

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TO CONGRATULATE THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Boy Scouts of America on their 100th Anniversary. Many of our nation's most respected citizens are members of this esteemed organization, including government officials, business leaders, entertainers, and astronauts. Today, there are almost three million young men enrolled as members of the Boy Scouts. In my home state of Colorado, there are over 40,000 young men currently involved in scouting programs, and over 600 earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2009.

I have personally seen the positive impact of the Boy Scouts: my wife and I dedicated many nights and weekends with our four sons to carving Pinewood Derby cars, learning to tie knots in ropes, and planning service projects. Today, all four boys are Eagle Scouts. It is an achievement that speaks to years of dedication and hard work. The Boy Scouts of America has played an invaluable role in helping millions of families, just like mine, raise up young men of character.

The Oath of the Boy Scouts is this: "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." At a time when this country desperately needs men of character, the Boy Scouts of America is actively training the next generation of leaders to fulfill this pledge.

May God Bless the Boy Scouts of America during the next 100 years.

HONORING PARKER GOLLIGLEE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Parker Golliglee, 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 309, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

HONORING ANITA THETFORD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Anita Thetford who is retiring after twenty-nine years of service as a city employee of Hurst. Since 1990, she has served as the Director of Finance, holding positions as Certified Government Finance Officer and Registered Tax Assessor and Collector. Her leadership in the City of Hurst has impressively improved the standard of living for her community, and I am proud to honor such a distinguished leader.

Ms. Thetford's invaluable leadership has laid the groundwork for a strong fiscally conservative economy in the City of Hurst. In her twenty-nine years of service, Hurst has maintained healthy financial ratings, earned lower bond interest ratings and reduced the property tax.

Ms. Thetford has also been an active member of the community serving as a leader in the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT), Women's Professional Network group and the Rotary Club of Hurst-Euleless-Bedford. Her commendable dedication to the City of Hurst proves that citizens can truly make a difference in lives of others.

Throughout Ms. Thetford's tenure she has accumulated an impressive list of awards. To name just a few, Ms. Thetford was honored with the 1998 Outstanding Service Award from her peers, 1998 Outstanding Finance Officer by GFOAT, 1995 Woman of the Year from Metro Business and Professional Women's Club and 2007 Linda Keithley Award.

On behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I would like to thank Ms. Thetford for her tireless service to Hurst. Ms. Thetford's successes have been many, and it is an honor for me to recognize her for her twenty-nine years of contributions to the people of Hurst. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Anita Thetford continued success in her future.

RECOGNIZING SR. SGT MARK A. TODD, SR. OF FORT HOOD, TEXAS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Sr. SGT Mark A. Todd, Sr. of Fort Hood, Texas for his unbelievable bravery on November 5, 2009 at Fort Hood, Texas. Sr. SGT Todd, selflessly, helped put an end to the horrific massacre that took place, killing 12 soldiers and 1 civilian and wounding more than 40 others. His leadership, skill and bravery are truly heroic. We, as one Nation under God honor him today for his heroism. His actions will not be forgotten, and he will forever be recognized for his leadership and bravery.

It is an honor to recognize Sr. SGT Todd, as he continues to be a true leader at Fort Hood, in Texas District 31, and the United States of America.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HAROLD PAUL ALTSHULER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Harold Paul Altshuler, a Dallas insurance executive who passed away on December 16, 2009, at the age of 88.

Mr. Altshuler was born on November 19, 1921, in Paterson, New Jersey. He graduated from Bard College and entered the United States Air Force where he flew 33 bombing missions over Germany during World War II. For his brave and courageous actions he twice received the Purple Heart, and after Victory in Europe Day, he continued his service by flying damaged aircraft back to England for the Air Transport Command.

After the war, Mr. Altshuler completed a doctor of laws degree from the University of Virginia and founded Republic Bankers Life which later became Life of America Insurance Co. He settled in Dallas in the 1950s and actively developed his insurance and banking business. There he made a name for himself as one of the leading insurance executives in the industry and was active in the community where he served on the board of Allied Bank in Oak Cliff, Texas.

Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring Harold Paul Altshuler who diligently served his country in time of war and was an icon in the Dallas community. He will be truly missed.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI JOEL E. REMBAUM

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, we are honored to pay tribute to our friend, Rabbi Joel E. Rembaum, on the occasion of his 25 years of service to Temple Beth Am and the Pressman Academy.

Rabbi Rembaum's lifelong dedication to the Jewish community started at an early age when he was a camper at Camp Ramah. Soon after he graduated from UCLA with his masters, he left for New York where he earned his ordination as a Rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Rabbi Rembaum returned to Los Angeles where he earned a Ph.D. in history at UCLA.

● 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.

He also holds the degrees of Master of Hebrew Literature and Doctor of Divinity, Honoris Causa, from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Rembaum was part of the well renowned faculty and administration of the American Jewish University from 1970 to 1985, pursuing his steadfast vocational climb to the positions of Dean of Undergraduate Studies and eventually becoming an associate professor of Jewish history. He was a visiting assistant professor at UCLA and UC Irvine. He then taught at the Wexner Heritage Foundation and served on the faculty of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. He has received countless graduate and research fellowships and contributed to the Melton Research Institute Seminar in Jewish History. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Association for Jewish Studies. Rabbi Rembaum has published an impressive variety of articles in the field of Jewish history and has lectured extensively throughout the United States.

Since July 1985, Rabbi Joel E. Rembaum has passionately served as Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Am in Los Angeles, California. As Senior Rabbi, he successfully launched a reform of the synagogue's education system and worked with the congregation's lay and professional leadership to construct the Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy. I commend Rabbi Rembaum for making the academy a holistic educational system. Nevertheless year after year, Rabbi Rembaum has continued teaching in all facets of Beth Am's educational programming, in which he continues to inspire and touch the lives of students and faculty.

Rabbi Rembaum lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Fredi, herself a respected and prominent Jewish public professional. The Rembaums have four children: Yona, Avi, Nomi, and Joshua. They also have six grandchildren: Itai, Dani and Ella Rembaum and Ilan, Uri and Maayan Eshkenazi.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, we ask you to join me in saluting Joel E. Rembaum for his impressive career and dedication to the Jewish community, and to congratulate him on his service to Temple Beth Am and the Pressman Academy.

AMERICANS WANT
TRANSPARENCY ON HEALTH CARE

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Administration's health care plan will affect every single American and impact one-sixth of the U.S. economy.

But congressional leaders have taken the critical negotiations behind closed doors, even though President Obama repeatedly promised a transparent process.

The Administration claims Congress needs to pass a health care plan to cover 47 million people who are uninsured.

But that 47 million figure includes 4 million people who are eligible for public health insurance but not yet enrolled, 10 million illegal immigrants, 9 million people who are only temporarily uninsured, and 10 million people who can afford health coverage but choose not to purchase it.

We should focus on the long-term, low-income uninsured, about 14 million people, not

a government takeover of the entire private health care delivery system.

RECOGNIZING SGT KIMBERLY D.
MUNLEY OF FORT HOOD, TEXAS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize SGT Kimberly D. Munley of Fort Hood, Texas for her unbelievable bravery on November 5, 2009 at Fort Hood, Texas. Kimberly, selflessly, helped put an end to the horrific massacre that took place, killing 12 soldiers and 1 civilian and wounding more than 40 others. She had the courage to defend, despite her own gunshot wounds from the shooter. Her leadership, skill and bravery are truly heroic. We, as one Nation under God honor her today for her heroism. Her actions will not be forgotten, and she will forever be recognized for her leadership and bravery.

It is an honor to recognize SGT Munley, as she continues to be a true leader at Fort Hood, in Texas District 31, and The United States of America.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE
AND WORK OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR.

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor one of Georgia's greatest citizens, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to recognize the efforts of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Banquet Committee, the North Georgia Building and Construction Trades Council, and the Central Georgia Federation of Trades and Labor Council. It is on this 22nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Banquet and Awards Ceremony that we all pause to remember Dr. King's life and legacy and to reflect on what a profoundly positive impact he has had on each and every one of us. Dr. King's impact was not limited to the South or even to the United States. His nonviolent struggle for the equality of all people enriched our entire globe, a fact acknowledged by his receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Dr. King's message throughout the struggle of the Civil Rights movement was clear and simple. All people should be equal before the law and all should have the opportunity to make the most out of their lives in a free and democratic society. Dr. King contributed enormously to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a landmark in the struggle for racial equality. Unfortunately, that struggle continues today, almost 42 years after Dr. King was murdered by an assassin. Our nation's annual celebration of Dr. King's birth reminds us that we have more to do to assure the equality of all people before the law.

Madam Speaker, the work of the North Georgia Building and Construction Trades Council and the Central Georgia Federation of Trades and Labor Council continues the work begun by Dr. King. Their efforts for Georgians

in gaining meaningful and quality employment in the construction industry deserve our thanks. Their endeavors are in keeping with Dr. King's simple message that all deserve the chance to succeed and I again wish to congratulate them on all the outstanding work they do for all Georgians and for the important work they do to honor Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE GREENSBORO,
NORTH CAROLINA, SIT-IN AND
CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL
RIGHTS CENTER AND MUSEUM

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, on February 1, 1960 four freshman students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Ezell Blair (Jibreel Khazan), Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil and David Richmond, sat down and requested service at the F.W. Woolworth's segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. In the following days more students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Bennett College for Women, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro) and Dudley High School would join the sit-in. The nonviolent action of these students sparked a nationwide sit-in movement.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me today in commemorating and celebrating these acts of heroism and the opening of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum on February 1, 2010. The Museum is located at the site of the February 1, 1960 sit-in and will be a lasting memorial to these historic acts.

The courage of the students at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Bennett College for Women, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro) and Dudley High School serves to remind us of the important role that young people played, and continue to play, in the civil rights struggle and in the fight for equality and justice for all people. The International Civil Rights Center and Museum will be a monument to the sacrifices of freedom-loving people who came together to work for the promise of this nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Greensboro sit-in and to thank those who labored to keep America's dream of democracy alive and real. I also encourage all citizens to join me in supporting the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.

HONORING LUCY BILLINGSLEY
AND THE CHIAPAS PROJECT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize

Lucy Billingsley who founded the Chiapas Project, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to lifting women out of poverty in Latin America.

The Chiapas Project was founded in 2003 when Ms. Billingsley, a Dallas real estate developer, traveled to Chiapas, Mexico with thirty other women to see firsthand how microfinance and microloans effectively helped some of the most disadvantaged women in Mexico's poorest state. The group returned to North Texas with vigorous determination and raised \$790,000 to fund the expansion of a microfinance institution called Alternative Solidaria in Chiapas. This money ultimately lifted roughly 4,000 women out of poverty. Today, the Chiapas Project has set new goals and is working toward raising more money for microfinance initiatives across Latin America.

Recently Ms. Billingsley was honored at the Dallas Regional Chamber's 14th Annual International Business Achievement Awards luncheon where she received the Individual Award. Additionally, the Chiapas Project was commended for raising the global awareness of North Texas as an international business center in Latin America and across the world.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing both Lucy Billingsley and the Chiapas Project for the great work they have done to help disadvantaged women and families in Latin America.

HONORING THE MIAMI MEDICAL
TEAM FOUNDATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to Honor the Miami Medical Team Foundation, MMTF, a South Florida non-profit organization dedicated to improving medical conditions in third world countries. The Miami Medical Team Foundation has provided humanitarian assistance to countries that are hit by disasters.

Since 1980, the MMTF has helped families recoup from floods and hurricanes. In order to combat all disasters, The Miami Medical Team Foundation is comprised of doctors that specialize in different medical fields. These doctors go to great lengths to provide service for those in need. The Miami Medical Team Foundation provides relief to individuals and families by supplying food, clothing, medications, and other necessities. In addition to sending these supplies, The Miami Medical Team Foundation donates medical equipment to hospitals in affected countries. This wonderful organization provides relief missions ranging from basic health to refugee assistance. In addition to their excellent service, the MMTF covers all of the expenses of these relief missions. This self-funded foundation is truly committed to the greater good and I strongly commend their efforts.

I extend my gratitude to all of the employees and volunteers in The Miami Medical Team Foundation especially their chairman and president, Dr. Manuel Alzugaray, for all of his hard work and dedication. Dr. Manuel Alzugaray has been committed to helping others since the beginning of his long career. Through his studies, he has become a cer-

tified expert in matters dealing with terrorism and homeland security. He is a board certified expert in traumatic stress, making him a keen asset when dealing with sensitive global catastrophes. He has become an expert in treating those who have suffered mentally from the havoc of natural disasters. Dr. Alzugaray never ceases to make a tangible difference in the lives of many around the world.

The Miami Medical Team Foundation is devoted to serving anyone in need around the world and I strongly commend all of its efforts. I wish each and every member and volunteer the utmost success and again offer my utmost appreciation for all they do.

HONORING THE 3RD BRIGADE
COMBAT TEAM

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, "Spartans," 10th Mountain Division, as they complete their service in Afghanistan and return to their families and loved ones.

I am tremendously proud of the brave soldiers of the 3rd BCT who have sacrificed so much to keep our Nation safe. The family members of these soldiers must also be recognized, enduring through the Spartans' year-long deployment and providing their unwavering support as they return home.

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team was led during their missions in Afghanistan by COL David B. Haight and CSM Delbert D. Byers. The brigade consists of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 710th Brigade Support Battalion, and the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

The Spartans began their deployment to Afghanistan in December of 2008 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Their assigned area of operations covered Wardak and Logar 1st-32nd Provinces, with the 1st-32nd detached to operate in Kunar Province. The 3rd BCT guarded the southern approaches to Kabul. If enemy forces sought to attack the city from the south, they had to get through the Spartans first.

The 3rd BCT's deployment to the area was significant in another way as well. Their operations marked the first time during Operation Enduring Freedom that International and Security Assistance Force, ISAF, units conducted counterinsurgency operations in either Wardak or Logar provinces. Before the Spartans arrived in country, only Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police operated in the provinces; these forces were isolated and confined to local areas.

The Brigade's units partnered with Afghan security forces to help develop their capacity and overall professionalism, ultimately playing a pivotal role in returning the security of Afghanistan over to the Afghan people. Aggressive counterinsurgency efforts resulted in low morale among insurgents and surviving leadership fleeing the region.

3rd BCT's operations resulted in 419 detainees, 236 enemy killed, and 120 enemy wounded. At the same time, the Spartans had 311 friendly casualties and 32 brave Soldiers killed in action.

They have truly performed in the best of Fort Drum's traditions and deserve our heartfelt thanks. It is with sincere gratitude that I recognize them before Congress today.

CONGRATULATING McCALL
BUTLER

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate McCall Butler, a student at Troup County Comprehensive High School, on his selection as a member of the State Student Advisory Council for the 2009-2010 school year. McCall was one of 53 students selected by state schools superintendent Kathy Cox. As a council member he will have the honor of discussing state policies with fellow members as well as with superintendent Cox several times during the school year. He will also have the honor of serving as an ambassador for the superintendent within his school.

The relationship between students and educators that this council facilitates is invaluable for improving and monitoring state policy. "It gives me a tremendous insight into how state policies and procedures are working in the classroom and it allows me to communicate directly with students in schools throughout Georgia," superintendent Cox has said.

McCall is an outstanding Georgia scholar. He is dedicated to giving a voice to the concerns of his school and its vital programs. Upon receiving the honor he commented, "A big reason for me to apply was because the Career Technical Agriculture Education programs at our school are very important to me, and I want to make sure they have continued funding going toward local, regional and state activities."

McCall will undoubtedly serve the interests of the students of Georgia and especially his school very well.

We appreciate the service provided by McCall and his fellow members on the State Student Advisory Council. I congratulate McCall on behalf of the people of Georgia's 3rd District and wish him continued success in his academic endeavors.

FRESH THINKING ON SUPPORTING
ISRAEL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to place into the RECORD a compelling op-ed written by Representative GEORGE MILLER, which appeared recently in the Vallejo Times Herald. I have long admired Representative MILLER's thoughtful approach to one of the toughest foreign policy challenges we face—resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this piece, Representative

MILLER cogently outlines a path forward in the Middle East and discusses the importance of supporting a political process that will bring about two States living side by side in peace and security.

[From the Vallejo Times Herald, Jan. 14, 2010]

FRESH THINKING ON SUPPORTING ISRAEL
(By Representative George Miller)

I read with interest Larry Grossman's piece in the Times-Herald ("Miller isn't fair to Israel," Jan. 10) criticizing my record on issues related to Israel. I believe he and I share the same interest in defending Israel's right to exist and flourish in peace and security. We appear to differ on what it means to support Israel. I am glad to be able to offer my view.

The United States can and must play a constructive role in helping to end the deadly and destabilizing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and Israel's neighbors. But adhering to an outdated ideology that punishes diverse perspectives on the Middle East is a disservice to Israel and the cause of peace and security. Here are my views on some of the key issues facing Israel and the United States today.

I support a strong and lasting friendship between the United States and Israel. The deep ties between our nations are rooted in a shared culture and common set of beliefs. America's support for Israel and the Israeli people has never been, nor is it now, in question.

I fully support Israel's right to defend itself and I reject hateful speech, rocket attacks, suicide bombs and other violent attacks directed against the Israeli people. No nation should ever be expected to withstand such attacks without response. When I have been critical of Israeli military action, such as in Gaza in 2008, it has been based on the view that Israel's response was disproportionate and undermined its long-term interests. In addition, democratic nations like Israel and the United States must respect International Law and human rights and I will always demand adherence to those critical instruments of democracy and freedom.

I support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the immediate resumption of peace talks as necessary steps to ensure Israel's security and status as a democratic nation. President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton support a two-state solution, as did President George W. Bush. Moreover, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu supports a two-state solution. Israel must cease the aggressive, and sometimes illegal, settlement activity in order for the peace talks and the two-state solution to succeed.

When it comes to votes in Congress affecting the Middle East, I do not follow orthodoxy but judge issues based on whether they advance the cause of peace and security.

Consider two recent examples. Along with 57 other members of Congress, I opposed a House resolution in November criticizing a report by Justice Richard Goldstone on the Gaza war because the bill was rushed through the House without a single congressional hearing or any delineation of the relevant issues for members' consideration. On the other hand, I supported the recently passed Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, which furthered the cause of peace and security by sending a strong signal to Iran that Congress is willing, if necessary, to enact tough sanctions to diminish Iran's capability to threaten Israel.

Debate in the United States on Middle East issues has been dominated for decades by the position pushed by some supporters of Israel that the only friend of Israel is the one

who never criticizes. That is not the definition of friendship.

Not all actions by the government of Israel are in the best of interest of the Jewish people, but to say so publicly is not an attack on the state. The same is true for our own country. Criticizing the Bush administration for invading Iraq or the Obama administration for wanting to close Guantanamo, just for example, are not attacks on America nor should they ever be labeled as such.

There are many different voices within Israel on the issue of peace and security, just as there are wide ranging views among American Jews and others in our country that support the state of Israel. Americans For Peace Now, for example, an affiliate of the non-governmental Israeli movement Peace Now, is critical of some Israeli military and government actions but is clearly pro-Israel. And J Street, a different organization mentioned by Mr. Grossman, does an excellent job of educating policymakers about Middle East issues. J Street is pro-Israel and pro-peace but does not support every Israeli government position.

These two groups are rattling the nerves of the traditional pro-Israel lobby—and they are being attacked as a result.

But the strength of democracy is its tolerance for dissent. Expanding the debate is a positive development for Jews, Palestinians and all Americans interested in securing a lasting peace in the Middle East.

My approach as a Member of Congress when it comes to the Middle East and other vital concerns is to examine issues and raise questions and determine whether the actions planned by Congress are helpful to the cause of peace and security. I can think of no greater way in which to show my support for Israel and the Israeli people.

HONORING NICHOLAS D. TURCOTTE

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Nicholas D. Turcotte, a citizen-soldier gave his life on December 4, 2006 while serving in Iraq.

As a member of the Minnesota National Guard, Nick distinguished himself. In just 2 years he rose to the rank of Sergeant, and was known as a soldier's soldier; dependable, helpful, and an outstanding example to those around him.

Sergeant Turcotte was born in Highland Park, Illinois. After living in Colorado, he moved to Maple Grove, Minnesota with his grandparents.

He enjoyed playing hockey, paintball, singing and playing trombone. He contemplated a career in law enforcement and joined the Maple Grove Police Explorers until he entered basic training with the Minnesota National Guard.

Nick married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, in September 2004.

Inspired by his enthusiasm for service and commitment to his country, Nicholas Turcotte's family has established a scholarship in his name that supports the Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association. This scholarship will allow other young people to participate in the educational programs the Explorers offer, as well as providing money for secondary education.

Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that I honor Sergeant Turcotte's sacrifice on behalf of the Nation today. We are ever grateful for his service, and continue to grieve with his family, who is keeping his memory alive each and every day.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MATTIE LEE NASH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mattie Lee Nash who passed away recently at the age of 87.

As a remarkably civic-minded resident of West Dallas, Ms. Nash was constantly working to better her community. She was frequently referred to as the "Mayor of West Dallas," and during the 1980s she served on the Dallas Housing Authority's board where she gave a voice to the often forgotten neighborhoods west of the Trinity River. In 1991, she was elected to the Dallas City Council after the adoption of the single-member-district system that helped to ensure diverse representation on the city council. Throughout all of this, she maintained a tireless sense of hope that emboldened citizens across the city of Dallas.

Twenty-five years after her term on the city council, we remember Ms. Nash with warm thoughts and heavy hearts. Her actions so struck people in the community that the city recently honored her by naming a recreation center in her honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring Ms. Mattie Lee Nash who worked tirelessly for the citizens of West Dallas to ensure that they were actively and fairly represented.

THE LOSS OF C. BLYTHE ANDREWS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. C. Blythe Andrews Jr., the former editor-in-chief of the Florida Sentinel Bulletin, Florida's largest and oldest Black newspaper, and a beloved member of the Tampa Bay community. The state of Florida suffered a great loss on January 12, 2010 when he passed away.

Mr. Andrews' devotion to the Florida Sentinel Bulletin was life long. His first job for the paper was during his years at Booker T. Washington Junior High School. He would spend afternoons after school folding newspapers for delivery. He continued to work for the paper, under the close eye of his father who was the editor-in-chief at the time, while attending Middleton High School in Tampa. After receiving his bachelor's degree in economics, his master's in journalism, and serving in our Nation's Army, he went on to continue the family legacy of newspaper publishing, becoming editor-in-chief of the Sentinel Bulletin

in 1977. He held the position for nearly 20 years and went on to serve as the publisher and owner. Through the newspaper, he opened the doors of opportunity for many African American youth in the community who found the Florida Sentinel Bulletin to be the first step into the business world. The newspaper has served as a voice for the African American community of West-Central Florida for decades, providing news twice-weekly and offering an outlet for African American writers and columnists. This family legacy continues through his children, C. Blythe Andrews III and Sybil Kay Andrews Wells.

Mr. Andrews was a voice for the working class as well as his fellow African Americans. He was a member of the board of trustees for Tampa General Hospital, and directed the Lily White Security Benefit Association that offered burial insurance benefits that other companies did not. Mr. Andrews was appointed to many positions of honor and distinction in community organizations including: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center Trustee, the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, the Tampa Employment and Training Council, the Foundation Board of the University of South Florida, the Arts Council of the State of Florida, and Chairman of the Board of the Hillsborough County Hospital Association. Additionally, he was the first African American appointed to the Tampa Sports Authority, later serving as vice chairman, and advocated for the renaming of Tampa's Buffalo Avenue after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mr. Andrews was merited as one of the Twenty-Five Most Influential People of Tampa Bay by Tampa Bay Life Magazine—an honor that is befitting a man who uplifted the people of Tampa Bay while educating and informing the community of the news that applied to their lives when no one else thought it was necessary to do so. He leaves a legacy of leadership as a pioneer for the African American community.

Madam Speaker, Mr. C. Blythe Andrews Jr. will be greatly missed by the state of Florida and especially by the Tampa Bay area. My thoughts and condolences are with his wife, Gloria, and the rest of his family in this time of loss.

HONORING STEVE D. CHAN, DDS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Steven D. Chan, a pediatric dentist who resides and practices in Fremont, California. Dr. Chan was recently elected as a Regent of the American College of Dentists, the oldest national honorary organizations for dentists in the country. During his service as Regent, Dr. Chan will represent Regency 7, which comprises California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Hawaii.

The College recognizes meritorious contributions to the Dental Society and the profession of dentistry.

Dr. Chan serves on the Executive Committee of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry and is past president of the California Dental Association. He is founder of the

California Dental Association Foundation. The Foundation was formed as the philanthropic affiliate of the California Dental Association in 2001 with the mission to improve the oral health of Californians.

Dr. Chan formerly served on the Fremont Library Commission and is active in the Fremont community. I am confident Dr. Chan will serve admirably in his newly elected role as Regent. I wish him every success.

HONORING MR. EARL WILSON, JR.

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true St. Louis legend and visionary, Mr. Earl Wilson, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement from the St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation. Earl Wilson has devoted his life to serving the St. Louis community first as a trailblazing corporate executive and later as a dedicated community servant. His commitment led him to establish one of the most honored and respected community organizations in the Midwest, The St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation.

Mr. Wilson has been blazing a path for inner-city residents, especially the youth of St. Louis, since graduating high school and becoming an ROTC captain at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was a successful 30 year executive with IBM. He also had the honor of serving as the Marketing Director for the U.S. Olympic Festival in St. Louis in 1994. He has been a wonderful husband and dedicated father of four.

Sixteen years ago, Mr. Wilson created the St. Louis Gateway Classic Foundation in an effort to elevate the status of African Americans in St. Louis. The Gateway Classic was originally organized as a football event hosting teams from historic black colleges and universities. The game eventually grew into his trademark St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation and has created an impressive list of community events and initiatives.

Through the foundation Mr. Wilson has raised millions of dollars for his scholarship fund leading to the education of more than 100 African-American students who otherwise might not have the means to attend college. Over sixty of the awardees graduated from historically black colleges or universities.

He also established the St. Louis Gateway Classic Walk of Fame. The Walk of Fame highlights the sacrifices and achievements of area African Americans. It has honored the lives of prominent St. Louis citizens such as Dick Gregory, Jackie-Joyner Kersee, former Congressman William L. Clay, Sr., Ozzie Smith and the Fifth Dimension.

Mr. Wilson has exhibited a tireless dedication to his community throughout his life. That commitment has been an inspiration to his family, friends and all that have come to know him. His impact on young people's lives in the St. Louis community can be measured in his wonderful array of good works.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Wilson; a man who has made a difference in each life that he has touched. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Earl Wilson, Jr.

HONORING MIKE SIITARI

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Mike Siitari, a 31 year veteran of the Edina Police Department and who will retire as its Chief at the end of January.

For more than three decades, Edina law enforcement has seen Chief Siitari rise through the ranks from police dispatcher to patrol officer to lieutenant and finally, a decade long stint in the Department's highest post.

Even after dedicating a lifetime to public service, Chief Siitari has no intention of quietly retiring; instead he will take on a role at the School Safety Center in St. Paul. There, he will work with the Minnesota Department of Safety to make schools safer by minimizing violence and maximizing prepared emergency procedures.

As the community congratulates Chief Siitari on his new opportunity, we would also like to thank him for what he leaves behind. Because of his dedicated work, Edina is a safer, more enjoyable community.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MRS. MILDRED DELOACHE WINSTON THOMAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredibly gifted teacher and devoted citizen of the Dallas community, Mrs. Mildred DeLoache Winston Thomas, who passed away on December 29, 2009 at the age of 93.

Mrs. Thomas was born in Cedar Creek, Texas on May 12, 1916. A lifelong Christian, she spent her formative years at Mount Olive Baptist Church where she was baptized and completed primary school. She later went on to graduate from Emile High School and receive a Bachelor of Science Degree from Tillotson College in Austin, Texas.

Throughout her remarkable life, Mrs. Thomas worked diligently to better herself, her family, and her community. She began a career in education that would last roughly 40 years, spending 36 of those years with the Dallas Independent School District. While working as a full time mother and teacher, she completed a Master of Science Degree at the University of North Texas at Denton where she was one of seven African Americans to integrate the university.

Upon retirement in 1986, Mrs. Thomas continued to be active in civic life. She served as a docent for the Dallas African American Art Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Dallas Arboretum. As a woman committed to her faith, she continued to be active in various ministries at New Hope Baptist Church where she was a deaconess.

Mildred Thomas lived a spirited life and carried herself with dignity, elegance, grace and warmth. She held deep beliefs on fairness,

right and wrong, and was unflinching in her defense and support of those she loved.

Madam Speaker, with the passing of Mrs. Thomas, Dallas has truly lost an honorable and dedicated citizen, and I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in celebrating her long and accomplished life.

EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, teachers spend endless hours with our children preparing them for their future. These teachers are a role model for our children and continue to shape them each and every day.

Lamar University honored four area educators on November 5, 2009 to be inducted into the Educator Hall of Fame—Joe Chenella, Ms. Sally House, Dr. Ron Sims, and Ms. Patty Sanderson.

Mr. Chenella started his career at Bridge City High School as a math teacher. After working his way through the system, Mr. Chenella now serves as the Bridge City ISD Assistant Superintendent. He is proud to see his students involved in the community and the leadership roles they have chosen.

Ms. House has taught students in Beaumont, Nederland, Lubbock, and Midland. She has been recognized for her outstanding work and continues her love for teaching by advising our future teachers at Lamar University.

Dr. Sims has a passion for teaching and working with students. He has taught, served as assistant principal, and principal at local schools. He is now serving as Superintendent of Lumberton ISD.

Ms. Sanderson has taught at Langham Elementary in Nederland for the past 14 years. She shows her love of teaching by encouraging her students and being a positive influence.

On behalf of the Second District of Texas, I would like to congratulate these educators on their dedication and love for teaching. They truly inspire others and have made a difference in many students' lives.

RECOGNIZING THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING YOUTH ORATORICAL CONTEST HOSTED BY THE PRINCE WILLIAM ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Twentieth Annual Martin Luther King Youth Oratorical Contest hosted by the Prince William Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and its Education Foundation.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. left an indelible mark on the way Americans engage in civil dialogue. Despite the violence perpetrated against the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King responded with oratory and nonviolent resist-

ance to condemn the injustice of social inequality. His legacy is one of tolerance and steadfast commitment to principled and peaceful communication.

The MLK Youth Oratorical contestants pay tribute to Dr. King's legacy with their ability to exercise the strength of the spoken word. This is a skill inseparable from their character and will serve them well as they tackle leadership opportunities and build personal relationships.

I congratulate and applaud the following contestants in the Twentieth Annual Martin Luther King Youth Oratorical Contest:

Middle School Contestants:
Makaila Davenport—Stonewall Middle School

Autumn Moore—Rippon Middle School
David Rivera-Kohr—Saunders Middle School

High School Contestants:
Lauren Coleman—Potomac High School
Alice Gyamfi—C.D. Hylton High School
Seth Opoku-Yeboah—Osborn Park High School

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for recognizing the benefit that Dr. King's teachings bring to the development of our youth. We lay the foundations of a more tolerant society when we nurture the ability to engage and communicate with one another in a way that respects our common humanity.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE'S MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of California, Irvine's men's volleyball team for winning the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. The NCAA Championship title is UC Irvine's second title in three years, which makes them one of five programs to have won more than one NCAA men's volleyball Championship title.

The Anteaters, who were ranked in the Nation's top 10 for 75 consecutive weeks, including No. 1 for 21 of those weeks, achieved many historic accomplishments during the 2008–2009 season. They finished the year 27–5 overall. Ryan Ammerman was named the tournament's most outstanding player with 12 blocks, six kills, and 55 assists in the championship match. Taylor "Bones" Wilson led the Anteaters with 21 kills followed by Carson Clark with 15 kills. In addition, Ammerman, Wilson, and Clark were all named to the NCAA All-Tournament team.

UC Irvine men's volleyball team had four players selected to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-America Team. Senior setter Ryan Ammerman garnered first-team honors on the AVCA All-America Team. Jordan DuFault, Kevin Wynne, and Carson Clark earned second-team accolades on the AVCA All-America Team. The senior class of Ryan Ammerman, Brent Asuka, Nick Spittle, Jon Steller, and Taylor Wilson has become the most successful graduating class in school history, with a 101–30

record in their four years winning two NCAA Championship titles.

Furthermore, senior All-American Jon Steller was named UC Irvine's Lauds & Laurels Outstanding Athlete. Sophomore outside hitter Jordan DuFault earned second team All-American honors and was ranked nationally in four categories, including kills, digs, hitting percentage, and blocks. The Anteaters captured the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) regular season title with a 19–3 record. Also, freshman Carson Clark was selected as the MPSF Freshman of the Year as well as a first-team All-MPSF honoree.

Congratulations to head coach, John Speraw, and the men's volleyball team of the University of California, Irvine, for winning the 2009 NCAA Division I Men's Volleyball National Championship. I am proud to recognize the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in helping the University of California, Irvine win the national title.

It is an honor to recognize UC Irvine, under the leadership of Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D., as it continues to establish itself as a world-class research university, and as one of the top universities in the Nation.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. MARY YOUNG-CUMMINGS, TRAILBLAZER AND FIGHTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and former colleague, Mrs. Mary Young-Cummings, who passed away at the age of 66 on January 16, 2010. Mary was a woman of conviction and compassion who set an example for others through all the things she accomplished in her life.

Mary Young-Cummings was born in Fitzgerald, Georgia, on March 1, 1943, the 13th of 16 children. She was a proud product of the Ben Hill County School System, graduating from Monitor High School. At Savannah State College (now University), she served as president of the Honor Society and graduated in 1964 with a double major in mathematics and physics. She earned a law degree from Howard University in 1967 and then practiced with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in New York.

Mary was a spirited and staunch advocate for social and economic justice. She founded the Savannah State College (now University) Chapter of the NAACP and participated in civil rights campaigns in Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. She also participated in the historic March on Washington on August 28, 1963.

Mary was also a trailblazer, forerunner and visionary. She was the first African-American female attorney in Albany, Georgia, and served under the tutelage of legendary civil rights attorney C.B. King. Mary brought a successful lawsuit against the city of Albany to end unfair election practices so that African-Americans could be elected to posts throughout the city. This action paved the way for her to be elected the first African-American woman commissioner in the history of Albany.

She eventually became the first African-American woman from Albany to serve in the Georgia House of Representatives (1981–1992), and in 1992 became one of the first African-American women to run for Congress in Georgia's Second Congressional District.

In July of 2009, a play about Mary's life entitled "Cotton Field Girl" was performed at the Albany Civil Rights Institute in Albany. This play chronicled Mary's humble beginnings and her propensity for hard work and determination as instilled in her by her parents.

Shirley Chisholm once said that "service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mary Young-Cummings, in the same spirit as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Fannie Lou Hamer, fought for what was right, even if she had to stand alone. Our country and our world are better because Mary Young-Cummings walked among us with pride and dignity and served humanity so well.

RECOGNIZING THE 19TH ANNUAL
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
BANQUET FOR THE OCCOQUAN
WOODBRIDGE LORTON VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 19th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet for the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

The 2010 officers and members of the board of directors are taking leadership roles in one of Northern Virginia's longest standing volunteer fire departments. The O.W.L. Volunteer Fire Department was borne out of the need for organized fire response capabilities in the growing suburbs of Northern Virginia. In 1938, the Department officially formed to become the only fire department between Fredericksburg and Alexandria. In the subsequent decades O.W.L. has expanded to staff three stations and provide emergency medical services.

The members of O.W.L. are dedicated community volunteers, and the 2010 officers and directors will be diligent stewards of this tradition of service. The 250 active O.W.L. members answer 14,000 calls and serve 60,000 people each year. Their job is demanding and the hours are long, but they gladly serve for little more than the satisfaction of volunteerism and civic engagement. We would all do well to follow their example.

2010 Officers: President Debra Haight, Chief James McAllister, Assistant Chief Mike Clark, Assistant Chief Wayne Haight, Assistant Chief Jack McGovern, Assistant Chief Karl Fippenger, Assistant Chief David Halman, Rescue Chief Edward Craig, Captain Stewart Young, Captain John Roberts, Captain Richard Slusher, Captain Justin Witt, Captain Richard Moore, Captain Steve Godin, Captain Reece Fancher, Lieutenant Jonathan Baldwin, Lieutenant Kurt Bolland, Lieutenant Mark Chandler, Lieutenant Matthew Haight, Lieutenant Ben New, Lieutenant Rick Ruggieri, Lieutenant Dave Williams, Lieutenant Ryan Williams, Lieutenant Tammy Hill, Lieutenant

Flavia Kelly, Lieutenant Kelly Shaw, Lieutenant Teddie Steele, Sergeant Joshua Culp, Sergeant Ernie Firkin, Sergeant Harold Griffith, Sergeant Rob Laver, Sergeant Nate Peterson, Sergeant Adam Wynn, Executive Vice President Mike McCranie, Treasurer George Nazionale, Membership Secretary Heather Carroll, Sergeant At Arms John Karnback, Elections Officer Susan Mitchem

Board of Directors: Chris McIntosh, Lenny Peters, Ralph Bowman, Thomas Sullivan, Kevin Lewis, William Spicer, Ron Miller

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these remarkable volunteers for their new positions. The Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department is to be commended for the vital service it provides to the Prince William community.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
CURTIS M. BEDKE

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General Curtis M. Bedke, for his outstanding service to our nation on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

It is an honor to join the people of Ohio's 7th Congressional District in congratulating Major General Bedke upon his retirement as Commander of the Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

A 1977 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, he has served a distinguished career, piloting 78 aircraft in more than 4,300 flights. As Commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory, he led more than 10,000 employees and was responsible for managing the Air Force's science and technology program.

Previously, General Bedke was Commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center at the Edwards Air Force Base in California. He also served in Operation Enduring Freedom as the Combined Forces Air Component Commander in Egypt in 2001 and as the U.S. Central Command's senior military representative to Pakistan in 2002.

For his many years of service to our nation, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and wish him ongoing success in all future endeavors.

HONORING ANDREW JAMES
SWOBODA FOR HIS SUCCESS IN
THE SIEMENS COMPETITION IN
MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a local high school student, Andrew James Swoboda of Alexandria, Va., for his work alongside his California teammate in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology.

Participating in this competition on Monday, December 7, 2009, his team's original research on Optimization of Platinum Nanoparticles for Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells Using Pulse Electrochemical Deposition earned them a shared scholarship of \$10,000. Celebrating academic achievement and encouraging our country's students to pursue math and science excellence, this decade-old competition, hosted by the Siemens Foundation, awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships this year to our nation's most promising high school students. Andrew is certainly that—a fine example of promise and talent, from whom we can be sure to expect great things in the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Andrew and his teammate for this recognition and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING LOOKMAN
MUHAMMED

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lookman Muhammed, a student from Lawrence Hall Youth Services, for winning City Clerk Miguel del Valle's annual city sticker design contest. On December 15th, 2009, Lookman Muhammed won the 15th annual high school art contest.

This year's contest theme was "Burnham's Chicago," encouraging students to study the work of architect Daniel Burnham. More than 300 students from grades 9–12, and 39 Chicago high schools entered the art contest. After a panel of honorary judges narrowed the entries down to the top 10 designs, the public voted online and at City Hall computer kiosks. Nearly 17,500 votes were cast by the public to choose this year's winner.

Muhammed's artwork will be seen on 1.3 million vehicle stickers beginning in June 2010. He also receives a \$1,000 savings bond to help with his continuing education. In addition, Muhammed, along with all the finalists, will receive an honorary resolution at a January awards ceremony with City Clerk Miguel del Valle in City Hall.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lookman Muhammed for winning City Clerk Miguel del Valle's 15th annual city sticker design contest, and thank him for participating in the contest and contributing to the City of Chicago.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRINCIPAL PATRICIA S. PHILLIPS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia S. Phillips and to express my gratitude for her years of selfless dedication in the field of education.

Principal Phillips believes in the public school system and the power of education.

For more than 30 years, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of thousands of Fairfax County Public Schools students and the community as a whole. Principal Phillips has demonstrated her strong commitment time and time again, first as a teacher, and later, beginning in 2003, as Principal of Fairhill Elementary School.

Principal Phillips has earned the respect and admiration of her peers and staff, but more important, that of the students and their families who have been taught, led, encouraged and supported by her over the decades. She has been a worthy role model and a fair and trusted friend. Principal Phillips also has a record of consistent academic and administrative excellence. In recognition of this excellence, Principal Phillips was honored with the Washington Post's Principal Leadership Award and has the distinction of having been named a Fairfax County's Top Rated Principal.

Principal Phillips is retiring after years of service, during which she became loved and admired for her passion for education, leadership in ensuring quality schools, and excellence as a role model. Principal Phillips has demonstrated a genuine love for her students and her work, the result of which has been the betterment of our schools and of our community.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to again thank Principal Phillips for her commitment to education. Her efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the children of our community and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Principal Phillips and in wishing her the very best in her retirement.

REMARKS ON THE PASSING OF MICAH NAFTALIN, LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT TO AID SOVIET JEWRY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I wish to mark the recent passing of Micah H. Naftalin, an enthusiastic leader of the grassroots movement on behalf of oppressed Jews in the Soviet Union. His dedicated work contributed significantly in advancing the cause of refuseniks denied their right to leave the U.S.S.R. During the dark days of the Cold War, Micah was an impassioned champion for human rights for members of the Jewish community and others, including political prisoners, in the Soviet Union.

Micah was similarly unwavering in his commitment to combat anti-Semitism and related violence, closely monitoring and reporting on developments in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He was appointed to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in 1982, later serving as acting director.

For more than two decades Micah served as national director of the Union of Councils for Jews in the former Soviet Union. He worked closely with the Helsinki Commission to advance democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Russia and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union. In 1993, he served as a public member on the U.S. delegation to the annual meeting to review implementation of human rights commitments by signatories to the Helsinki Final Act. In 2007, he helped found the Coalition Against Hate, a consortium of human rights NGOs from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus united in their efforts to monitor hate crimes.

Madam Speaker, I join Chairman BEN CARDIN and others on the Helsinki Commission in expressing our condolences to Micah's family and his many friends.

TO COMMEND ANNANDALE TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING AWARDED THE BLOOM COMMUNITY GRANT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Annandale Terrace Elementary School on being named a recipient of a \$2,000 Bloom Community Grant.

Bloom, a large grocery store chain, is committed to being a "good neighbor" to the communities in which its stores are located. Bloom is opening a new store in Annandale, Va., and in conjunction with this opening, announced a grant competition between local area public schools with a grand prize of \$2,000. In order to qualify for consideration, each participating school submitted a proposal for a project that would "benefit mind, body and soul for the entire community."

The student body of Annandale Terrace Elementary School includes a large percentage of students who live in apartments and may not have sufficient access to outdoor physical activities. Annandale Terrace Principal Christina R. Dickens recognized this difficulty and coordinated the effort to submit a proposal to create an outdoor exercise path throughout the fields on the school. This exercise path would be oriented to the students but would be open to the entire community when school is not in session. This project, once completed, will help to create an environment that encourages physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Principal Dickens and Annandale Terrace Elementary School on being awarded the Bloom Community Grant. I would also like to express my gratitude to Bloom for their investment in the well-being of the Annandale community.