

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WALTER PETERSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Walter Peterson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Walter Peterson is a sophomore at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Walter Peterson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Walter Peterson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS AND POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they join together on May 3 to celebrate Polish Constitution Day—a day when the Americans of Polish heritage reflect on the struggles for freedom and celebrate the victories, customs and history of their beloved Polish homeland and share their cultural gifts with the entire Greater Cleveland Community.

The first written European constitution, the Governmental Statute of Poland, was instated on May 3, 1791. Poland's Constitution was the result of nearly five centuries of struggle and perseverance by the people of Poland to diminish the power of the King and to create facets and institutions of government vital to the foundation of a constitutional government. An important document in the world history of democracy, the Polish Constitution established the separation and balance of powers, freedom of religion, and social justice by abolishing key elements of serfdom.

Formed in 1949, the Polish American Congress is a national umbrella organization representing over ten million Americans of Polish descent and origin, and serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. The Polish American community in Cleveland is deeply rooted in their commitment to the values of family, faith,

democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream.

Since its founding, the Polish American Congress has created programs to successfully integrate people of Polish decent in the U.S., including the Displaced Persons Program, which allowed almost 150,000 Polish immigrants to enter the U.S. after World War II. The Polish American Congress has a legacy within our Cleveland community and across the nation of offering services of support to veterans, families and individuals. As in years' past, the Greater Cleveland Community will join in celebration of Poland's rich history and culture by joining Cleveland's Polish community in attending events such as the Polonia Ball, the Grand Parade and the Photographic Exhibition.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the leaders and members of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day. Their collective and individual efforts in sharing, preserving and promoting their heritage, history and culture with Greater Cleveland serves to strengthen and illuminate the textured and diverse fabric of our community.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE OF DARRIEN GISH

**HON. WALT MINNICK**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Darrien Gish of Nampa has just been named one of the top honorees in Idaho by the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each State and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Gish is being recognized for his work with the Canine Companions for Independence. He is devoting fourteen months of his own time to train and care for the puppy Delphia. He also earned his own money to fund Delphia's health care. Mr. Gish spends time every day working with Delphi on basic skills so that eventually she can assist people with disabilities perform everyday tasks like turning on lights and opening doors.

In light of numerous statistics indicating that Americans today are less involved in their communities, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Mr. Gish are inspiring examples to all of us and are among our brightest hopes for tomorrow.

Mr. Gish should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud him for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities and that America's community spirit continue to hold tremendous promise for the future.

HONORING THE INDUCTION OF ENCARNACION "CARNY" GUERRA INTO THE 2009 CLASS OF THE LAREDO BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the induction of Encarnacion "Carny" Guerra into the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Carny Guerra has always been hard working, ambitious, a knowledgeable businessman, and it has shown through his work in Laredo, Texas.

Carny Guerra's business know-how first emerged while attending a dance in Laredo, Texas. While waiting in line and watching a great number of people pay their entrance fee he got the idea that he should enter the ballroom business. Soon after he purchased a building and with the help of his five daughters Cynthia, Sylvia, Judith, Belinda, and Elaine the Casa Blanca Ballroom was born.

As every new business encounters initial problems Carny had trouble booking bands and he decided that the best way to solve this would be to use local South Texas bands. As he found new bands he began to record their music and promote them to local radio stations. These local bands soon became celebrities in the area, thus selling out the Casa Blanca Ballroom performance after performance. Working with bands and radio stations on a daily basis Carny saw his next step to be the purchase of a radio station which furthered the popularity of both his ballroom and the bands.

Now some years later Carny Guerra's business has flourished and become Guerra Communications, which now owns a Tejano, hip-hop, and country radio station. In Addition, Carny is credited with giving many of today's popular bands their start.

Carny, after many years of hard work, is now enjoying his retirement and the company of his 5 daughters, 17 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments and honor the inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame Encarnacion "Carny" Guerra.

• 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.

RICARDO MUNOZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ricardo Munoz who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ricardo Munoz is a senior at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ricardo Munoz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Ricardo Munoz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

**CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009**

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes:

Mr. BACA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 627, the Creditcard Holders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009.

Now more than ever, working families need strong, fair lending and credit laws.

H.R. 627 curbs some of the most abusive and unfair credit card lending practices that trap consumers in an unending, costly debt.

The credit card companies' tricks and traps that are addressed by H.R. 627 have always been unfair, but in this time of growing economic uncertainty for the average family, the financial hardship can be overwhelming.

Companies should not be allowed to randomly hike the interest rate on a consumer's existing balance if they make their payments on time just because of an "anytime—any reason" clause in the contract. This practice is un-fair and un-American.

Equal access to credit is a vital step in helping racial and ethnic minority families move out of poverty, into the middle class and be given a real shot at the American dream.

Much like the targeting and discrimination that occurs with home loans, our minority communities are steered toward credit cards with the highest fees and interest rates and most complicated payment terms.

According to the National Council of La Raza, one report showed that 15 percent of African-American and 13 percent of Latino card users have cards with interest rates over

20 percent, compared to only 7 percent of White card users.

More than one-third of Latinos use their credit cards to make ends meet.

As low-income Latinos use credit cards for safet-net purposes, they are more likely to get behind in their bills and become buried in unmanageable debt.

Instead of providing relief or a financial bridge, credit cards with abusive features and practices often create vicious cycles of debt.

The passage of this bill would be a historic victory for consumers of all backgrounds and ethnicities across the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and the long over due consumer protections that it provides.

**A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW POLITE****HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Matthew Polite, a leader in his community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Matthew Polite was born in 1905 on the Island of St. Helena, off the coast of South Carolina. The only son of a former slave, Matthew understands well how freedom is a cherished gift to be used in the service of your fellow man.

Matthew Polite and his wife, Netha, were wed in 1926. They moved to Savannah, Georgia, where he worked as a baker in Wholesale Bakery. After some years, they moved again to Miami, Florida where he continued as a baker. Matthew and his family moved to New York City in 1954. There he became the Deacon for the Orange Baptist Church in the Bronx, forging a lifelong relationship with the congregation. He served the church community with honor and distinction for many years until his retirement in 1969, when he returned to his hometown in Stavenhagen, South Carolina.

Matthew Polite has since returned to New York City, surrounded by his friends and family, including his four children, nine grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren, fourteen great-great grandchildren, and two great-great-great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Matthew Polite, a shining example of dedication to community service for all of New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Matthew Polite.

**HONORING RANDY SIEFKIN****HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Siefkin, a long time political icon of Modesto, California. Randy has spent a majority of his days as a Professor of Political Science at Modesto Junior College, but behind the scenes he has proven effective in getting countless candidates elected to local office.

Randy Siefkin's first hint at political interest may have been in 1952, when at age 10 he helped arrange an ice cream hour for Dwight D. Eisenhower. He furthered his hunger for politics by working on campaigns for Nixon and Rockefeller—and eventually made a career by steadfastly serving as Professor of Political Science at Modesto junior College from 1970 to 2001. From that day in 1952 right up to this very hour, Randy is actively collecting political buttons from every corner of the earth.

Thirty one years of educating students left little time for much else, but somehow Randy managed to devote himself to a number of community groups and civic organizations. Ranging from serving on the Board for the Muir Trail Girl Scouts to directing the Modesto Film Society to participating with North Modesto Rotary, Randy has shown a genuine devotion to his community.

Politics and civic duties have not only been a passion for Randy, but his family is equally devoted to giving back as well. Randy Siefkin is married to Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Susan J. Siefkin and they have two children—Nelson, a Cultural Resources Specialist for the National Park Service, and Kristen, a Public Relations professional.

Madam Speaker, it is an absolute honor to share a little bit about Randy Siefkin and to thank him for his selfless devotion to his family, his community, and his country.

JOEY MEYER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joey Meyer who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joey Meyer is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joey Meyer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Joey Meyer for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

**MEDIA EXAGGERATE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL NUMBERS****HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, in their stories assessing President Obama's first 100 days in office, the national media have been quick to tout the President's supposedly high approval rating.

But the facts are otherwise.

A Rasmussen poll released yesterday showed the President's approval rating at 55 percent and his disapproval rating at 43 percent.

Fewer than half of voters say the President is doing a good job handling the economy.

And only a third of voters think the President is governing on a bi-partisan basis.

These are hardly impressive figures.

The fact is that many Americans are not happy with the direction of the country under President Obama.

The national media should take a break from patting the President on the back and report the facts objectively.

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RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF CARLOS V.  
MEJIA

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**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Carlos Mejia for his dedication to the Laredo community and the State of Texas. Mr. Mejia has given so much of his time and effort in order to make his community a better place.

After graduating from Texas A&M in 1963, Mr. Mejia attended the University of Southern California where he earned his Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. In 1978, he became the City Engineer for the city of Laredo, Texas. He served this post until 1981 and has since then been instrumental in many of Laredo's major infrastructure projects. He was the civil engineer for the design of the main runway, parallel taxi ways, airplane parking apron, and all landslide improvements for the Laredo International Airport. He was also the lead civil engineer for the preparation of the Master Plan for Texas A&M International University.

His constant dedication to his work and his community have led Mr. Mejia to be honored with the Community Partner of the Year Award for 2008 presented by Habitat for Humanity. Just this past year he was selected to the Laredo Junior Achievement Hall of Fame for 2009.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring a great resident of Laredo and a great American in Mr. Carlos Mejia. Through his hard work and tireless dedication Laredo has seen significant improvements over the years and for that we recognize you today Mr. Mejia.

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ANGELICA PEREA

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**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angelica Perea who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angelica Perea is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award

because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angelica Perea is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Angelica Perea for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

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HONORING CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS  
CONABLE

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**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor one of my most prestigious constituents, Charlotte Williams Conable. A longtime resident of Alexander, New York, Charlotte has made it her life's work to advance the status of women around the world.

A longtime advocate of women's rights, Charlotte enlisted in the women's studies masters' program at George Washington University as an adult student. It was during her time there that she wrote *Women at Cornell: The Myth of Equal Education*, a novel that explores the origins of coeducation and discusses the role Cornell University had in bringing women into the collegiate system. In 1981, Charlotte penned another book, *Older Women: The Economics of Aging*. As a graduate of Cornell University, Charlotte was one of only a few women who went on to earn a position on Cornell's prestigious Board of Trustees. Due to her extensive work in the literary field, Charlotte rightfully earned a spot in *Feminists Who Changed America, 1963–1975*.

As the wife of the late Congressman and World Bank president Barber Conable, Charlotte spent her life with a man who was voted by his colleagues the "most respected" member of Congress. Charlotte often accompanied Barber on his trips all over the world. She served as his eyes and ears, often splitting up from the group in order to give Barber a more accurate description of the conditions on the ground.

On May 9, 2009, Charlotte will be recognized by the YWCA of Genesee County as a Fabulous Female for her lifetime achievement. As a lifetime supporter of the local YWCA, Charlotte will become a recipient of the very award she is receiving. She is certainly deserving of this high honor.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the lifetime achievements of Charlotte Williams Conable, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring Charlotte Williams Conable for her dedication to furthering the equality of women throughout the world.

WHITNEY NELSON

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**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Whitney Nelson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Whitney Nelson is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Whitney Nelson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Whitney Nelson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

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HONORING MARYLAND AND  
MASONIC HOME

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**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the Maryland Masonic Home on the celebration of its 75th Anniversary as a retirement community for Master Masons and their families.

The Maryland Masonic Home has provided exceptional service to its residents since 1934. After purchasing the property called Bonnie Blink, the Masons converted the farm and mansion into the Maryland Masonic Home. It was created as a housing facility for Masons and their families who were either elderly, or of declining health.

The Masonic Home has grown over the years from a simple dormitory, to an active community with a wide range of services. From dining rooms and recreational facilities, to health care practices and scheduled activities, that Masonic Home presents opportunities for its residents to maintain a vibrant lifestyle. For the past week, the Maryland Masonic Home has been celebrating this truly remarkable milestone with various events and activities for its residents.

Over the last 75 years, they have lived up to their mission, "To provide excellent care in a safe, affordable, dignified, quality environment for eligible Masons and their families, in keeping with Masonic Principles, providing for expansion, while maintaining financial viability."

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the Maryland Masonic Home on the celebration of its 75th Anniversary. As a fellow Mason, it is with great pride that I congratulate the entire organization on this incredible accomplishment.

RACHEL OLSSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rachel Olsson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Rachel Olsson is an 8th grader at Faith Christian Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rachel Olsson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Rachel Olsson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE SANDRA  
DAY O'CONNOR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, on the occasion of her recognition as a "Person of the Century" by the Rotary Club of Los Angeles in celebration of their Centennial year.

In a year where we witnessed the first African-American assume the Office of the President of the United States, it is especially appropriate to honor a woman who shattered the marble ceiling of the United States Supreme Court some 28 years ago and served as an important role model for so many in this Nation.

Born in El Paso, Texas in 1930, Sandra Day O'Connor spent several of her early years growing up on her family's ranch in Arizona. Later, in 1950, she graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in economics, followed by a juris doctorate in 1952. In 1952, she married John Jay O'Connor, III, and they have three sons. After working for a time in both California and Germany, Sandra Day O'Connor again took up residence in the state of Arizona.

In Arizona, O'Connor held positions in both law and politics, working as an Assistant Attorney General and serving in the State Senate, appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy. After twice winning reelection to the State Senate, she ran for the position of Judge in the Maricopa County Superior Court of Arizona in 1974. While a judge she gained a reputation for being firm but just, and she would later be appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals.

In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor made history after being nominated by President Ronald Reagan for the position of Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. She received unanimous Senate approval, becoming

the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

During her tenure on the Court, Justice O'Connor gained a reputation for approaching each case with an open mind and for seeking out practical solutions to complex legal issues. Her pragmatic and centrist approach had an important moderating influence on the Court, and her independent philosophy had an important impact on a number of seminal cases. In 2006, Justice O'Connor retired after serving over 24 years on the Court.

Justice O'Connor and I have a shared belief in the need for an independent judiciary and a shared desire to improve relations between our branches of government. As founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on the Judicial Branch, I had the distinct pleasure of hosting Justice O'Connor in the U.S. Capitol, just before her retirement, for an event designed to jointly promote these common goals.

I consider it an honor to recognize Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and ask my colleagues to join me in commending her on the occasion of her recognition as a Rotary Club of Los Angeles "Person of the Century."

IN HONOR OF BRIGADIER  
GENERAL BRUCE THOMPSON

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Bruce Thompson for his recent promotion to the rank of Brigadier General. Through years of relentless hard work and determination, General Thompson ascended to Brigadier General, a rank that only a few will obtain in their lifetime. I am proud that this man serves the state of Delaware, as well as the United States of America.

A native of Westchester, Pennsylvania, General Thompson's military career began when he received his commission through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science in 1980. He quickly earned his pilot wings a year later, and became an Instructor and Standardization/Evaluation Pilot for the C-130 Aircraft with 32 combat sorties and 197 combat support sorties. He served as the 166th Airlift Wing Commander and is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. General Thompson is a command pilot with over 4,500 hours in the C-130A, C-130H2, T-37 and T-38. During his service thus far, General Thompson has earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit and the National Defense Service Medal. I fully expect that he will continue to earn awards and citations under his new rank.

I commend Bruce Thompson upon receiving this great honor and for his years of extraordinary service and countless contributions to the Delaware Air National Guard. General Thompson is an exemplary citizen, and on behalf of all Delawareans I would like to thank him and his family for the many sacrifices they have made during the past twenty-nine years. His promotion to the rank of Brigadier General is an appropriate milestone in a truly remarkable career.

DAMION MILES

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Damion Miles who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Damion Miles is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Damion Miles is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Damion Miles for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF KENDAL GUNLICKS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Kendal Gunlicks, upon the occasion of his retirement as Director of Music at Independence High School. Mr. Gunlicks leaves behind a legacy of kindness, sincere concern for every student and dedication to fostering an atmosphere where creativity and teamwork flourished.

Over the course of a career spanning 35 years, he led his students through band camp, half-time shows, parades, Madrigal Dinners, musical theater productions, outdoor community concerts and memorable trips to Florida. But for Mr. Gunlicks, teaching was far more than a job. It was an avocation. He consistently went above and beyond the call of duty, working to establish successful mentoring relationships with all students. Through the powerful medium of music, he inspired his students, encouraged their participation and strengthened their self-confidence. His students trusted, respected and admired him, and he was always willing to help with a problem or provide fatherly guidance and advice.

Mr. Gunlicks' belief in musical opportunities for all is evidenced throughout his tenure at Independence High School. As Director of the Vocal Program, Mr. Gunlicks made room in his programs for all interested students. Students who wanted to participate but who weren't confident enough in their talents as singers were encouraged to join the chorus, without having to audition. Under his leadership, the marching band grew steadily over the years, from 26 members in 1974 to more than 100 band members today.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Mr. Kendal Gunlicks, whose passion for music and unwavering dedication to his students has served as a source of inspiration, joy, and camaraderie

within the hearts and minds of every student who has walked through the band room doors. His tenure as Music Director has had an impact on the lives of countless students; he served as a wonderful role model for each of them to emulate—in the classroom and in life. Mr. Gunlicks' passion for music, humble approach and unwavering dedication to his profession has enriched the fabric of our entire community, connecting us all through the universal language of music.

ANISSA MILLER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anissa Miller who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anissa Miller is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anissa Miller is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Anissa Miller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

IN PRAISE OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE MEETINGS HELD LAST MONTH IN PRAGUE

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to a successful meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) that was held in Prague, Czech Republic, from April 18–20, 2009. Chairwoman SHELLEY BERKLEY, the gentlelady from Nevada, continues to provide this important interparliamentary exchange with enthusiastic leadership and a strong commitment to strengthening relations with our European allies. I commend this bipartisan delegation—which included PAUL KANJORSKI (D–PA), DANA ROHRBACHER (R–CA), LORETTA SANCHEZ (D–CA), JOHN R. CARTER (R–TX), PHIL GINGREY (R–GA), VIRGINIA FOXX (R–NC), STEVE COHEN (D–TN), and RON KLEIN (D–FL)—for their contributions to an informed and productive exchange of views with Members of the European Parliament.

The Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue serves as the formal response of the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress to the commitment in the New Transatlantic Agenda of 1995 to enhance legislative ties between

the European Union and the United States. The TLD involves bi-annual meetings between American and European legislators in order to exchange views on topics of mutual interest and foster transatlantic discourse. I welcome the discussion held by members at the Prague session about ways in which to deepen the dialogue and increase their communication beyond these formal meetings.

Given the recent transition in the U.S. administration and the upcoming European Parliament elections, it is essential that legislators continue their collaboration on the important issues facing citizens on both sides of the Atlantic. The financial crisis was a central topic at the Prague meeting, with presentations by European experts as well as representatives of the EU and U.S. administrations. The TLD emphasized the need for a strong and coordinated transatlantic policy response, while reiterating the importance of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) as a framework for cooperation. Members also addressed pressing foreign policy issues. Particular attention was devoted to Afghanistan and Pakistan, as TLD participants engaged in a dialogue with Richard Boucher, U.S. Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs, about President Obama's comprehensive new strategy. Other foreign policy debates focused on the status of diplomatic initiatives regarding the Iranian nuclear threat, the Middle East peace process, and relations with Russia. In addition, the delegates talked about the challenge of climate change, the importance of energy security, and President Obama's decision to close the Guantanamo detention facility.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Representative BERKLEY for bringing the American delegation to Estonia and Lithuania in advance of the TLD meeting for important bilateral visits with these important NATO and EU allies. In both countries the delegation met with the President, Prime Minister, Speaker and parliamentarians to reaffirm our country's friendship and support for the Baltic states. These high level discussions focused on regional security, responses to the global financial crisis, and the importance of energy diversification. In Estonia, members raised the issue of citizenship laws and the importance of good relations between ethnic Russians and Estonians. In Lithuania, U.S. members thanked political leaders for their valuable contributions to the NATO mission in Afghanistan. They pressed them on the need to resolve longstanding problems with Jewish property restitution, protect a historic Jewish cemetery site, and cease investigations of Jewish partisans regarding their World War II activities. The delegation also spoke with a group of Belarusian opposition leaders who traveled to Vilnius from Minsk to brief members on the political and human rights situation in Belarus. The U.S. delegation assured them of our ongoing support of their brave efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the joint statement that was agreed upon by American and European legislators at the 66th TLD meeting held in Prague. This document highlights the importance of continued transatlantic dialogue and cooperation in addressing pressing financial and foreign policy crises.

TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE  
JOINT STATEMENT

Shelley Berkley, Chairwoman, United States Congress Delegation, Phil Gingrey,

Acting Vice Chairman, United States Congress Delegation, Ron Klein, Acting Vice Chairman, United States Congress Delegation, and Jonathan Evans, MEP, Chairman, European Parliament Delegation.

We, the Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 66th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in Prague, Czech Republic, on 18–20 April 2009.

Building on the joint statement issued following our last meeting in Miami on 6–8 December 2008, we stressed the importance of regular dialogue on a range of political, social and economic issues that affect all of our citizens. We agreed to report back to our parent bodies on the content and outcome of our discussions, particularly in the areas where joint efforts are likely to result in positive outcomes.

We discussed with Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs and Council President-in-office Karel Schwarzenberg the Summit held in Prague on 5 April 2009 between President Obama and the 27 EU Heads of State and Government. We welcomed its outcome and expressed our trust that this meeting will provide a strong impetus for strengthening the transatlantic relationship and furthering a common agenda.

The Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue agreed that we should build on this political momentum to improve and renew the framework of the transatlantic relationship. In this context, we called for greater collaboration between legislators in the US House of Representatives and the European Parliament on issues of common concern and legislation that affects each side of the Atlantic. We also expressed our intention to have increased communication between our biannual meetings, using mechanisms such as periodic video conferences and the formation of working groups to address specific topics in greater detail.

With regard to foreign policy and security issues discussed during our TLD meeting, we agreed that joint action is the most effective way to approach problems which affect both sides of the Atlantic. In particular, we considered that:

a) peace in the Middle East requires a durable ceasefire, an end to attacks on Israel from Hamas and other terrorists, a functioning and effective government in the Palestinian Territories. We also expressed our support for the appointment of George Mitchell as Special Envoy to the Middle East Peace Process;

b) the comprehensive new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan announced by President Obama on 27 March 2009 constitutes a good basis for a regional approach to security, combating terrorism, and economic development. The EU and the US should enhance their cooperation and support, work to improve the coordination and effectiveness of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), and seek to help build critical infrastructure across Afghanistan;

c) the dialogue affirmed that a nuclear armed Iran is unacceptable. We also agreed that relations with Iran should involve both incentives for Iran to build constructive ties with the international community as well as concerted pressure on Iran if it continues to fail to comply with its international obligations in the nuclear area and human rights; and

d) relations with Russia should involve constructive cooperation on challenges, threats and opportunities of mutual concern, including security matters, disarmament and non-proliferation, and respect for democratic principles including human rights standards, and adherence to international law. The dialogue expressed concerns about

Russia's recent behaviour in regards to the recent conflict with Georgia and energy dispute with Ukraine. We also cited the need to enhance mutual trust between the transatlantic partners and Russia.

On energy and climate change, we stressed that the EU and the US should work together to address these issues at the UN negotiations in Copenhagen later this year. We discussed cap-and-trade systems and the feasibility of setting up mutually compatible systems. We noted the link between tackling climate change and addressing energy security and economic growth, recognizing that the fight against climate change could also be an opportunity to create new jobs and sustain economic growth.

We examined the consequences of the global economic and financial turmoil. We agreed that the crisis requires a strong and coordinated policy response by the US and the EU. Recovery plans currently being adopted are critical in mitigating the effects of the crisis: approaches chosen should be compatible, avoid protectionist measures, and not give rise to distortions of competition in the transatlantic market place. We considered that global financial regulation and supervision should be strengthened, including better crisis prevention and management, and that EU and US should cooperate on the reform of international financial institutions.

We stressed the importance of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), including its utility as a framework for macro-economic cooperation between both partners. We welcomed the progress made over recent months in promoting transatlantic economic integration, including investment, accounting standards, regulatory issues, the safety of imported products, and the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

We insisted that transatlantic economic cooperation must be more accountable and transparent. In particular, the schedules of TEC meetings, agendas, roadmaps and progress reports should be agreed upon between the core stakeholders as early as possible and then made public. Such measures are crucial to developing a clear and transparent process for setting the agenda of the TEC, extending the TEC to new sectors, and establishing a long-term roadmap of activities. We called on the EU and US executive branches to facilitate more active participation by members of the US Congress and the European Parliament in the TEC process, in particular via the TLD.

We considered that both partners should use the full potential of the TEC in order to overcome the existing obstacles to economic integration. To this effect, legislators on both sides of the Atlantic should convey their views on legislative and bureaucratic obstacles to the TEC leadership and conduct a regular review of the situation. We emphasized once more the concerns raised by the 100 percent cargo scan requirement, as well as the need to resolve remaining disputes with regard to the REACH regulation and access to the EU market for American poultry.

We discussed President Obama's signing of an executive order leading to the closure of the Guantanamo detention facility within a year. We also considered that the US and the EU Member States should cooperate in finding solutions wherever necessary, including accepting Guantanamo inmates in the European Union.

The dialogue also focused on the negotiations between the US and the EU Member States to extend access to the US visa waiver programme. We welcomed the extension of the programme to seven EU Member States, and encouraged the EU and US executive bodies to continue activities with regard to the Member States not yet included.

Finally, the dialogue took note of a 2008 European Commission report on legislation passed by the US Congress in 2006. The report found that the legislation was not in compliance with World Trade Organization policies as they apply to internet gambling. The TLD expressed strong support for ongoing discussions between the US and EU to resolve the situation in an effort to avoid potential sanctions against the US and the loss of export markets for US business sectors.

In conclusion, both sides renewed their commitment to make the TLD's work more relevant to the European Parliament and to the U.S. House of Representatives. We also agreed to further improve the effectiveness of our dialogue in order to realize the full potential of our interparliamentary relationship.

MATT MILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Matt Miller who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Matt Miller is a junior at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Matt Miller is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Matt Miller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF DRs. CATHIE SCHUMACHER AND K.C. KALTENBORN

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, the Shining Lights Award is presented to individuals who demonstrate dedication to public service and the highest level of character, integrity and ethics. Anchorage Project Access, Drs. Kaltenborn and Schumacher have themselves by embodying the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam for their selfless work in bringing medical care to Anchorage's most impoverished residents and have been selected as the 2009 recipients of the Shining Lights Award.

In today's economic climate, many people are forced to choose between food, rent, and their health. Anchorage Project Access (APA) is a volunteer network of 405 medical professionals designed to address the needs of over 15,000 people in our community who are uninsured and fall 200% below the poverty line. Since 2005, APA has united health care providers, hospitals and ancillary organizations in

an effort to provide basic medical care to those on a limited income. APA strives to reduce health care costs for all of us by promoting a model of health through ongoing care, reducing the unnecessary use of local emergency rooms.

Husband and wife team Drs. Cathie Schumacher and K.C. Kaltenborn were deeply involved in founding APA and continue to dedicate their time and energy to making this worthwhile project successful. Their tireless efforts to establish and nurture APA have benefited the entire Anchorage community and the State of Alaska.

I encourage everyone to reflect on their exemplary devotion to public service as an inspiration to use their own talents for the good of our community. Congratulations to Drs. Schumacher and Kaltenborn and thank you for all that you do!

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE OF KARISSA TATOM

HON. WALT MINNICK

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Karissa Tatom, 17, of Meridian, a senior at Cole Valley Christian Schools, has been named one of the top honorees in Idaho by the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Karissa Tatom is being recognized as a Distinguished Finalist by the program's judges, and will receive a bronze medal. Ms. Tatom learned how to knit so she could make hats and scarves for the "Mad Hatter" organization, which provides hats to women and children who have suffered hair loss due to chemotherapy.

In light of numerous statistics indicating that Americans today are less involved in their communities, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Karissa Tatom are inspiring examples to all of us and are among our brightest hopes for tomorrow.

Ms. Tatom should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud her for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF NORBERT DICKMAN

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norbert Dickman. As the General Manager of Fasken Business, Mr. Dickman has contributed so much to the Laredo community and the State of Texas.

Norbert Dickman was born in 1943 in Chicago where he would grow up and attend Quigley Preparatory Seminary. He would later move to California to attend St. Joseph's College where he earned an AA Degree and then a B.A. Degree in Philosophy from St. Patrick's Seminary. After traveling and attending school in Europe, Mr. Dickman settled again in California where he would study law at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. After practicing in Larkspur, California he dedicated his service to Mrs. Barbara Fasken and made numerous trips to the Laredo and Midland areas to help her with her oil and gas companies as well as her ranch.

In 1988, Mr. Dickman moved to Midland and became the General Manager of Mrs. Fasken's business where he continues to serve today. He is a valued member of the community who dedicates numerous hours of his time to non-profit boards in the area including the Samaritan Counseling Center, the Executive Council of the Boy Scouts, UTPB Advisory Board, Permian Basin Area Foundation, Trinity School (where he was Board President from 1995 to 1997), and Casa de Amigos, where he was Board President for three years and is currently resident of the Endowment Board.

As the General Manager of Fasken business interests, Mr. Dickson currently oversees many oil, gas, and ranching operations in Webb County. He and his business have made many contributions to the city of Laredo and the state of Texas. His foundations have donated nearly 600,000 to the area over the past few years and his business has helped to revitalize the community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Norbert Dickman for his contributions and hard work over the years to the State of Texas.

MEGAN OLLER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Megan Oller who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Megan Oller is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Megan Oller is exemplary of the type of achievement

that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Megan Oller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 207 I was absent on the evening of April 27, 2009, because I was attending a public meeting at the Allegheny National Forest in Warren, Pennsylvania, regarding the pending Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), ongoing litigation, and the proposed "settlement." Recent Forest Service actions on the Allegheny have created adverse economic distress in my rural district and are unfairly denying my constituents access to their legally owned subsurface mineral rights.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea."

TRIBUTE TO DR. SIDNEY J.  
PARNES

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Sidney J. Parnes, one of the great practitioners and researchers in the field of creativity and a co-founder of the Osborn-Parnes Creative Problem Solving Process.

In honoring Dr. Parnes as a pioneer in the worldwide understanding of creative thinking, the House of Representatives adds their appreciation to those that will be expressed by his family, friends, students and colleagues as they gather at Daemen College on May 8–9, 2009 for "Unlocking the Magic: A Tribute and Celebration with Sidney J. Parnes."

Dr. Sidney J. Parnes is co-founder of the International Center for Studies in Creativity, housed at my alma mater, Buffalo State College, and remains the only place in the world where you can receive a Masters of Science degree in Creativity. His contributions have added to the city of Buffalo's significant reputation as a dynamic arts community.

Dr. Parnes' passionate belief that creativity is a result of a balance between divergent and convergent thinking and that everyone can be taught to apply creative behavior in their personal and professional lives has led to his well-earned recognition as the world's leading expert in the field for more than a half century.

A life-long creativity researcher and author, world-class educator and Professor Emeritus

of Creative Studies at the State University of New York College at Buffalo, Dr. Parnes co-founded CPSI (Creative Problem Solving Institute) with Dr. Alex Osborn in 1955. The CPSI became an international gathering for the more than 50 years it was held annually in Buffalo when, at times, 700 people representing 36 countries were in attendance.

A life-long researcher and author, this world-renowned educator is responsible for assembling the most comprehensive library on creativity at the University with over 2,400 volumes and launched the scholarly Journal of Creative Behavior in 1967 which includes the latest research, tools and techniques on creativity, innovation and creative problem solving.

From 1967 to 1984, Dr. Parnes served as president of the Creative Education Foundation, presenting countless workshops on creativity and creative problem-solving for leaders in business, education and government throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

He is a recipient of the State University of New York College at Buffalo "President's Award for Excellence" and is a member of the Creative Education Foundation Hall of Fame as well as the American Creativity Association's Hall of Fame. He has also been recognized by the Innovation Network with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his unprecedented accomplishments to further the creative movement worldwide.

Our congratulations extend to his wife, Bea Parnes, whom Dr. Parnes called "my indispensable colleague, my life companion and dearest friend." Along with their collaborative educational research, they have served as board members of People Inc. for many years and provided numerous workshops for social agencies.

Our good wishes extend to his children and grandchildren who influenced and participated in Dr. Parnes pursuits as he has noted "I'm proud of my family and their achievements, especially their receptivity to creative problem solving and willingness to apply it from their earliest days to family issues and challenges."

I am pleased and honored to send the best wishes of the United States House of Representatives to Dr. Sidney J. Parnes and to his family and friends as they gather to celebrate his life, leadership and legacy of outstanding contributions to the creative life of those whose lives he has so greatly influenced and to the City of Buffalo, the "Cradle of Creative Studies."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, April 29, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 228 on final passage of the Credit Cardholders Bill of Rights Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN HONOR OF TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the announcement of Taiwan's participation as an observer in the World Health Assembly, WHA, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland. This announcement is the culmination of more than a decade of efforts by the Taiwanese people to be included in the assembly. Additionally, many of my congressional colleagues and I have been active in supporting Taiwan's participation in the WHA. I am delighted that after years of work in both Taipei and Washington, DC, these efforts have finally paid off and that Taiwan will be able to send a delegation to the WHA later this month under the nomenclature of "Chinese Taipei."

With the outbreak of the H1N1 virus sweeping across the United States and several countries, Taiwan's inclusion as an observer in the WHA is especially crucial in coordinating global responses to epidemics. Diseases do not stop at national borders, and Taiwan's long absence from the WHA meant that a coordinated global response to outbreaks was not as effective as it could be with Taiwan's inclusion.

I congratulate the Taiwanese people on finally winning inclusion in the WHA and look forward to continuing the good relations between Taiwan and the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 209, I was absent on the evening of April 27, 2009, because I was attending a public meeting at the Allegheny National Forest in Warren, Pennsylvania, regarding the pending Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, SEIS, ongoing litigation, and the proposed "settlement." Recent Forest Service actions on the Allegheny have created adverse economic distress in my rural district and are unfairly denying my constituents access to their legally owned subsurface mineral rights.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MALINDA WRIGHT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, Malinda Smith Wright will turn 100 on May 17, 2009. Malinda was born and raised in Brazoria County, TX, which is in my congressional district, and has spent all of her life there.

Malinda was married to Alex C. Wright for over seventy years. Together, Malinda and Alex raised six children. A lifelong lover of reading, Malinda continues to read the newspaper every day, and I understand that she is particularly interested in the stock market.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Malinda Wright as she prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday with her friends and family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACK KEMP

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Jack Kemp who left us this past Saturday.

While his passing saddens all of us, Jack lived a full life that was truly remarkable. In addition to being a wonderful husband and father, Jack achieved outstanding success as a professional quarterback, United States Congressman, Cabinet Secretary, and Vice Presidential candidate. This is a man who excelled both personally and professionally. His economic policies formed the heart of the Reagan Revolution. Even after his political career ended, he made sure to continue his public service by writing, speaking, and continuing to tackle some of America's greatest problems. Jack Kemp always had ideas to offer and he was most often right.

Jack not only shined but took a leadership role in everything he did. Whether it was on the football field leading his team to victories or being a driving force in the House of Representatives, he was always in the middle of the action. Jack Kemp certainly embodied what Theodore Roosevelt said about the "man in the arena." His was the face that was [literally] "marred by dust and sweat and blood" during his many athletic and political battles over the years.

And even though he was able to achieve so much during his time here, we grieve for what he still had to contribute. This is a man who continuously pushed himself in whatever profession he found himself in.

I was proud to know Jack Kemp for more than thirty years and to be his friend.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Joanne, his wife of more than fifty years, his four children, Jeff, Jennifer, Judith, and Jimmy, and his seventeen grandchildren.

Jack Kemp was a great man and a true public servant who touched so many lives in a positive way during his life. He will be sorely missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on the afternoon of April 29, 2009, and on April 30, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall

vote 223, against final passage of H.R. 1913. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 228, for final passage of H.R. 627.

PRESIDENT NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV OF KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev on his offer to host a nuclear fuel bank in Kazakhstan administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which the United States would expect to meet the highest international standards for safety, security and safeguards. It is my understanding that the U.S. Department of State has welcomed President Nazarbayev's announcement, and is prepared in principle to support this offer. In fact, even today, Secretary Hillary Clinton is meeting with Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Marat Tazhin, and I understand that this important measure is on their agenda.

I am pleased by these series of events, especially in view of history. From 1949 to 1991, the Soviet Union used Kazakhstan as its nuclear testing ground, exploding more than 500 nuclear bombs and exposing more than 1.5 million Kazakhs to nuclear radiation. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Kazakhstan inherited the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and the second largest nuclear test site. While Kazakhstan could have retained enough highly enriched uranium to produce 20 nuclear bombs, President Nursultan Nazarbayev, in cooperation with the United States, and under the auspices of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program, voluntarily dismantled and shut down the nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk.

Kazakhstan has since signed with the United States amendments to a bilateral agreement on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction which has moved the two nations towards a new level of cooperation in preventing the threat of bio-terrorism.

As a Pacific Islander, I have a special affinity for President Nazarbayev and the people of Kazakhstan. From 1946 to 1958, the United States detonated 66 nuclear weapons in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) including the first hydrogen bomb, or Bravo shot, which was 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Acknowledged as the greatest nuclear explosion ever detonated, the Bravo test vaporized six islands and created a mushroom cloud 25 miles in diameter. If one were to calculate the net yield of tests conducted by the U.S. in the RMI, it would be equivalent to the detonation of 1.7 Hiroshima bombs every day for 12 years. Regrettably, the U.S. has never fully made right the suffering of Pacific Islanders who, then and now, face severe health problems and even genetic anomalies for generations to come.

Through His Excellency Kanat Saudabayev, now Secretary of State for the Republic of Kazakhstan, I learned of President Nazarbayev's historic leadership in the cause of nuclear nonproliferation and, since my visit to Semipalatinsk, I stand with him in calling for

a nuclear weapons free world. Of all nations, Kazakhstan has the most legitimate voice, as no other nation has been courageous enough to disarm. Frankly speaking, when it comes to strengthening the global partnership for a nuclear weapons free world, President Nazarbayev has set the standard for other nations to follow.

As Strobe Talbott, President of the Brookings Institution, recently noted, “the goal of eventually abolishing nuclear weaponry is written into the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which the U.S. Senate ratified nearly 40 years ago.” And yet what have the members of the nuclear club done to disarm? In many ways, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, which includes the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and the People’s Republic of China are the worst examples of how the world should deal with nuclear challenges, but I remain hopeful that the U.S., under the leadership of President Obama, will form a strong alliance with Kazakhstan in moving the world forward on this issue.

Kazakhstan has also made great strides towards democracy, earning the support of 56 member nations to head the OSCE in 2010. Today, Kazakhstan has become the most stable and prosperous nation in Central Asia, and is the first country in the Commonwealth of Independent States to be granted market economy status by the United States. With more than 130 ethnic groups and 40 faiths living in peaceful coexistence, Kazakhstan is also a model for religious tolerance.

By its actions, Kazakhstan has proven itself to be a key ally of the United States and, as such, I welcome Foreign Minister Marat Tazhin’s visit to Washington, D.C.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT JAMES THOMAS, FIRE-FIGHTER

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on June 28, 2000, the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD)—and indeed, the entire Baltimore community—lost a dedicated and passionate advocate and brother, Mr. James Thomas. He had retired from BCFD in 1992 after nearly 37 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Thomas started his career in 1956 with Engine No. 6, three years after African Americans were allowed to be employed by the fire department. In 1962, as member of Engine No. 8, Jim was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, which made him the first African American Officer within the BCFD. Jim took on many responsibilities and leadership positions within the BCFD, serving as a fire and safety inspector.

However, as it is widely known firefighters do not ever retire. They just stop going to the fire house everyday and this was also the case for Mr. Thomas. After his retirement, firefighter cadets and those with years of experience often sought out Jim for his advice, guidance, and instruction or simply to listen to his experiences within the BCFD.

Madam Speaker, in addition to being a dedicated firefighter, Jim above all else was a de-

voted husband to his wife Maureen and a man of faith. Although he passed away nearly nine years ago, his life remains an inspiration to us all, speaking volumes for what can be accomplished when a person’s faith and determination are synchronized with his conduct. It is my hope that the family and friends of Mr. James Thomas continue to hold on to the fond memories they shared with him.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall no. 208 I was absent on the evening of April 27, 2009 because I was attending a public meeting at the Allegheny National Forest in Warren, Pennsylvania regarding the pending Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), ongoing litigation, and the proposed “settlement.” Recent Forest Service actions on the Allegheny have created adverse economic distress in my rural district and are unfairly denying my constituents access to their legally owned subsurface mineral rights.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

#### WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today in support of World Press Freedom Day, celebrated on the 3rd day of May each year. I do so with a profound sense of humility and with a sense of privilege about being able to come to the floor to speak in support of freedom of the press around the world.

World Press Freedom Day has been observed for 16 years now and serves as a reminder to us all of the vital importance of this core freedom. It is a day in which we celebrate the indispensable role played by journalists in exposing abuses of power, while at the same time we sound the alarm about the growing number of journalists that are still being silenced by death or jailed as they attempt to report on important issues of the day and bring to light information in the public interest.

Since this day was first celebrated, 692 journalists have been killed. The majority of victims were local reporters covering topics such as crime, corruption, and national security in their home countries. Adding to this tragic figure are the hundreds more each year who face intimidation, censorship, and arbitrary arrest—guilty of nothing more than a passion for truth and a tenacious belief that a free society depends on an informed citizenry. In every corner of the globe—from Iran to Zimbabwe, Burma to Pakistan, Cuba and Venezuela—there are journalists being actively harassed and exercising self-censorship because of threats and intimidation from repressive regimes.

As part of combating this intimidation and censorship, Mr. ADAM SCHIFF of California and

I recently introduced the Daniel Pearl Freedom of Press Act. As many will remember, Daniel Pearl was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in Pakistan, just 4 months after the September 11th attacks.

At the time of his kidnapping, Pearl served as the South Asia Bureau Chief of the Wall Street Journal, and was based in Mumbai, India. He went to Pakistan as part of an investigation into the alleged links between Richard Reid, the shoe bomber, Al Qaeda and Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence, ISI. He was subsequently beheaded by his captors. This legislation is dedicated to Daniel Pearl, the many that have gone before him, and those that still face such dangers today. The legislation seeks to highlight and promote freedom of the press by establishing an annual State Department report on the status of press freedom in every country in the world and create a grant program aimed at broadening and strengthening the independence of journalists and media organizations.

Now, more than ever, the defense of the freedom of the press must continue. Here at home, the Constitution of the United States provides: “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.” Not since those words were adopted has this body passed a law to ensure the freedom of the press. Last month, the House passed the Free Flow of Information Act of 2009, legislation I was honored to introduce with Representative RICK BOUCHER of Virginia. The bill provides a qualified privilege of confidential sources to journalists—which is sadly missing in Federal law—and enables reporters to shield sources in most instances from disclosure. I urge its swift passage by our colleagues in the Senate.

While it is my great hope that a Federal Media Shield bill will soon be signed into law here at home, the struggle for freedom of the press is much more primitive in its evolution in many parts of the world. And for that reason we must stand in solidarity with all those around the globe who love freedom and continue to strain at the bonds of tyranny and oppression on this day of remembrance.

On this day, we remember reporters like Roxana Saberi. Miss Saberi is a 31-year-old American journalist who was arrested in February 2009, and is being held in Iran on charges of espionage, which her lawyer and the U.S. Department of State call baseless. Saberi is a freelance journalist who moved to Iran 6 years ago and reports for NPR, the BBC, and other news organizations. A true representative of this melting pot that is America, she grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, the daughter of Reza Saberi, who was born in Iran, and Akiko Saberi, who is from Japan.

As we learn of cases like Miss Saberi, we understand the stakes that are at risk here. We understand why oppressive regimes like that of Iran want so desperately to muzzle the unfiltered reporting of journalists like Saberi. And we understand why it is so important to cherish and protect freedom of the press as a vital check on abuses of power. Today, we call on the government of Iran to free Miss Saberi, hospitalized in her desperate attempt to win her freedom with a hunger strike that might appeal to the conscience of her oppressor where her valid legal arguments did not.

As a conservative who believes in limited government, I believe the only check on government power in real time is a free and independent press. A free press ensures the flow

of information to the public, and let me say, during a time when the role of government in our lives and in our enterprises seems to grow every day—both at home and abroad—ensuring the vitality of a free and independent press is more important than ever.

I salute the bravery of reporters and press outlets around the world. I urge you to stand firm and take heart. The U.S. House of Representatives stands firmly behind your right to increased freedoms; soon we hope to see this right enshrined in our public law, and stand in solidarity with those on the front lines of the worldwide fight for freedom of the press.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 6

- 9 a.m.  
**Appropriations**  
 Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine the range of innovative, non-geologic applications for the beneficial reuse of carbon dioxide from coal and other fossil fuel facilities.  
 SD-192
- 9:30 a.m.  
**Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs**  
 To hold hearings to examine regulating and resolving institutions considered to be too big to fail.  
 SD-538
- Foreign Relations**  
 To hold hearings to examine engaging Iran, focusing on obstacles and opportunities.  
 SD-419
- Veterans' Affairs**  
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Roger W. Baker, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, William A. Gunn, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Jose D. Riojas, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security, and Preparedness, and John U. Sepulveda, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.  
 SR-418

- 10 a.m.  
**Energy and Natural Resources**  
 Business meeting to consider pending legislation on siting of interstate electric transmission facilities, energy finance, and nuclear energy.  
 SD-366
- Judiciary**  
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.  
 SD-226
- 2 p.m.  
**Aging**  
 To hold hearings to examine solutions to stop Medicare and Medicaid fraud from hurting seniors and taxpayers.  
 SH-216
- 2:15 p.m.  
**Armed Services**  
**Strategic Forces Subcommittee**  
 To receive a closed briefing to examine space issues.  
 SVC-217
- 2:30 p.m.  
**Commerce, Science, and Transportation**  
**Communications and Technology Subcommittee**  
 To hold hearings to examine the future of journalism.  
 SR-253
- Foreign Relations**  
**European Affairs Subcommittee**  
 To hold hearings to examine NATO post-60, focusing on institutional challenges moving forward.  
 SD-419

MAY 7

- Time to be announced  
**Environment and Public Works**  
 Business meeting to consider the nominations of Mathy Stanislaus, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Cynthia J. Giles, of Rhode Island, to be Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance, and Michelle DePass, of New York, to be Assistant Administrator for International Affairs, all of the Environmental Protection Agency.  
 Room to be announced
- 9:30 a.m.  
**Armed Services**  
 To hold hearings to examine the report of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States.  
 SH-216
- 10 a.m.  
**Appropriations**  
**Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee**  
 To hold hearings to examine the 2009 H1N1 virus.  
 SD-124
- Appropriations**  
**Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee**  
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine funding of the Department of Justice.  
 SD-192
- Energy and Natural Resources**  
 To hold hearings to examine a joint staff draft related to cybersecurity and critical electricity infrastructure.  
 SD-366
- Finance**  
 To hold hearings to examine auctioning under cap and trade, focusing on design, participation, and distribution of revenues.  
 SD-215
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**  
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Seth David Harris, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Secretary, and M.

Patricia Smith, of New York, to be Solicitor, both of the Department of Labor.  
 SD-430

#### Judiciary

- Business meeting to consider S. 417, to enact a safe, fair, and responsible state secrets privilege Act, S. 257, to amend title 11, United States Code, to disallow certain claims resulting from high cost credit debts, S. 448 and H.R. 985, bills to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. 327, to amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve assistance to domestic and sexual violence victims and provide for technical corrections, and the nominations of William K. Sessions III, of Vermont, to be Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission, and John Morton, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.  
 SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.  
**Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry**  
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Krysta Harden, of Virginia, and Pearlie S. Reed, of Arkansas, both to be an Assistant Secretary, Rajiv J. Shah, of Washington, to be Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, and Dallas P. Tonsager, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary for Rural Development, all of the Department of Agriculture.  
 SD-106
- 2 p.m.  
**Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**  
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Margaret A. Hamburg, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.  
 SD-430
- 2:15 p.m.  
**Indian Affairs**  
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Larry J. Echo Hawk, of Utah, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.  
 SD-628
- 2:30 p.m.  
**Energy and Natural Resources**  
**Energy Subcommittee**  
 To hold hearings to examine net metering, interconnection standards, and other policies that promote the deployment of distributed generation to improve grid reliability, increase clean energy deployment, enable consumer choice, and diversify our nation's energy supply.  
 SD-366
- Appropriations**  
**Legislative Branch Subcommittee**  
 To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2010 for the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and the Office of Compliance.  
 SD-138
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**  
**Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee**  
 To hold hearings to examine recruitment in the federal government.  
 SD-342
- Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs**  
**Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee**  
 To hold hearings to examine strengthening the Securities and Exchange

Commission's enforcement responsibilities.

MAY 13

MAY 21

SD-538

10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Competitiveness, Innovation, and Export  
Promotion Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine tourism in  
troubled times.

9:30 a.m.  
Veterans' Affairs  
Business meeting to markup pending leg-  
islation. SR-418

MAY 8

9:30 a.m.  
Joint Economic Committee  
To hold hearings to examine the employ-  
ment situation for April 2009.

SR-253

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 7

10 a.m.  
Finance  
To hold hearings to examine the nomina-  
tion of Neal S. Wolin, of Illinois, to be  
Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.  
SD-215

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Economic Policy Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine manufac-  
turing and the credit crisis.

SD-538

10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Science and Space Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the con-  
sequences of a gap in human space  
flight. SR-253