strong and continued history in standing up to and opposing genocide. I am proud to join with so many of my colleagues who have weighed in on this issue and have called on Turkey and Armenia to have an open and honest dialogue about their past.

Madam Speaker, as we observe the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, it is important that we pay our respects to the hundreds of thousands of lives senselessly lost. My thoughts and prayers on this day will be with the Armenian community in Oakland County, Michigan and throughout the world.

INTRODUCTION OF KINGMAN AND HERITAGE ISLAND ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the Kingman and Heritage Islands Act of 2009 will make it possible for the District of Columbia, the Army Corps of Engineers and environmental education groups to develop Kingman and Heritage Island as a center for environmental education, a recreation site, and for restoration of the Anacostia River eco-system. Kingman and Heritage Islands were created by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1920's as part of the Anacostia Tidal Flats Reclamation project and were managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service (NPS) through 1996. At the request of the District, Congress dedicated the two islands to a child-oriented theme park in the National Children's Island Act of 1995. This Act transferred title of certain NPS property in Anacostia Park to the District of Columbia (District). These properties included Heritage Island and a portion of Kingman Island located within the District. However, the law includes a reversionary provision to the Department of Interior if a theme park was not built, necessitating this bill.

As times have changed, the District no longer believes that a theme park is the highest and best use of the space. Instead, the District announced plans to use Kingman Island as part of an initiative to help revitalize the River. The bill calls for a unique environmental natural reserve park to restore the ecosystem, provide usable open space for residents and visitors, and environmental education, including a September 11th Remembrance Grove. In my view, this is an even more appropriate use for Kingman Island. This use also buttresses my own work in the Congress on the Anacostia River, particularly the Anacostia Watershed legislation, which Congress has passed and whose implementation is now underway.

A renovated pedestrian bridge now provides access to these islands for environmental programs and the general public. Over 40 acres of tidal marsh in Kingman Lake are currently being restored through the combined efforts of the Army Corps, the District and local environmental teaching groups. The renovated islands will include a particularly appropriate memorial tree grove dedicated to the three District of Columbia schoolchildren who were victims of the September 11 terrorist attack. Self-guided trails and interpretive stations will instruct visitors about the abundant natural history of the Anacostia River and will track contemporary efforts to restore the river's wildlife, habitats and water quality.

This non-controversial, no-cost bill will have a positive effect on the deteriorating ecology of the region. Because the bill involves a District of Columbia property, it has little national significance except for residents of the region and visitors to the nation's capitol. The bill will serve all who are here or are visiting and therefore I intend to ask that the bill be put on the suspension calendar after review by the appropriate committee.

HONORING PEGGY COLLIER

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a local civil servant. Ms. Peggy Collier has served as a crossing guard at Highlands City Elementary School for forty years come this May of 2009, when she will retire. Ms. Collier began her career on May 1, 1969 and has since rarely missed a day of work. No matter the weather, almost nothing prevented this local Highway 98 icon from helping usher our children into their school day.

I wish to congratulate Ms. Collier for a long, successful career and I wish her well in retirement.

HONORING JOSH GREATHOUSE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

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

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

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

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL WILLIAM F. PITTS**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Lieutenant General William F. Pitts and his wife, Doris Pitts. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember these two incredible people who dedicated their lives in service to our country. On Tuesday, December 30, 2008, Lt. Gen. Pitts passed away at the age of 89. Doris followed eight weeks later on March 1, 2009.

Lt. Gen. Pitts' father was a career military officer. Lt. Gen. Pitts was born at March Field Hospital, located in Riverside, California, on Thanksgiving Day 1919. When he was 10 years old, Lt. Gen. Pitts took his first airplane ride and vowed to become an Air Force pilot. In 1943, he graduated from West Point and flew 25 World War II missions against Japan in a B-29 Superfortress. In his last mission in

the bomber, he was shot down off the coast of Japan but was able to parachute out of the plane and was rescued by a submarine.

After Lt. Gen. Pitts' heroic service during World War II, he was steadily promoted and earned three stars. He served as a NATO commander in Turkey, four tours at the Pentagon and also as a diplomat in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, England and Taiwan. In 1972, Lt. Gen. Pitts returned to March Air Force Base as the Commander of the 15th Air Force. His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with an oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Unit Citation Emblem with one oak leaf cluster and the Purple Heart.

In 1975, Lt. Gen. Pitts retired from the Air Force and he and his wife, Doris, made Riverside their permanent home in the 1990s. He was active in the March community during his retirement, helping to keep the base open during the Base Realignment and Closure process. In honor of his efforts, March erected a stone post at the parade grounds on the base. He was also a board member of the March Field Museum.

Doris Mansfield Pitts was born in New York City on January 17, 1924. She was the only daughter of Lillian and John Mansfield, a Spanish American War veteran and newspaper executive. She attended Barnard School in New York and worked for IBM during World War II. She met her husband at West Point and they were married following the war on December 22, 1948. She served her country as a supportive military wife, joining and complimenting her husband throughout his highly successful military career. Doris relocated her family settling in more than 15 locations during their time in the Air Force. Doris was a loving wife, mother of three daughters and grandmother to four grandchildren.

On December 22, 2008, Lt. Gen. Pitts celebrated his 60th anniversary with his wife Doris. Lt. Pitts and Doris are survived by their daughters Dale, Alisha and Linda; sister Nanetta Atkinson; and four grandchildren.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men like Lt. Gen. Pitts who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. In the case of Lt. Gen. Pitts, he was blessed to have the love and strength of his wonderful wife to help him along the way. Lt. Gen. Pitts and Doris Pitts were dear friends and above all, they were patriots. They will both be sorely missed but their legacy and service to our great nation will always be remembered.

HONORING JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of noted historian and visionary, John Hope Franklin.

I have a copy of Professor John Hope Franklin's book *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* in my office. The manual has been an invaluable reference text for me for many years. It was one of my college textbooks while I was an undergrad at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Born in 1915 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, John Hope Franklin was the grandson of a slave. He went on to become one of the most prolific chroniclers of civil rights history in America.

Professor Franklin was just 4 or 5 years old when he witnessed the horror of the Tulsa Race riots of 1921. Under Chairman CONYER's Judiciary Committee, I was fortunate enough to meet Professor Franklin in 2007. He came to testify in a hearing before Congress urging the passage of legislation that would clear the way for survivors of the riots in the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa to sue. The hearing's main effort was to extend the statute of limitations survivors' claims.

John Hope Franklin was a graduate of Fisk University, a historically African-American university in my home State of Tennessee; he received his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

In 1956, Dr. John Hope Franklin became the first African-American Chairman of the History Department at the all-white Brooklyn College.

Dr. Franklin's research contributed to the success of Thurgood Marshall and the Legal Defense Fund. Officially, Dr. Franklin was a part of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund team that helped develop the historic *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case that forever changed the face of public education in this country.

In 1982, he became the first African American professor to hold an endowed chair at Duke University.

In 1995, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in our country. Dr. Franklin received the National Freedom Award in 2007 from the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee for his influence over the state of civil and human rights in America.

Dr. John Hope Franklin has been honored by the nation's two oldest learned societies, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

John Hope Franklin integrated the African American narrative into the fabric of American history. He made us recognize that African American history is the history of all of us.

Currently the Judiciary Committee, Chairman CONYERS, and I are working on H.R. 1843, the John Hope Franklin Tulsa-Greenwood Race Riot Claims Accountability Act of 2009. H.R. 1843 provides that any Greenwood, Oklahoma, claimant (a survivor or heir/descendent of victims of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Race Riot of 1921) who has not previously obtained a determination on the merits of a Greenwood claim may, in a civil action commenced within five years after enactment of this Act, obtain that determination. Simply put, this is the legislation that stemmed from the 2007 hearing where I met Professor Franklin. This legislation extends the statute of limitations for survivors and survivors' claims.

Thank you, John Hope Franklin.

HONORING DOMINIC PALUMBO FOR
A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the North Haven Democratic Town Committee as well as the many family, friends, and community leaders who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and a man I am honored to call my friend, Dominic Palumbo. Entrepreneur, community leader, mentor, and friend, Dom has left an indelible mark on our community.

Dom has dedicated a lifetime of service to the town of North Haven, the State of Connecticut and our nation. Born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, Dom joined the Merchant Marines and later the armed forces where he fought in both World War II and the Korean War. Upon his return from military service, Dom and his family settled in North Haven where he began a successful business, North Haven Ceramic & Tile, and soon became an institution in town.

There are few who demonstrate the depth of commitment to their community as Dom has over the years. When he made North Haven his home, he quickly became involved in local issues and is perhaps best known in town for his enduring presence on the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Planning and Zoning Commission is one of those local boards which have a significant impact on the town as its responsibilities include the oversight of the overall development of a community—balancing the often competing demands of expansion and the quality of life for its residents. Dom served on that board for more than thirty years, at least ten of which as its Chairman, and in doing so helped to shape the very character of his community as it has grown.

Dom's contributions stretch far beyond the town of North Haven. Over the course of his life he has been involved in countless service and civic organizations which include serving as Director of the Quinnipiac Council of the Boy Scouts of America, a supporter of the Special Olympics, a sponsor of several Little League and Midget Football teams, as well as a founding member of the North Haven High School Sports Hall of Fame. The myriad of awards, commendations, and honors that he has received from groups ranging from the Knights of Columbus to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society are a testament to the difference that he has made.

Dom has long been a political leader in the North Haven community. As a founding member of the town's Democratic Town Committee, Dom has spent long hours advising and supporting candidates as they seek elected office—in North Haven and across the state, at every level of government. As a long-time member of the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee, he has also helped to shape Connecticut's Democratic Party. His commitment to public service and to improving his community has been an inspiration to candidates as they sought his guidance and direction.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to extend my sincerest thanks to Dom for his many years of special friendship.

Today along with his wife, Judith; his four children, Richard, Robert, Ronald and Raymond; and his four granddaughters, we pay tribute to Dominic Palumbo—a remarkable individual whose innumerable contributions have set an example of community service to which we should all strive.

HONORING MICHAEL ANGELO
HARTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Angelo Harter a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker. Today, I wish to join with my friends, family, and colleagues as we remember the murder of more than 6 million Jews and others killed during the Holocaust. Their memory must be preserved and the atrocities committed by the Nazis and their accomplices must be noted in order to ensure that such crimes against humanity will never be repeated.

We should also take time to remember the millions of others systematically murdered by the Nazis, including Gypsies, Poles, the handicapped, homosexuals, Jehovah's witnesses, political dissidents and prisoners of war.

This year, we recognize in particular the one and a half million children who perished during the Holocaust. It is estimated that mere thousands survived. Many of the survivors still with us today were children during the Second World War and lost many friends and relatives. Decades later, the horrors of the Holocaust are still etched in their memory and they serve as a reminder of the vulnerability of children in times of war. We must ensure that we protect those in every corner of the world that cannot defend themselves.

More than 60 years have passed since the Holocaust, yet racism and anti-Semitism still exist in the world. The troubling events from this past week's United Nations Summit on Racism in Geneva reinforce even more the need to mark this day. Iranian President Ahmadinejad's remarks remind us that we

need to remain vigilant about hate and misinformation. He has repeatedly distorted facts and denied that the Holocaust even existed. As citizens of the world, we remain alert and ensure that dictators and despots are never again able to commit genocide against any people in any corner of the globe.

In honor of their memory and to protect generations to come, we must never forget.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOUTH-
EAST ALASKA NATIVE LAND EN-
TITLEMENT FINALIZATION ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I, along with my distinguished colleagues, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. BOREN and Mr. SHULER introduce the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act. This legislation will redress the inequitable treatment of the Native Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska, Sealaska Corporation, by allowing it to select its remaining land entitlement under Section 14 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA, from designated Federal land in Southeast Alaska.

In 1971, Congress enacted ANCSA to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives. ANCSA allocated 44 million acres and nearly \$1 billion to Alaska's Native people, to be managed by the 12 Regional Corporations, including Sealaska, and more than 200 Village Corporations. While Sealaska is one of the Regional Corporations with the largest number of Native shareholders, with 21 percent of all original Native shareholders, Sealaska received the smallest Regional Corporation land settlement, which was less than 1 percent of the total of all ANCSA lands. Now, nearly four decades since ANCSA's passage, Sealaska is still without their full land entitlement.

It remains critical that Sealaska complete its remaining land entitlement under ANCSA to continue to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of its Native shareholders, and of the Native community throughout Alaska.

The Bureau of Land Management projects that Sealaska is entitled to receive between 355,000 and 375,000 acres pursuant to ANCSA. To date, over 35 years after ANCSA's enactment, Sealaska has secured conveyance of 290,000 acres. Accordingly, there are up to 85,000 acres remaining to be conveyed. However, ANCSA limits Sealaska land selections to withdrawal areas surrounding certain Native villages in Southeast Alaska. The problem is that there are no lands remaining in these withdrawal areas that meet Sealaska's traditional, cultural, historic, or socioeconomic needs, and certain portions of those lands should more appropriately remain in public ownership.

The selection limitations preclude Sealaska from using any of its remaining ANCSA land settlement to select places of sacred, cultural, traditional, and historic significance located outside the withdrawal areas that are critical to facilitate the perpetuation and preservation of Alaska Native culture and history. Moreover,

selection from the withdrawal areas would not allow Sealaska to meet the purposes of ANCSA, which is to create continued economic opportunities for the Native people of Southeast Alaska. Further, more than 40 percent of the original withdrawal areas are salt water and, therefore, not available for selection.

Despite the small land base in comparison to all other Regional Corporations, Sealaska has provided significant economic benefits to not only Sealaska Native shareholders, but also to the other Native Corporations throughout Alaska. Pursuant to a revenue sharing provision in ANCSA, Sealaska distributes considerable revenues derived from its timber development—more than \$315 million between 1971 and 2007—to the other Native Corporations. Unless it is allowed to select land outside of the designated withdrawal areas, Sealaska will not be able to select land that would allow it to maintain its existing resource development and management operations, or provide continued economic opportunities for the Native people of Southeast Alaska and economic benefits to the broader Alaska Native community through the revenue sharing requirements under ANCSA.

The legislation presents a solution that would allow Sealaska to complete the conveyance of its land entitlement and enable the Federal Government to complete its statutory obligation to the Natives of Southeast Alaska, as promised under ANCSA. I thank my colleagues and urge your support for this important legislation for the Native people of Southeast Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO BOY SCOUT TROOP 127

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Boy Scout Troop 127 as it celebrates its 90th anniversary on April 18, 2009. Troop 127 has played a crucial role in developing the character of over 1,000 boys, and continues to do so today with thirty-six Scouts.

Troop 127 was founded in 1919 (originally as Troop 7) with the Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring as its sponsoring organization. The Reverend William L. Mudge was the first Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 7, which began with 19 Scouts and grew to 46 by 1925. Troop 127 has a long history of more than 60 years of continued summer camping and service support to Keystone Area Council's Hidden Valley Scout Reservation in Loysville, Pennsylvania. Their outdoor hiking tradition includes extended trips across the country, including, Mt. Katandin, Mt. Washington, and Pisgah National Forest. These outdoor adventures, which span the Eastern United States but also include excursions as far away as Alaska and Florida, serve to educate and develop character amongst participants.

Boy Scout Troop 127 is currently led by The Reverend Wayne Lowe, Jr., Charles Q. Smith, and Scoutmaster Donn Schoonover. The leadership of these gentlemen and those that led the Troop in the past has inspired more than 125 youth to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Troop 127's contribution to the community and to Pennsylvania as a whole is without question. Troop 127's proud tradition of 90 years of Scouting service to the Greater Chambersburg and Franklin County Communities embodies the spirit of Scouting and serves to encourage Pennsylvania's boys to work hard and give back to their community. I congratulate Troop 127 in their celebration of the 90th anniversary of such a wonderful organization, as it has brought a greater appreciation to our area and has surely been an asset to the community.

HONORING GARRISON WESLEY PRIDDLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garrison Wesley Priddle a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SIMON WIESENTHAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to re-introduce the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Act, along with Representatives ACKERMAN, BERMAN, and HIGGINS. Named after a survivor of the Nazi death camps who dedicated his life to documenting the crimes of the Holocaust, the legislation would provide federal grants to Holocaust organizations to teach today's students about the Holocaust. I thank my friend Senator MENENDEZ for introducing the Senate companion bill this week as we commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day.

I also want to take this opportunity to remember our dear friend and colleague Chairman Tom Lantos, who passed away last year. The only Holocaust survivor elected to Congress, Tom translated his horrific experience into a lifetime commitment to Holocaust education and the fight against anti-Semitism.

As the generations who survived the Holocaust pass away, we must make sure that new generations know the horrors of that terrible time. We must also make sure that those who would deny the existence of the Holocaust do not have the ability to rewrite history.

Unfortunately, many young people around the country have not learned about the Holocaust because their schools do not have the funds or tools to teach about this tragic event in world history. We need programs in our schools that allow students to learn about the consequences of intolerance and hate.

The most effective way to counter prejudice, hate crimes and violence is through education: the best investment a society can make towards ensuring tolerance.

The Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act is a positive step toward that end.

ON THE NINETY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 94th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and to call, once again, for the immediate passage of the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

Between 1915 and 1923, a campaign conceived and executed by the Ottoman Empire forcibly deported nearly 2 million Armenians from their homes, resulting in the deaths of perhaps one and a half million innocents. While the target of this genocide was the Armenian people, it was indeed a crime against all of humanity. Today, I would like to ask this House to remember this great crime, and to commit ourselves once again to the absolute abolishment of genocide wherever it is committed.

The history surrounding this issue is clear. Genocide did occur, and ushered in what was to become possibly the most war-torn century of human history.

This House has had before it, for many years now, a resolution which properly affirms the United States record on the Armenian Genocide. I have been a strong supporter and cosponsor of this resolution every Congress, and I remain so today. It is long past time for this Congress to pass this resolution, which in the 111th Congress has been introduced as H. Res. 252.

The term "genocide" had not yet been coined in 1915, when the first Armenians were driven from their homes. The definition of this most profound crime against humanity came in 1944 from Raphael Lemkin, a Polish Jew who survived the Holocaust by fleeing to America after the fall of Warsaw to the Nazis. In the wake of World War Two, in which most of his family was lost in Hitler's genocide against the Jews, Lemkin led the international community to establish the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. Lemkin's definitive example of genocide? The crimes against the Armenians.

April is Genocide Prevention Month, and it is only right that we have set aside a period of time every year to reflect upon the horrors of the crime of genocide and to rededicate ourselves to ridding the earth of this scourge. And even as we commemorate the Armenian Genocide, we must also recognize the other crimes being committed today, and redouble

our efforts to stop them. Genocide is occurring today in the scorched towns of Darfur, in western Sudan. The genocide in Darfur is not new, the crimes of the Sudanese government and its militia allies are well known to all of us here. As with the Armenian Genocide, there is no factual debate about what is happening in Darfur. It is genocide. It is a crime against humanity. And it must stop immediately.

While much of this debate has been repeated year after year, this year we find ourselves in a particularly hopeful moment in regards to this decades-old conflict about what happened to the Armenians in the early 20th century. Just yesterday, the governments of Armenia and Turkey announced that, after a year of intensive talks mediated by the government of Switzerland and encouraged by the Obama administration, they have "agreed on a comprehensive framework for the normalization of their bilateral relations." This joint statement is an extremely important step for Armenia and Turkey, and I commend both countries and their political leadership for the courage they are showing today. The people of Armenia and Turkey have lived far too long with their bilateral relations in a state of suspended animation. It is time for these two proud countries to stand together, in acknowledgement of the difficulties of the past, with confidence that old wounds can be healed, and with a profound commitment to a better future.

Madam Speaker, I call upon this House once again to pass H. Res. 252, the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution. I thank all of my colleagues for commemorating the 94th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and joining together to reaffirm our commitment to end the crime of genocide wherever it is found. And on this spring day, at a time of rebirth and renewal, I commend Armenia and Turkey on the steps they are taking to fully normalize their bilateral relations, and I urge them to complete this process as soon as possible.

HONORING DEREK TYLER COX

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Derek Tyler Cox, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE "DURBAN II
COUNTER CONFERENCE"

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (AAJLJ), which organized the "Durban II Counter Conference" in New York City April 20–24, 2009, to provide an honest and critical examination of issues of racism, racial discrimination, genocide, xenophobia, gender discrimination and religious discrimination, in marked contrast to the hate-filled proceedings that occurred the same week in Geneva.

The Counter Conference commenced with remarks by my distinguished colleague from New York, Representative CAROLYN MALONEY, and included presentations by our parliamentary colleagues from Canada—Senator Jeremiah Grafstein and former minister Irwin Cotler—and Israel's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Daniel Carmon, along with prominent experts and human rights advocates from the academic and legal communities. The panels included topics that should be part of any serious discussion on racism, such as "A Look at Religious Intolerance and Discrimination," "Current Issues in Gender Discrimination," and "Genocide in Darfur, Rwanda and the Congo." Too many of these topics are ignored in the UN and I am pleased that the Durban II Counter Conference focused on them.

I want to particularly recognize the lead organizers of the event—AAJLJ president Stephen Greenwald, conference chair Robert Weinberg and conference vice chair Marc Landis, along with Ambassador Richard Schifter, former United States Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Ambassador Schifter delivered the keynote address at the conference, entitled "The Third Totalitarian Threat," which I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE U.N.'S CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY—ADDRESS BY RICHARD SCHIFTER, FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN THE U.N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FORMER U.S. DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE IN THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL TO THE DURBAN II "COUNTER-CONFERENCE" AT FORDHAM LAW SCHOOL IN NEW YORK CITY ON APRIL 20, 2009

If Adolf Hitler had lived to 120, today would be the day he died. While he has, fortunately, not been bodily with us for the past 64 years, his spirit, regrettably, is still alive and very much alive in Geneva this week. As we have focused on Durban II, we have appropriately remembered Durban I, where anti-Israeli propaganda initially intertwined with antisemitism. Whatever product the wordsmiths may come up with, the dominant forces in Geneva will have seen to it that the anti-Israel message of Durban I is reaffirmed.

There is no doubt that Durban I and Durban II are matters of serious concern. Yet, as we examine the context in which these UN-sponsored conferences are held, we must necessarily come to the conclusion that the anti-Israel and antisemitic phenomenon of these meetings is only the tip of the UN iceberg. Or, to use another metaphor, we deal at this Durban II meeting, as we did at Durban I, with only a symptom of the debilitating disease from which the UN suffers.

The perfectly legitimate and highly worthy cause of opposition to racism, which is the alleged reason for these gatherings, was from the very start subverted by the totalitarians that dominate the UN General Assembly and who are making full use of the Assembly and its offshoots in their continuing campaign against democracy, civil liberties, and the rule of law. They are engaged in a campaign against the basic principles of the Enlightenment, principles that were enshrined in the UN Charter.

What we are witnessing now worldwide is the third major totalitarian attack on these principles. In its modern form the ideology of democracy and human rights emanated from the Netherlands in the 17th Century and then spread to the United States, England, France, Germany in the 18th and 19th Centuries, and beyond that region in the 20th Century. It is no longer a way of governing limited to the West. India, it is worth keeping in mind, has for many years been the world's largest democracy. Japan and South Korea are democracies and so are many smaller non-Western countries.

It is indeed appropriate that we are meeting on the day that marks not only the opening of Durban II, but also the day once known in Germany as the *Geburtstag des Fuehrers*, the birthday of the leader. For it was Hitler who led the initial totalitarian attack on the Enlightenment, turning first on the democratic process in his own country and then seeking to bring all of Europe under his control.

In the course of the 20th Century we experienced not only Hitler's attack on the Enlightenment, which led to World War II, but also Stalin's repressive and expansionist policies, which precipitated the Cold War. Both World War II and the Cold War were conflicts resulting from profound differences in ideology. And now, in the 21st Century, we, whose way of life is based on the principles of the Enlightenment, are the objects of the third totalitarian attack, an attack undertaken, strange as it may seem, by an informal de facto alliance of neo-fascists and neo-communists, an alliance that unites Mahmoud Akhmadinejad with Hugo Chavez.

The proceedings in Geneva at the Durban II meeting are vivid proof to the world of what that new alliance seeks to accomplish. Under the mantle of opposition to racism, it seeks to attack the Western world and our basic concepts of freedom. Its manipulation of significant human rights issues is well illustrated by its approach to the issue of slavery. It is only the wrongful transatlantic slave trade that is attacked. The slave trade in East Africa, undertaken by non-Westerners, including Arabs, is deliberately omitted. Nor is there any mention in the Durban II drafts of the racist aspect of the current conflict in Darfur, which Colin Powell has correctly characterized as genocidal.

While there is a need for us to follow the Durban II proceedings closely for what they reveal regarding the agenda of the new totalitarians, we need also to recognize that Durban II is just one forum of a much larger enterprise, an enterprise that makes full use of the United Nations system to advance its cause, the cause of the new totalitarianism. Israel, I submit, is the canary in the coal mine. The new totalitarians view as their enemies all those who are committed to the way of life that emanated from the Enlightenment.

I have been around long enough to remember the speech given by Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia in 1936 at a session of the League of Nations Assembly to appeal for action against Mussolini's Italy, which had invaded his country. In his speech he warned: "It is collective security: it is the very existence of the League of Nations. It is

the confidence that each State is to place in international treaties. . . . In a word, it is international morality that is at stake."

The Emperor's words were heard but no meaningful action was taken. The League quietly faded from the world scene as World War II approached. It had failed in its mission. When the League's successor, the UN, was created in 1945, it was hoped that it would function far better than its predecessor. It is now 64 years later. As we look at the UN Charter's very first statement of purpose for the United Nations, that of maintaining international peace and security, we can hardly say that UN's record in that field has been a resounding success. International morality remains at risk.

The world's inability to use the UN to advance the cause of international peace and security does not mean that none of the purposes of the Charter have been served by the UN system. If we drop from Article 1 paragraph 1 of the UN Charter, which refers to the maintenance of international peace and security, to paragraph 3, we shall find the statement of another purpose of the UN: "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms."

While the Security Council was hamstrung by the Soviet Union's "nyet" to efforts to maintain peace, the democracies, constituting a majority of the General Assembly in the early years of the UN, went to work to implement paragraph 3. In 1946, following up on the Charter's promise that the UN would promote respect for human rights, the Assembly established the UN Human Rights Commission. Under the leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, the Commission promptly went to work on drafting the document which became known as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration, reflecting fully the thoughts of John Locke, as expressed in 1689 in his "Two Treatises of Government" and incorporated a hundred years later into the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen and into the U.S. Bill of Rights, spelled out with specificity precisely what was meant by the term "human rights." It is appropriate to note that in 1948, when the Universal Declaration was adopted by the UN General Assembly by the affirmative vote of 48 of its 56 members, no member voted "no." Eight members, 6 Soviet bloc states plus Saudi Arabia and South Africa abstained.

In these early years of the UN's existence, the General Assembly also created other entities whose task it was to implement the UN's commitment to humanitarian work, such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children Fund, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all three of which have done highly useful work in their respective fields and are functioning well to this day.

The truly creative period of the UN General Assembly came to an end around 1970. It came to an end as a result of the extraordinarily clever maneuvering of the totalitarians represented at the UN and the failure of the democracies to match their clever manipulations. From the founding of the UN until the 1960s, the Soviet bloc had consistently been outvoted by the democracies at the UN. That was now to come to an end.

As it was, the diplomats representing the Soviet Union and its East European satellites at the United Nations lacked the finesse needed to succeed in a parliamentary setting in which mere bluster would not suffice to win votes. But they found a close ally who had the skills needed to build a new majority bloc in the United Nations General Assembly. It was Fidel Castro.

Castro assembled a highly competent cadre of diplomats, who took on the task of building an international network of institutions that would operate in opposition to the United States. Though he was clearly aligned with the Soviet bloc, Castro got Cuba admitted to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and in due course turned the Non-Aligned and a parallel organization, the Group of 77 (G-77), into mouthpieces for the Moscow line.

An important step on the way toward taking control of the NAM and the G-77 organizations was for Castro to link up with the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. At its September 1973, where Castro sought to line up the NAM with Moscow, he was initially challenged by Muammar Qaddafi, who wanted the Non-Aligned to remain truly non-aligned. It was at that point that Castro appears to have realized how he could best attain his goal: he broke diplomatic relations with Israel and added Israel to the United States on his and the entire Soviet bloc's enemies list.

Castro had no genuine interest in the Palestinian cause. The purpose of his move in 1973 and in Cuba's key role since that time in the anti-Israel effort at the UN was to build a strong bloc at the UN of opponents of the United States. He was aware of the fact that between 1959 and 1972, the membership of the United Nations had increased by more than 60%, from 82 to 132. 35 of the additional 50 members belonged to the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which had been founded in 1969, or were newly-independent African states, or both. What Castro was well aware of was that by breaking ties with Israel, he would be able to get Qaddafi's help in lining up the votes of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. But there was still the question of how to reach out to those African states that did not belong to the OIC.

It did not take the Castro and Qaddafi alliance very long to find an answer to that question. Only weeks after the September 1973 NAM summit, the General Assembly considered a resolution that called for more pressure on South Africa to end the apartheid regime. The clique that had begun to manipulate the UN chose Burundi to offer an amendment which referred to "the unholy alliance between Portuguese colonialism, South African racism, Zionism and Israeli imperialism." The amendment was adopted by a two-to-one majority. By linking Zionism with South African racism, many of the non-Muslim states of Africa were brought into the new alliance. This was the first shot in the drumfire that has continued at the UN to this very day.

The government of Burundi of those days brought truly unique qualifications to the discussion of racism. In the preceding year, the army of Burundi, led by Tutsis, had killed about 100,000 Hutus, for no reason other than their ethnicity. I should add that Burundi is a vastly different country today. In recent years its voting record on Israel-related issues at the UN has been one of the better records. Still, the Burundi initiative of 1973, undoubtedly initiated by the anti-democratic clique, was the first effort to use the issue of Israel to bring sub-Saharan African states into the anti-democratic bloc at the UN.

In the memoir of his year at the UN, entitled *A Dangerous Place* Pat Moynihan quotes from a letter that he had received from Leon Gordenker, a professor of international relations at Princeton and an expert on the United Nations, who had called Moynihan's attention to the Burundi initiative in the fall of 1973. In 1975 Gordenker wrote Moynihan to complain about the failure of the United States to engage in a concerted effort at the UN to win votes: "Surely

a government that can negotiate with China and the Soviet Union can organize enough persuasiveness to reduce the production of pernicious symbolism and to win the support from sensible regimes for human rights."

In his memoir Moynihan explains the reason for this failure: "American diplomacy put overwhelming emphasis on seeking friendly relations with individual other countries. The institutional arrangement for this was the ambassador and his embassy. To get an embassy was the great goal of the career officer; having achieved it, his final object was to be judged a successful ambassador by maintaining friendly relations. Anything that interfered with this goal was resisted by the system. In recent years, and notably in the new nations, the one aspect of foreign policy that could most interfere with this object was the voting behavior of so many of the small or new nations in multilateral forums, behavior hostile to the United States. In consequence the 'bilateral system' resisted, and usually with success, the effort to introduce multilateral considerations into its calculations."

These words, let us note, were written in 1975. It is now 34 years later. They are as relevant today as they were then. Our mission to the UN lacks the needed back-up in the capitals of UN member states.

That back-up is needed because of the vastly different manner in which our mission operates when compared to our principal opponents. Once a Cuban diplomat is assigned to the UN he stays there and, over the years, truly learns the business of multilateral diplomacy. As he continues in the UN system, he watches his counterparts from other countries arrive, begin to learn the routine, and then depart as their tour of duty at the UN comes to an end, and they are replaced by a new set of diplomats who have to learn the UN routine from scratch.

There is another aspect to the Cuban performance. While there are missions to the UN that operate under specific instructions from their respective governments, there are many other missions that receive no specific instructions, allowing their representatives at the UN to make their own decisions on how to vote. It is that aspect of the UN system that has been fully utilized in building the anti-democratic bloc. For one, arrangements are made for missions to be rewarded for their cooperation by being elected to positions in the UN system that are of special interest to them. For another, an informal job placement service operates at the UN that enables relatives of cooperating diplomats to obtain jobs in the UN Secretariat. As one diplomat once put it to me: "After you have been at the UN for a little while, you start playing the UN game and you forget about your country."

There is more to it than that. I recall an incident from the time in which I represented the United States in the UN Human Rights Commission. Having done the needed parliamentary work, I had gotten a resolution adopted that the Cubans had opposed. Immediately following the vote, the Cuban representative rose to accuse me of having bribed some of the representatives so that they would vote with the United States. After the meeting had adjourned, I asked colleagues from other missions whether that really happens at the UN. They all thought I was terribly naive. "Of course it happens," they said. "The Cubans do it all the time. So do the Libyans."

I am sure you agree that we should not pay bribes to ambassadors. But I have not found it easy to understand why we were under specific instructions at the UN never to suggest any relationship between U.S. foreign assistance and UN voting. I recognize that we should understand why Egypt or Pakistan

would vote against the U.S. at the UN, but why, for example, should we not make it clear to the Philippines or Vietnam, which during the current fiscal year receive about \$100 million, each in U.S. foreign assistance that our resources are limited and that these limited resources will, in the first instance, be made available to states that are prepared to reciprocate our friendship?

During my stay at the UN I also learned how the leaders of the anti-democratic forces transmit their voting instructions to their following. The explanation that democratic members of the NAM or the G-77 offer to explain their anti-democratic votes is that they vote the NAM or the G-77 "consensus." That raises the question of how that consensus is reached.

I was offered an explanation by an ambassador from a NAM state with whom I was having lunch. In the course of our conversation he asked me whether I knew how the NAM consensus was formed. When I told him that I did not know, he said: "You know, we used to be on the other side." By that he meant on the pro-Soviet side. He continued by telling me that on the day preceding any meeting of the NAM caucus, which had 101 members at that time, the friends of the Soviet Union, about 17 or 18 states, would have a special meeting. When they were all assembled, a small group would enter the room, always including Cubans. That group would then give out instructions on how the assembled representatives should act when they met the next day at the meeting of the full NAM caucus. Each representative would be assigned a specific task, to make a motion on a position to be taken by the NAM, to be the first speaker in support of a motion, or to be the second speaker in support. Then, the next day, when the full caucus met, the whole scenario would be played out. My colleague concluded his account of NAM procedure by saying: "And there sits the silent majority and just goes along."

To return to the events following the 1973 Burundi amendment to the anti-apartheid resolution: as we so well know, having developed the theme of correlating Zionism with apartheid, the other side did not let go. At the International Women's Year Conference in July 1975 in Mexico City a resolution was adopted which called for the elimination of Zionism, apartheid and racial discrimination. The news from Mexico City focused, of course, on the emphasis that had been placed on the rights of women. But it was in that setting, a setting that emphasized the need for progress for women that another totally unrelated step had been taken in the Zionism is racism campaign. Then, in November of that year that formula was made UN doctrine by the UN General Assembly by its adoption of the "Zionism is Racism" resolution, by a vote of 72 to 35 with 32 abstaining. Confirming the bargain that had been struck, the new controlling alliance put together by Castro and Qaddafi furnished 68 of the 72 affirmative votes. Brazil and Mexico, Cyprus and Malta provided the remaining four. A majority of the "no" votes was provided by the Western Group, but the Western Group was joined by Latin American, Caribbean and sub-Saharan African states. In addition, many of these non-Western states abstained.

What deserves mention is that if Mexico had voted "no" rather than "yes" or if Colombia and Guatemala had joined the United States in voting "no" rather than abstaining, the resolution would have been adopted only if the General Assembly had voted that the resolution was not "important." That is so because with these minor vote changes, the resolution would not have received the two-thirds vote required by the Charter for important resolution. I am mentioning these

details to underline the validity of Moynihan's observation that our side does not do the needed parliamentary spade work at the UN. That is, as noted, in sharp contrast to the extraordinarily effective work done by the Cubans to this day. My guess is that they were well aware of the two-thirds majority requirement and worked hard to attain that result.

I have described how the Zionism is racism campaign got started. Now let us move fast forward to December 22, 2007, when the UN General Assembly had before it a resolution that authorized the allocation of about \$7 million to fund the operation of a committee, chaired by Libya, whose task it was to prepare Durban II. The resolution passed by a vote of 105 to 46. The fact that the "no" vote fell only slightly short of one-third plus 1 is important because the resolution raised a budgetary question and resolutions that raise budgetary questions require a two-thirds majority for adoption. If we had picked up 7 of the 41 abstentions or absences, Durban II would not have been funded.

Now let us take a look at how Durban II came about by comparing the December 2007 vote to the Zionism is Racism vote of November 1975. Here is what we find:

(1) Most of the Western states once again voted "no," although a few, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, and Switzerland switched to "abstain."

(2) The 25 Western states have now been joined by 18 East European states, some of which had voted "yes" in 1974. Others had not been in existence then, having been republics of the Soviet Union or Yugoslavia. Three Asian UN members also voted "no." They were South Korea, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

(3) Most of the Latin American, Caribbean and African states that had voted "no" on "Zionism and Racism" in 1975 voted for funding Durban II in 2007.

As we make this comparison between the 1975 vote and the corresponding 2007 vote, we need to note that in the interim, in 1991, the Zionism is Racism resolution was repealed by a vote of 111 to 25. The repeal was the result of a major effort, undertaken by the then Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, John Bolton. The substantial margin of victory for our side was also the result of the fact that the Soviet bloc had dissolved, the Soviet Union was disintegrating, and the anti-democratic coalition at the UN was in utter disarray.

But this disarray did not last long. The anti-democratic forces at the UN quickly regained their footing and were soon again in full operation. While they used to fly the flag of the Non-Aligned Movement in earlier decades, they now sail under the flag of the Group of 77. There is only one significant difference between the NAM and the G-77. China does not belong to the former, but belongs to the latter. In fact the G-77 calls itself now the "Group of 77 and China." China has become an increasingly significant player in the anti-democratic camp at the UN.

China, incidentally, is one country that has no history of antisemitism. On the contrary, Chinese intellectuals see parallels between their ancient culture and the ancient culture of the Hebrews. China has also excellent trade relations with Israel. But at the UN, China consistently votes against Israel. It does so because it is an integral part of the group of member states that use the UN to embarrass the democracies.

As we watch the totalitarians at work in Geneva, using the UN umbrella in their attacks on the basic principles on which the UN was founded, it is understandable that there are many observers who are prepared to give up on the UN. The response that I

want to offer to these pessimists is that while we can clearly identify the symptoms of the disease from which the UN suffers, it is a disease from which it can be cured. What is needed is for the governments of the democracies, particularly of the United States, to engage in more effective parliamentary work at the UN.

Let us take a look at the roll calls on the two votes that I have cited the 1975 Zionism is Racism vote and the 2007 Durban II funding vote. On the first of these the "no" vote was 32.7%. On the second it was 30.5%, an insignificant difference in the percentages. As we look at this almost imperceptible change in percentages, we should note that the Freedom House categorizations for 1975 and 2007 show a wholly different pattern. In 1975, Freedom House classified 27% of the UN membership as free. In 2007 the percentage of free countries was 46%, a major increase.

Why was that difference not reflected in the votes on the two resolutions? Our side had indeed picked up Eastern Europe's new democracies. But we had lost the support of many Latin American, Caribbean, and African states, most of them fellow-democracies. The additional votes cast for our side were not the result of any diplomatic effort on our part. They reflected the political beliefs of the new East European democracies. The democracies whose votes we lost, on the other hand, were lost as a result of a failure on our part to engage them fully on UN issues, combined with the extraordinarily clever manipulation by the other side.

So, as we watch Durban II unfold, let us keep in mind that effecting change at the UN is not a hopeless cause. The percentage of UN member states that Freedom House classifies as "not free" is down to 22%. Under these circumstances should it not be possible for the democracies to return the UN to the principles spelled out in the Charter? I submit it can be done if the United States Government will commit itself to spend the time and energy needed to attain that goal. And it is our task, as citizens, to urge our Government to do just that.

Let me conclude my remarks by expressing the thanks of all of us assembled here to those whose idea it was to arrange for this counter-conference and who did the necessary organizational work. All of us who believe in the fundamental principles on which the United Nations were founded need to stand up against those who are fully engaged in efforts to subvert them. That is what this counter-conference is doing. And we shall overcome!

HONORING STEVEN MICHAEL
KINNAMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Michael Kinnaman a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Michael Kinnaman

for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STAFFORD CONNECTICUT FIRE DEPARTMENT NO. 1

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th Anniversary of the Stafford, Connecticut Fire Department No. 1. For 75 years the men and women of this department have dedicated themselves to protecting the people and the community in which they serve.

While the department was not formally incorporated until November 11, 1936, it began its work in Stafford on May 10, 1934 in the B. Schwanda and Sons button factory. The eight founding members later began meeting in an unused garage and dance hall that later became incorporated into station 145. While membership grew over the next ten years, a shortage of able bodied men during World War II forced the department to allow members of the Junior Fire Department over the age of 14 to join the full department.

In June 1949, a committee was formed to begin work on plans for a new firehouse located on Colburn Road. Just a few years later, this new department was built to house the members, vehicles and equipment. That structure is still used to this day as the home base for the ET-145, ET-245, Rescue 145, Forestry 145, Service 145 and Marine 145. In 1953, the department won first prize in a statewide contest conducted by the Hartford County Mutual Fire Insurance Company as the volunteer department with the most improved facility with the best fire prevention program available.

In March of 1956, under the leadership of then chief Benjamin Muzio, the Auxiliary of the Stafford Fire Department No. 1 was organized to assist the department with fundraising efforts to acquire necessary equipment and supplies. Through the years, the Auxiliary has raised funds through a variety of events including the annual chicken BBQ that draws people from communities far and wide every year.

The men and women of this department have put their lives on the line for the past 75 years and they deserve our thanks and praise. On behalf of the people of Connecticut's Second Congressional district, I want to thank you for your service.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMENDING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, from April 12-18, 2009, our nation celebrated National Library Week and the vital role that these insti-

tutions and their dedicated staff play in supporting our communities. On April 22, 2009, the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 336, supporting the goals and ideals of National Library Week and encouraging Americans to take full advantage of these wonderful public resources.

In Oregon, we pride ourselves on our strong community and a commitment to quality of life and education. Public libraries are a vital piece of this fabric and, in fact, Oregon has the second highest circulation of public library materials in the nation and the only 5-star library in the Northwest. As the economic downturn has pushed family budgets to the brink, these resources are more important than ever. In addition to public reading and visual materials, libraries offer Internet and computer access for all, free of charge. Many also serve as community spaces for gatherings and events.

Another library that deserves recognition is our very own Library of Congress. In 2008, to highlight the world-class work of this institution I formed the Library of Congress Caucus, now nearly 50 Members strong. I have the distinct honor of co-chairing this bipartisan organization with my friend Congressman ZACH WAMP. Our goal is to draw further attention to the nation's library, its collections and curators, and to encourage further use by Members of Congress and the public alike.

The Library of Congress not only houses the much-appreciated Congressional Research Service, it also offers 1.6 million visitors access to 15 million primary-source documents and operates the Veteran's History Project and the Surplus Books Program. One of my favorite programs, the Surplus Books Program is an innovative book donation program, through which Members may send library materials to the schools and libraries in their home district. At a time when funding for libraries is scarce, this is a simple way to reduce book waste and distribute excess resources to our communities and schools where they are needed most.

I strongly encourage members to take advantage of these extraordinary programs and resources, and congratulate all our nation's libraries, librarians, and library-enthusiasts.

CHRISTOPHER ALLEN CARPENTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Carpenter of Kansas City, Missouri. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities and 29 merit badges. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned titles such as Den Chief and Patrol Guide, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

CELEBRATING THE CORNBREAD FESTIVAL OF SOUTH PITTSBURG, TENNESSEE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of South Pittsburg, Tennessee on their 13th annual National Cornbread Festival. In 1996, a group of residents in this small city of 3,500 decided to take action to promote economic activity, which had waned as surrounding areas developed and a newly constructed highway directed traffic away from South Pittsburg's local businesses.

The goals of the Cornbread Festival were to promote the unique sights, sounds, tastes, and history of South Pittsburg and, Madam Speaker, they have done a fine job. Each year, during the last weekend in April, people have traveled from across the country and around the world to take part in the vibrant heritage of southeast Tennessee. This festival, which has been featured several times in national publications and on the Food Network, celebrates the southern delicacy of cornbread and the culture that surrounds it. Local artists and musicians keep the region's great traditions alive. Visitors can also see the great history of the local cast-iron industry around which South Pittsburg grew, and which still produces the skillets used to make the world's best cornbread.

Most importantly, Madam Speaker, this festival has made a great contribution to the community that created it and continues to run it. Proceeds from the National Cornbread Festival have been used to landscape streets, help build athletic fields, and support Boy Scouts, schools, daycares, and libraries. It serves as an economic driver which has helped to revitalize downtown South Pittsburg and its local businesses. It is a true testament to the power of community involvement and self-determination.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate South Pittsburg on a thirteenth year of what I hope will be a longstanding tradition. I encourage my colleagues and the American people to take note of the National Cornbread Festival and to consider a trip to see what's cooking in South Pittsburg, Tennessee.

HONORING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize a day of great historical significance to my constituents and this nation.

On April 30, 1975, the city of Saigon fell to communism. This day was a somber day marked by hardship and loss of life for both Vietnamese and Americans. Thousands of people fled Vietnam by boat from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s. One half of those who fled by boat did not survive the journey.

Indeed, many Vietnamese-Americans come from a line of brave folks who left an oppressive regime to search for freedom. Citizens of

Vietnamese descent form a key, politically active group of Americans. They truly know the meaning of the term "American," and they value freedom, democracy, and liberty.

My constituents, as part of the Vietnamese Community in Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland, will commemorate the 34th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on Saturday. And so, Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement of recognition of this historic day.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the significance of this day.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
GILL P. BECK

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brigadier General (BG) Gill P. Beck, who has been selected by Appalachian State University's (ASU) Alumni Association to be the sole recipient of its 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award in a ceremony to be held this Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Broyhill Inn in Boone, North Carolina.

General Beck was selected for this honor due to his remarkable record of leadership and service to the public in both his professional and military careers, and for his many contributions to civic and charitable causes in his community.

A third-generation Mountaineer and third-generation North Carolina attorney, Gill Beck attended Appalachian State from 1974 to 1978 on a football and academic scholarship. Describing himself as "the slowest quarterback in the state" in high school, he showed his "coachability" by switching positions and playing center in college. Three years later, he was named team captain and distinguished himself as the team's best blocker. A three time All-Southern Conference first-team selection, he was selected as ASU's athlete of the year during his senior year.

While at ASU, he distinguished himself academically as well, making the Chancellor's List all eight semesters, twice being named an Academic All-American, graduating second in his class with a 3.98 grade-point average and earning an Army ROTC scholarship to study law at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. After graduating with High Honors from law school, he entered the Army JAG Corps, where he spent the next six years on active duty and represented the Army in a wide variety of litigation matters.

A resident of Greensboro, Beck has served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Middle District of North Carolina since 1992. He currently serves as the Chief of the Civil Division, United States Attorney's Office, where he is responsible for directing all civil litigation against or for the United States within the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, as well as prosecuting criminal forfeitures that involve drug or money laundering offenses. As a federal prosecutor, he has spearheaded a number of high-profile civil actions, including several that involve the fight against fraud and whose resolution protected the rights and interests of taxpayers. In 1997, the U.S. Department of Jus-

tice presented Gill Beck with its highest award, the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, for his initiative and success in one such action that recovered more than \$180 million for taxpayers.

Since completing his initial active duty tour in the Army, Gill Beck has continued his military service as an Officer and Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army Reserve. In a promotion ceremony at Fort Myer, Virginia, in December 2008 that was presided over by the Judge Advocate General of the Army, Lieutenant General Scott C. Black, Beck "pinned on" the rank of Brigadier General after being nominated by President Bush and being confirmed by the United States Senate. In an investiture ceremony that day, BG Beck was also installed as the Chief Judge, U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals (IMA), U.S. Army Legal Services Agency (USALSA).

BG Beck's previous military assignments include Commander, 12th Legal Support Organization, Staff Judge Advocate Task Force 134 (Operation Iraqi Freedom), Staff Judge Advocate, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, and Brigade Judge Advocate, 108th Division (Institutional Training), and a total of thirteen years on active duty with tours in the 1st Infantry Division, 3d Armored Division, 82nd Airborne Division, and Litigation Division (USALSA).

Madam Speaker, during his 2005 tour of duty in Iraq, then-Colonel Beck and his family provided an illustration of just how important the initiative and contributions of individual members of our armed forces and their military spouses "back home" are to the success of our military operations and humanitarian endeavors abroad. What began as a simple personal request to his wife, Mary Jo, to send toys, trinkets and candy to present to the Iraqi children turned quickly into a community-wide effort. "Operation Toy Drive," which was coordinated by Mary Jo and her friend, Hillary Bouknight, resulted in the collection of tens of thousands of items that were transported by a U.S. based charity, Operation Give, and shipped by FedEx (without charge I might add) to the U.S. military for distribution by our U.S. service men and women to the children of Iraq. Indeed, not only did Mary Jo orchestrate the effort but the entire Beck family, including his sons, Gill Jr. and Jon, got into the act. In addition to collecting toys from others, Jon even donated a bear he had received for his birthday.

Before concluding my remarks, I'd also like to make mention of BG Beck's outstanding commitment to his profession and voluntary service with the N.C. Bar Association (NCBA). He has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the NCBA, past Chair of the NCBA's Government and Public Sector Section, and while deployed to Iraq in 2005, was selected to receive the association's Government and Public Sector's Distinguished Attorney Award as North Carolina's top government and public sector attorney. In describing why he was chosen for the award, Linda Miles, the city attorney of Greensboro stated, "Gill Beck embodies all of the virtues of a public servant. He is a person of integrity, honesty and loyalty in his service to his country in every way."

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would just note that BG Beck and his family are among those who represent the best of America. His dedication to duty, reputation for integrity, and commitment to improving the well-being of

others, whether in his hometown and state or more than half a world removed, are exemplary. I am happy to convey my personal best wishes to General Beck and his family and ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in recognizing BG Beck not only on the occasion of his fitting selection as Appalachian State University's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for 2009, but also for his lifetime of service and commitment to others.

COMMENDING PAUL MCGILL OF
HUNTERDON COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Paul McGill of Hunterdon County for his outstanding efforts on behalf of the Shannon Daley Memorial Fund. The Shannon Daley Memorial Fund was established by approximately 70 Hunterdon County members of the Readington Men's Basketball League who came together to raise money and support for families of children suffering with catastrophic illnesses.

On Friday, April 24, 2009, Paul McGill will be recognized by the United Way of Hunterdon County as their Community Volunteer of the Year. The evening will celebrate Paul's volunteerism and recognize his achievements as the officer and chief operating officer for the Shannon Daley Memorial Fund.

Paul has devoted significant portions of his personal time to insure the continued success of the charity—which includes a significant amount of time devoted to fundraising. In addition to fundraising, Paul provides extensive leadership for the Shannon Daley Fund and has developed close personal relationships with Hunterdon County residents and businesses to support the cause. He has done and continues to do an outstanding job to help families in need.

For those who know Paul, he is a true inspiration, an exemplary volunteer and an outstanding community leader. Paul McGill has truly made a difference in the lives of so many families in Hunterdon County and I am proud of his efforts.

I am pleased to share the good deeds of Paul McGill with my colleagues in the United States Congress and with the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARONESS
CAROLINE COX OF QUEENSBURY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize The Honorable Baroness Caroline Cox of Queensbury on the occasion of her visit to Michigan during the week of April 24, the day set to commemorate the 1915 commencement of the genocide of the Armenian peoples. During her visit, Baroness Cox continues her tireless mission to educate and promote awareness of the present-day status of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh and oppressed peoples around the world.

In particular, Baroness Cox will be visiting Oakland University in Michigan's 9th District where she will lecture and celebrate the University's Institute for Research, Education & Advocacy for Children's Health—R.E.A.C.H. The mission of R.E.A.C.H. furthers and embodies the life's work of Baroness Cox. Using her formal educational training in nursing, sociology and economics, Baroness Cox has been a prolific author and advocate of human rights around the globe. The Humanitarian Relief Trust which she established in 2005 provides resources, aid and training to peoples living in extreme poverty and under oppression. She is known for her personal and hands-on work targeting the "no-go" areas of the world to provide humanitarian aid and relief. Though she spends nearly half her time on international missions, she cherishes her role in the British Parliament as the "voice of the voiceless."

Baroness Cox, I welcome you to Michigan's 9th District and salute your untiring and steadfast commitment to improving the human condition in some of the most challenging areas of the world—Sudan, Burma, Nigeria and East Timor, among others. We are fortunate that you have so ardently acted on your "inherent tendency" to help others and made it your life's mission. Your wise admonition to us all rings as true today as ever, "We can't do everything . . . however, we can all do something."

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF
UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITI-
ZENS (LULAC) COUNCIL #10

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council #10 from Davenport, Iowa on their 50th anniversary.

LULAC Council #10 was established in 1959 to support the strong, multi-generational Latino community that has thrived in Davenport and broader Quad Cities area since the early 1900s. The Council #10 founders' goals were to advance the economic conditions, educational attainment, political participation, housing, health and civil rights of Latino families and workers. At that time it was not uncommon for local businesses to discriminate against Latino workers, and many Latino children were falling behind in school because their English skills were not adequate. Despite these challenges the Latino population made great strides in the Quad Cities community while preserving their culture and values.

Since its inception, LULAC Council #10 has worked with local school districts to create bilingual education opportunities and English as a Second Language programs. These programs have been so successful that they are now used to help the growing Vietnamese student population in Davenport. Council #10 maintains a local scholarship program to give Latino students opportunities to continue their education. The club hosts a senior meal program, organizes multiple festivals celebrating Latino cultures, and works tirelessly with local

unions and employers to avert discrimination in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, LULAC Council #10 has a proud history and its members have made great contributions to Davenport and our country. I congratulate Council #10 on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
CULPEPER, VIRGINIA ON ITS
250TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Town of Culpeper as it celebrates its 250th anniversary this Friday, April 24th, 2009.

The Town of Culpeper is located at the eastern base of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Piedmont River Valley. It has a legendary history that dates clear back to the American Revolution when a group of local residents organized themselves as the Culpeper Minute Men Battalion in 1775 and were called upon to fight in the Revolution and throughout campaigns in the 19th and 20th Centuries. Both Confederate and Union troops occupied the Town during the Civil War. In fact, during the winter of 1863 and 1864, more than 100,000 Union troops occupied the town as its strategic railroad location made it an important supply station for both Confederate and Union troops. The town witnessed more than 100 battles during the war and many homes were used for military housing and hospitals.

After the Civil War, the Town of Culpeper grew to become a thriving regional marketing hub. Even today the town continues to evolve. With a population of approximately 15,000, it has rebuilt itself to become a Virginia Main Street Community with a lively historic downtown. It was even named once as one of "America's Top 10 Small Towns." While Culpeper was originally built as an agricultural economy, today it is an important crossroad for business.

Culpeper residents will celebrate and honor the town's heritage and 250 years of history with events and activities throughout the year, including a historic costume ball, picnics and parades.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the citizens of Culpeper as they celebrate the town's anniversary and wishing them the best for their continued growth and success.

RECOGNIZING PAOLA GRULLON

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Paola Grullon for receiving the Charles J. Ping Award. This outstanding accomplishment is a result of Paola's hard work and dedication to serving her community.

This honor is awarded to undergraduate students who exemplify leadership in their communities and boast a record of outstanding achievements in service. This is the fifth consecutive year that a student from Ohio Wesleyan University has received the Ping Award. This is proof of the University's commitment to conveying the importance of service-learning to their students.

Paola Grullon is a member of Ohio Wesleyan University's Class of 2010. Paola recently completed an internship with Delaware's Woodward Family Resource Center, and organization that provides outreach opportunities for the city's Hispanic community members. As a pre-med major from the Dominican Republic, Ms. Grullon has created a strong support network for Delaware's Hispanic community by helping people with translations for numerous medical and utility services, government benefit services and child care assistance.

In addition to her work with the Woodward Family Resource Center, Ms. Grullon volunteers with Grace Free Clinic and St. Mary's Church. Paola has led fellow students from Ohio Wesleyan on spring break volunteer experiences, inspiring other students to follow her example of leadership and service.

I am pleased to commend Paola Grullon on this wonderful achievement as well as Ohio Wesleyan University for encouraging service-minded students to give back to Central Ohio communities.

COMCAST CARES DAY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the more than 1,200 employees from Broward and Miami-Dade Counties who will volunteer to benefit Samuel Delevoe Park and Oleta River State Park on Saturday, April 25th for Comcast Cares Day.

Volunteers and their families will join together to landscape facility grounds, paint and enhance two of Florida's parks. This event will mark the eighth annual company-wide day of service.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend Comcast and its employees for their service to our community at a time when our nation faces enormous challenges.

Families are losing jobs, health care, and other key services. Our public needs are growing while our resources for meeting them are disappearing.

As a mother of three young children, I believe that service is the lifeblood of this country.

Volunteers can play many roles. They teach in our classrooms; clean up our waterways, roads and parks; care for the elderly; and feed the hungry. All the while, they learn valuable skills that will help them throughout their lives.

I hope that the selfless actions of the Comcast employees and their families will serve as an inspiration for other Americans to enrich their own lives by helping others and giving back to their communities.

A TRIBUTE TO ROOT, INC. FOUNDER KENNETH E. BARNES, SR. IN PRAISE OF HIS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AWARD FOR HIS DEDICATED ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF VICTIMS OF CRIME

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize an outstanding American who has worked tirelessly to stem the tide of youth violence that has gripped many communities in our country. Kenneth E. Barnes, Sr., M.S., attended Loyola College in Maryland and, while working towards his doctoral degree, tragedy of the worst kind struck—his son, Kenneth Barnes, Jr., was murdered. Rather than do nothing, Mr. Barnes established the organization Reaching Out to Others Together Inc., or ROOT, Inc.

ROOT, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to advocacy, education and intervention on behalf of victims of gun violence and their families. ROOT, Inc.'s mission is to motivate and mobilize communities to take a proactive approach in reducing homicides as well as the senseless gun violence and youth violence that plague cities throughout America. Mr. Barnes has conducted workshops and seminars, locally and nationally, as well as testified on numerous occasions before the D.C. City Council. Mr. Barnes has also worked with my office and played an instrumental role in helping me to draft the Communities in Action Neighborhood Defense and Opportunity Bill, or CAN DO bill, which also addresses the issue of gun violence through a community-based comprehensive approach to the problem.

Madam Speaker, each April since 1981, the Office for Victims of Crime within the U.S. Department of Justice has helped lead communities throughout the nation in their observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Rallies, candlelight vigils, and a host of commemorative activities are held each year to promote victims' rights and to honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

This year, Kenny Barnes has been nominated by the United States Department of Justice Office of Victim Services to receive the National Service Award for his work on behalf of victims of crime and he will receive this prestigious award on April 24, 2009. This is a great honor being bestowed upon a great man and I would like to congratulate Mr. Barnes for his commitment and dedication to an issue that is so dear to my heart and the hearts of millions of others throughout our nation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR BROOKLYN COLLEGE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL BOBCATS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Brooklyn College Academy High School Bobcats basketball team on win-

ning the 2009 PSAL Brooklyn West B Division title. On March 27, 2009, co-coaches Alicia Braswell and Paul Wallace inspired their team, which was ranked 26th out of 38 through the bottom half of the bracket to the finals and the win. What makes this win not only inspiring but historic is that it is the first time a female coach has ever led a team to the men's division title in the history of the tournament. Players Keyon Aigle, Christoph Bristol, Denzel Duchenne, Craig Gooden, Lesner Guerrier, Jamaal James, Raheem Mack, Jaren Mansano, Kristian Moreno, Alexandre Pages, Jose Perez, Tarik Phillip, Onyma Utti, and Equipment Manager Cassandra Mark played the Brooklyn way and deserved the admiration of all of us here. Principal Nick Mazzarella also deserves our respect and admiration for selecting a female coach to help guide his school to the title. This progressive and forward-thinking approach to athletic hiring has paid dividends not only for the Bobcats, but is also another step forward in the fight for gender equality in athletics. I am proud and deeply honored to represent Brooklyn College Academy High School and provide it as an example to all of what's possible when playing fields are leveled and all are given an opportunity to excel regardless of gender.

RECOGNIZING THE METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the grand opening of the Metropolitan Emergency Communication Center (MECC). This new center represents the commitment the participants of six fire departments in Central Ohio have had to serving their communities. This innovative center serves Mifflin, Plain, Jefferson, Truro, and Violet Townships as well as the City of White Hall.

The state-of-the-art communications center opened on April 16, 2009 in Gahanna, Ohio. This multi-jurisdictional emergency dispatch center for Fire, Rescue and EMS serves six fire departments and assists over 120,000 Central Ohioans. In 2008, the MECC handled over 27,000 calls for fire and EMS service. The opening of this new facility for the MECC offers room for training, meetings, additional consoles, upgraded technology, and on-site IT support.

This partnership improves efficiency, enhances capabilities, and shares technology to better serve our community. Emergency responders have access to the resources they need to best do their jobs because of the innovative approach to dispatching the Metropolitan Emergency Communication Center has taken. The MECC allows all six participating fire departments to stay on the cutting edge of technological developments to better execute emergency runs and to serve our Central Ohio community.

I offer my congratulations to the six communities that comprise the Metropolitan Emergency Communication Center and I applaud their hard work and dedication to preserving the safety of Central Ohioans.

SPEAK OUT AGAINST GENOCIDE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, April is Genocide Prevention Month. Tuesday, April 21st, marked Holocaust Remembrance Day. Tomorrow, April 24th, is the 94th anniversary of the onset of the Armenian genocide. These times of commemoration are sobering, but I firmly believe that it is important to pause and recall the unnecessary deaths of millions of people which occurred in the last century. By reminding ourselves of past atrocities, we are encouraged to uphold the value of human life today.

During World War I, the Turkish government began an assault on the Armenian people by arresting and killing religious, political, and intellectual leaders in Istanbul. Then, groups of Armenian men, women, and children were rounded up and forced to march through the desert. Along the way, the victims were tortured, raped, and starved.

Before and during World War II, Adolph Hitler attempted to eliminate the Jewish people and others whom he considered a threat. He initiated boycotts of Jewish businesses, prohibited social contact with Jews, and excluded Jews from participation in government, the arts, and education. Then, Hitler began deporting Jews to internment camps, essentially forcing them to complete slave labor. Some were marched to remote areas and murdered. Eventually, the Germans began a campaign of mass extermination by gassing Jews and other "undesirable" ethnic, religious, and political groups.

Monday, April 20th, marked another historic event. It happened to be the anniversary of Adolph Hitler's birth. When justifying his persecution of the Polish people, Hitler declared "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" I, for one, am still speaking about the annihilation of Armenians. I am also speaking about the annihilation of Jews. I encourage my colleagues to join me in speaking out against genocide.

COMMEMORATING THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, April 24, marks the 94th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. I rise today to commemorate this terrible chapter in human history, and to help ensure that it will never be forgotten.

On April 24, 1915, the Turkish government began to arrest Armenian community and political leaders. Many were executed without ever being charged with crimes. Then the government deported the overwhelming majority of Armenians from Ottoman Armenia, ordering that they resettle in what is now Syria. Most deportees never reached that destination.

From 1915 to 1918, more than a million Armenians died of starvation or disease on long

marches, or were massacred outright by Turkish forces. From 1918 to 1923, Armenians continued to suffer at the hands of the Turkish military, which eventually removed nearly all remaining Armenians from Turkey.

We mark this anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide because this tragedy for the Armenian people was a tragedy for all humanity. It is our duty to remember, to speak out and to teach future generations about the horrors of genocide and the oppression and terrible suffering endured by the Armenian people.

We hope the day will soon come when it is not just the survivors who honor the dead but also when those whose ancestors perpetrated the horrors acknowledge their terrible responsibility and commemorate as well the memory of genocide's victims.

Sadly, we cannot say humanity has progressed to the point where genocide has become unthinkable. We have only to recall the killing fields of Cambodia, mass killings in Rwanda, ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Kosovo, and the unspeakable horrors in Darfur, Sudan to see that the threat of genocide persists. We must renew our commitment never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on innocent human beings.

We also remember this day because it is a time for us to celebrate the contributions of the Armenian community in America—including hundreds of thousands in California—to the richness of our character and culture. The strength they and their immigrant ancestors have displayed in overcoming tragedy to flourish in this country is an example for all of us. Their success is moving testimony to the truth that tyranny and evil cannot extinguish the vitality of the human spirit.

The United States has an ongoing opportunity to contribute to a true memorial to the past by strengthening Armenia's emerging democracy. We must do all we can through aid and trade to support Armenia's efforts to construct an open political and economic system.

Adolf Hitler, the architect of the Nazi Holocaust, once remarked "Who remembers the Armenians?" The answer is, we do. And we will continue to remember the victims of the 1915–23 genocide because, in the words of the philosopher George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

INTRODUCTION OF A CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION REGARDING THE
SHI'ITE PERSONAL STATUS LAW
IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representatives BALDWIN, and BIGGERT, I am introducing a House Concurrent Resolution which expresses the sense of Congress that the Shi'ite Personal Status Law in Afghanistan violates the fundamental rights of women and should be repealed. Senator BOXER is introducing the same resolution in the Senate.

In March the Afghan parliament approved the Shi'ite Personal Status Law which was

signed by President Hamid Karzai. According to reports in the media and by the United Nations, this law would legalize marital rape, strip mothers of custodial rights in the event of a divorce, and prohibit a woman from leaving her home unless her husband gives his approval. President Obama has called this law "abhorrent" and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said that the law is "reprehensible and reminiscent of the decrees made by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in the 1990s."

This resolution urges the Afghan Government and President Karzai to declare these provisions unconstitutional, and to not publish the law on the grounds that it violates the Constitution of Afghanistan and the basic rights of women. Additionally, the resolution encourages the U.S. Government to address the status of women's rights and security in Afghanistan to ensure that these rights are not being eroded.

I have long been a champion for the rights of women internationally, but particularly in Afghanistan. Throughout the country's turbulent history, the women of Afghanistan have been a source of strength, stability, and peace. Working with my colleagues, we have ensured that reconstruction aid for Afghanistan includes support for programs that increase women's access to education, economic opportunities, and health care. We have also worked to increase recognition of the vital role women have to play in rebuilding Afghan society in the wake of violent conflict, and I am pleased that the U.S. government has devoted resources specifically to support the work of local women-led nongovernmental organizations, as well as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

In its current form, the Shi'ite Personal Status Law fundamentally contradicts these efforts. We cannot stand by and allow such an immense setback to the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, who have been treated as second-class citizens for far too long. For years, the United States has worked with the people and government of Afghanistan to rebuild the rule of law and promote respect for human rights. Creating a new and better future for the women of Afghanistan is a critical part of this mission.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN RED
CROSS OF GREATER COLUMBUS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus. Praised for its dedication to saving and restoring lives, the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus serves over 1.3 million residents in Central Ohio.

Having recently celebrated "Red Cross Month" during March, I am pleased to highlight the successes of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus. As one of the most trusted charities in Central Ohio, this chapter is at the forefront of helping individuals and families prevent, prepare for, and respond to large and small scale disasters.

Led by Mary Navarro, Michael Carroll and a committed Board of Directors, this group of

over 700 volunteers and 55 full-time employees responded to 356 local disasters in 2008. Their service and assistance directly impacted the lives of over 470 families in Central Ohio.

Educating more than 73,000 individuals about how to prepare for emergencies and training more than 46,000 residents in First Aid, CPR, Water Safety, and other life-saving courses the Greater Columbus Chapter of the American Red Cross is providing much more than relief to victims. The benefit of programs like these provides support to the public beyond times of need.

It is my pleasure to recognize the American Red Cross of Central Ohio for their unrelenting and inspiring record of service to the families of Central Ohio. All have produced a safer place for the residents of Central Ohio to call home.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE HONORABLE IRVING J.
STOLBERG

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of one of Connecticut's most outstanding public leaders and my dear friend, The Honorable Irving J. Stolberg. After a year-long fight, Irv lost his battle with leukemia and Connecticut lost one of its most respected and beloved public officials.

Elected to Connecticut's House of Representatives in 1970, Irv served twenty-two years in the General Assembly—a member of virtually every committee and twice elected to lead as Speaker. It was during his tenure as Speaker that the General Assembly saw its greatest transformation with more members seeing legislating as their primary occupation even though it is considered a part-time position and his oversight of the construction of the Legislative Office Building which, after its opening in 1988, gave all legislators their own offices and provided the additional space for public hearings that our historic Capitol building could not accommodate. The very character of the General Assembly was changed with the members finding a stronger voice and taking a more active role in shaping public policy. He has been called the "father of the modern legislature" and there could not be a more fitting tribute to his legacy.

His passion for service stretched far beyond Connecticut politics. A Professor of Geography and African Studies, Irv taught at both Southern Connecticut State University as well as Quinnipiac University. As an Africanist, he did research in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Nigeria. Most recently, Irv served as the President of the Connecticut Division of the United Nations Association and was most proud of his production of the widely distributed UNA Calendar of Peace. He was a member of the UNA Board of Directors and in 2006 was elected to represent the United States on the Executive Committee of the World Federation of UNAs. His travels took him to more than 90 countries—twenty-two visits to China alone. He helped to develop training programs at American universities for more than 700 Chinese Provincial Officials, assisted in the democratization of Eastern Europe—particularly in Bulgaria—and had a role in drafting the Brazilian

Constitution. A recognition of his commitment and contributions to international relations, President Clinton appointed Irving to the Commission on the Preservation of American Culture Abroad where he had the lead responsibility for relations with Slovakia, Ukraine, and Moldavia. Irv was indeed a global citizen and has left an indelible mark not only on our state but across the world.

Here in Connecticut, Irv was also instrumental in the establishment of Connecticut Hospice—the first organization of its kind in the nation. Connecticut Hospice is dedicated to using a holistic approach in helping patients and their families attain an optimum quality of life as they cope with irreversible illnesses providing the comfort and care that they need in their last days. It may also be fitting that it was at Connecticut Hospice, surrounded by family and friends, that Irving spent his final days.

Irv dedicated a lifetime to public service and forever changed the face of Connecticut politics. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to call him my friend. Today, as we remember all that Irv contributed to his community and his state, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family: his son Robert; former wife, Alicia; his brothers, Roger and Frank; and his sister, Melody. Irving J. Stolberg set an example for public service to which we should all strive and has left a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACADEMY ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Public Service Academy Act of 2009, which will create the first stand alone university dedicated solely to producing highly qualified and well-trained civilian public servants.

The new century has brought immense challenges that require strong and prepared, competent and committed public servants. On the eve of the retirement of the baby-boom generation, our nation presses for a new generation of teachers, firefighters, and federal employees to fill the potential void these retirees will leave. Our civil servants will have to address the need to finance entitlement costs in an age of trillion dollar deficits; the need to educate and train a workforce that can compete and prosper in a global economy; the need to provide quality affordable healthcare; the need to protect and preserve the planet's fragile environment; the need to negotiate and

reconcile differences with foreign nations; and the need to deter terrorism and keep our nation safe and secure. All of these challenges will require a professional public workforce, and yet because of shifting demographics our civil service faces a wave of retirement over the next decade that threatens the effective operation of government.

For these reasons, it is critically important that Congress provide young Americans with the best education and training that will allow them to become our nation's future leaders. Young Americans are ready to answer the call. According to the Higher Education Research Institute, approximately 70 percent of the 2007 freshman class expressed a desire to serve others. Applications to programs like Teach for America and City Year along with religious missions involving young Americans have greatly increased. A 2008 poll conducted by Social Sphere Strategies found that 88% of 18–29-year-olds supported the Public Service Academy, with 57% saying that they “likely” would have considered applying to the Academy had it been available when they were applying to college. College presidents, news publications and some of the leading voices in public service—both Democrat and Republican—have endorsed the creation of the Academy.

Now is the time to tap into American's renewed sense of civic obligation and offer an avenue to serve others. Yet, the cost of pursuing public service opportunities after graduation is often prohibitive because college tuition has increased dramatically in the past decade—47 percent at private schools and 63 percent at public schools. As a result of these soaring tuitions, the average college graduate owes about \$20,000, an increase of more than 50 percent in the past decade. These potential public servants often overburdened by the debts of college and university loans, are forced to choose more lucrative private sector jobs over public service opportunities.

Modeled after the military service academies, the Public Service Academy will provide a four-year, federally-assisted college education for more than 5,000 students a year in exchange for a five-year commitment to public service in areas such as education, public health, law enforcement, and local, state and the federal government. With its mission critical to the health of our public service, the Academy will strive to recruit the top students and faculty from around the United States, require intensive courses in leadership and public service, and eventually help place students in positions throughout the public sphere. Moreover, by providing students with a federally-funded education, the stress of debt would be eliminated, and their commitment to the public service sector for at least five years could lead to lifelong service.

Madam Speaker, last year, over 120 bipartisan cosponsors in the House of Representatives joined in the effort to create the Public Service Academy. I am encouraged by the early support of over 25 cosponsors in just a few weeks of circulating this year's proposal. The time to create a United States Public Service Academy is now. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the committees of jurisdiction to bring attention to this issue and make the Public Service Academy a reality.

RECOGNIZING DR. C. BRENT DEVORE

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Dr. C. Brent DeVore for his service and tenure at Otterbein College.

Dr. C. Brent DeVore has been a tireless advocate for higher education. Known to his peers as, “the Dean of Higher Education,” Dr. DeVore has brought a great deal of leadership to Otterbein College throughout his 24 years of service. His service on the boards of 23 national and local non profit organizations earned him the honor of the President's Call to Service Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Otterbein has grown to 3,107 students under Dr. DeVore's guidance. He has improved retention rates and increased the endowment from \$6 million to \$100 million. Not only have student facilities been renovated, but land acquisition has nearly doubled the size of campus under Dr. DeVore's direction.

In addition to his work at Otterbein College, Dr. DeVore has made a lasting impression on the community. He has made service a priority of the college and student life. Last year alone, Otterbein students donated over 32,000 hours of community service to Central Ohio. Nearly 70 percent of the student body has participated in service projects throughout the community. Otterbein's generous service to the community earned Otterbein College the President's Award for General Community Service in February 2008 from the White House.

For his years of service at Otterbein College and consistent hard work toward the betterment of our higher education system, I commend Dr. C. Brent DeVore upon his retirement.