

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol on Monday, May 4, 2009 and therefore unable to cast votes on the House Floor that evening.

However, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 230, recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo; and "yea" on H. Con. Res. 111, recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

### IN APPRECIATION FOR THE DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE OF CHIEF MARK RAFFAELLI

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, Mark Raffaelli joined the South San Francisco Police Department as a patrol officer in 1971. This month, he retires—after 37 years of public service—as Chief of Police for the City of South San Francisco.

Chief Raffaelli will not be easily replaced. Everyone who knows Mark, myself included, appreciates his sense of humor, easygoing manner and dedication to his employees and the citizens they are sworn to protect. Mark is a leader who leads by example—and by his example—has mentored more men and women than he even knows.

On his journey through the ranks, Mark served in virtually every capacity a peace officer can serve. He put his skills to work in patrol, investigations, communications, training, operations and was a steady and reliable community presence for generations of South City residents.

Mark is a fixture in his community, having served as President of the South San Francisco Boys and Girls Club, SSF Host Lions Club, San Mateo County 100 Club and the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association. He has taken leadership roles in groups as diverse as the San Mateo County Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy, Peninsula Police Officers Association, San Mateo County Gang Task Force, SSF Unified School District Strategic Planning Committee, North Peninsula Family Alternatives, Skyline College President's Council, Skyline College Hermanos Program and the San Mateo County Law Enforcement Training Site Fundraising Committee.

As Chief of Police, Mark Raffaelli has always welcomed new ideas. Under his watch, the SSFPD created or expanded the D.A.R.E. drug education program, Community Oriented Policing, Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System, a scholarship program for members of the Explorer Post and

NEAT (Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team) for first time juvenile offenders.

Madam Speaker, I have had the great privilege of working with Chief Raffaelli for decades and have always been impressed by his ability to find solutions for vexing problems and show leadership when it would be easier to duck and cover.

Chief Raffaelli has earned his retirement and will, no doubt, enjoy his newly found leisure time with his lovely wife Patricia and sons Isaac and Rick. For decades, the Raffaelli family has shared their husband and father with all of us and we are forever indebted to them.

Madam Speaker, the biggest challenge of paying tribute to Chief Raffaelli is deciding which of his many accomplishments to leave off the list. Perhaps the greatest endorsement of his service is in the words of those who came under his command. Here is just a small sampling:

"Exceptionally dedicated to the city, department and citizens of South San Francisco.

"Always goes out of his way to greet employees. . . ."

"More frugal than Mr. Scrooge. . . ."

And my personal favorite: "Great hair."

### COMMENDING HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA AND THE 91 WORLD WAR II VETERANS TRAVELING TO THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to commend the inaugural Honor Flight South Alabama and the 91 World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing to Washington, D.C. this week.

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Monroe, Covington, and Escambia counties in Alabama to see their national memorial.

Over six decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly this long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces and the more than 400,000 who died. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you" yet, for those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first—and perhaps only—opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

This Honor Flight, the organization's maiden flight, begins at dawn when the veterans will gather at historic Fort Whiting in Mobile and travel to Mobile Regional Airport to board a US Airways flight to Washington. During their time in their nation's capital, the veterans will

visit the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other memorials.

The veterans will return to Mobile Regional Airport Wednesday evening, where some 1,000 people—including high school bands, Boy Scout troops, and Azalea Trail and Dogwood Trail Maids—are expected to greet them.

Madam Speaker, today's journey of 91 heroes from south Alabama is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank them—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II—for they collectively—and literally—saved the world. They personify the very best America has to offer, and I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to their selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

I salute each of the 91 veterans who made the trip today. May we never forget their valiant deeds and tremendous sacrifices.

Vance Barnes; Edna Bednekoff; Maurice Bell; Glenn Boom; Douglas Bower; Alto Brill; John Brodbeck; Arnold Brodbeck, Jr.; William Burchett; Henry Burgess; Helen Callaway; John Campbell; William Carpenter; Florene Clayton; Thomas Cowart; Kenneth Cramton; Charles Cuff; Leo Curtis; John Deloney; Rois Deshazo; Norman Dobson; Jack Dunlavy; Charles Dyas, Jr.; Joe Dykes; Edwin Epperson; William Fleming; Samuel Gilreath; Joseph Gould; George Grau; Joseph Green; and

John Grimes; Walter Hadley; Woodrow Hall; Jeremiah Hammond; Welton Hance; Paul Hannie; William Harrison III; Billy Heard; Howard Heminger; Earl Hilyer; Paul Hogan; Adam Hollinger; Milton Hudson; Clint Humphrey; Samuel Jenkins; Fred Jones; George Kendley; Charles Kostmeyer; Wilmer Lamey; Francis Larsen; John Laudin; John Lee; Jonathan Leff; Edly Lewis; John Little; Albert Lobsitz; Billy Lyon; Ralph Manning; William March; Dillon March; and

Dale Martz; Thomas McClellan; Martin McGowan; James McIntyre; John Mitchell; Harry Moreland; J. Edgar Moser; George Noffsinger; Clayton Oleson; Thomas Ollinger; Cecil Palmer; Clarence Phillips; Herbert Pierce; Gordon Pierce; Arthur Prince; Wade Reeves; Sibley Richerson; Gary Roberts; Thomas Schmaeling; Otis Slack; James Sowell, Jr.; Robert Spielmann; Colwin Steadham; Ivan Sweeney; Olin Tisdale; George Underwood; Edward Wade; Henry Waltman; J.B. White-Spunner; Mabron Williams; and Janet Woods.

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

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

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 of the bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair

• 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.

and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights. This important legislation reforms the relationship between credit card issuers and cardholders. I thank Congresswoman MALONEY, Chairman FRANK, and the House Leadership for their work on this legislation.

Credit is essential to growth and prosperity in our economy. Thanks to bold action by this Congress and President Obama, once-frozen credit markets are slowly beginning to move again. However, hundreds of my constituents have contacted me to share their experiences of unexpected, significant interest rate increases on existing credit card debt. Many responsible borrowers who do not miss payments and only borrow within their means now find themselves in situations of great financial uncertainty as a result of legal but dubious credit card company practices. Reforms are needed to restore fairness to the consumer credit market.

The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights will support responsible borrowing and lending and help to prevent predatory lending practices, which contributed to the economic crisis we find ourselves in today. This legislation will provide a range of new protections for consumers facing excessive credit card fees, skyrocketing interest rates, and ad hoc revisions of agreements. It will end unfair, arbitrary interest rate increases on existing balances, allow consumers to set their own credit limits, and end the practice of computing interest charges on balances from more than one billing cycle, which can lead consumers to pay interest on debt they have already paid.

The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights enhances consumer protection from predatory lending practices by instituting common-sense policies to promote responsible lending and borrowing. Many families in my district and across the country are struggling with personal finances and will benefit greatly from the provisions of this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF VIRGINIA  
B. COWEN

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia B. Cowen of Brownsville, Texas, who on May 13 will celebrate her 90th birthday surrounded by family and friends.

Virginia was born in the small Midwestern town of Prosperity in Missouri, and graduated Valedictorian from Sheldon High School at the age of 15. She went on to study at Missouri State University, but after her third year there, she followed her "heart song" to the Dallas Divinity School in Texas.

Virginia later moved to Brownsville, Texas, on the tip of South Texas, where she met the love of her life, Raphael Cowen, an attorney, and the two married. Virginia and Raphael had six boys and five girls, a total of 11 children.

After Raphael became ill, Virginia worked as a school teacher in order to maintain the family, and all the children learned the importance

of work ethic early on in life. They shined shoes, cut yards, sold newspapers, and sacked groceries.

Although Virginia lost her beloved husband, friend and companion, Raphael, to cancer, her faith in God remained strong.

Virginia, then 42 years old, learned how to drive so she could take her third and fourth born sons to Brownsville High School. She knew that a strong solid education was the key to success and instilled that in her 11 children. Shortly after, she accepted a fellowship at Texas A&M University where she earned her master's degree in English Literature and worked on her doctoral thesis.

For many years, Virginia taught at the then-Texas Southmost College, now The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, where she was a tenured faculty member and after many years of serving and educating the bright minds of South Texas retired.

In retirement she traveled to England and throughout Europe to visit birthplaces, homes and graves of the literary authors she has admired for a lifetime. She has done it all.

Today, Virginia continues to enjoy a happy life with her 11 grown children and 25 grandchildren. I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating Virginia on her 90th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel and congratulate the people of Israel as they celebrate the independence of their country.

I am hopeful that this year we make substantial progress to the goal we all share which is to see Israel and its neighbors living side by side in peace. To achieve this goal, it is important that the parties, aided by the United States acting as an honest broker, address and resolve all of the major issues standing in the path to peace.

The appointment by President Obama of former Senator George Mitchell as Special Envoy for Middle East Peace is an outstanding gift from the United States to Israel on the occasion of its 61st birthday.

LYME-OLD LYME HIGH SCHOOL—  
FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstandingly gifted group of high school students from Old Lyme, Connecticut who compose the Lyme-Old Lyme High School FIRST Robotics team, the "Techno Ticks." On April 18, 2009, they were honored with one of the highest recognitions

in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) field competitions among young adults hosted by FIRST.

FIRST, "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen, an inventor, entrepreneur, and advocate for the STEM fields. Its original goal of inspiring young adults' interest and participation in STEM fields has remained a core value and has helped grow the program and participation to unprecedented levels. In 2009, nearly 1 million individuals and groups, consisting of students, volunteers, and sponsors, composed the FIRST community.

On April 16, 2009, tens of thousands of students, spectators, mentors, volunteers and sponsors gathered in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Georgia to launch the FIRST International Championship. Over the weekend, more than 500 teams from around the world demonstrated the products of their labors in several competitions, including the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), the FIRST Tech Challenge, and the FIRST Lego League. The "Techno Ticks" of Lyme-Old Lyme High School from Old Lyme, Connecticut were among the competitors in the FRC field.

Prior to the championship, FRC teams were challenged to construct a robot in 6 weeks with a kit containing hundreds of parts. Nearly 1,700 teams participated in FRC regional competitions. Winners advanced to the FIRST International Competition. The 2009 FIRST International Competition FRC challenge revolved around a game called "LUNACY," which tested the students and robots in picking up nine inch game balls and placing them in trailers hitched to their opponents' robots. The competitors were also faced with the additional challenge of a low-friction floor.

After all balls were counted and the laws of physics tested, the "Techno Ticks" emerged with the most prestigious honor of the competition, the Chairman's Award. The Chairman's Award is presented to the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST.

Madam Speaker, the competitiveness of our workforce and prosperity of our society is greatly dependent on the innovative capacities of our citizens. Members of the "Techno Ticks" and the other young adults that have participated in FIRST programs have clearly demonstrated that our next generation can tackle the challenges that our nation may face in the future. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing the "Techno Ticks" achievements and celebrating their prestigious award.

RECOGNIZING TERRI KIMBLE AS  
THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE  
AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terri Kimble, who was recently selected to be the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce. Terri was chosen for this important community leadership position out of many qualified applicants

based of her extensive experience and commitment to success.

The business community and residents of Ahwatukee will benefit from Terri's experience, which includes longtime membership in the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce in Michigan, nine years as the group's president. In addition, Terri was an Athena Award finalist, Rotarian of the Year and Michigan Chamber of Commerce Executives, as well as Board of Directors and Communications Chair. With such noteworthy experience and skills, I am positive that Terri will successfully promote the Chamber's goals of advancing community and business development.

I commend the Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce for selecting such a deserving candidate to serve as their president. I am sure that Terri will provide valuable service and leadership during her time there.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Terri Kimble's contributions to our country and community.

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KALEB COLLIER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 05, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kaleb Collier of Weston, Missouri. Kaleb 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 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kaleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kaleb 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 Kaleb Collier for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

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TRIBUTE TO TERRY TYBOROWSKI

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee will soon bid farewell to our professional staff member, Teresa Tyborowski, who has been with the Appropriations Committee for five years.

Before joining the Committee staff in 2004, Ms. Tyborowski spent twelve years at the Department of Energy. There, she worked on a wide range of vital energy and environmental policy issues, including nuclear clean-up, natural resource management, nuclear non-proliferation, international fuel cycles, and fissile materials policy implementation. In these areas and others, she evaluated existing policies, made recommendations for essential changes, authored reports to Congress, managed complex programs, and traveled abroad

to facilitate international cooperation. Her extensive experience in both foreign and domestic energy issues in a variety of capacities made her a valuable member of the Department and prepared her to make equally meaningful contributions to Congress.

The Appropriations Committee first benefited from Ms. Tyborowski's expertise in 2000, during her detail with the Energy and Water Subcommittee. That year, she assisted in the preparation of the Fiscal Year 2001 Appropriations Bill, giving recommendations on funding levels and reporting requirements from the perspective of a federal agency under our jurisdiction.

With both Departmental insight and familiarity with the appropriations process, Ms. Tyborowski was an obvious choice for a permanent professional position on the Appropriations Committee. Joining the Committee staff in 2004, she spent a year with the Homeland Security Subcommittee working on science, infrastructure, and intelligence issues before returning to the Energy and Water Subcommittee to oversee major Department of Energy accounts. In this capacity, Ms. Tyborowski's in-depth knowledge of energy policy made her a truly invaluable member of the team.

The Energy & Water subcommittee has a history of working close together, but when I became Chairman of the subcommittee I was able to gain a much deeper appreciation for the tremendous contribution Ms. Tyborowski made to the subcommittee. During this transition period, she provided an essential source of consistency and expertise. She quickly became a go-to person for nearly all of the energy-related issues and her work was critical to the subcommittee's success during her four year tenure.

On top of all her professional contributions, Ms. Tyborowski has also been a distinct pleasure to work with. Tenacious and honest, Ms. Tyborowski is universally regarded by her colleagues for the deep commitment and passion she brings to her work. We have each appreciated her wonderful and contagious sense of humor. Her presence will be sorely missed. I must also acknowledge Ms. Tyborowski's family—her husband, Keith, and her son, Eric—for their support as Terry managed the demands of a congressional schedule.

For all the knowledge she has shared and the sacrifices she has made, on behalf of the Energy and Water Subcommittee I would like to extend to her our utmost thanks. We wish her all the best for her return to the Department of Energy. We know that she will continue to do great things.

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RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE  
OF CINCO DE MAYO

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution honoring the historical significance of Cinco de Mayo.

This holiday, as we all know, recognizes Mexico's remarkable defense against foreign intervention, a feat marked by great courage,

sacrifice, and devotion to the right of self-termination.

But as we also know, the day transcends a single battle at the City of Puebla, where, many years ago, Mexican forces defeated a far more advanced and well-equipped military force.

For Americans, the holiday has come to symbolize the rich and diverse experience of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans. It is a day on which we celebrate the rich and varied contributions of Americans of Mexican ancestry to the history, culture, and progress of the United States.

Whether you celebrate the day by watching a mariachi performance on the National Mall, or by listening to a lecture on the activism of César Chávez, or by simply going to a backyard barbecue with your family and friends, you know that this holiday is, at its essence, an American holiday.

In my home state of California, in fact, Americans have been celebrating this day as far back as 1863, just one year after the historic Battle of Puebla.

Thus as we commemorate this day, let us honor our brothers and sisters who have contributed to the rich diversity of the United States. Let us remember that this diversity, far from being a recent phenomenon, or a distinct chapter in American history, has been with us since our Nation's founding, and has enriched our country throughout each and every chapter of our history. Let us continue to celebrate this diversity, and recognize that it will continue to be the great blessing and strength of our country.

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TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT  
GENERAL CLYDE A. VAUGHN

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this time to honor a fellow Missourian, Lieutenant General Clyde A. Vaughn, who will be retiring as Director of the Army National Guard, after having served the nation for 35 years in the Army National Guard.

While General Vaughn has performed a number of important roles during his time in the Army National Guard, he has served as Director of the Army National Guard since 2005. During his tenure as Director, he has overseen a period of increased operating tempo and helped to transform the Army National Guard.

As Director, General Vaughn has implemented policies to increase the end strength of the Army National Guard and to ensure new members of the Guard are well trained and well equipped. He has overseen important Army National Guard missions at home and abroad, including missions along the U.S. Gulf Coast during and after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, within California during wildfires, and along the U.S. border.

Overseas, General Vaughn has helped to coordinate an important program in Afghanistan with the help of Missouri National Guardsmen and those from other states who are also experts in agriculture. In that troubled country, the Guard has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Farm

Bureau to develop and deploy Agribusiness Development Teams. These teams have helped to improve Afghanistan's agricultural livelihood. They have provided outreach, education, and infrastructure support to officials from the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock and to local farmers. The advice given by these Guardsmen who are also agricultural experts better the changes for economic stability and alternative livelihoods for Afghanistan's rural citizens.

For the families of Army National Guard personnel, General Vaughn has overseen the development of the 325 Army National Guard Family Assistance Centers. These centers provide long-term informational, referral, and outreach support for geographically dispersed military families.

General Vaughn's leadership has strengthened both the National Guard and the United States. I am proud that he is a Missourian who has given so much of his time to our country. I trust that Members of the House will join me in congratulating General Vaughn and his family for their contributions to the United States of America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VIETNAM VETERAN SERGEANT OTIS HERMAN GLENN, JR. OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Otis Herman Glenn, Jr., a Vietnam Veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart.

As a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, Sgt. Glenn fought valiantly in the battles of Khe Sanh and Con Thien in Southern Vietnam.

For his truly heroic and fearless service in Vietnam, Sgt. Glenn was awarded the Presidential Citation for Bravery. After being wounded in combat in 1968, Sgt. Glenn was awarded the Purple Heart. When his tour in Vietnam ended, Sgt. Glenn returned to North Carolina and married Mrs. Judith Glenn.

While Sgt. Glenn left the jungles and rice patties of Vietnam in 1968, the damage done to his lungs when in combat proved fatal in 2007. After 27 years of marriage, Mrs. Glenn watched as the effects of Vietnam slowly ended her husband's life. Mrs. Glenn made a pledge to properly honor her husband's passing.

In April of 2009, Mrs. Glenn was accompanied by family and friends as Sgt. Glenn's name was read in front of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall. Because his death was not classified as killed in action, Sgt. Glenn's name is not eligible to be engraved in the Wall. However, his name will be added to the Vietnam War Honor Roll Book to serve as a lasting reminder of his service and sacrifice.

I would like to recognize Judith Glenn for her tireless efforts to memorialize her husband, and I ask my colleagues to join me in fulfilling Judith's promise to pay tribute to her beloved husband.

It is with great respect that I commend the service of this brave Marine who joined hands

with countless other patriots to fight for our great nation. I hope that today's generation of young men and women will follow the shining example of patriotism and dedication to freedom modeled by Sergeant Otis Glenn and the other heroes of the Vietnam War.

TEACHERS OF DREW MODEL SCHOOL HONORED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR ALL

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week and to honor the teachers of Drew Model School for their outstanding and tireless efforts to raise academic achievement levels for all students at this institution.

The teachers and staff at Drew Model School approach each student with the belief that every child learns best within a social environment that supports and respects his or her unique development. Their programs encourage children to develop independence of thought and confidence of character while learning at their own pace. Additionally, Drew faculty members incorporate the traditional approach of children working, learning, and developing in mixed-age groups with the academic experience of gentle guidance under a specially trained teacher.

I am proud and grateful for the enthusiastic teachers at Drew Model School and would like to recognize Suneeta Maheshwari, Carol Oakes, and all Drew Model School educators who have shown admirable dedication to their students at this exemplary school.

Teachers make a difference in all of our lives, and today, as well as everyday, I would like to extend my warm thanks for their hard work and service to America's children. I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring Drew Model School teachers whose commitment to quality education is extraordinary and dedication to academic achievement is unmatched.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER KEITH ALAN WILLIS

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay final tribute to one of North Carolina's native sons and a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. A beloved son, husband and father, Commander Keith Alan Willis, U.S. Coast Guard, passed suddenly while serving as Commanding Officer in Coast Guard Cutter TAHOMA (WMEC 908) since May 2007. He most recently served as the Coast Guard Liaison as Commander, U.S. Second Fleet after having served as Assistant Coast Guard Liaison at U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Joint Forces Command from August 2004 through August 2006. Commander Willis was a 1989

graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, with a Bachelor of Science in Government. In 2000, he completed a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Troy State University, and in 2004, he completed a Master's Degree in National Security Policy from the U.S. Naval War College.

Commander Willis' prior assignments included enlisted service from 1983 to 1985, during which time he was stationed on USCGC DAUNTLESS and at the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) program in San Diego, California. After BOOST, Commander Willis reported to the Coast Guard Academy. Following graduation in 1989, he reported to USCGC HARRIET LANE in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he served as a Deck Watch Officer, Combat Information Center Officer, Weapons Officer, and Assistant Navigator.

Upon departure from USCGC HARRIET LANE in 1992, Commander Willis reported to Law Enforcement Detachment 8-G in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he served as Officer in Charge, and made deployments on a variety of U.S. Navy ships, and a deployment to the Middle East to assist in enforcement of the U.N. Sanctions against Iraq. Commander Willis reported to USCGC BEAR in Portsmouth, Virginia, as the Operations Officer from 1994 to 1997. In August 1997, he reported to the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area command staff, where he served until July 2001 as a member of the International Operations branch. In that capacity, Commander Willis helped direct and execute the Tradewinds series of exercises in the Caribbean, which included participation by fourteen Caribbean nations.

Commander Willis then reported to USCGC DAUNTLESS in Galveston, Texas, as Executive Officer in August 2001, after which CDR Willis reported to the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, graduating in May 2004. Following graduation, Commander Willis then reported as Assistant Coast Guard Liaison to Fleet Forces Command and Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, and served in that billet until assignment in August 2006 to the newly established position of Coast Guard Liaison to Commander Second Fleet.

Commander Keith Willis, born in Frisco, North Carolina, is remembered for his Christian faith, devotion to his family and dedicated service to the United States Coast Guard. May God rest his soul and provide comfort to his family.

PEARL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**HON. GREGG HARPER**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 05, 2009*

Mr. HARPER. Madam Speaker, it was 1909 when a young Millsaps College ministerial student in Mississippi was sent to nearby Pearson Community on the old Illinois Central Railroad to organize a new Methodist congregation. The young pastor's name was James F. Campbell, Sr., and his new members of Pearson Methodist Church met to worship at the old Pearson School House. Although Reverend Campbell only served as pastor until

1910, his legacy was a stronger and larger community, and a church that this year proudly celebrates its centennial.

As both the congregation and community grew, the church relocated a bit north to the current day City of Pearl. There the members continued to meet in another local school until 1921. With a desire for their own permanent place to worship, the decision was made to purchase one acre of land. To construct their new church home, the members purchased the abandoned Union Jackson Methodist Episcopal Church South on Old Fannin Road. Built in 1850, the structure was dismantled and moved by wagon to its current day site. The original pulpit of the old Union church is still used to this day.

When the congregation began worshipping in the new building, they adopted the name Pearl Chapel Methodist Church, and thirty-six years later the name was changed by church resolution to Pearl Methodist Church. The congregation continued to grow, bringing many changes to the church as well as new buildings, such as new Sunday School rooms and administrative offices. In 1952, more improvements were made, such as the beautiful chancel rail, which is still in use today. During the next fifty years, the church saw many changes and improvement to accommodate the growing congregation. One final change was chosen in 1968 as the church adopted its modern day name of Pearl United Methodist Church.

Since 1909, eleven members have answered the Lord's call to ministry and the congregation has heard the word delivered from nine humble servants: Reverend James F. Campbell, Sr., Reverend F.L. Applewhite, Reverend E.R. Dickerson, Reverend L.T. Brantley, Reverend Jim Campbell, Jr., Reverend C.V. Bugg, Reverend George Thompson, Reverend Scott Larsen and Reverend David Patrick.

Many things change over the course of a century, but after hundreds of worship services, weddings, christenings, and baptisms, Pearl United Methodist Church in Pearl, Mississippi has remained faithful to its calling . . . serving God and the citizens in the Pearl community.

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THE SAFE SCHOOLS  
IMPROVEMENT ACT

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Safe Schools Improvement Act. My lead sponsors Rep. MCCARTHY, Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN and I strongly believe this bill provides crucial support to our efforts to reduce the national drop-out rate and make schools safer for all students.

An unsafe school environment interferes with students' ability to learn. Children who are bullied miss more school, have lower self-esteem, and are more likely to drop-out or commit suicide than those who are not. Nearly 40 percent of middle-school and high-school students report that they do not feel safe at school and one in 10 high school drop-outs report that frequent bullying was a major reason they dropped out. As we move to reauthorize

the landmark No Child Left Behind law, we must examine and address how improvements in school safety can positively affect student attendance and academic achievement.

The Safe Schools Improvement Act would require schools that receive funding from the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to implement an anti-bullying policy that protects students from bullying and harassment. It also requires these schools to collect data regarding bullying and harassment incidents and would allow them teach students about the consequences of bullying and harassment.

Today's children are the economic engine of our future, and we are relying on schools to provide the education they need. Congress must therefore help schools provide safe places for students to learn. If we do not, we risk losing more children to the streets, to depression, or even to suicide. America's children deserve our support. They deserve the Safe Schools Improvement Act.

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RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE  
OF CINCO DE MAYO

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H. Res. 230.

This resolution recognizes the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

On May 5, 1862, untrained, outnumbered, and outgunned Mexican forces—determined to protect their land—successfully defended the town of Puebla against the French. Against overwhelming odds, they managed to drive back the invading French army, achieving a total victory over soldiers deemed among the best trained and equipped in the world and embarking the end of the European domination in America.

General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín led the Mexican Army at the Battle of Puebla. He was born in la Bahía del Espíritu Santo, in what was then the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas, now the city of Goliad, Texas, in the United States. A Statue of General Zaragoza now stands in San Agustin Plaza in the downtown historic district of Laredo, Texas.

Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, the Battle of Puebla has come to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism in the history of Mexico.

I am honored to celebrate this important day in Mexican history and to lend my support to this resolution.

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INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL  
GOLD MEDAL TO THE CREW OF  
THE APOLLO 11 MISSION TO THE  
MOON

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I introduce legislation today to

award the Congressional Gold Medal to four brave and exemplary Americans: Commander Neil A. Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr.—the crew of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission to the Moon. Additionally, this legislation would award a Congressional Gold Medal to John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth and the man who helped set NASA firmly on the path of human space exploration. Forty years ago, five hundred million people watched as Armstrong took those fateful steps onto the Moon's surface, the first time humans had set foot on another world. In words that were as poetic as the occasion was meaningful, Armstrong said, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." He was shortly followed on the Moon's surface by Aldrin, as Collins circled overhead.

I was eleven years old that day, and I watched the Moon landing, joining much of humanity in celebrating this tremendous collective accomplishment. My family was on vacation, but I had persuaded my parents to let me stay in the hotel room alone all day and watch television, so I could see these giant men take those giant steps. Their mission was a landmark for America, for the world, and for all time. Americans are still inspired by these men, and their mission to travel over 250,000 miles of dead space to reach our closest celestial neighbor. I remember at the time thinking that humankind as a species is capable of true greatness. While wolves howl at the moon, humans visit it.

On this journey, the Apollo 11 crew showed remarkable bravery protected for days from the lifeless vacuum by only a thin metal shield. They collected more than forty pounds of lunar samples, took photographs, and deployed experiments to study the solar wind, lunar dust, enable laser ranging, and forever carry out passive seismic measurements. Their footprints remain on the Moon today. The entire endeavor was the culmination of an intensive effort by tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and other dedicated individuals to meet the challenge laid down by President John F. Kennedy eight years earlier. President Kennedy encouraged Americans to rise to challenges, like this one, and the American people responded with ingenuity, discipline, and a spirit of cooperative effort. This journey took political will, scientific and technological risk-taking, inspiration, and the heart and soul of millions of Americans supporting the space program. And it took the competence and courage of Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins to make Apollo 11 the success that it was.

As the culmination of the U.S.-Soviet space race that commenced with the Soviet's launch of Sputnik in 1957, Apollo 11's success signified the United States' ability to establish preeminence in space. It also helped inspire a generation to pursue careers in science and engineering, and to believe in the power of American society. Alone in that hotel room, watching TV, I certainly felt a lasting sense of meaning, that connection to those three brave astronauts. These astronauts represented in that moment America's destiny, a destiny shared by the thousands of men and women who worked to make it happen. This includes John Glenn, of course, another brave pioneer of human space exploration who had made their journey possible.

Madam Speaker, I thus think it is only fitting that in this fortieth anniversary year of the

Apollo 11 mission, we grant these four brave Americans the recognition that only this Congress can bestow—the Congressional Gold Medal. That is why I am introducing legislation to that effect today. I'm pleased to be joined in this initiative by the Chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, BART GORDON; the Chairwoman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS; Committee Ranking Member RALPH HALL; Subcommittee Ranking Member PETE OLSON; and Florida Members SUZANNE KOSMAS and BILL POSEY. I believe this recognition is long overdue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that it can be enacted into law.

IN HONOR AND APPRECIATION OF  
MAYOR DOUG STOVER

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 05, 2009*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and express my appreciation for the service of an exemplary citizen, Mayor Doug Stover of Coppell, Texas. Doug began his public service as an elected official in May, 1998 as city councilmember of Coppell, followed by six years of service from 2003 to 2009 as the mayor of Coppell. During this time, Doug's passion and leadership guided the community as evidenced by the city's financial strength, economic development, sound infrastructure, strong public safety record and first rate education system.

Mayor Doug Stover is Equity Compensation Manager for Celanese Corporation. He holds a BBA in Finance from Texas Tech University.

In May of 1998, Coppell consisted of 29,850 citizens and has grown to a community of 39,500. The adopted budget for the 1998–1999 fiscal year was \$35,182,905 and grew to \$81,057,966 in the 2008–2009 fiscal years.

Under his leadership, the City of Coppell added many facilities, physical improvements and infrastructure. These projects include a Justice Center housing the Police and Municipal Courts, municipal service center, aquatic & recreation center, animal shelter and adoption center, Town Center Plaza, Old Town development, multiple park facilities, multiple road improvements, with a new senior and community center and municipal cemetery now being constructed, all developed to meet the needs of a growing population.

A major focus on economic development was also led by the mayor. This resulted in many commercial and industrial developments bringing new revenue to the city that has enabled the community to enjoy many quality of life improvements without the need for additional tax rate increases.

Public safety was also a high priority under the mayor's leadership. Red light cameras were installed, 25-mph zones were implemented on residential streets, and a Citizen's Police Academy was established in his push to increase public safety.

Funding for CISD schools was addressed through the 379A Sales Tax which generated sales taxes for the community's education issues. The Infrastructure Maintenance Fund was created by a sales tax election for 1/4-cent being directed for the crime district and 1/4-cent for streets.

Mayor Stover's selfless public service has clearly shaped the city of Coppell and helped make it the thriving community it is today. Doug possesses a genuine passion for Coppell which characterized his many years of service to the community. His first priority was always for the betterment of the citizens of Coppell, which helped make him a popular and well-respected leader. On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Doug Stover for his remarkable service as mayor and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE NAVY FEDERAL  
CREDIT UNION GRAND OPENING  
AND DEDICATION CEREMONY OF  
THE BRIAN L. McDONNELL CENTER

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the grand opening of the Navy Federal Credit Union Brian L. McDonnell Center at the Heritage Oaks campus in Pensacola, Florida.

Navy Federal was organized in 1933 with only seven initial members. Since its founding, it has evolved into the world's largest credit union, employing over 7,000 employees, and consisting of 3.2 million members. Navy Federal serves as a vital resource for our military and is found all over the world, providing excellent financial service for all of our servicemen and women.

In addition to the outstanding financial counseling and assistance Navy Federal provides, it is a leader in developing higher environmental standards. Driven by the objective to create a workplace focused on the employee, Navy Federal pursued Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for its first building in Pensacola. This was the first commercial LEED building in Florida to receive the U.S. Green Building Council's GOLD rating. The new Brian L. McDonnell Center was constructed with the same standards of excellence.

As Navy Federal expands numerically and evolves environmentally, it continues to escalate the level of quality it provides. The First District of Florida is very fortunate to house a corporation that values the interest of its clients and their community above all else.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize this grand opening and dedication ceremony and look forward to the progress it will undoubtedly create.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, May 4, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 229 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 230), and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 230 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 111).

CONGRATULATING DR. EDWARD G. BOEHM, JR., AND REGINA E. BOEHM, RECIPIENTS OF THE 57TH ANNUAL AMERICANISM AWARD FROM B'NAI B'RITH AMOS LODGE NO. 136, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. Edward G. Boehm, Jr., and his wife, Regina E. Boehm, of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who have been selected to receive the 57th annual Americanism Award from the B'nai B'rith Amos Lodge, No. 136, of Scranton Pennsylvania.

Dr. and Mrs. Boehm are worthy recipients of this prestigious award because each of them has worked for many years to contribute to the communities in which they have lived.

Dr. Boehm is president of Keystone College, LaPlume. He previously held positions at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia; Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas; and American University, Washington, DC.

Dr. and Mrs. Boehm are both active members of the Scranton area community. Dr. Boehm's leadership and accomplishments have been profiled in the University of Michigan's CASE study entitled, "Keystone College: Renaissance and Transformation" and in the book, "Power Thinking: How the Way You Think Can Change the Way You Lead."

Regina Boehm holds a degree from the Pennsylvania State University and she studied at the University of Maryland and Texas Christian University. Her career included management, education, and nutrition. She is a graduate of the Executive Series of both Leadership Lackawanna and Leadership Wilkes-Barre.

She is a recipient of the Junior League of Scranton Roseann Smith Alperin Award, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council Boy Scouts of America "Salute to Northeastern Pennsylvania Women" award and she was also honored by the Scranton Times Tribune newspaper.

Mrs. Boehm has been active on the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Board, past president of the Philharmonic League of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Boys and Girls Club of Scranton, Wyoming County United Way, the Northeast Theater, the Garden Exchange, ACT 101 Advisory Board, the Spouses Task Force of the Council of Independent Colleges and she is currently on the board of the Scranton Community Concerts. She also served as chairperson of the Waverly Antiques Show and the Philharmonic League's Antiques Show and Sale.

Dr. and Mrs. Boehm also served as co-chairs of the 2003–2004 United Way campaign for Lackawanna County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. and Mrs. Boehm on the occasion of this well-deserved honor. Their commitment to their community is an example and an inspiration to others and has greatly improved the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania.

HONORING GERALDINE FERRARO

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former Member of Congress, a long time advocate of women's rights, the first female Vice Presidential candidate, and a great friend and American—the Honorable Geraldine Anne Ferraro.

In the rotunda of the Capitol sit the busts of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott. They are so prominently displayed to pay tribute to their hard fight to establish equal rights for women. And, I know they would agree that Geraldine Ferraro was exactly the kind of woman they were fighting for.

Geraldine proudly followed in the footsteps of these great women—continuing the fight to ensure the rights of women and breaking down barriers and stereotypes along the way.

Prior to running for election to the House of Representatives, Geraldine Ferraro worked as a teacher and then attorney in the Queens New York District Attorney's office, where she started the Special Victims Bureau. At a time when women prosecutors in the city were uncommon, Geraldine Ferraro was already breaking the proverbial glass ceiling.

In 1978, Ambassador Ferraro ran for election to the House of Representatives for New York's 9th Congressional District in Queens, and won. Despite being a new Member of Congress, she made quite an impression on her colleagues, and quickly ascended to become the Secretary of the House Democratic Caucus from 1981 to 1985. During her years in Congress, she focused much of her legislative attention on equity for women in the areas of wages, pensions, and retirement plans. The recent passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act are homage to her tireless work on behalf of women.

Her leadership, charisma, and dedication were evident to Presidential nominee, Walter Mondale, who selected Geraldine Ferraro to be his Vice-Presidential candidate on July 12, 1984. She is the first woman ever to be nominated as vice-presidential candidate by any major party.

Following the path of women who came before her, Geraldine Ferraro has helped pave the way for our daughters to achieve anything they set their minds to. As the current Representative of her former district, I am proud to call Geraldine Ferraro a leader, a mentor, and most importantly a friend.

CONGRATULATING PHIL KEOGHAN ON HIS AMAZING RIDE ACROSS AMERICA TO RAISE AWARENESS OF MS

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, yesterday I had the pleasure to meet Phil Keoghan host of CBS's Amazing Race as he stopped in Washington, DC, on his way from Los Angeles to New York. His journey across America by bike is designed to raise awareness of multiple sclerosis—a disease I feel strongly about educating people and promoting research for treatment and cures.

MS is a disease that can stop people from moving—something many of us take for granted each day. Too little is known about MS, too few treatments exist and too many people struggle to access the treatments they are prescribed. During his journey across the United States Phil has climbed many hills and faced downpours of rain, all designed to support the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

As co-chair of the Congressional MS Caucus I have had the privilege of meeting many inspirational people like Phil Keoghan who are working on behalf of people living with MS. The awareness he and others have brought to multiple sclerosis and cycling as a healthy activity is invaluable. I am pleased of the work the MS Caucus has been able to do in just a short amount of time, but there is certainly still more to be done.

As we in Congress debate health care reform it is important to keep in mind that the current system is broken for millions of Americans, specifically over 45 million Americans without coverage, and it must be fixed now. Everyone is deserving of the right to affordable and accessible health care—something Phil has championed.

We have a lot of work ahead of us but we have great momentum. Inspirational activists like Phil Keoghan will help make sure that we do something about MS now. I congratulate Phil for undertaking this worthwhile challenge and wish him luck in his final days in his trip across the U.S.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam. Speaker, May 4th, I remained in my district due to the death of my Aunt Julia Tagliabue Mondawho recently passed away at the age of 96, and I therefore missed the two rollcall votes of the day.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 229, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H. Con. Res. 93—Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 230, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H Res. 230—Recognizing the 61st anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel.

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 337, a resolution to recognize April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Every year, thousands of children across the country become victims of child abuse. More than 5.8 million children in the United States were reported to be abused or neglected in 2007, and many more cases go unreported.

All children deserve to be raised in a safe and nurturing environment. It is a tragedy when children are victimized by abuse, neglect, alcohol and drug abuse, or domestic violence. As a former board member of Minnesota Crisis Nurseries, I fully recognize the importance of strengthening child abuse prevention programs in Minnesota and throughout the United States. Early prevention approaches that utilize family support networks are critical to stopping child abuse before it starts.

H. Res. 337 calls for increased public awareness of the maltreatment of children. This resolution also recognizes the many national and community organizations that promote awareness of child abuse and share strategies for prevention. It further urges families and individuals to report abuse or to get help by calling the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-Child.

I will continue working to strengthen child abuse prevention programs in Minnesota and throughout the United States. Keeping children and families safe must be a priority if we are to ensure the well being of our Nation's future—its children.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill.

CONGRATULATING JOHN EDD THOMPSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM WALA-TV "FOX10"

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor the career of Mobile's beloved television weather anchor, John Edd Thompson.

A native of Mobile, John Edd is perhaps the most recognized name and face in television weather along the Gulf Coast. He has been a fixture on Mobile's WALA-TV "Fox10" for over three decades and, during this time, he has been the trusted source of information for every major storm. John Edd has tracked and reported on Hurricanes Frederic, Elena, Andrew, Opal, Erin, Danny, Georges, Ivan, and Katrina.

Since Mobile's Press-Register introduced its Readers' Choice Awards in 2002, John Edd has always placed first in the final results. He was named "Readers' Choice Local TV

Weather Reporter" in the 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 competitions, and the Mobile Press Club has named him the "Best Weather Anchor" several times.

In recognition of his remarkable accomplishments, The Press Club of Mobile awarded John Edd its 2005 John Harris Achievement Award, an award presented to a member of the news media "who has made a consistently excellent contribution over a period of time." The Mobile County Commission recently declared 2009 as "The Year of John Edd."

A prolific songwriter, John Edd is one of the founding members of the Mobile Songwriters. He is a member of the Nashville Songwriters Association International and a member of the board of the Frank Brown Songwriters Festival. John Edd also wrote the fight song for the University of South Alabama.

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 his good heart and generous spirit, permit me to extend thanks for his many efforts in making Mobile and south Alabama a better place. John Edd Thompson 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 him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 05, 2009*

Ms. SPEIER, Madam Speaker, today I rise to applaud the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council and the San Mateo County Youth Commission for their inspired work in creating the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth of San Mateo County. I especially want to thank Youth Commissioner James B. Pollack for his articulate and passionate presentation of the Bill of Rights when the groups visited with me last month.

This ground-breaking document was born from the shared belief that all young people—regardless of race, gender, disability, economic status or other identifying characteristic—should be allowed to grow and blossom to their fullest potential, experiencing the joy, wonder and happiness that so many of us remember from our own childhoods.

The Bill of Rights reads:

"We resolve to invest in all children and youth so that:

They have a healthy mind, body and spirit that enable them to maximize their potential;

They develop a healthy attachment to a parent, guardian or caregiver and an ongoing relationship with a caring and supportive adult;

Their essential needs are met—nutritious food, shelter, clothing, healthcare and accessible transportation;

They have a safe and healthy environment, including homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities;

They have access to a 21st century education that promotes success in life, in future careers and a love of life-long learning;

They have training in life skills that will prepare them to live independently, be self-sufficient and contribute to their community;

They have employment opportunities with protections from unfair labor practices;

They have freedom from mistreatment, abuse and neglect;

They have a voice in matters that affect them;

They have a sense of hope for their future."

Madam Speaker, in our democratic system of government, we are taught to believe that all voices are heard equally. But most 12-year-olds don't have a lobbyist and few tables in the halls of power make room for families. That is why the work of the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council and the San Mateo County Youth Commission and the principles laid out in the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth are so vitally important.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. CLIFF DODSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS IN BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. SHULER, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Cliff Dodson on his impending retirement.

For the past nine years, Mr. Dodson has served our community as the Superintendent of Buncombe County Schools. As Superintendent, Mr. Dodson has demonstrated his dedication to quality education and has ardently worked to improve educational opportunities for all children. Through his dedication and commitment to education, Mr. Dodson has helped shape the future of Western North Carolina.

He began his service to education thirty-eight years ago as a science and physical education teacher. He has continued to work tirelessly on behalf of children in various roles as an educator, as an Assistant Principal, as a Principal, and for the past twenty-three years as a public school Superintendent.

Mr. Dodson proven himself an accomplished public servant by successfully overseeing the educational direction of over 25,000 students and effectively administering a budget of almost a quarter of a million dollars. Due to his outstanding efforts he has been recognized by the North Carolina Association of Educators as Superintendent of the Year.

I deeply appreciate that under his direction during these difficult economic times, Buncombe County has ensured that 12,000 students can receive free or reduced-price hot cafeteria meals. He has certainly set an admirable example for future public servants who follow in his path.

Mr. Dodson has also served on the Board of Directors for numerous education-based organizations including the United Way, Children First, and the North Carolina School Administrators Association. In addition to his service in the field of education, as an honored veteran, Mr. Dodson earned the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry for his service as a United States Marine.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Cliff Dodson today and I want to thank him for

his invaluable contributions to the Western North Carolina educational community and to wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our Nation's teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week, which is being held this year May 3rd–9th.

This is a time to express our thanks and admiration for the more than 3 million teachers in the United States. I encourage everyone to express their appreciation for those teachers who have touched their lives or the lives of their children.

Teachers are heroes in our communities, shaping the next generation of great minds. No great leader, scientist, or artist would be where they are today without the influence of caring and dedicated teachers.

Thurgood Marshall once said, "None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody—a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a few nuns—bent down and helped us pick up our boots."

There is perhaps no other occupation that influences the fabric of our society more than teachers, and we are fortunate to have this week dedicated to recognizing their contributions.

I am particularly proud of our teachers from my home State of Texas—serving as motivators and mentors for our future leaders. I remain dedicated to working in Congress to ensure that Texas teachers and all teachers have the resources necessary to successfully prepare our Nation's youth for a successful future.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE NOW ACT OF 2009"

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill titled, "The Energy Independence Now Act of 2009."

Few things affect American consumers like high energy prices. During the summer of 2008 with the price of oil hovering near \$150 a barrel, Americans faced record prices at the gas pump—in many cases well over \$4.00 per gallon. These high prices contributed to a downturn in economic growth, an increase in inflation and forced many American families to make difficult financial choices. According to the latest figures from the Energy Information Administration, gasoline prices are down to around \$2 per gallon and the price of oil is close to \$50 per barrel. Though the price of gasoline has decreased significantly, many are still concerned that it will rise again and quite possibly because of the disproportionate amount of oil that we import from regimes that are unfriendly to us.

The old adage goes that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Apart from creating the Strategic Petroleum Reserves after the oil embargoes of the 1970s, the United States did painfully little to make sure that oil could never again be used as a weapon against us. If anything, we put ourselves further under the thumb of foreign oil. In 1972, we imported approximately 28 percent of the oil we consume from foreign countries; today the United States imports 62 percent of its oil from other nations. While half of that amount comes from our friends in Mexico and Canada, the other half of our imported oil travels from unstable, undemocratic or unfriendly regimes. That means that every time I fill up my gas tank—whether the price is \$2 a gallon or \$4 a gallon—at least half of my money goes into the economies of Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Nigeria, and Angola. And while the tactics of oil manipulation may change—price spikes versus an outright embargo—the results are eerily the same.

That is why I am introducing this bill, to continue to move our country forward on the path toward breaking America's dependence on foreign sources of oil while at the same time investing in a renewable energy future. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are looking to pass a costly cap-and-trade program that will only serve to increase the price of energy for the American consumer and devastate energy companies in my home State of Indiana. Now is not the time to burden families with higher energy costs, when many of them are already struggling to find and keep jobs, pay for college and provide for their families.

I believe that in the long-run we need to get off oil and that requires more investment in alternative energy and energy conservation technologies. My bill addressed this through provisions that would increase alternative energy sources and diversify the energy grid with currently available alternative energy technologies. As a nation, we waste far too much energy with inefficient engines and machines. That is why my bill would provide tax incentives for companies to produce fuel efficient vehicles. In fact, it provides a \$500 tax credit for individuals who purchase hybrid cars made by American-based companies.

However, while we are discovering new, clean and cost-effective ways to increase the American energy supply, we must recognize that oil will remain a part of our energy mix for some time. The good news about this is that we have plenty of it. The Department of the Interior, DOI, conducted a comprehensive inventory of oil and natural gas resources located off our coastlines within the last several years, and according to the Department's figures there is an estimated 8.5 billion barrels of known oil reserves and 29.3 trillion cubic feet, tcf, of known natural gas reserves along our coastlines; with 82 percent of the oil and 95 percent of the gas located in the Gulf of Mexico, GOM. However, even more importantly, the Department of the Interior estimates that there are untapped resources of about 86 billion barrels, 51 percent in the Gulf of Mexico, and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, 55 percent in the Gulf of Mexico, out there. My bill would open up these areas to access these resources. Domestic production of these resources would provide much-needed real energy jobs without any cost to the taxpayer.

In addition, my bill opens up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ANWR, which holds the

single largest deposit of oil in the entire United States. Its 10.4 billion barrels of oil is more than double the proven reserves of the entire State of Texas and almost half of the total proven reserves in the U.S., 22 billion barrels. Had President Clinton not vetoed ANWR energy production in 1995, the United States could be getting nearly 1.5 million barrels of oil per day from the arctic right now.

In addition, the U.S. has been called the Saudi Arabia of oil shale. It has been estimated that oil shale deposits in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming hold the equivalent of as little as 1.8 trillion barrels of oil and potentially as much as 8 trillion barrels of oil. In comparison, Saudi Arabia reportedly holds proved reserves of 267 billion barrels. Unfortunately, oil-shale is rough equivalent to diesel fuel and a number of Clean Air Act regulations—such as low-sulfur diesel—and federal motor fuel taxes—which favor gasoline over diesel fuels—have created a strong financial disincentive regarding the production and use of oil-shale fuels. Many of these deposits are on public land making it more bureaucratically complicated to exploit this resource. My bill would provide a financial incentive for companies to invest in and produce more oil from oil shale.

Getting more domestic oil on the market is only half the solution. We haven't built a new refinery in this country in more than 25 years because the approval process for new refinery construction is estimated to require up to 800 different permits. While existing refineries have undergone significant expansion over the years, even as others have been shuttered, our aging refinery infrastructure leaves little margin for error. If we begin to produce more domestic crude oil we would need to turn it into home heating oil, gasoline, or diesel through the refining process. The ability to refine oil must keep pace with the demand for gasoline and diesel. My bill would create an expedited process for the construction of new refining capacity by streamlining the permitting process and opening up closed military bases for construction.

Clearly, developing new oil fields and refineries will take some time. In the interim my bill also helped promote the production of non-food sources for biofuels. It also opens up Federal land for the production of biofuel crops in order to provide relief from high food prices that have resulted from ethanol production.

Madam Speaker, I believe in conservation, I believe in energy efficiency, and I believe in diversifying our energy supply by using wind, solar, coal-to-liquid technologies, ethanol and other renewable energy sources. But the fact of the matter is that oil and natural gas are still going to be a part of our energy mix for a long time to come and we must be able to access our own resources rather than becoming more dependent on unstable parts of the world.

I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation to help America get on the road towards energy independence and to create real jobs at no cost to the taxpayer.

## RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CINCO DE MAYO

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, a day that represents freedom, liberty and determination for the people of Mexico and Mexican Americans.

H. Res. 230, a resolution introduced by my friend Congressman JOE BACA, recognizes the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo, a day on which we celebrate the Mexican army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. While the Mexicans were outnumbered, they defeated a well-equipped French Army that had been undefeated for almost 50 years. The holiday of Cinco de Mayo is mainly a regional celebration in Mexico, while for Mexican Americans it represents heritage and pride.

Hispanics are the fastest growing minority community in our Nation. In 2007, the Hispanic population in the United States reached over 45 million, 13.2 million of whom live in California, and it continues to rise. Hispanics now own a record number of small businesses, creating millions of jobs across our country.

This Cinco de Mayo, let us thank the members of our Latino community for their important contributions to American culture and society. Please join me in celebrating Cinco de Mayo and appreciating the values, traditions, and contributions of Mexican Americans.

## IN COMMEMORATION OF CINCO DE MAYO

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to commemorate Cinco de Mayo, or the Fifth of May, in honor of the historic day that Mexico defeated France at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Cinco de Mayo is a national holiday that symbolizes courage, honor, liberty, unity and the struggle for freedom for millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans.

Cinco de Mayo has a deep history that all Americans should recognize and remember. Shortly after Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1810, internal political takeovers and wars destroyed the Mexican economy causing Mexico to borrow money from France and other creditors. Mexico was unable to pay back the debt they owed to France; thus, the French invaded Mexico in an attempt to force repayment. The Mexican troops were outnumbered by the French—the French army had 6,500 soldiers while the Mexican army only had 4,500 soldiers. The odds were stacked against the Mexican soldiers: they were outnumbered, untrained and ill-equipped, fighting against an army deemed as one of the best trained and equipped in the world. The French soldiers were confident that their attacks against Mexico would leave the struggling nation on its knees, bowing to a European crown once again. Much to their dismay,

at the Battle of Puebla, the Mexican soldiers fought bravely and died with dignity for their countrymen's freedom. Each Mexican soldier fought valiantly with one common goal. In the end, it was the French army that surrendered on Mexican soil.

In addition to its historical significance in Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is significant to all Americans because it marks the last time that any foreign power threatened to conquer North American soil.

Cinco de Mayo is also a celebration of the rich cultural heritage people of Spanish and Latin American descent have shared with the United States. They have shared their music, art, language and traditions and these elements are sewn into the colorful fabric of "American" culture.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in commemorating Cinco de Mayo—a day that reflects the core principles that America was founded upon.

#### THOSE MEMORIES SHOULD NOT BE

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem by Mary-Ann S. Stanky of Cleveland, Ohio:

#### THOSE MEMORIES SHOULD NOT BE

Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!  
Said the new enlistee  
A new defender of democracy  
Salute, stand tall, and be proud.  
Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!  
In line with his comrades  
Wearing alike uniforms  
Issued a gun to defend democracy.  
We are ready!  
Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!  
Turning a corner. . . .  
Rapid bursts of gunfire, from where?  
Shouts from everywhere  
Roof tops, windows noise all-around  
Heads swirling left to right, up and down.  
Quiet . . . an eerie quiet finally descends  
Labored breathing  
Eyes burning red, mouths dry,  
Ears ringing from uncommon sounds  
Minds fighting to stay in control.  
Streaks of red trickle down, blood?  
Look again, no!  
Look again, yes!  
Blood spills from open wounds  
medic!  
There! go there! hurry!  
Pick-up the gun  
Defender of democracy  
My friend has gone home to a  
Flag flying half-mast.

—Mary-Ann S. Stanky

#### RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CINCO DE MAYO

SPEECH OF

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 230, a bill recognizing the significance of Cinco de Mayo.

This day holds special meaning for me as it does for millions of other Mexican Americans and it provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the innumerable contributions that generations of Mexican Americans have made to our national life.

On Cinco de Mayo, we celebrate the valor of a small contingent of Mexican patriots who prevailed against a much larger French army in the Battle of Puebla. Just as in our own fight for independence, they triumphed despite overwhelming odds. Indeed, like Lexington and Concord, Puebla marks a significant victory in the struggle for liberty in the New World.

Today Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a day to celebrate our Mexican American culture and the immeasurable ways in which Mexican Americans have shaped this country. Through music, literature and cuisine, we have enriched the American melting pot. Through an entrepreneurial spirit, Mexican American small businesses are playing a critical role in our economic recovery. Our men and women on the battlefield are helping to secure lasting peace in Iraq and Afghanistan. As CEOs, religious leaders, cabinet secretaries and Members of Congress, we are providing leadership in the face of unprecedented challenges both at home and abroad.

Finally, Mexico is among our most important allies and this day offers us the chance to reaffirm that friendship. As our neighbors to the south fight drug cartels and the H1N1 flu virus, we should pause to consider what more we can do to aid the Mexican people. Just as they did on Cinco de Mayo 1862, they are waging a courageous battle against forces that seek to undermine their democratic society and just as on that famous date, I am confident that Mexico will emerge a stronger and more prosperous nation.

#### IN GRATITUDE TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND DONGGUK UNI- VERSITY

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to express my appreciation and thanks to the faculty of Dongguk University for the Honorary Doctorate in Political Science they bestowed upon me during my recent visit to South Korea. I wish to also recognize my friends in Korea and at Dongguk University who help make the conferral of this Honorary Doctorate possible. These individuals include: President Young-Kyo Oh and President Dong-Jin Sohn of Dongguk University, Governor Kwan-Yong Kim of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Mayor Sang-Seung Baek of Gyeongju City, former Korean Ambassador to the U.S. Tae-Sik Lee and Mrs. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Il-Hwan Cho and Mr. and Mrs. Dong-Suk Kim of the Korean American Voter's Council in New York.

I have always believed that the Republic of Korea is one of America's most committed friends and allies, and the warmth and hospitality extended to me and my wife during our stay in April reinforced my belief that the bonds that bind the people of the United States together with the people of South

Korea are as strong today as they have ever been.

Even so, I believe we should always look for opportunities to strengthen our alliance and friendship and one of the key areas of opportunity is passage of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

During my stay, I had the privilege of meeting with Foreign Minister Myung-Hwan Yu, National Security Advisor Sung-Hwan Kim, Chairman Jin Park of the Korean National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, our U.S. Embassy senior officials and the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea. In practically every meeting, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement was high on the agenda. No agreement or treaty is ever perfect, as it is always a product of compromise. And I agree that Congress has a legitimate right to debate the merits of the agreement; so let's have that debate; let's take this agreement out of legislative limbo, bring it to the House Floor, have an honest up or down vote, and let the chips fall where they may, Madam Speaker. I think we owe our South Korean friends that much respect because there's more at stake here than just economic growth; this Free Trade Agreement recognizes our special relationship with South Korea and reinforces the message that the United States stands squarely behind our friends and allies.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the remarks I delivered at Dongguk University, entitled: "The Korea-U.S. Alliance Partnership." And I would also ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historic significance of the U.S.-Korea alliance and its growing importance in the years to come.

President Young-Kyo Oh, distinguished members of the faculty, and students of Dongguk University, ladies and gentlemen and friends: Thank you for your kind introduction. It is a great pleasure to be here today in the heart of Korea's ancient capital city. We are surrounded by history, culture and the memories and friendship that our nations have made together through battles and treaties, commerce and trade.

When I think about this partnership, one particular Korean-American friend comes to mind. His name is Johnny Yune. When Johnny was eleven years old, his family's home town was bombed by communist forces. As they attempted to flee, a particular blast knocked Johnny off his feet and sent him tumbling to a ditch where he was left to die. An American soldier named Private Brown found Johnny, rescued him from the ditch and saved his life that day.

In the weeks and months that followed, the Yune family got to know this Private Brown very well. Johnny remembers how he used to come over to his home, unshaven, with a guitar on his back and a truck full of rationed food. Private Brown would sing and teach them American songs like "Oh Susanna" and give them candy. Johnny is alive today because of that American soldier; and, although he never saw the Private once his unit had moved on, Johnny never forgot his kindness. In his career as a television and movie star, he often speaks of the war hero.

The virtues of the personal relationship between Private Brown and Johnny are not limited to this experience. In a greater sense, The United States and Korea also share a very special relationship.

The United States and the Republic of Korea first became partners more than 125 years ago, when we signed a treaty of amity

and commerce in 1882. This partnership was forged on the battlefield during the Korean War. The South Koreans fought bravely to stay free from the chains of tyranny and communism and have remained a beacon of light and democracy ever since. For more than half a century, we have been diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural partners and great friends.

In the early years, the United States reached out a hand to South Korea, assisting as the nation transformed itself from a war-torn "basket" economy into what it is now: a full-blown democracy with the world's 13th largest economy. South Korea is now an indispensable partner in promoting democracy and extolling the benefits of free market economies. Today, South Korea is the United States' seventh largest export market and the fifth largest market for U.S. agricultural products.

South Korea is committed to the freedom of its people, even when threats grow daily, and especially in light of the North's recent missile launch. The nation is a key partner in the Six-Party Talks to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue, despite the constant fear of war that clouds the peninsula. South Korea is an important military ally with over 29,000 U.S. troops stationed in the country and plays a vital part in securing peace and stability in the region. The United States is committed to the strengthening and survival of freedom on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korea has also reached out a hand to the United States in times when we have been threatened. It is one of only three nations which stood alongside the U.S. in all four major conflicts that the U.S. has faced since the Korean War. The nation has been a strong ally in the U.S.-led War on Terror, having committed troops to Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon. Korea is a true friend of the United States. We are committed together to defending freedom and liberty throughout the world.

Over the past several years, the relationship between the United States and Korea has grown even stronger. As a Member of Congress and, especially, a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I have been able to observe and participate in legislative actions that have contributed to consolidating the U.S.-Korea alliance. The Embassy of Korea in Washington and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Seoul have played a larger role in recent years in bringing to the attention of Congress those issues of importance and concern to the Korean people. This has informed congressional action and improved the legislative process.

Of the important legislative achievements of the past few years, the inclusion of Korea in the Visa Waiver Program, which makes it easier for Koreans to visit the United States for business, leisure, or family purposes, deserves special mentioning. In early 2006, there were about two dozen countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program administered by the U.S. Department of State. Most of them were European allies and trading partners. While responsibility for expanding or contracting the Visa Waiver Program lies with the Executive Branch, Congress took the lead in persuading the Bush administration to include Korea in the program.

My colleagues and I argued that, by allowing South Korea to participate in the Visa Waiver Program, we would not only be adhering to its stated goals, but at the same time we would build upon a strategic partnership with our close friends in East Asia. Although it took some time, legislation to open the door for Korea to accede to the Visa Waiver Program passed in July 2007, and in November of last year, Korea officially

joined the program at long last. It was a major accomplishment for our bi-lateral alliance.

A second great achievement was the upgrading of Korea's Foreign Military Sales (FMS) status to NATO+3. As I have already noted, Korea and the United States have a close and integral military alliance. But for years, Korea was treated in an unfair fashion by U.S. laws related to the sales of military equipment. So the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate sought to correct this problem by raising Korea's Foreign Military Sales status to something known as NATO-plus-3. This status elevation was long overdue and absolutely necessary to reverse the unfair exclusion.

In doing this, we acted on our firm belief that the Republic of Korea has been one of our most important and staunchest allies in the Asia-Pacific region. Our mutual alliance is dynamic and comprehensive, encompassing political, economic, military, security, cultural, and social spheres. By the end of last year, Congress had approved the upgrade in status for Korea and it now stands at NATO+4. I am convinced that both of our countries will benefit from the greater partnership that this status upgrade brings.

Finally, we were able to see the passage of a resolution bringing world attention to the plight of the "Comfort Women" who suffered at the hands of the Imperial Japanese Army during the Second World War. In 2007, the House of Representatives at long last passed House Resolution 121, which I co-sponsored and which received bipartisan support and worldwide attention in the news media.

In fact, Congress took the lead in raising the issue of the "comfort women." We invited survivors from Korea to tell their stories in front of television cameras on the record. After the United States Congress acted on this critical human rights issue, other legislative bodies around the world took notice and acted themselves. Thus, the plight of Korea's comfort women became an issue of international concern that, we hope, will serve as a reminder to future generations that such horrific violence shall never occur again.

While some cynics dismissed the resolution as simply revisiting a tragedy of the distant past, I believe a relevant assertion of the importance of respecting human rights is timeless, and the world should never again deny women the right to be safe and secure and to maintain their dignity.

Though these accomplishments are notable, I believe there are even greater accomplishments in our future. In the coming months I hope we can pass the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement of which I am a strong supporter. As most of you undoubtedly know, the United States and Korea signed a free trade agreement in June of 2007, after months of diligent negotiations. The agreement has not yet been ratified and, to be candid, action on the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement may not take place for some time.

It is no secret that there are members of both the United States Congress and the Korean National Assembly who oppose the Free Trade Agreement. But there are also those of us—and I include myself among them—who believe that free trade among free peoples is a positive good, and those agreements or treaties that advance the principles of free trade bring more benefits than risks, promote future prosperity, and provide a stronger foundation for peace and stability around the globe.

Just last month the World Trade Organization warned of a rising threat of trade protectionism around the world. This threat has emerged because of the general decline of the global economy over the past two or three

years. Governments are doing what they have done for centuries in the face of economic contraction; they look inward. This is, in my opinion, a mistake, and it is a mistake borne out by the lessons of history.

The benefits of a U.S.-Korean Free Trade Agreement are manifestly clear. This agreement, once it is ratified, will constitute the largest and most commercially significant Free Trade Agreement the United States has negotiated in 15 years.

The numbers are truly impressive. Korea is the 13th largest economy in the world with a GDP of nearly one Trillion U.S. dollars and a per capita income of over \$20,000. It is the United States' 7th largest trading partner and our 5th largest market for U.S. agricultural export products. Trade between our two nations is nearly \$80 Billion and includes important goods like computer chips, industrial machinery, organic chemicals, agricultural produce, civilian aircraft and, of course, beef. A Free Trade Agreement would bolster U.S. exports to Korea, open duty-free access for Korean goods in the U.S. market, and stimulate job growth in both of our countries.

A Free Trade Agreement would also benefit the great State of Indiana, which I proudly represent in Congress. Korea is Indiana's 10th largest export market, and Indiana exports \$303 Million in goods to Korea annually. Not only that, but almost 10,000 Korean-Americans reside in the State of Indiana and more than 2,000 Korean students study at Indiana's prestigious academic institutions.

This new partnership between the United States and South Korea is sure to be a win-win for both of our countries. I pledge that I am committed to working closely with the U.S. and Korean negotiators as FTA talks proceed, so that we can ensure the best opportunities for Americans and Koreans alike.

Unfortunately, the political mood in the United States right now is not conducive to the ratification of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, or any other such trade agreement. I can assure you, however, that my colleagues and I who believe strongly in the principle of free trade and specifically in the importance of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, will not let this agreement die for lack of action. We will continue to fight for its approval by Congress, we will press the White House to fight for it, and we will go directly to the court of public opinion to persuade American consumers, business leaders, and workers to support it. I know that, with time and wisdom on our side, the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement will be ratified and the relationship between our countries will become even stronger because of it.

In closing, I am reminded of the look on my good friend Johnny Yune's face, and the way his voice cracked as he re-tells the story of Private Brown. It is the same affection I have experienced on my visit here and the affection I have felt toward my old and even new Korean and Korean-American friends.

Our friendship is different from the relationship of any other country with the United States. I would say to my Korean friends that we should continue to focus on what keeps our relationship strong and more unique than any other alliance in world history. It is my fervent belief that the U.S.-Korea alliance is worth protecting and strengthening. That is why the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement is so important to me.

Once again, I have been struck personally by the extraordinary warmth and hospitality of the Korean people since my arrival here in this beautiful country. This has been true not only among my formal hosts, but with everyone I meet. I am honored and humbled

to accept this honorary degree at this historic institution, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. May we never cease to find ways to strengthen and deepen the ties that bind our two nations together.

President Oh, distinguished faculty and students of Dongguk University, friends and colleagues, it is my distinct honor to accept this degree. I will always cherish this moment with great humility and I pledge to do all I can to see that our very special alliance to grow even closer in the coming years.

Thank you, and “GAHM-SAH-HAHM-NIDA!”

TEACHERS OF DREW MODEL SCHOOL HONORED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR ALL

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week and to honor the teachers of Drew Model School for their outstanding and tireless efforts to raise academic achievement levels for all students at this institution.

The teachers and staff at Drew Model School approach each student with the belief that every child learns best within a social en-

vironment that supports and respects his or her unique development. Their programs encourage children to develop independence of thought and confidence of character while learning at their own pace. Additionally, Drew faculty members incorporate the traditional approach of children working, learning, and developing in mixed-age groups with the academic experience of gentle guidance under a specially trained teacher.

I am proud and grateful for the enthusiastic teachers at Drew Model School. Teachers make a difference in all of our lives, and today I would like to extend my warm thanks for their hard work and service to America's children.

I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring Drew Model School teachers whose commitment to quality education is extraordinary and dedication to academic achievement is unmatched.