

In 2001, the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration reported that made-for-television production of "movies of the week" in the U.S. had declined by 33 percent since 1995 and that production at foreign locations increased by 55 percent.

The Directors Guild of America noted at the time that "globalization, rising costs, foreign wage, tax and financing incentives, and technological advances, combined are causing a substantial transformation of what used to be a quintessentially American industry into an increasingly dispersed global industry."

Section 181 of the Internal Revenue Code allows production companies to deduct the cost of qualified U.S. productions immediately rather than capitalizing the costs and deducting them slowly over time.

The incentive accelerates the timing of deduction but it does not change the amount of the deduction. In order to qualify, at least 75 percent of the total compensation paid for the production must be for services performed in the U.S. by actors, directors, producers and other production staff personnel. The deduction applies to the first \$15 million (\$20 million for productions in low income communities or distressed area or isolated area of distress) of a qualified film or television production. The cost of the production above the dollar limitation is capitalized and recovered under the taxpayer's method of accounting.

I believe that this was an appropriately targeted provision, designed to encourage television and film producers to stay here in the United States and keep those jobs in our communities. In the last decades, New York City and in particular my home borough of Queens has seen a resurgent television and film production sector bring new jobs and revenue into the community. This bill will help to ensure that those jobs stay here in the U.S.

The Center for Entertainment Industry Data and Research's Year 2005 Production Report concluded that Section 181 "is having a positive effect on television production in the U.S." Since 2004, it reported that made-for-television movie production in the U.S. increased by 42 percent, while it fell in Canada by 15 percent.

Along with my Republican sponsor, Congressman DAVID DREIER of California and myself who hails from Queens, New York, the television and film industries are both major employers and major tax providers to our local, state and national economies. This legislation works to protect these industries and stem the flood of production to non-U.S. locations.

Section 181 will expire in 2009. It ought to be made a permanent provision of our tax code in order to keep television and film production jobs in the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE BUDDY CAMP
OF ALEXANDRIA, LA

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Buddy Camp of Alexandria, La., for enhancing the quality of life for many of this community's youth. I am privileged to have such a dedicated and compassionate group of individuals in my district.

Buddy Camp was founded by Stacey Debevic for her own son, Kyle Debevic, who is bound to a wheelchair. Working as a pediatric occupational therapist and as the mother of a physically limited child, Stacey noticed there was little to no opportunity for children with disabilities to enjoy the experience of attending summer camp.

After many years of planning, Buddy Camp was officially launched in the summer of 1999. Today, Buddy Camp is a community-wide project that allows children ages 5–12, both with and without developmental challenges, to participate in a week-long summer day camp. Held at the United Methodist Church of Alexandria, the camp places participants into buddy pairs to foster and develop friendships, as well as build confidence.

As Buddy Camp looks forward to celebrating its 10th anniversary, the number of young people that have truly benefitted from the unique opportunities this program provides continues to grow.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of the Buddy Camp.

HONORING ARON MICHAEL WALLIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

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

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

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN HOPE
FRANKLIN

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding North Carolinian, Dr. John Hope Franklin. As we grieve his loss, we also celebrate his life and commitment to bettering his world as a distinguished scholar, historian, author, professor, and man of rare and outstanding character.

Madam Speaker, during his 94 remarkable years, John Hope Franklin worked for equality and understanding, and his immeasurable contributions to the world in these capacities shall never fade. We will not forget the goodness, humility, and passionate giving that defined the life of John Hope Franklin. As we

mourn his loss, may God continue to bless all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CA-
THEDRAL IN BROWNSVILLE,
TEXAS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral with a celebration scheduled on June 8 in Brownsville, Texas.

The Immaculate Conception Cathedral, the Diocese of Brownsville's most historical church, traces its roots to a small wooden church that served as the first church in Brownsville.

In 1850, Father Adrien Pierre Telmon, one of the first Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate to come to Brownsville, built a small wooden church between Adams and Jefferson streets that accommodated about 300 people. The first mass was celebrated on June 29, 1850, and three years later Father Jean Marie Casimir Verdet started the design and construction of a larger church to replace the temporary wooden structure.

The cornerstone to the cathedral was laid on July 6, 1856, and over 250,000 clay bricks were made for the church in the village of Santa Rosalia, about three miles east of the old town site of Brownsville.

The church was completed in 1859 and blessed by Father Augustin Gaudet on June 12, 1859; 10 years after the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate first arrived in the Valley. The church was credited with being the largest in Texas at the time. The rectory behind the church was the site of the first Texas Oblate seminary and served as a haven for priests fleeing revolutions in Mexico.

The historical church was elevated to a cathedral in 1874 when the large Texas diocese was divided and the Vicariate Apostolic of Brownsville was established. It remained as such until 1912 when the Vicariate Apostolic of Brownsville was converted into the Dioceses of Corpus Christi.

The Immaculate Conception church was designated a Cathedral again in 1965 by Bishop Adolph Marx upon the creation of the Diocese of Brownsville. The church, built in a Gothic Revival style, became a reality through the generous contributions of its parishioners throughout the years. The utmost care and detail went into the construction of the church. The ceiling is of specially prepared canvas painted blue, and at one time it was covered with gold stars. The pulpit was built in native Mesquite by a local cabinetmaker and a concealed spiral stair provided access to the pulpit.

In 1970, the original altar, rail and two chan-deliers were removed from the cathedral in an effort to modernize the church when the present altar was built. Time has taken its toll on this historic church. However, just as early Catholics came to its aid in its early days, they are doing the same in the twenty-first century.

Today this historic Cathedral continues to beckon Catholics through its doors. Thousands of Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals have been celebrated there.

And for many years, generations of generations of residents of Brownsville and the Rio Grande Valley have called the Immaculate Conception Cathedral home. I am honored that this beautiful cathedral is located in the 27th Congressional District of Texas, which I so humbly represent.

I join the Diocese of Brownsville, the residents of the city and the Rio Grande Valley in celebrating the cathedral's anniversary.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the historic Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville, Texas, on the tip of South Texas, along the U.S.-Mexico border.

HONORING THE CARTERSVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE
2009 GHSA STATE BASEBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a very talented group of young men from Cartersville in Georgia's 11th District. This past weekend, the Cartersville High School Purple Hurricanes claimed the Class AAA Georgia High School Association State Baseball Championship. Success on the baseball diamond is nothing new for Cartersville High School, which has won back to back state titles and claimed five championships since 2001. However, this year's title win was extra sweet, as the Canes rallied back from a 7-5 deficit to win Game 3 of the championship series—defeating the Columbus Blue Devils, who were the 3rd ranked team in the nation, by a final score of 10-7.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Coach Stuart Chester and the Cartersville High School Baseball Team for their successful season as well as the hard work that got them there. And with a team that has made winning a tradition and brought home two straight state championships, the next question is can Cartersville make it a three-peat?

HONORING JOHN GILBERT STRONG

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with sadness to honor Mr. John Gilbert Strong of Petaluma, who passed away on April 25, 2009, at the age of 67. John spent much of his life dedicating his time and resources to addressing humanitarian issues at home and around the world.

As a member of the Petaluma Valley Rotary, John presided as Club President and District Governor. His altruistic endeavors included a number of Rotary projects, which included supporting the Cool Kids Camp for

Abused Children, providing furniture to schools in Guatemala and facilitating Rotary Youth Leadership Activities.

His passion for helping others took him on adventures around the world. He promoted economic self-sufficiency in Thailand and Vietnam and built a library in a Central American village.

He had limitless compassion and supported projects benefitting people in his local community. He provided emergency food relief to firefighters during the Oakland Hills fire, supported the Petaluma Library, and volunteered for the Committee on the Shelterless and the STRIVE program for at-risk youth.

John's generous spirit and engaging leadership led to an impressive list of accolades, including the Rotary Club's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Citizen of the Year Award from the Petaluma Area Chamber of Commerce.

John Strong, who battled Parkinson's later in life, was also a champion for continued research to find a cure for the disease.

In addition to being a role model of civic responsibility, John was a skilled coppersmith. A native of England, he acquired coppersmith skills from working in the shipyards and attending the Liverpool College of Technology. After immigrating to the United States in 1963, he purchased Acme Sheet Metal and later started Copperworks, where he exhibited his talented craftsmanship by creating range hoods and other custom items.

John is survived by his wife, Mamie Strong, his son, Karl Strong, his step-sons Curtis and Bradley Boomhower, as well as grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his step-daughter, Lolita Lynn Boomhower Courts.

Madam Speaker, Mr. John Strong's passion for helping others will live on through those people around the world that he has positively influenced. His legacy will continue to serve as a shining example of the power one person holds to make a positive difference in our world.

MAYRA GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

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

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

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

IN HONOR OF MAYOR VIC
BURGESS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the former Mayor Vic Burgess for his years of service to the City of Corinth and the North Texas Region.

After a public service career that spans nearly three decades, Vic Burgess retired this year after three terms as Mayor of Corinth, Texas. Prior to being elected Mayor, Mr. Burgess served as the Denton County Judge, as well as City Councilman in Lewisville, Texas.

During his tenure, Mayor Burgess was known for his enthusiasm, dedication and mediation skills. Under his leadership, the City Council worked to stabilize the city's budget and financial reporting. With an eye towards the future, Corinth's development codes became more efficient.

Vic Burgess' service to the community goes beyond elected office. As a concerned citizen, he served on the Lewisville Planning and Zoning Commission. His first volunteer duties were as a Reserve Officer for the Lewisville Police Department. He performed duties as a Reserve Officer for the Denton County Sheriff's Department as well. Mayor Burgess is also a man dedicated to family.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mayor Vic Burgess for his years of hard work and dedication given to the citizens of Corinth and North Texas. I am proud to represent him in Washington. His service sets a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will endure.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF
USAF LT. COL. MARK STRATTON
OF FOLEY, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of southwest Alabama's own who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom abroad.

United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton, a long-time resident of Foley was deployed to Afghanistan in November, where he served as commander of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team. The team worked on civil affairs initiatives with the Afghan population and was building a road to provide access to an isolated mountain region northeast of Kabul. It was here where Mark was killed on Memorial Day, when an improvised explosive device detonated as his convoy was passing.

Mark set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military. A graduate of Foley High School in Foley, Mark went on to study at Texas A&M University, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1991. He received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps one year after