

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
ALAN L. HINSON

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to honor our veterans this Memorial Day, it is an appropriate time to recognize the service of Lieutenant Colonel Alan L. Hinson for his dedicated work as the Executive Director of Operation Grateful Heart in Alabama.

Alabama has a proud heritage of supporting our troops in uniform and our returning veterans. Lieutenant Colonel Alan Hinson upheld this tradition when he was appointed by Governor Bob Riley to serve as the Executive Director of Operation Grateful Heart. He has been responsible for ensuring that all military personnel and their families receive appropriate recognition, tangible support, and neighborly care. The program provides caring assistance for our troops, both as they fight terrorism and defend freedom overseas and when they return home and require employment and veterans services in their communities.

Lieutenant Colonel Alan Hinson's concern and compassion have come from his own experiences. He served in the U.S. Army from January 1969 until June 1991. He was a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, flying combat aerial missions for the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, as well as direct support missions in support of ground troops in the III Corps and V Corps regions of South Vietnam. He also served several tours of duty at Fort Rucker, Alabama as both a flight and ground instructor. Later in his career, he returned to his basic branch of Field Artillery, where he served with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, 3rd Armored Division in Germany, 2nd Army in Atlanta, and Army Forces Command in Atlanta.

In 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Alan Hinson returned to Alabama, where he served military veterans and their families for nine and a half years as counselor and case manager with the Alabama Intensive Veterans Employment (ALIVE) Program. The ALIVE program helped veterans encountering employment barriers return to the workforce by providing vocational assistance, job-specific training, work experience, and other supportive services. From 2005 through April 2007, Lieutenant Colonel Alan Hinson supplied assistance to Alabama citizens who had lost their jobs either from trade-related layoffs or as a result of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

Lieutenant Colonel Alan Hinson is married to the former Celia Marie Sullivan of Troy, Alabama. They have one daughter, Rochelle Hughes, a nursing instructor at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi; one son, Chief Warrant Officer Scott Hinson, currently serving with the 3rd Infantry Division at Forward Operating Base Falcon in Iraq; and five grandchildren.

Lieutenant Colonel Alan Hinson has devoted his life to his family, his country, and our brave men and women in uniform. As he retires from his service as Executive Director of Operation Grateful Heart, it is now our welcome opportunity to salute him for his dedication to the United States of America and to the well-being of our troops and veterans.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE ANN  
ALDRIDGE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Judge Ann Aldridge, an accomplished jurist who served as Federal District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio and helped to pave the way for all women lawyers.

Judge Aldridge had a joy for life and a passion for service. She lived around the world, but she found her final home in Northeast Ohio. After World War II, she volunteered to rebuild rail lines in Yugoslavia. She graduated second in her New York University of Law class, in which she was the only woman. She would go on to her earn master and doctoral law degrees from NYU as well. She worked in Washington D.C. for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Federal Communications Center (FCC). Later, representing the United Church of Christ, she sued the FCC to make it easier for minorities in the south to own radio stations.

Judge Aldridge moved to Shaker Heights to join the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, where she became the school's first tenured woman professor. She taught one of the nation's first environmental law classes and helped develop minority outreach programs. She was first appointed to the U.S. District Court by President Carter in 1980 and served as an accomplished jurist until her retirement in 1995. She was the first female federal district court judge in Ohio, and even after her retirement she continued to remain active in the law.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and remembrance of Judge Ann Aldridge, a trailblazer who paved the way for women in the law and enriched our nation through her deft interpretation and application of the law. I offer my condolences to her four sons, James Mooney, Allen Mooney, Martin Aldrich, William Aldrich, and her eight grandchildren.

DEKALB COUNTY POLICE AND  
SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the DeKalb County Police and Sheriff Departments have been and continue to be the public safety departments for citizens throughout DeKalb County; and

Whereas, Major Jeffery K. Cato has given of himself for the past 26 years as a law enforcement officer for the citizens of DeKalb County and has given exceptional and distinguished service to our citizens by providing guidance, protection and leadership; and

Whereas, Major Jeffery K. Cato is a proven leader and decorated officer with a heart of a lion and the spirit of an angel; and

Whereas, Major Cato is retiring from his career in DeKalb County, he will begin a new career as Chief of Police in West Point, Georgia; and

Whereas, DeKalb County is proud to have been served by Major Jeffery K. Cato, who gave of himself daily without any need for praise and fame, he has always served valiantly and honorably, a modern day knight; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Major Jeffery K. Cato for his outstanding leadership and service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 29, 2010, as Major Jeffery K. Cato Day in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia.

THE EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER  
ACT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in proud support of H.R. 5190, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Act, which reaffirms this body's support of the goals and accomplishments of the Special Olympics.

For over four decades now, the Special Olympics has improved the health, confidence and self-esteem of Americans with intellectual disabilities. In fact, it has become such an institution now that we sometimes take it for granted, and forget what life was like for the intellectually disabled before the Special Olympics. Too often, these Americans were shuttered away in institutions, sentenced to lives of solitude, emptiness and sadness.

But today, thanks to the hard work of the late Eunice Kennedy Shriver, her son Timothy Shriver, and countless volunteers over the past four decades, Americans with intellectual disabilities are now much more woven into the fabric of community life. Over three million Special Olympians hailing from 180 countries now train and compete year-round in 30 sports and counting.

In sum, the Special Olympics works to break down barriers of prejudice against the intellectually disabled, improve the public health, and bring communities together

• 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.

through promoting shared values of dedication, athleticism, perseverance, teamwork, and play.

The good work of the Special Olympics is summed up in its motto: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." It is a motto that captures the spirit of the organization, and of the champion and visionary who worked so hard on its behalf for so many years, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. And it is only fitting this bill, reauthorizing the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, be given her name.

I encourage my colleagues to be brave today, to stand up for Americans with intellectual disabilities, and to support the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Act and the Special Olympics.

TRIBUTE TO RAMON ALVAREZ,  
2010 FATHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate an individual from my Congressional District who will be presented with the 2010 Father of the Year Award next week in Riverside, California.

The purpose of the Father of the Year Awards is to honor fathers who have remained a positive role model for their children while also making a positive difference in their community.

Ramon Alvarez is one of those fathers. He is married to his wife Araceli and together they have three children. He is also President of Alvarez Lincoln-Mercury and Alvarez Jaguar, and throughout his successful career, Ramon has made a strong commitment to local and civic activities.

I am proud to call Ramon a fellow community member and American. And today, I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating him on this well-deserved recognition.

AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28.

Azerbaijan's Republic Day commemorates the day that this nation, located on the shores of the Caspian Sea, south of Russia and north of Iran, declared its independence from the Russian Empire in 1918, as the first Muslim democracy.

The new democracy granted women the right to vote in 1919, a year before the 19th Amendment was passed in the United States granting U.S. women that right.

Their independence was tragically short, as the Soviet Union invaded the tiny nation in 1920—altering Azerbaijan's dream of democracy in the 20th Century. That dream re-emerged in 1991 when the brutal Soviet re-

gime finally passed to the dustbin of history, and Azerbaijan declared its independence yet again.

My congratulations to the people of Azerbaijan: congratulations on the anniversary of Republic Day, and for your continued efforts and commitment to build a strong democracy in the critically important region of the South Caucasus.

CELEBRATING ASIAN/PACIFIC  
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1316, celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I thank my California Delegation colleague, Congressman HONDA, for his work in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

This is a very exciting time for the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and I am looking forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and with the Obama Administration to promote AAPI priorities.

The 37th Congressional District of California, which I am privileged to represent, is home to one of the largest Asian constituencies in the nation, including large communities of Filipinos, Samoans and Cambodians. My district is home to the largest Cambodian population in the United States, and the second largest Cambodian population in the world outside of Cambodia. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus which truly represents my Asian Pacific American constituents' interests.

The month of May was chosen to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage for two significant reasons. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived to our country and on May 10, 1860, the first transcontinental railroad was completed. The transcontinental railroad transformed our nation and could not have been completed without the inclusion of Chinese immigrants.

Dalip Singh Saund was the first Asian American elected to Congress in 1957. Less than a decade later, Patsy Mink became the first Asian American woman elected to Congress. Both overcame adversity to pave the way for all minorities, including DANIEL INOUE, a Medal of Honor winner who has served in the Senate for nearly a half century. Today, we have seven Members of Congress who are of Asian descent.

Despite the challenges and adversity that Asian Pacific Americans have experienced, many have forged ahead and made significant contributions to this great nation. History was made when we elected a President with such significant personal ties to the Asian Pacific community. President Obama spent his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia. One of President Obama's first guests to the Oval Office was the Prime Minister of Japan, Taro Aso. Further, President Obama appointed three Asian Americans to his cabinet: Secretary of Energy, Dr. Steven Chu; Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke; and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki.

I have much hope for the future because all Americans are working together hand in hand to ensure the equality and advancement not only of their community, but of all communities.

Mr. Speaker, let me again thank Congressman HONDA, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, for his leadership in introducing this resolution. I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans this year and for years to come! Thank you.

HONORING BAY NEWS ON ITS 65TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize exceptional work of the staff of the Bay News, a newspaper that serves southern Brooklyn, in honor of its 65th anniversary.

Though the hard-hitting reporters at the Bay News cover issues that affect all New Yorkers, they specialize in local news that focuses on the neighborhoods of Bensonhurst, Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Gerritsen Beach, Gravesend, Manhattan Beach, Seagate and Sheepshead Bay. It's not an exaggeration to say that if something happens in this part of the City, the Bay News will know about it.

The groundwork for what is now the Bay News was first established in 1944 when Charlie Peterson started printing the "Sheepshead Bay Service News", a newsletter for the families of troops serving overseas in World War II. Over the years, that small newsletter merged with other local papers from across the borough to become what is now a publication with a circulation of more than 15,000.

As my staff knows, my Thursdays don't truly begin until I've read the Bay News. This storied publication has been on the scene for all of the defining moments that have shaped New York City over the past 65 years, and I know that it will be there for whatever happens next.

Day in and day out, week after week, The Bay News covers everything from local community board meetings to arts and movies to national politics. As I know firsthand, the paper's reporters aren't afraid to ask the tough questions. They work tirelessly to provide the community with the news and information that is so vital to a robust democracy and the civic life we take for granted.

That is why I am pleased and honored to congratulate the entire staff of the Bay News on all their success and contributions on the occasion of the paper's 65th anniversary and I wish them all many successful years to come. We should commend editor Vince DiMiceli, publisher Clifford Luster; assistant editors Shavana Abruzzo, Joanna Del Buono, Meredith Deliso, Courtney Donahue; calendar editor Erica Sherman; reporters Thomas Tracy and Joe Maniscalco; vice president of advertising Ralph D'Onofrio; classified manager Amanda Tarley; and production manager Keith Oechsner.

RECOGNIZING THE BUILDING EFFORTS OF "HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS" IN WARREN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the "Homes for Our Troops" program in Warren County, Virginia, and bring to the attention of our colleagues a program at work throughout the country building houses for injured veterans returning home from serving our country.

Homes for Our Troops is a national non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 2004 and committed to helping those who have selflessly given to our country and have returned home with serious disabilities and injuries since September 11, 2001. They feel a duty and honor to assist severely injured servicemen and women and their immediate families by raising donations of money, building materials and professional labor, and to coordinate the process of building a home that provides maximum freedom of movement and the ability to live more independently.

John Gonsalves, a construction supervisor, started the organization in 2004 after watching a news report of a severely injured servicemember who had returned from Iraq. He realized the need for special housing projects for injured service members. He focused on constructing customized homes with specially adapted and barrier-free features that allow servicemembers to regain some of their independence and mobility.

In its first 2 years, Homes for Our Troops built a handful of homes as it worked to spread the word about its mission. Since then, the organization has grown into a successful national nonprofit organization that has built and donated more than 50 specially adapted homes to severely injured veterans. It has approximately 30 homes in various stages of construction across the United States on a continuous basis. All the services that this organization provides are at no cost to the recipient.

Most recently, volunteers helped to complete a home for my constituent, Army SSG Arthur "Bunky" Woods, who was injured by a sniper's bullet during a tour in Iraq. The Build Brigade, of more than 50 volunteers from the community constructed the frame of Bunky's house in just three days, a project which usually takes several weeks. His new home on Waterhouse Lane in Warren County, Virginia, will be ready by the end of the summer. The home will have controls and special features specifically tailored to Bunky's needs, allowing him to perform everyday actions such as opening doors.

This project would not be possible without the help of Martha Buracker, who is the owner of the Buracker Construction Company in Bentonville. She generously volunteered to be the general contractor for Bunky's home, donating her time and her company's resources. Martha's selfless actions should be an example to all to get involved with this truly remarkable program.

There are hundreds of soldiers who will be needing our help across the country and more coming home each day with life-altering dis-

abilities and injuries sustained while fighting for our freedom. It does not matter what state or which branch of the military these soldiers are from, these are our American heroes, and we all need to unite, support and help them.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this important program so disabled servicemembers can experience the gift of independence.

HONORING DR. DARRON T. SMITH

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, the accomplishments of many start with the works and words of one; and

Whereas, Dr. Darron T. Smith has given of himself for many years in the field of education as a student, professor, editor and lecturer; and

Whereas, upon obtaining his doctorate degree with emphasis in the Sociology of Race, Education, Theory, Social Problems, Race & Ethnic Minority Relations; and

Whereas, Dr. Darron T. Smith is serving our country honorably as one of few African American men who have decided to enter into the field of education as a Ph.D., to teach our future and enhance our present while never forgetting our past. Dr. Smith is sharing his time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through his tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that have been and continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Dr. Darron T. Smith on his achievement of earning his Ph.D., from the University of Utah, May 7, 2010, and to congratulate him as he provides a much needed service to educate and enlighten our future for the betterment of our great nation;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 15, 2010, as Dr. Darron T. Smith Day in the 4th Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), celebrated on May 19, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

For seventy years, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, a non-partisan organization, has sought to raise awareness of the interests and concerns of Ukrainian Americans and the people of the Ukraine. The UCCA has worked on many initiatives, including a law adopted by Congress in 1948 which allowed more than 110,000 Ukrainians to be admitted into the United States. The UCCA has worked

on the establishment of Ukrainian language radio programs with Voice of America and Radio Free Liberty. The UCCA also successfully lobbied both the House of Representatives and Senate to construct a monument in honor of Taras Shevchenko, the bard of Ukraine, which was unveiled by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1946.

Throughout the Cold War, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America spoke out against human rights violations and advocated for the liberation of Ukrainian political prisoners in the former USSR. The grassroots efforts of the UCCA continue to focus on encouraging members of Congress to support the process of democratic development in the Ukraine and to promote the needs and concerns of Ukrainian Americans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of the members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America as they celebrate their 70th anniversary. For seven decades they have brought the issues and concerns of Ukrainian Americans to the forefront of American government and society. As United States citizens whose origins span the globe, we must work to promote bonds of friendship, support, and goodwill here at home and in the nations of our origin.

CELEBRATING ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2010*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express strong support for H. Res. 1316—Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I applaud the leadership and continued efforts of Chairman MIKE HONDA, as well as my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for bringing this Resolution before us today.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was established in 1977 by the efforts of Representatives Norman Mineta and Frank Horton, and Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga who introduced resolutions asking for a Presidential declaration that the first 10 days of May honor the rich history and contributions of our nation's Asian Pacific Americans. In 1992 Congress expanded the commemoration to a month, in order to fully recognize the impact that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, AAPIs, have on this great Nation.

From the early 1800s to today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played a critical role in the development of this country. This year's theme: "Lighting the Past, Present and Future," is fitting as the world's attention turned to the United States to see the historic inauguration of President Barack Hussein Obama. President Obama's diversity reflects the richness and strength of our nation.

We must reaffirm our commitment to the promise of a future for all Americans by eradicating racial and ethnic health disparities, enacting comprehensive immigration reform, providing educational opportunities for the underserved and creating jobs. I am proud that we ensured full equity for the Filipino veterans who proudly served under the American flag

during World War II when we passed H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I also applaud my colleagues for the recent passage of the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which enables the Department of Justice to assist the efforts of Federal, State, and local law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes based on race, ethnic background, and religion, and extends protections to more Americans.

From the construction of the trans-continental railroads to the heroic contributions in World War II and beyond, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made lasting contributions in every facet of American society. We must continue to acknowledge the great achievements this vast and diverse community has provided this nation and I urge my colleagues to support to this resolution.

HONORING DOTTIE McLAUGHLIN

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dottie McLaughlin of United Space Alliance. On June 1, 2010, United Space Alliance will host a Retirement Dinner in Houston, Texas, honoring Dottie's exemplary career supporting America's Space Program.

Dottie began her career supporting human space flight on May 1, 1984 at the NASA Johnson Space Center as a secretary, in the Mission Operations Training Division. She rapidly progressed in the Rockwell Space Operations Company to the position of executive assistant to the president and general manager. In April 1996, all Space Shuttle contracts were transferred to United Space Alliance. Dottie was instrumental in supporting a smooth transition to the new company and the merger of a 10,000-person workforce from 30 different contracts over the next 14 years. Dottie has served as executive assistant to all seven of United Space Alliance's chief executive officers, from Kent Black to Virginia A. Barnes, and has earned the respect of all she has encountered in this journey. Dottie represents the heart and soul of United Space Alliance. With her passion for human space flight, she has poured her energy into the successes that the Space Shuttle program has enjoyed. Through the success of the Space Station construction missions, the two Returns to Flight shuttle missions and early phases of Constellation, Dottie's strength of character fortifies those around her. To many, she represents the very best of the human space flight workforce, and she exemplifies the dedication and commitment to excellence of all those who support our Nation's space program.

Dottie McLaughlin is committed to her country, her family and the welfare of the workers at United Space Alliance. Her passion for human space flight has earned her the deep respect of her colleagues in industry, NASA and the Congress. To quote Dottie, "the most rewarding part of this job has always been the people. Helping the people, be they astronauts, technicians, politicians or fellow administrators, has fulfilled me in ways I could have

never imagined. I am grateful for the role I have played in the Nation's space shuttle program over the years."

I join Dottie McLaughlin's colleagues and friends in honoring her contribution and service to the Nation's space program.

RECOGNIZING THE MERRIAM  
AVENUE SCHOOL

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Newton Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the fifth graders of the Merriam Avenue School. The young people participating in this important program have made a commitment to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence. They have done this with the support of Detective Lieutenant Michael S. Richards and D.A.R.E. officer, Det. Tom Tosti.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. This program allows children to defeat negative cultural influences by opening the lines of communication between law enforcement and youth, empowering students with confidence and courage to say no to drugs. I am proud of the young men and women who participated in this program in Newton, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Miguel Carlitos Camacho, Robert Caton, Anoushka Chatterjee, Cynthia Diaz-Moreno, Cheyenne Fletcher, Jason Gabbard, Nicholas Giracello, Seth Gormley, Brian Hoskins, Summer Muscher-Malone, Jadea Nobles, Zachary Norman, Logan Owens, Mia Randazzo, Isaiah Reese, Melissa Robinson, Charles Sherwood, Nicole Strus, David Zambrano, Joselyne Acosta Barradas, Mason Allen, Isabela Bryant, Mark Capparelli, April Ciccio, Faith D'angelo, Alexander Duckworth, John Foran, Andrew Ghaleb, Skylar Hildebrandt, Mackenzie Kimble, Destany Masino, Zoie Meininger, Amber Pierce, Lisa Qarmout, Jose Rodriguez, Liam Shernce, Chandler Spencer, Brandon Turner, Luis Arrazola, Paula Barth, Blade Boyer, Marcus Coward, Holly Donovan, Gift Ingabire, Brooke Ingram, Austin Kalaydjian, Julie Ann Leatham, Lindsay Luchetti, Charles Maker, Gregory Rinehart, Abel Sanchez, Hannah Squires, Kathryn Szatkiewicz, Sean Tracy, Kathryn Van Orden, Melanie Villacis-Mora, Kenneth Whitehead, Jasmine Aguilar, Olivia Castimore, Andre Chavarria, Robert Day, Casie Dolan, Gina Donatelli, Timothy Fitzpatrick, Hunter Grave de peralta, Collin Kelly, Willie Little, Rhiannon Lubas, Alecia Marmora, Francis Militano, Natalia Quintero, Adeline Shickel, Tevin Spencer, Taylor Thieme, Matthew Unorski.

URGING INDIVIDUAL AND  
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, this week is National Hurricane Preparedness Week and I encourage all Americans to ensure they are prepared in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster.

Officials at all levels of government are working to ensure they are prepared to respond to any disaster that may impact their areas. However, disaster preparedness is not only a government responsibility. Individuals and families have an important role to play as well.

Individuals should make a disaster preparedness kit with items like water, nonperishable food, a first aid kit, flashlights, medications, and copies of important documents. The Florida Division of Emergency Management in my home State has a website, [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org), which is a great resource for disaster planning. Other States provide these resources as well. Individuals can also visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) and [Hurricanes.gov](http://Hurricanes.gov) for additional information.

Madam Speaker, the time to prepare is now. I urge all Americans to take these simple steps to get prepared to weather the storm.

COMMEMORATING JEWISH  
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. ALBIO SIRES**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month. This May marks the fifth Jewish American Heritage Month, a month that highlights the many contributions of the Jewish American community. In 2006, we celebrated the first Jewish American Heritage Month after the diligent work of Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ led to the passage of the Jewish American Heritage Month Resolution in 2005.

While the Jewish American community contributes to our country each and every day, this month is a special time to recognize and teach about the achievements of Jewish Americans. For over 350 years, the Jewish Community has contributed to our rich, diverse, and shared culture in this country. Despite the long history of Jews in the United States, Judaism as a culture is not widely understood by all Americans and instances of anti-Jewish prejudices unfortunately do occur.

This month, events are happening all over the Nation to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month by promoting awareness of Jewish Americans' traditions and impacts. Jewish American Heritage Month provides all of us with an opportunity to learn more about the Jewish people and dispel misconceptions.

Last winter, the Daniel Pearl Education Center sponsored a trip for 70 teenagers from Middlesex County in New Jersey to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The students, from all different backgrounds, had the

opportunity to visit the museum and hear from a holocaust survivor. I also offered remarks at this event to echo the life and death importance of tolerance and understanding.

The United States is a country of millions of people from countless distinct backgrounds. It is because of the values and freedoms inherent in our society, that so many diverse cultures are able to find success here. I am pleased to join my colleague in the House of Representatives tonight in honoring the many successes of Jewish Americans.

IN HONOR OF AND RECOGNITION  
OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE CROATIAN AMERICAN ASSO-  
CIATION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Croatian American Association, which was celebrated on Saturday, May 15th in Chicago, Illinois.

For twenty years, the Croatian American Association, a non-partisan organization, has sought to bring the interests and concerns of Croatian Americans to the attention of Congress and the Administration. The Croatian American community is vibrant and strong in Cleveland, Chicago and throughout our nation. Croatian Americans have made significant contributions to all levels of culture and society and have made our nation a better place.

The Croatian American Association is focused on rallying members of Congress to support the process of democratic development in Croatia, and providing education to the American people on the significance of supporting democracy in Croatia. For twenty years, members and leaders within the Association have created vital partnerships with Congressional and Senate leaders, with members of the press, and with leaders of numerous cultural and political organizations throughout the country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of all Americans of Croatian heritage, and the members of the Croatian American Association, as they celebrate 20 years of advancing democracy in Croatia. As United States citizens whose origins span the globe, we must work to preserve and foster bonds of friendship, support, and peace here at home and in the nations of our origin.

HONORING FAIRFIELD BAPTIST  
CHURCH

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Fairfield Baptist Church has been and continues to be a beacon of light to our county for the past 125 years; and

Whereas, Pastor Micheal Benton and the members of the Fairfield Baptist Church family today continue to uplift and inspire those in our county; and

Whereas, the Fairfield Baptist Church family has been and continues to be a place where citizens are touched spiritually, mentally and physically through outreach ministries and community partnership to aid in building up our district; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious Church of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the needy and empowered our community for the past 125 years by preaching the gospel, singing the gospel and living the gospel; and

Whereas, Fairfield has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with DeKalb County and the world their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Fairfield Baptist Church family on their 125th Anniversary and for their leadership and service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 16, 2010, as Fairfield Baptist Church Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GLESS, 2010  
FATHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate an individual from my Congressional District who will be presented with the 2010 Father of the Year Award next week in Riverside, California.

The purpose of the Father of the Year Awards is to honor fathers who have remained a positive role model for their children while also making a positive difference in their community.

John Gless is one of those fathers. He has been married to his wife Janet for 52 years, and has four children and 11 grandchildren. As owner and founder of Gless Ranch, John has been an active member of the California farming community and avid supporter of numerous charitable organizations.

I am proud to call John a fellow community member and American. And today, I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating him on this well-deserved recognition.

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON  
OECD MEMBERSHIP

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 26, 2010*

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our close ally and partner, Israel, for her accession to membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. I also want to thank the Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for introducing this Resolution, of which I am honored to be an original co-sponsor.

Israel first sought membership in OECD 10 years ago, and since then, Israel has been the most active nonmember country. Her aggressive pursuit of far-reaching economic reforms has led to her placement among the top business-friendly countries. Today, Israel is a world leader in providing access to credit markets, investor protections, and financial market sophistication. Her quality of life index also ranks among the top in life expectancy, judicial independence and legal rights.

The two pillars of the OECD are a commitment to democratic government and a free-market based economy. Its recognition of Israel's advanced economy, however, has been too long in coming and this delay has subjected Israel to too many politicized attacks from unfriendly nations and multilateral institutions.

Now, Israel's membership will strengthen the OECD's strategic economic importance in the world and benefit all members by providing access to Israel's advanced labor market and innovations in science and technology. Their membership also signifies another step forward in the cause to end religious intolerance and anti-Semitic economic and cultural policies.

Israel's commitment to our shared values of democracy, human rights, and freedom make her one the most important strategic allies of the United States. We will continue to support Israel in every way possible and work with her to defend herself against the aggressions of all enemies. I call on all responsible nations to do the same and congratulate OECD and Israel for this momentous partnership.

HONORING THE DECEASED MA-  
RINE CORPORAL JEFFREY JOHN-  
SON OF TOMBALL

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marine Corporal Jeffrey Johnson of Tomball, TX, part of the 3rd Battalion 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, who was killed on May 11, 2010, while on foot patrol by an improvised explosive device south of Marjah in the Garmsir District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was 21 years old.

In 2007, after graduating from Waller High School, Corporal Johnson accepted the call to become one of the few and the proud as a Marine. In doing so, he joined a family legacy of service to America, with grandfathers having served in the Navy and Air Force and four of his uncles in the National Guard.

His family, friends, and fellow Marines recall Corporal Johnson as a smart, humorous, loving, and hard working person. His father, Jerry, said that his son loved being a Marine and believed strongly in America's fight for freedom and against terrorists overseas.

Corporal Johnson leaves behind a wife, Katy, his parents, grandparents, three siblings, and many other family members. He also leaves behind a very proud community. The people of Tomball and Magnolia, Texas, lined the streets of town to welcome this man home, and stand today behind his family and support them in their grief.

Madam Speaker, the Bible says in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Corporal Johnson paid the ultimate price for his fellow Marines, his wife and family, and this country. May we, as the House of Representatives, never forget that our freedoms are given by almighty God and secured by our Armed Forces, one soldier at a time.

IN HONOR OF JESSE CLIFTON  
ALPHIN, SR., FOR HIS 90TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jesse Clifton Alphin, Sr., for his continued service to his community, county and state.

Jesse Alphin has been my friend for many years, and I am pleased to be able to honor him in recognition of his 90th birthday. Jesse had held many important posts throughout his career, including Rotary Club president, member and chairman of the Harnett County Board of Commissioners, and, notably, the less formal position as a prominent businessman and leader in Harnett County.

A resident of Dunn, North Carolina, Jesse established Alphin Brothers, Inc. in 1947 and has since grown this small family-owned general store into a federally inspected meat manufacturer and food distributor. Alphin Brothers, Inc. provides meat to both small mom-n-pops diners and drive-ins and large distributors and corporate food conglomerates, testimony to its success in the food distribution business. Jesse's integral business leadership in Harnett County has resulted in hundreds of jobs and opportunities for fellow North Carolinians, in addition to quality food and service for over 50 years.

Jesse's strong presence in the business community is matched by his leadership in his church, his community, and as a dedicated family man. His philanthropic endeavors include work with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Campbell University, and other civic projects to foster the local school system. Jesse's untiring commitment to his wife of over 69 years, Allene, and his children make him a man to be admired. It is a true testament of a man's success to look at the success of his family, and I can honestly say his family has sure shown him to be a mighty successful man.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Jesse Clifton Alphin, Sr., a man who truly lived the American dream and is still living it. A great friend to me and to North Carolina, I take the time today to wish Jesse a happy birthday and many more.

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON  
OECD MEMBERSHIP

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 26, 2010*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting H. Res. 1391, congratulating Israel for its accession to membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD. On May 10, 2010, Israel became the 32nd member of the OECD by unanimous vote of the other members. This is an extraordinary achievement for a small, beleaguered nation that came into existence little more than six decades ago.

Sixty-two years ago, Israelis began the difficult process of creating a country from nothing. For more than a thousand years, the territory that is now Israel had been ruled by a series of far-off empires. It had no infrastructure, no history of self-rule, no major industrial base and very few large enterprises.

After Israel's establishment in 1948, Israelis created their own institutions from scratch. Israel has grown from an impoverished backwater colony to an economic powerhouse in the region. And although it has fewer natural resources than most nations of the world, it has made the most of what it has, investing in knowledge, development, innovation and medicine. Today, Israel is a center of scientific, medical and technological innovation, a leader in agriculture, water purification, alternative energy and public health.

Israel is a flourishing democracy, with a strong free press, a free and independent judiciary and a strong banking system that protects the safety and soundness of its financial institutions. The World Bank ranks Israel among the 30 countries in which it is easiest to do business. It is tied for fourth in ease of getting credit and tied for fifth in protecting investors. Similarly, the World Economic Forum rated Israel fifth of 133 nations on the Forum's legal rights index and 15th in judicial independence and 15th in financial market sophistication.

Israel's founders wanted to create an agricultural Garden of Eden—and since much of its territory consists of desert, its farmers developed techniques for growing crops in arid ground, using very little water. These techniques are now being marketed and used in developing nations across the globe. As part of its acceptance into OECD, Israel has agreed to increase its aid to underdeveloped nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. As part of that promise, Israel will be sending hundreds of experts in agriculture, water, and irrigation to impoverished areas, as well as experts in alternative energy, public health, education, and internal security. By sharing its knowledge, Israel will be helping its neighbors and improving relationships with developing countries. Even before OECD acceptance, Israel astounded the world by arriving in Haiti with a high tech field hospital that was able to perform sophisticated procedures and save lives.

With oil-producing nations hostile to it, and very little oil or gas of its own, Israel learned to become energy efficient, using solar power and other alternative fuels. With little land and

few natural resources, Israel positioned itself at the cutting edge of technological innovation. Many of the technological innovations we take for granted, including instant messaging, security firewalls, artificial stents, wireless computer chips, were developed in Israel. In 2010, the World Economic Forum ranked Israel 27th out of 133 countries in its Growth Competitiveness Index. Israel ranked third in quality of scientific research institutions, fourth in utility patents, seventh in life expectancy, ninth in innovation, 15th in availability of the latest technologies. Israel leads the world in the number of high-technology start-up companies, scientific publications, and research and development spending per capita.

Acceptance in the OECD is a mark of member nations' respect for Israel's economic progress, and it will help Israel attract foreign investors and develop its markets. Membership will enhance Israel's status in the world and will enhance its participation in other international bodies. It is no secret that the Palestinian Authority tried hard to deny Israel membership in the OECD precisely because they were concerned that OECD membership would enhance Israel's reputation in the world and strengthen its ties with other nations around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Israel's accession to the OECD is a remarkable achievement. I am pleased to join my colleagues in saluting Israel's success and in expressing appreciation to the OECD members for their unanimous decision to accept Israel as a member. For all of the foregoing reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1391.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on May 6, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 302. Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 302: "yes"—Honoring the workers who perished on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana, extending condolences to their families, and recognizing the valiant efforts of emergency response workers at the disaster site.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative week of Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

For Tuesday, May 18, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "No" on rollcall vote No. 273 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 2288), "no" on rollcall vote No. 274 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 4614), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 275 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1327).

For Wednesday, May 19, 2010, had I been present I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote No. 276 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1514), “no” on rollcall vote No. 277 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 5325), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 278 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1325), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 279 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1362), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 280 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 5099), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 281 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 403), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 282 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1292), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 283 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1364).

For Thursday, May 20, 2010, had I been present I would have voted “aye” on rollcall vote No. 284 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 5327), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 285 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1256), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 286 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1336), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 287 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1361), “no” on rollcall vote No. 288 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 1363), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 289 (on agreeing to H. Res. 1363), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 290 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 5128).

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
THE GREATER CLEVELAND  
PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SOCIETY  
25TH ANNUAL POLICE MEMORIAL  
COMMEMORATION

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society upon the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Police Memorial Commemoration. Today, we remember the men and women in blue who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the citizens of our community.

In 1985, a group of police officers gathered after the funeral of a fellow officer killed in the line of duty. They discussed forming a union of officers, family members and citizens, and together they formed the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society. The mission of the Society is to honor those peace officers who have sacrificed their lives to protect others in the Greater Cleveland area. The Society adopted the motto: “In Honore Casorum,” Latin for “Honor Our Fallen.”

The Peace Officers Memorial Society provides support and assistance to the family members of officers who have died in the line of duty. They also provide support and assistance to police officers injured in the line of duty and work in tandem with law enforcement agencies and leaders with the planning and implementation of Line of Duty funerals. They also establish scholarship funds and work on strengthening police-community relations and community outreach initiatives.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Greater Cleveland

Peace Officers Memorial Society as they continue their mission to honor the fallen, support the families of slain officers, and strengthen and promote bonds between police and community. We must recognize and remember every peace officer who has made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their selfless service and sacrifice, and the great sacrifice of their families, will not be forgotten.

HONORING BISHOP WILLIAM L.  
SHEALS

**HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Bishop William L. Sheals is celebrating 30 years in pastoral leadership this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church on an international level; and

Whereas, Bishop William L. Sheals, under the guidance of God, has pioneered and sustained Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Bishop William L. Sheals is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our district and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop William L. Sheals as he celebrates 30 years in pastoral leadership;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 16, 2010, as Bishop William L. Sheals Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

REITERATING THIS CONGRESS'S  
COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S  
SENIORS

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, Democrats have an unassailable record when it comes to protecting the rights of seniors, and I rise today to thank all of my fellow Seniors Task Force Members for their continued commitment to America's seniors.

As the party that consistently fights efforts to dismantle Social Security and Medicare, we understand that many older Americans depend on these federal programs just to make ends meet. These parts of the social safety net constitute a right of all seniors to meet their needs for financial security and high quality, affordable health care.

The current Medicare system already delivers the best care in the world and it is strengthened by provisions in the health-care

bill that was recently signed into law. Our bill fulfills this right to affordable medicines by beginning to close the “donut hole,” a process which is starting this year. The right to quality, affordable health care also means helping seniors avoid getting sick—our bill makes preventive care free for Medicare beneficiaries.

Seniors also have the right to a secure retirement, including a secure pension. Democrats will take action to secure this right in the coming weeks.

And one of the most important rights that every American senior has is the right to live with dignity. Federal policy should therefore be aimed at empowering seniors to make important decisions with family members, not insurance bureaucrats.

Seniors have a right to be protected from scams and fraud including credit card company abuses, identity theft, and mortgage schemes. That's why the financial reform legislation, which will be sent to the President in the coming weeks, is so critical to enact immediately. By reining in the ability of Wall Street executives to gamble away our retirements we will help put our economy on a path to financial stability. We will fulfill this right of America's seniors to have economic security and create an economy that we will be proud to pass on to future generations.

Madam Speaker, America's seniors want to guarantee America's place as a leader in a global economy by reinvesting in manufacturing and American-made goods, training students to be the workforce of the future, and ensuring there are job opportunities for anyone who wants or needs one.

Thanks to the Recovery Act, the Affordable Care Act, and the Wall Street Reform Act this Congress is making each of these rights a reality for our seniors.

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE QUIHI GUN  
CLUB

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize and celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the Quihi Gun Club. This is the oldest gun club in the country and counts a membership of over 1,000 people.

The Club, originally built to defend against Indian attacks, is the oldest continuous running gun club in the United States where members continue to meet each month. Two German men met under an oak tree on Quihi Creek on May 26, 1890 to organize the Quihi Schuetzen (shooting) Verein (club); now called the Quihi Gun Club and Dance Hall. The Quihi Gun Club hosts an annual turkey shoot in the fall, fundraising for the Make-a-Wish foundation, and hosts the Medina County Riders' Annual Trail Ride scholarship for Medina County students.

The club is based in Quihi, Texas, a quiet rural farming community with a population of about 200. Quihi is located about midway between Hondo and Castroville, north of Hwy 90 on State Road 2676. There is one state highway that runs through Quihi with a lot of county and private roads that branch off of it. The area that would come to be known as Quihi

was originally settled by Lipans, Kiowa, Kickapoo and Comanche Indians. The Indians named the area "quihi" (pronounced kee-chee) after the large brown bird with white feathers on its tail and tips of its wings. Quihi was founded in 1844 by Henri Castro on the banks of what was to be called Quihi Creek.

Quihi was established in March 1846 by 10 families of German/French colonists brought to Texas by Emprasio Henri Castro. Families set out from Castroville and moved 10 miles west to site at Quihi Lake. Original settlers in the area came from Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, Belgium and Mexico. This area was attacked by Indians shortly after settlement and several times thereafter. It is the site of first public free school in Medina County as well as a German-English school. The population of the community grew through the latter part of 19th century but began to dwindle after the 1900s, as young people moved to other nearby towns and cities. Today only a few families remain in this community surrounded by heavily settled farm land. Many family-owned businesses, farms and ranches are still owned by descendants of the original families.

Several of Texas' greatest Legends like Pappy Selph, Caesare Masse, and Cliff Bruner have spent many nights in Dance Halls like this. I extend my most sincere congratulations to the Quihi Gun Club on their 120th Anniversary. I am proud of their success and hope that they continue to expand their club membership as they provide their services not only to their community, but to audiences from all over for many years to come.

Early this month the town of Quihi was struck by a devastating flood of the Quihi Creek. Three businesses closed, the area was temporarily without electricity and a large section of pavement was washed away on FM 2676. According to newspaper reports the Quihi Gun Club and Dance Hall was hit with two feet of water and had a slightly damaged dance floor. Despite the damage, the public dance proceeded as scheduled that week.

The history of this beautiful, small rural community can boast of their heritage for over 160 years. It is delightful that the traditions of the Quihi Gun Club can add to this exemplary and truly American community. I am proud to represent the people of Quihi and to recognize the Quihi Gun Club and its integral role in the Quihi community and Medina County.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE  
EDWARD B. DAVIS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a good man and pay tribute to a dear friend, Judge Edward B. Davis. Judge Davis passed away on May 24, 2010; he was 77.

I had the privilege of serving alongside Judge Davis in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Judge Davis and I were attorneys in 1979 when we received the distinct and humbling honor of being appointed to the bench by President Jimmy Carter. My memories of serving on the bench with Judge Davis are lasting impressions that keep with me to this day.

Ned, as we so affectionately called him, displayed all the characteristics of a brilliant judge. He had a keen intellect that allowed him to see to the heart of a matter and render a verdict that was considered fair by all parties. Ned is remembered and envied as an evenhanded and empathetic jurist. No matter who came before Judge Davis, they were assured a fair hearing under the law.

Any judge can employ the law, but it was Ned's humanistic dimension that made him great. I like to say that he had a heart as big as he was tall. He served a cause bigger than himself, never allowing his personal beliefs to obstruct the clarity of the law and the best interests of his beloved home of South Florida.

Ned made sure that he always had a life outside his chambers, a goal that gave him perspective on the bench. He would often joke that being a judge was his "second favorite job." A talented athlete, I always enjoyed hearing stories of his professional days with the Detroit Tigers. Sharing a drink after a long week to discuss family life with Ned are some of the memories that I hold most dear.

Madam Speaker, we have lost a giant of South Florida. Ned's presence will be sorely missed and is impossible to replace. He put forward a significant number of undertakings in Florida as a lawyer, judge, and citizen. Ned has passed, but he left a legacy we can all take part in. His contributions to society should serve as a reminder of our responsibility to others and our duty to leave a positive impression of our own.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 52 years, Pat; three children, Diana, Ned, and Traci; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren at this most difficult time. I was fortunate enough to call Ned a friend. His family can be so proud to call him a husband and father. I will miss him dearly.

IN HONOR OF T. BOONE PICKENS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of T. Boone Pickens, who has made a major impact on our world through his advocacy and philanthropic missions.

Mr. Pickens was born on May 22nd, 1928 and raised in the Great Plains of Holdenville, Oklahoma during the Great Depression. His father, Thomas Boone Pickens, and mother, Grace Molonson Pickens, both worked in the oil industry. He grew up across the street from his grandmother, Nellie Molonson, and an aunt, Ellie Reed, both of whom were extremely influential in teaching him the importance of responsibility, self-sufficiency and accountability.

Mr. Pickens began his working at the age of 12 with a paper route. His route started out small, yet quickly grew from a customer base of 28 to nearly 130 customers. The business principals of expansion and acquisition, combined with his strong intellect, work ethic and unwavering drive to succeed, elevated Mr. Pickens to the stature of one of the wealthiest oil moguls in the world before he was forty.

Mr. Pickens' great financial success in the oil sector has allowed him to recommit his work toward lowering greenhouse gas pollu-

tion. Mr. Pickens' philanthropic efforts have totaled more than a billion dollars. He created the Pickens Foundation, the mission of which is to improve lives by providing funds for the creation of programs in the areas of medical research, athletics, education and the environment.

Both Mr. Pickens and his wife, Madeleine Pickens, are also lifelong animal rights activists. They have led the effort to outlaw the slaughter of horses in America, and recently, they have focused on saving and protecting the tens of thousands of wild mustang horses and their natural habitats.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of T. Boone Pickens, whose focus on innovation and public service has contributed significantly to our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RAMESH S.  
GULRAJANI, MD, FCCP

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Ramesh S. Gulrajani.

Dr. Gulrajani graduated from the University of Bombay, India in 1975 close to the top of his class. Shortly thereafter he began his Internal Medicine training at the Brooklyn Cumberland Medical Center where he also completed a fellowship in pulmonary medicine. He is board certified in internal medicine and pulmonary medicine and has been in private practice in those fields at the Brooklyn Hospital Center since 1981.

In 1984, Dr. Gulrajani was appointed Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) and was subsequently promoted to Chief of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine, Vice Chairman, and then Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine. Culminating his academic carrier at the Brooklyn Hospital Center, he was appointed Associate Chief Medical Officer in 2007. He is currently an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Over the years, he has been responsible for training numerous medical students, medical residents, and pulmonary fellows. He has also co-authored a number of articles in scientific journals, a chapter in a pulmonary medicine text, and has been a speaker at national medical meetings.

Dr. Gulrajani has received numerous awards over the years from the Brooklyn Hospital Center including the Annual Social Service Award, Nurses Recognition Award, the annual award from the professional staff of the Brooklyn Hospital Center for Dedication and Distinguished Service, as well as the Distinguished Pulmonary Medicine Award from the American Lung Association. He was inducted to the "wall of fame" by the American Lung Association and named as one of the "Top Doctors in New York" by Castle, Connolly Medical Guide and by New York Magazine, as one of America's Top Doctors by Consumer Research Council of America, and as a Premier Provider of Quality and Efficient Care by United Health Care, among other honors. In his spare time, Dr. Gulrajani is also actively involved in community service in Brooklyn and in India.

Dr. Gulrajani's daughter, Samara, works at the New York Methodist Hospital and his son

Avinash is a Fellow in Cardiology at Montefiore Medical Center. It is clear that the apple does not fall far from the tree! He likes best to spend his leisure time with his family and friends in New York and to take "crazy vacations" like rock climbing and white water rafting.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. Ramesh Gulrajani for his contributions to the medical field.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ALLIANCE

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN—**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, today I'd like to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the South Dakota State Medical Association Alliance, the oldest continuous Medical Alliance in the United States. The South Dakota State Medical Association Alliance was founded on September 20, 1910, in Hot Springs, SD, during the 19th Annual South Dakota Medical Association meeting. Eighteen wives of the physicians who attended this meeting saw the need to form The Ladies Auxiliary to the South Dakota State Medical Association. In 1975, the organization became known as the South Dakota State Medical Association Auxiliary, and in 1992, it was renamed as the South Dakota State Medical Association Alliance.

As the mission of the organization sets forth, the South Dakota State Medical Association Alliance has always strived to build healthy communities and to support the family of medicine through health promotions and legislative efforts. In their endeavor to make South Dakota's communities healthier and safer places to live, the South Dakota Medical Association Alliance has partnered with programs of the South Dakota State Medical Association, promoted health education, encouraged participation of volunteers in activities that meet health needs, supported health-related charitable endeavors, and supported the medical profession. I therefore, acknowledge their contribution to promoting healthy living in South Dakota, and congratulate the South Dakota State Medical Association Alliance on reaching this important milestone.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM SWEENEY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. William Sweeney. Mr. Sweeney served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Harmony Town Council.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Sweeney served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way.

I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Sweeney is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to him today.

IN HONOR OF SISTER JULIE HYER

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Julie Hyer, O.P., whose faith, benevolence and business savvy has served the County of Santa Cruz since 1985. As President and Chief Executive Officer she was instrumental in guiding Dominican Hospital for 22 years and Salud Para La Gente for the past two years, resulting in exceptional service and growth for both of these health care agencies.

At Dominican Hospital, Sister Julie sat at the helm of Santa Cruz County's largest health care facility when it implemented numerous programs such as their Infant Hearing Assessment program, Occupational Rehabilitation, and the ShareCare Health Plan for Older Adults, ensuring that patients are cared for through every stage of their lives. Other services, such as Dominican's Tattoo Removal Program which gives former gang members a chance to start a new phase of their lives, reflect Sister Julie's all-embracing approach to the health of our community.

Under Sister Julie's leadership, Salud Para La Gente, which translates in English as 'Health For The People,' has grown into the county's leading provider of health care services to the low-income families of Santa Cruz County. Salud has won awards for its many programs, including well-child visits, adolescent well-care, monitoring of patients on persistent ACE inhibitors, breast and cervical cancer screening, appropriate use of asthma medications, and diabetes screening. Salud won many grants, including federal stimulus funding this year, used to create new space that will house pediatrics, general medical practices, dental and vision facilities, as well as hire two more physicians.

The laurels of her tenure are as numerous as they are invaluable. They are the realization of Sister Julie's faith in action and a testament to the power of earnest and solemn goodwill.

Madam Speaker, for all that she has done and all that she will undoubtedly continue to do, I extend my most sincere thanks and warmest wishes to Sister Julie as she goes to her next assignment.

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL 44TH REUNION

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I would like to call attention to the gathering in Baltimore,

Maryland of alumni from Jefferson High School over the weekend of June 5th, 2010 in honor of the class of 1966's 44th reunion.

Although the school officially closed in 1970, Jefferson High School got its start in a frame schoolhouse built for African-American students in York, South Carolina. From there, Jefferson became a Rosenwald school and the town's African-American public school in a racially segregated system. Although the system was called "separate but equal," Jefferson never had facilities or teaching materials equal to its counterparts, the white schools that I attended. The school district built a new high school for white students in 1950, but left black students to make the best of their old one. The students, teachers and administrators at Jefferson did just that and made the most of their circumstances.

Instead of gathering to dwell on what was lacking at Jefferson, the class of 1966 comes together to remember the teachers and fellow students who so impacted Reunion made clear that Jefferson lives on in the lives it made better. Hundreds of the alumni attending attested to better, more productive lives because of what they learned at Jefferson under teachers who cared, encouraged, and challenged.

IN APPRECIATION OF CRAIG M. RUSHING

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, it is with mixed emotions that I announce the departure of a valued member of my staff, Craig M. Rushing.

For the past three years, Craig has professionally and enthusiastically served the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Colorado, first as Legislative Director, and then as Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director. He successfully handled his duties with a wealth of knowledge of the legislative and procedural processes. His dedication and work ethic will be very difficult to replace.

Beginning his career on the Hill as a staff assistant for Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04), Craig has served constituents of Colorado for nearly eight years. It was during this time he met and married his wife, Ginger, in August of 2007.

Craig worked his way through college with several jobs and internships, including with the Colorado Right to Work and the Leadership Institute. Craig graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

Craig is the son of Dennis and Kathy Rushing of Greensboro, North Carolina, and is brother to Amy Bregman and Betsy Bardi.

Craig is leaving Washington to take a position as Manager of Government Affairs at Lowe's Headquarters in Mooresville, North Carolina.

He has worked hard for the people of Colorado. His conservative and Christian values are needed today more than ever. I know God will bless him and his wife in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE CEDAR CREEK  
VETERANS FOUNDATION

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor a special organization of officials and individuals in the Fifth District of Texas, the Cedar Creek Veterans Foundation.

President Coolidge once said, "A nation which forgets its defenders, will itself soon be forgotten." Individuals in East Texas and Northeast Texas continue to amaze me for their tireless work in honoring soldiers and their families.

The Cedar Creek Veterans Foundation was established to raise funds to assist Northeast Texas veterans with physical and emotional recovery, as well as physical rehabilitation of our wounded and injured warriors. They also provide organizations such as The Wounded Warrior Project and Fisher House of Dallas with resources and support.

On June 7th, the Cedar Creek Veterans Foundation will be hosting a golf tournament and will donate all proceeds to the Fisher House in Dallas and The Wounded Warrior Project.

The Fisher House in Dallas, Texas, is just one of several facilities that fulfill a great need for our nation's defenders and their families. As a private-public partnership, the foundation provides homes that are built at major military medical centers, as well as VA medical facilities. These homes give families the chance to be near loved ones during hospitalization.

The Cedar Creek Veterans Foundation also sponsors "Thunder Over Cedar Creek Lake" annual air show during July 4th festivities that helps to raise funds to support our nation's veterans.

This year's golf tournament will feature Jae Head, who most recently starred in the movie "The Blind Side." The tournament's list of guests will also include former military members. John Wesley Tucker, Jr., a veteran pilot and instructor during World War II, will be honored during the event. The event will also feature three war heroes, Jesse W. Naul, Jr., who received the Navy Cross for his service during World War II; Richard S. Agnew, who received the Distinguished Service Cross serving the U.S. Army during the Korean War; and Dean E. DeTar, who received the Air Force Cross for his service during Vietnam War. These gentlemen are members of the Legion of Valor, and three of the nine members of the Legion of Valor that represent over 450,000 veterans in North Texas.

I would like to thank everyone at the Cedar Creek Veterans Foundation, including CCVF President, Mr. Bob O'Neil, the board members and countless volunteers, supporters and donors who help to ensure our nation will not forget its defenders. It is an honor to represent such an outstanding organization and group of people in the Fifth District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE DOBSON HIGH  
SCHOOL BAND, SELECTED FOR  
THE 2010 SHANGHAI WORLD  
MUSIC EXPO FESTIVAL

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mesa Arizona's Dobson High School Band, which will represent our state at the 2010 Shanghai World Music Expo Festival in China. I wish to convey my pride and that of all Arizonans in the efforts of these talented and dedicated students, and thank the Dobson faculty and community for its remarkable support.

As a former teacher, I believe very strongly that participation in the arts, especially on such a global scale, leads to cultural enrichment and enhances education and learning across all subjects. This opportunity to perform on a world stage, and the subsequent rush of community support to make this trip possible, is a well-earned reward for the hard work and commitment of the Dobson High Band and its supporters. To make this trip possible, band members raised \$3,000 apiece to pay for travel expenses. I believe in the old saying, "it is hard to be successful unless a lot of other people want you to be." So I also applaud all the parents and community members who helped in this effort as well.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Dobson High School Band as they represent the State of Arizona at the 2010 Shanghai World Music Expo Festival in China. I wish the band all the best during their performance in China and I am confident they will use this trip as an opportunity to learn about a new culture and positively represent our state and country within the global community. I know they will make us all proud.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE SPRING CITY LI-  
BRARY

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the patrons, staff and Board of Trustees of the Spring City Library in Chester County as they celebrate the Library's 100th anniversary.

During the last century, the Library has remained true to the core mission of encouraging and fostering the spirit of self-improvement envisioned by its forefathers in the Spring City Literary and Library Association.

While the Library has changed locations and the collection and services offered have increased tremendously, the commitment to serving the public remains just as strong today as when the doors first opened. Whether you want to read a best-seller, rent a movie, use the Internet or send your child to a Story Time program, the Spring City Library is a tremendous asset to the community and has played an important role in making Spring City a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Friends and supporters of the Spring City Library will celebrate the 100th anniversary on Wednesday, June 2, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Spring City Library as it commemorates this memorable milestone and in offering the patrons, staff and Board of Trustees best wishes for continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE CORINTH CAMPUS  
OF NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COL-  
LEGE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Corinth, Texas Campus of North Central Texas College.

For the past decade, NCTC-Corinth has provided thousands of North Texas residents with an opportunity to pursue higher education. The Corinth Campus first opened in 2000, and today is educating more than 4,000 students. The Corinth campus shares in the longstanding tradition of academic excellence that is characteristic of NCTC, the oldest continuously operating two-year college in the entire state of Texas.

The NCTC-Corinth campus offers a variety of vocational degrees and certificate programs, as well as college credit courses and continuing education units. The first-class education NCTC-Corinth's students receive prepare them to join the area's workforce as well-trained professionals.

NCTC-Corinth has been an invaluable asset to the many communities that call North Texas home, serving its students well. I have no doubt this trend will continue well into the future and impact many more students, as NCTC-Corinth is planning for future growth that its administrators anticipate will be able to serve some 12,000 students in the coming years.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to honor the 10th Anniversary of the opening of North Central Texas College's Corinth campus. I am proud to represent Texas' 26th Congressional District, which is home to this fine educational institution.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 1258, Supporting the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month.

I commend my good friend Representative GRACE NAPOLITANO, sponsor of the resolution, and the House Energy and Commerce Committee for recognizing that mental health and well-being is a critical issue that affects not only the quality of life, health of our communities and our economic stability.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, each year approximately 25% of Americans are impacted by mental health conditions, and no gender, age, race, religion or socioeconomic status is immune. Through the

combination of psychosocial and pharmacological treatments and support, 70% to 90% of individuals with mental health issues experience significant reduction of symptoms and improved quality of life.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, also, I recognize that there is a significant need for enhancing awareness of mental illness within the Asian American and Pacific Islander, AAPI, community. AAPIs are among the fastest growing and most diverse racial group in the United States. Despite this, our community's use of mental health services is the lowest among ethnic populations. As such, there is a critical need to raise awareness about mental health within the AAPI community to de-stigmatize seeking help and enhance access to culturally competent community services.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which Congress passed and the President signed into law earlier this year, will greatly expand access to mental health care and additional treatment for millions of uninsured individuals, including AAPIs. In addition, the law supports equity in coverage and will extend the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, which prohibits discriminatory limits on mental health and substance use conditions beyond current law to health insurance plans offered to small businesses and individuals. These principles are also reflected in the expansion of Medicaid, which would require those newly eligible to receive mental health and substance use services at parity with other benefits.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. Through education, we can help remove the stigma around mental health and encourage organizations and health practitioners to continue to promote mental well-being and awareness so that people can access appropriate services and support.

#### HONORING MS. MELODY OLIVER

### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Melody Oliver has given of herself as an educator of E.L. Bouie, Sr., Elementary Theme school; and

Whereas, Ms. Oliver makes learning fun, inspirational, motivational, but most of all achievable; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her tireless works, motivational speeches and words of wisdom; and

Whereas, Ms. Oliver is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared with the world her vision and passion to help ensure that our future, our children, receive an education that is relevant for today, but also for the future; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this

day to honor and recognize Ms. Melody Oliver for her outstanding leadership and service;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 20, 2010, as Ms. Melody Oliver Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARION ASHLEY, 2010 FATHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate an individual and dear friend from my Congressional District who will be presented with the 2010 Father of the Year Award next week in Riverside, California.

The purpose of the Father of the Year Awards is to honor fathers who have remained a positive role model for their children while also making a positive difference in their community.

Marion Ashley is one of those fathers. He has been married to his wife Mary for 54 years, and has 6 children, 19 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. As a lifelong resident of Riverside County, he has worked for decades to improve the lives of his fellow citizens.

After years of working in the private sector, both at a national accounting firm and in real estate investment, Marion decided to become more involved in public service. In 1973, he served on the Riverside County Planning Commission and in 1992 was elected to a seat on the board of the Eastern Municipal Water District. In 2002, he was elected to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, a position he still holds today.

As Supervisor of the 5th District in Riverside, Marion oversees a budget of \$4.5 billion and sets public policy for more than two million people. In addition, he is the only Supervisor who has served as Chairman of: the Board of Supervisors; the Western Riverside Council of Governments; and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments.

Throughout his many roles, Marion has made family and public service his top priorities. His dedication to the people of Riverside County has not gone unnoticed, and he has become a respected leader on critical regional issues. Marion himself has said that he and his wife hope to build a community in which his children and grandchildren enjoy the same quality of life he has known in Riverside County, and I cannot think of someone who has worked so tirelessly in that effort.

I am proud to call Marion a friend, fellow community member and American. And today, I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating him on this well-deserved recognition.

#### HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the World War II veterans from Illi-

nois who are traveling to Washington, D.C. with Honor Flight Chicago, a program whose goal is to provide as many World War II veterans as possible the opportunity to see the World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C., a memorial that was built to honor their courage and service.

The American veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsman traveling here today answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing thanks.

Henry Adema, Richard I. Africk, Carl S. Ames, George R. Apato, Louis Bakos, Ernest E. Bassi, James R. Bateman, Charles I. Battaglia, Irving H. Bernard, Anthony Biancardi, Sigmund A. Bogdziewicz, Leonard J. Borth, Raymond A. Boss Sr., Richard E. Brhel, Robert C. Bruhn, Leonard G. Buresh, Albert Conforti, Charles Corte, Rene Couture, Charles F. Cummings, Charles F. Davis Jr., Henry W. De Young, Laverne Harriett Denhardt, Joe Deprizio, Edwin Drzymkowski, Richard W. Ehrhardt, George L. Faust, Raymond Feltes, Robert Firnbach, Stanley P. Fundanish, Charles C. Giglio, John A. Gillespie, Ernest S. Gregory, Richard Guimond, James H. Hammock, Rudy S. Hans, Herbert Leo Hay, Martha H. Honigman, Joseph G. Houska, Harry James Howarth, Robert Jayko, Thaddeus A. Jelen, John Lester Johnson, Thomas L. Kablach, Waitman Kapaldo, Richard A. Karst, John Kearney, Walter L. King, Clarence R. Kleinfelter, Thomas Kohl, Antoni L. Kozak, Milford H. Lau, James W. Leichti, Everell B. LeSage, Martha B. Loss, James W. Maddin, Bryan W. McCarty, Joseph C. Montino, Dwane E. Moss, Vernon R. Nelson, Edmund J. Nowiszewski, Thomas O'Neill, John H. Ortman, Edward M. Pasierb, Phay Peck, Milton W. Pick, Morris Picker, Edward S. Pietrucha, Bruno G. Quagliani, James S. Rosenbaum, Odean A. Rosenberg, Walter B. Rutkowski, Donald J. Schommer, Raymond T. Schwartz, Saul Seltzer, Robert S. Smith, Donald St. Hilaire, Robert J. Starzynski, Howard F. Stateman, Arthur R. Stratemeyer, Alvin Franklin Swenson, Lee R. Tolksdorf, Walter Trzesniewski, Lester S. VanDeursen, John L. Vinke, George C. Walczak, Clarence James Williams.

#### LETTER TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REFORM

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have been working for nearly 4 years with Representative JIM COOPER to address the country's unsustainable financial path. While I believe

our legislation offers a better choice in solving this Nation's financial crisis, the President has moved forward with his National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

I have written to that commission's co-chairmen, Erskine Bowles and Senator Alan Simpson, to offer suggestions as this process continues, and insert my letter for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
May 25, 2010.

Mr. ERSKINE BOWLES,  
Hon. ALAN SIMPSON,  
*Co-Chairmen, National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, Washington DC.*

DEAR MR. BOWLES AND SENATOR SIMPSON: As you know from our letter to you of April 17, Jim Cooper and I have been working for nearly four years to establish a bipartisan commission to address our nation's debt crisis by examining all policy options—entitlement spending, other program spending, and tax policy—holding public hearings, and recommending to Congress a plan of action with a mandated vote.

While I would have preferred passage of H.R. 1557, the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act, the president has moved forward with an executive commission and named each of you cochairmen of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. As I write this letter today, the U.S. stock market as well as global markets are continuing a deep and downward slide. Our nation is on an unsustainable fiscal path. You know the staggering and unprecedented debt and deficit statistics. We owe nearly \$62 trillion in obligations, spend nearly \$4 billion each week solely for interest payments to service the debt, and the Congressional Budget Office projects that debt held by the public will encompass 90 percent of the gross domestic product by 2020. Many are concerned that Greece's collapse and the European debt crisis will spread to the United States.

British historian and Harvard professor Niall Ferguson wrote in the March/April 2010 edition of *Foreign Affairs*: "One day, a seemingly random piece of bad news—perhaps a negative report by a rating agency—will make the headlines during an otherwise quiet news cycle. Suddenly, it will be not just a few policy wonks who worry about the sustainability of U.S. fiscal policy but also the public at large, not to mention investors abroad. It is this shift that is crucial: a complex adaptive system is in big trouble when its component parts lose faith in its viability."

That "one day" is now.

For the sake of our country, I truly want your efforts to be successful and write today to offer some suggestions. It is impossible to know the outcome of your endeavor but I believe, at the very least, the commission must be a tool to educate the American people on the subject of our nation's dire fiscal situation.

The American people know that we need to look no further than the situation in Greece to understand what our future may hold if we do not make dramatic changes to control U.S. debt. They need and want to be involved in this process. Public involvement is critical to your success. The reality is that members of Congress will not support any of the commission's proposals without the full support of the American people. This cannot be just an inside-the-Beltway process.

Therefore, it is critical that the commission, in whole or in part, hold public meetings throughout the nation. The legislation I proposed with Jim Cooper required that at least one town hall style public meeting would be held in each of the nation's federal

reserve districts. One meeting that is Webcast from Washington once a month is not adequate. To date, I am unable to locate any information concerning the working groups on your Web site. It is my understanding that the bulk of policy proposals will be developed during these working groups' closed sessions. At the very least, I encourage you to publicize and Webcast all commission activities, and publicly post meeting minutes and documents as soon as possible.

Secondly, I am very concerned that the commission has been structured in a manner that will make it difficult for you to succeed, and even doom it to failure. I cannot overstate the importance of your work. Your recommendations will define America's very economic future. It is curious, though, when considering the big picture of federal priorities, that you have been allocated \$500,000 to perform the singular task before you. Consider that the Obama Administration is currently spending over \$8 million on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, even though it will issue its report after both the House and Senate have voted on financial reform legislation. Consider that the District of Columbia was recently reimbursed for \$4.4 million for overtime work by first responders at the two-day April Nuclear Security Summit. Consider that more than \$2 million in American taxpayer money is being spent to advocate for the adoption of the Kenyan Constitution. Your charter also notes that you have been authorized to hire the equivalent of four full-time staffers. Again, I believe that this is totally insufficient to your task. Just these few examples raise questions for me about the administration's commitment to this commission's work and whether this exercise is just for political cover.

Given your limited resources, I believe you should take advantage of the incredible talent pool available in the private sector to assist the commission in its work. A number of highly respected organizations have been deeply involved for a number of years in discussions to find solutions to our nation's fiscal crisis, including holding hearings across the country and talking with the America people to explain the unsustainable spending path we are on. I strongly urge you to embrace these groups, which I believe would be willing to be involved at no cost to the taxpayer.

Robert Samuelson said as much in his May 17 Washington Post column "Wake Up, America." The article is enclosed. I believe the American Enterprise Institute, the Aspen Institute, the Brookings Institution, the Concord Coalition, the Heritage Foundation, and the Urban Institute—organizations with years of experience in the very issues before your commission—would be receptive to any overtures. They all have a long track record of working together on fiscal issues.

I appreciate your consideration of my comments. Please do not hesitate to call if I may be of assistance to you in your endeavor of critical national importance.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
*Member of Congress.*

Enclosure.

[From the Washington Post, May 17, 2010]

WAKE UP, AMERICA

(By Robert J. Samuelson)

You might think that Europe's economic turmoil would inject a note of urgency into America's budget debate. After all, high government deficits and debt are the roots of Europe's problems, and these same problems afflict the United States. But no. Most Americans, starting with the nation's political leaders, dismiss what's happening in Eu-

rope as a continental drama with little relevance to them.

What Americans resolutely avoid is a realistic debate about the desirable role of government. How big should it be? Should it favor the old or the young? Will social spending crowd out defense spending? Will larger government dampen economic growth through higher deficits or taxes? No one engages this debate, because if rigorously conducted, it would disappoint both liberals and conservatives.

Confronted with huge spending increases—reflecting an aging population and soaring health costs—liberals would have to concede that benefits and spending ought to be reduced. Seeing that total government spending would rise even after these cuts (more people would receive benefits, even if benefit levels fell), conservatives would have to concede the need for higher taxes. On both left and right, true believers would howl.

The lack of seriousness is defined by three missing words: "balance the budget." These words are taboo. In February, President Obama created a National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (call it the Deficit Commission). Its charge is to propose measures that would reduce the deficit to the level of "interest payments on the debt" by 2015 so as "to stabilize the debt-to-GDP ratio at an acceptable level."

Understand? No? Well, you're not supposed to. All the mumbo jumbo about stabilizing "debt to GDP" and according special treatment to interest payments are examples of budget-speak. It's the language of "experts," employed to deaden debate and convince people that "something is being done" when little, or nothing, is being done. For example, Obama's target for 2015 would involve a deficit of about \$500 billion, despite an assumed full economic recovery (unemployment: 5.1 percent). The commission is also supposed to "propose recommendations that meaningfully improve the long-run fiscal outlook, including changes to address the growth of entitlement spending," a mushy mandate. But balance the budget? There's no mention.

In a classroom, limiting government debt in relation to GDP can be defended. The idea is to reassure investors (a.k.a. "financial markets") that the debt burden isn't becoming heavier so they will continue lending at low interest rates. But in real life, the logic doesn't work. Governments inevitably face deep recessions, wars or other emergencies that require heavy borrowing. To stabilize debt to GDP, you have to aim much lower than the target in good times, meaning that you should balance the budget (or run modest surpluses) after the economy has recovered from recessions.

Interestingly, Europe's experience discredits debt-to-GDP targets. The 16 countries using the euro were supposed to adhere to a debt target of 60 percent of GDP. Before the financial crisis, the target was widely breached. From 2003 to 2007, Germany's debt averaged 66 percent of GDP, France's 64 percent and Italy's 105 percent of GDP. Once the crisis hit, debt-to-GDP ratios jumped; by 2009, they were 73 percent for Germany, 78 percent for France and 116 percent for Italy.

The virtue of balancing the budget is that it forces people to weigh the benefits of government against the costs. It's a common-sense standard that people intuitively grasp. If the Deficit Commission is serious, it will set a balanced budget in 2020 as a goal, allowing time to phase in benefit cuts and tax increases. It will then invite think tanks (from the Heritage Foundation on the right to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities on the left) and interest groups (from the Chamber of Commerce to AARP) to present plans to reach that goal. Their competing visions could jump-start a long-overdue debate on government's role.

The odds seem against this. The Deficit Commission may embrace debt-to-GDP targets and aim for a "primary balance" (excluding interest payments) because it's easier politically. Consider: In 2020 the deficit will be \$1.254 trillion on spending of \$5.67 trillion, projects the Congressional Budget Office. Closing that gap would require steep tax increases or deep spending cuts. But \$916 billion of the projected deficit represents interest payments. Ignoring them instantly "solves" three-quarters of the problem.

The message from Europe is that this approach ultimately fails. Intellectually elegant evasions are still evasions. Though financial markets may condone lax government borrowing for years, confidence can shatter unexpectedly. Lenders retreat or insist on punishing interest rates. Market pressures then impel harsh austerity—benefit cuts or tax increases—far more brutal than anything governments would have needed to do on their own. We are, by inaction and self-deception, tempting that fate.

HONORING ELIZABETH BROWN  
WILSON

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, in 1931 a virtuous woman of God was born and today we gather to pay tribute for her life's work; and

Whereas, Elizabeth Brown Wilson, not only talked the talk, but she walked the walk as it related to community service for all the citizens in our district; and

Whereas, Elizabeth Brown Wilson has served our district well as a commissioner for the city of Decatur, an advocate and activist for seniors and as mayor of the City of Decatur, being the first African American woman to serve as mayor; and

Whereas, this wise elder and woman of God has shared her time and talents for the betterment of her community and her nation through her tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that have been and continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Elizabeth Brown Wilson for her outstanding leadership and service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 22, 2010, as Elizabeth Brown Wilson Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

FEMALE VETERANS

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a minute to remember all of our heroic soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who have given their lives while fighting for our Nation's freedom. Their patriotism and bravery are the foundation of our Nation's history and I am honored to pay tribute to them in front of the United States Congress for Memorial Day.

I'd especially like to call attention to the women who have stepped forward and put their lives on the line for our country throughout the decades. Women began taking part in our armed forces nearly 220 years ago, and they have been serving courageously, selflessly, and with perseverance ever since. Their service went unrecognized for far too long, but in 1997, a Women's Veterans Memorial was established in Washington to honor these great American heroes. Likewise, I honor the impact our women veterans have had on our Nation and our freedom through their dedication and sacrifice.

My District, the 11th to District of Georgia, is home to many Servicewomen of the United States Armed Forces—both active duty and retired. I am extraordinarily proud of and grateful for these brave American women on this Memorial Day—and every other day.

HONORING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE MILFORD SENIOR CENTER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate 40 years of elderly care and companionship at the Milford Senior Center, the first and oldest senior center in Milford and one of the top ten places in the country for single retirees, according to U.S. News and World Report last year.

Four decades ago this month, the Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church opened what would become the Milford Senior Center in three rooms in their church basement. Today, the Center boasts its own sprawling 30,000-square-foot facility, with an auditorium, dining hall, lounge, music room, and, for those senior citizens bravely foraying into 21st century technology, even a computer lab.

And along with providing a wonderful environment for seniors to socialize and relax, the Milford Center provides a number of important services for the community, from meals on wheels to free blood pressure screenings to energy and income tax assistance. Their Ahrens Program, while offering much-needed respite to caregivers, helps seniors with cognitive impairments to eat well, learn, and play.

All too often, one's "golden years" can be filled with struggle. Health concerns, the loss of independence, a profound sense of loneliness—these are just some of the challenges our seniors can face in later years. But senior centers like Milford, and the invaluable programs, services, and activities they provide, help to stem these obstacles. They make a real difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Thanks to Milford, elderly citizens can come together, get the help and resources they need to thrive, and, in short, have fun.

My deepest thanks go out to the staff of the center for all the good they have done over the past 40 years. Congratulations on reaching this milestone, and here's to many more such anniversaries in the future. Your caring each and every day reminds us, as it reminds so many of Milford's seniors, that age is really just a state of mind.

NORCO COLLEGE, 112TH COLLEGE  
IN THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE SYSTEM

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norco College as an independent college of the Riverside Community College District and congratulate the entire college community for its success in becoming the 112th college in the California Community Colleges system.

Since 1916, Riverside Community College District has served as an institution of higher education in western Riverside County. In 1991, the district created the Norco Campus as an education center to serve the communities of Corona, Norco, Eastvale and areas of Riverside County. When Norco's doors opened in March 1991 there were 3,088 students enrolled. Now, nearly 10 years later, that number has increased to more than 11,000.

Norco College offers a full complement of lower division courses in liberal arts, sciences, humanities and basic skills education, while offering specialist career technical programs in engineering, electronics, computer information systems, architecture, manufacturing, logistics, construction, game simulation and development, and commercial music.

On January 29, 2010, the Norco Campus received approval to become Norco College, thereby establishing it as the 112th college in the California Community Colleges system. And on June 10, Norco College will celebrate 531 students as its inaugural graduating class of 2010.

The process for gaining full accreditation status has been 8 years in the making for Norco, and I commend all those involved for their diligent efforts—including faculty, staff, students and administrators. I assure you, your dedication has not gone unnoticed and has yielded an achievement worthy of your efforts. Congratulations again, on this important milestone in Norco College's history.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF  
RENATA STRAUSE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and productive members of the Judiciary Committee staff for her service to the House, Renata Strause. For 3½ years, Renata has worked with exceptional dedication and drive for the Judiciary Committee, and I rise to commend her for her achievements.

After graduating from high school in Lancaster, PA, Renata began her professional career before attending college when she worked for a year as a legislative aide to State Representative P. Michael Sturla in the Pennsylvania State General Assembly. After putting together the first annual Lancaster Legislative Weekend, Renata matriculated at Oberlin College in Ohio during the Fall of 2002.

She earned her bachelor's degree in politics from Oberlin, where she cochaired the College Democrats' club, competed as a finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, received several departmental prizes for her academic work, and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society. She immersed herself fully in the political life of Oberlin, Ohio as well—working on city ballot initiatives for education, city council races, and get-out-the-vote efforts during several elections. During her summer and winter breaks, she also worked at the Pennsylvania Department of Education and served as Congressional candidate Lois Herr's deputy campaign manager during the 2004 election cycle in Lancaster County.

Following graduation, Renata came to Washington to work at the political consulting firm of Evans & Katz. Managing the daily operations of the Washington office, Renata represented clients before the Federal Election Commission, helped coordinate fundraising for several House and Senate candidates, and prepared electoral compliance reports for the firm.

At the beginning of the 110th Congress, Renata joined the Judiciary Committee staff and became an invaluable member of the committee's oversight team. She took on an incalculable number of tasks, staffing Members of the committee and myself on administration oversight issues, voter suppression, executive branch accountability, gaming issues, health care, and most recently the committee's work on the liability issues related to the Gulf Coast oil disaster. She has been instrumental to the committee's investigative work on Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice, including the firing of nine U.S. Attorneys and the resultant Contempt of Congress resolutions on the House Floor. She also worked on large portions of the committee's comprehensive staff report on the previous administration: *Reining in the Imperial Presidency: Lessons and Recommendations Relating to Presidency of George W. Bush*.

Renata is leaving the committee and Washington to attend Yale Law School this fall. On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, I would like to thank her for her exemplary work, generosity, sense of humor, and boundless energy. She will be sorely missed as a colleague and friend, but we wish her the best of luck and extend to her our deepest gratitude for her service.

---

HONORING THE PATRIOT GUARD  
RIDERS

**HON. JEAN SCHMIDT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of true American patriots who selflessly give of themselves to honor our men and women in uniform. The Patriot Guard Riders have honored our sailors and troops who have made the ultimate sacrifice, given comfort and protection to their grieving families, and proven themselves to be more than worthy of our thanks.

The Patriot Guard Riders started in Kansas to protect grieving families from protestors who would attempt to disrupt the funerals of

troops that had died defending our nation. That initiative has grown and now stretches across the United States. In my home state of Ohio, we have a great group of men and women who have picked up the flag to ride in honor of our brave men and women.

I have had the distinct honor to meet and spend time with the Ohio Patriot Guard Riders, and the State Captain, Robert "Bob" Woods, of West Chester, Ohio. In just a few short years the membership of the Ohio Patriot Guard Riders has grown from 400 to over 4,000, who at the request of the family ride to honor our fallen heroes. And, when necessary, they shield them from people who would try to tarnish the honor of their loved one.

Bob Woods is an American hero aside from his work with the Patriot Guard Riders. He served our nation in Vietnam. Bob has made it his personal mission to ensure that every returning member of the military knows that their service to our nation is appreciated, and that our fallen heroes are honorably remembered for their service in defense of liberty.

Ohio's Patriot Guard Riders have been there to honor our men and women in uniform and the Veterans who came before them. And today as we approach this Memorial Day weekend, I ask all in Congress to honor and thank the Patriot Guard Riders for their devotion to the ideas of freedom and liberty and the men and women who defend it.

---

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISH-  
MENTS OF DR. NELSON YING

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the inspirational spirit of Dr. Nelson Ying in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Dr. Ying's life story is somewhat of a fairy tale demonstrating the passion and fortitude of the American dream. Dr. Ying and his parents fled from China at the height of the Communist takeover in 1955. The Ying family moved to New York City with only \$600. Dr. Ying's father, James Ying, opened a chain of successful gift shops all over New York, from Chinatown into the New York suburbs. Dr. Ying learned at a young age from his father that in America hard work and perseverance can take you far.

Dr. Ying epitomizes the character and integrity that represent the Asian Pacific American community. Dr. Ying is the founding chairman of the Orange County Science Exposition. Through this annual exposition, Dr. Ying continues to promote direct involvement from students in science. Every year he selects five outstanding high school science scholars to compete in his science competition. The scholarship gives students an opportunity to explore state of the art facilities at places like Kennedy Space Center and Lockheed Martin. The "Ying Prize" has become a testament to science achievement in Central Florida, awarding a prestigious student up to \$1,000 for the best physical science project. Dr. Ying's involvement in the fields of education and community service has greatly contributed to the Central Florida community. Dr. Ying's investment in our next generation of leaders in the field of scientific innovation is invaluable.

Madam Speaker, Central Florida is proud to have a strong community leader like Dr. Ying. Dr. Nelson Ying's priority to give back to the community by educating the next generation of leaders reflects not only core American values, but what should be the top policy priority for our Nation. Dr. Ying's service will compel young adults and be the catalyst for a better world of tomorrow.

---

ROCKDALE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, since its founding, the Rockdale County Democratic Party has been and continues to be a worthy instrument for good; and

Whereas, the second annual black tie Gala is being held to celebrate community service and honor excellence in government, business, education and health; and

Whereas, the Rockdale County Democratic Party has always promoted the concept of One Community-One Goal by working with and for individuals of all walks of life to make Rockdale County a place where openness is seen as well as heard; and

Whereas, its members give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community through projects such as voter registration, health walks, mentorships and scholarships; and

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the leadership and service given by the members of the Rockdale County Democratic Party, our nation and the world is a better place due to their commitment to excellence in all of their endeavors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize their outstanding service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim April 24, 2010, as Rockdale County Democratic Party Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

---

HONORING DR. JAMES C. ALLEN

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Dr. James C. Allen of Madison, Wisconsin. There is no more appropriate time than now, as we approach Memorial Day, to recognize Dr. Allen's distinguished service to our country both as a veteran of war and an advocate for his fellow servicemembers. His tireless work as an ophthalmologist extends far beyond direct clinical care to touch the lives of countless veterans across our great Nation.

Dr. Allen began his service to our country during the Korean war. After returning from duty, he started practicing ophthalmology at the William S. Middleton Memorial VA Hospital in Madison. During his 35 year career at the VA Hospital, Dr. Allen discovered a significant problem with the VA compensation structure.

Although veterans could receive compensation for service-connected loss of sight in one eye, they were not eligible for increased assistance if subsequent loss of sight occurred in the second eye until complete blindness set in. A service member himself, Dr. Allen recognized the tremendous sacrifices our veterans make and knew that they should not be forced to struggle with related optical issues without any additional assistance and care. For 7 years, Dr. Allen worked with me and Donald May of Lodi, Wisconsin to craft long overdue legislation that would ensure the correction of this inadequacy.

In 2007, Congress unanimously passed and the President signed H.R. 797, the Dr. James C. Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act, allowing disabled veterans to receive greater compensation if they begin to lose sight in the second eye, regardless of whether or not that loss of sight is service-connected. The Dr. James C. Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act will directly impact the lives of those who sacrificed to defend our freedom. Over 13,000 veterans have been blinded in conflict since World War II, including veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who are incurring eye wounds at the highest rate of a major conflict since World War I.

Over the years, Dr. Allen has received countless awards and honors, including the 2008 Wisconsin Medical Society Physician Citizen of the Year Award and the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award. However, no amount of accolades could accurately reflect how invaluable his work has been and will continue to be to our most courageous citizens. The American spirit embodies the idea that one thoughtful, committed citizen possesses the ability to create meaningful change and Dr. Allen exemplifies this spirit. I join the greater Madison community and veterans everywhere in honoring Dr. Allen for his unwavering commitment and dedication.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB HOPE AIRPORT  
CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF  
SERVICE

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bob Hope Airport as it celebrates its 80 anniversary of service. Since its opening as United Airport on Memorial Day in 1930, the Bob Hope Airport has grown to accommodate 5 million passengers a year with more than 80 daily non-stop flights, making it a vital member of the Southern California airport system.

Previously known as the Union Air Terminal, the Lockheed Air Terminal, the Hollywood-Burbank Airport and the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport, in 2003, the Burbank Airport changed names once again, now paying homage to the great Bob Hope, one of our country's legendary entertainers and a long time resident of California. In its 80 years, the airport has been a witness to some of our country's greatest triumphs as well as some of our greatest struggles.

Movie and aviation stars alike attended the 1930 opening of the airport amidst a three day celebration in which 200,000 people partici-

pated. Ten years later and with the approach of World War II, it developed a reputation of being the primary airport of Los Angeles. During the war, the airport was the birthplace of many important aircraft, including B-17 Bombers, Hudson Bombers and over 10,000 P-38 Fighters. However, a testament to its vitality, in the middle of the chaos, the airport remained open as a commercial airport, connecting citizens with the rest of the country and showing that although its name has changed through the years, its commitment has not wavered.

Today there are 2.5 million people living within 15 miles of the Bob Hope Airport, and its airline service continues to be a dependable link to the rest of the nation. In 1977, three cities in my congressional district, Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena joined to form a separate government agency, the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority, and today the airport operates under their control, demonstrating efficiency and safety.

On the occasion of the Bob Hope Airport's 80th anniversary, I would like to recognize the nine authority commissioners, President Joyce Streater, Vice President Frank Quintero, Secretary Don Brown, and Commissioners Bill Wiggins, Charles A. Lombardo, Dave Weaver, Rafi Manoukian, Chris Holden and Francis D. Logan for their commendable work, and thank all those who have served previously in this role.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Bob Hope Airport on this milestone anniversary, and wish the airport continued success in the future!

CONGRATULATING 'IOLANI  
SCHOOL'S ECONOMICS TEAM, NA-  
TIONAL CHAMPIONS OF THE 2010  
NATIONAL ECONOMICS CHAL-  
LENGE

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 'Iolani School's Economics Team for winning the 2010 National Economics Challenge.

More than 1,200 teams from across the country competed in this year's event sponsored by the Council for Economic Education. This year marked Iolani's fourth national championship and 11th state championship. 'Iolani has also won two second place national titles.

I would like to recognize team members Andrew Ellison, Jesse Franklin-Murdock, Sean Cockey, and Mark Grozen-Smith as well as coach Richard Rankin. In the fall, Andrew will be attending the University of Pennsylvania, Jesse will be attending the George Washington University, Sean will be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Mark will be leading next year's team in defending 'Iolani's title.

Our Nation's recent economic meltdown has demonstrated how essential economic understanding is for all of us. Continued federal support for the Council for Economic Education is critical as it works to empower students through economic and financial literacy programs to help future generations make in-

formed and responsible choices throughout their lives as consumers, savers, investors, workers, citizens, and participants in our global economy. I joined a number of my colleagues to advocate for continued funding for the Council in fiscal year 2011.

Again, congratulations Andrew, Jesse, Sean, Mark, and Coach Rankin. Best wishes on your continued academic success.

NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH  
MONTH

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the millions of Americans and the researchers that are fighting every day to end cancer. As you know, May is National Cancer Research month and all across our great Nation, men and women are working not only to overcome this devastating disease that claims half a million American lives every year, but also to prevent it.

Unquestionably, the Nation's investment in cancer research is having a remarkable impact.

Thanks to discoveries and developments in prevention, early detection, and more effective treatments, many of the more than 200 diseases called cancer have been cured or converted into manageable chronic conditions while preserving quality of life. The 5-year survival rate for all cancers has improved over the past 30 years to more than 65 percent. Advances in cancer research have had significant implications for the treatment of other costly diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's, HIV/AIDS and macular degeneration.

However, there is much left to be done, as cancer remains the leading cause of death for Americans under age 85 and the second leading cause of death overall. We must continue to strengthen our Nation's commitment to life-saving research for the health and wellbeing of all Americans.

I want to commend the hard work and dedication of all those who are on the front lines of the quest for the prevention and cure of cancer. Organizations such as the American Association for Cancer Research, AACR, American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network are fighting hard every day to eradicate cancer in partnership with the American taxpayer and NIH.

I was pleased to learn that President Obama nominated Dr. Harold Varmus to head the National Cancer Institute, NCI. As NIH Director under President Clinton, Dr. Varmus was instrumental in the historic growth of this great agency. As NCI tackles the health mysteries surrounding cancer, it is heartening to know it will be led by such a distinguished and capable scientist.

As we celebrate National Cancer Research Month this May, I hope that this Congress will continue to make cancer research a national priority and ensure continued progress for the hope and benefit of all Americans who have or will be touched by this dreaded disease.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OBSTETRIC FISTULA PREVENTION, TREATMENT, HOPE, AND DIGNITY RESTORATION ACT OF 2010

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing bipartisan legislation along with Representative MIKE CASTLE and Representative LOIS CAPPs to save and reclaim the lives of mothers and their babies. The Obstetric Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope and Dignity Restoration Act of 2010 authorizes funding to reduce obstetric fistula, a terrible condition which can be prevented and repaired. More than two million women worldwide have obstetric fistula resulting from prolonged labor without medical attention. The pressure created internally on a woman from this obstructed delivery kills tissue and causes a hole to develop between the woman's vagina and rectum, leaving the woman without control of her bladder and/or bowels for the rest of her life if left without treatment. It often results in the death of the infant. Many women with obstetric fistula are abandoned by their husbands and families because they are considered "unclean". Left without support, the women are often forced to beg or turn to prostitution to survive.

The World Health Organization estimates that 50,000–100,000 new cases of obstetric fistula develop each year, adding to the estimated 2 million current cases, with most cases occurring in poor communities in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia where access to maternal and obstetric care is limited.

Fortunately, there is hope. This condition is almost entirely preventable. Prevention efforts include medical interventions such as skilled attendance present during labor and childbirth, providing access to family planning, and emergency obstetric care for women who develop childbirth complications as well as social interventions such as delaying early marriage and educating and empowering young women.

This condition also is treatable in up to 90 percent of cases, costing an average of \$300 for repair. The treatment requires a specially trained surgeon and support staff, and access to an operating theater and to attentive post-operative care.

This bill supports a comprehensive approach to end obstetric fistula—prevention to eliminate occurrences, treatment to repair those women who already suffer, and rehabilitation to help those recovering fully heal and reenter society. It focuses on efforts to build local capacity and improve national systems to prevent and treat obstetric fistula.

Women are fundamental to ensuring the health of their children and other family members.

Obstetric fistula is devastating; but doesn't have to be life-shattering. With our bill, we can provide hope and a healthy future. I urge my colleagues to support the Obstetric Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope, and Dignity Restoration Act of 2010.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LAWRENCE A. RUBIN—FATHER OF THE MACKINAC BRIDGE

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a true Michigan legend, Lawrence A. Rubin, the father of the Mackinac Bridge. Through his hard work and unbridled passion, Larry was at the heart of funding and building the Mackinac Bridge. It was with a heavy heart that I learned of his passing on May 11 at the age of 97, but I know that Larry's spirit will live on each time someone makes their first trip across that five mile expanse of concrete and steel suspended over the sparkling blue waters of the straits separating Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

Although he was born December 7, 1912 in the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts, we Michiganders count Larry as one of our own. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1934 with a degree in business. In addition to his studies, Larry played on Michigan's football team serving as a backup to future President Gerald Ford. After graduating, Larry opened an advertising agency and held several transportation focused positions before being appointed as Executive Secretary of the Mackinac Bridge Authority in 1950.

The building of the Mackinac Bridge was by no means non-controversial, and Larry was a key player in negotiating both the funding and construction phases of this expensive and expansive project. He not only attracted investors to purchase the bonds needed to fund construction of the bridge, but he also worked to make sure those bonds were repaid.

Larry's vision for the Mackinac Bridge extended beyond simply making transportation between Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas more convenient. From the beginning he recognized its potential to draw vacationers and tourists to the area. At five miles from shore to shore, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world in 1955 with 46-story tall towers stretching to the sky. Whether driving in daylight over the churning waters of the Straits of Mackinac or under the illumination of its thousands of lights at night, the trip across the Mackinac Bridge is a captivating experience.

One of the best known traditions of the Mackinac Bridge is the Labor Day Bridge Walk. This too can be traced to Larry, who organized the first Bridge Walk in June, 1958. The following year the Mackinac Bridge Walk was moved to Labor Day weekend. Larry's talent for accomplishing big things was again recognized—the Bridge Walk has grown from 68 participants its first year to an average of 50,000–65,000 participants.

Larry may have officially retired from the Bridge Authority in 1983, but even in retirement he continued his involvement with the bridge, writing two books about the Mighty Mac, participating each year in the Labor Day Bridge Walk and even building his home overlooking the straits to allow him to see his beloved bridge each and every day.

It was Larry's unyielding energy that ensured the success not only of the Mackinac Bridge, but in each endeavor he set out to do. He was active in the St. Ignace community, serving as

director of the Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association, chairman of the Mackinac Straits Hospital board and as a founder and board member of the local library. He was an avid downhill skier, and could be found hitting the slopes until he was 90.

Madam Speaker, it is difficult to envision how the Mackinac Bridge would exist today without the drive and the vision of Larry Rubin. The bridge is a lasting symbol of a unified Michigan and for this we owe our heartfelt thanks and Michigan pride to Larry. With his passing, Michigan has lost an icon and our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Elma and their family. Therefore Madam Speaker, I ask that you, and all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of Lawrence A. Rubin—the great champion and father of the Mackinac Bridge.

DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, DeKalb County serves as home for many of our Veterans that have served in the United States Military; and

Whereas, the day-to-day operations of our government on a local, state and federal level impact the lives of our Veterans either directly or indirectly; and

Whereas, our beloved county continues to rely on the wisdom and suggestions from the DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board members to address concerns and issues of our military community; and

Whereas, this unique board has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to preserve integrity, advocate for our enlisted service personnel and veterans; and

Whereas, the DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board continues to serve our county by being involved in the planning, organizing and conducting of ceremonies that commemorate and recognize those who served our country in the United States military; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board for their outstanding service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 24, 2010, as DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO THE BAKERSFIELD NATIONAL CEMETERY

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bakersfield National Cemetery located in Kern County, California. The Bakersfield National Cemetery opened in July of last year and we will all be honoring veterans at the cemetery's first Memorial Day

this weekend. This cemetery will serve as a final resting place for our veterans and their family members for many years to come.

The Bakersfield National Cemetery covers more than five hundred acres and includes full-casket gravesites, pre-placed crypts, in-ground cremation sites and columbarium niches. Additionally, the grounds will include a public information center, a maintenance complex, a flag assembly area, a memorial walkway, a committal service shelter, as well as interment areas, plus irrigation and support facilities that will keep the grounds pristine as the final resting place of many of our heroes from the Central Valley of California who have served and sacrificed for our country.

It is of the utmost importance that the brave men and women who keep us safe be honored. This cemetery provides solace to the families of service personnel; for others, it will serve as a reminder of the sacrifice that patriots have made, and will continue to make, on behalf of our nation.

The Bakersfield National Cemetery is a monument not only to the sacrifice of our local veterans, but also to Kern County's unending commitment to those who serve, and the cause of freedom for all. The Bakersfield National Cemetery is a small token of appreciation for our men and women in uniform who protect the freedoms that we enjoy today, and I am honored today to recognize its first Memorial Day ceremony.

HONORING THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF RAYMUNDO M. BARRERA AND PLACIDA P. BARRERA

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. Raymundo M. Barrera and Mrs. Placida P. Barrera. I congratulate the couple on spending over half a century married and going strong together.

The couple is native to South Texas and has contributed to the community through their careers and service. Raymundo was born in 1926 in Mission, Texas to Dr. Cayetano Barrera and Maria L. Martinez. That same year, Placida Pena was born to Reynaldo Pena and Josefa Ramirez in Guerra, Texas.

Their life together began the day they met in Mission, Texas in 1940 at their young age of 14 years old. As fate would have it, Placida lived with her aunt and was next door neighbors to Raymundo's family. At the start of the World War II, a year later, Placida went back to live with her parents in Jim Hogg County in a community name Guerra or El Colorado Ranch. She graduated from the Rio Grande City High School in 1945. Eight years later, she went back to Mission and reunited with Raymundo. Raymundo had served his country by being recruited into the Army and served in Europe in 1945. After Raymundo and Placida saw each other, Raymundo went back to Delaware where he was stationed. The two corresponded through letters while they were apart.

By March 1950, in one of the many letters exchanged—Raymundo asked Placida to

marry him. By April, they were engaged and on June 4, they were married. Throughout the years, the two have been stationed at Laredo Air Force Base, South Korea, Yokota, Japan, and Kansas. By 1969, Sgt. Raymundo Barrera retired from the military and moved to Laredo, Texas. Following his retirement, Raymundo attended colleges in Laredo and received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Placida earned her bachelor's degree in education and taught in Roma, Texas. She taught for 21 years within the United Independent School District, in Laredo, Texas. In 2001, she retired.

Today, Raymundo and Placida are retired in Laredo, Texas. They have been blessed with six children, 20 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.

I congratulate Raymundo's and Placida's 60th wedding anniversary. They have experienced a great deal together, served the community of South Texas and the nation, and continue going strong jointly.

HONORING WILLIAM (LARRY) LUCAS, VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (PhRMA)

### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor Mr. Larry Lucas—who is retiring from his position as vice president, Government Affairs, of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association, PhRMA—for his dedication and illustrious career which, over many decades, has always championed the improved health and wellness of all people, but particularly of the underserved.

During his tenure at PhRMA, Larry honed his expertise and energy around coalition building and grassroots development, and developed strong and strategic partnerships with African-American and Latino state legislators throughout the country. But Larry also worked with a diversity of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle on issues that were and remain critically important to expanding access not only to medicines, but also to quality health care information, services and treatments. He launched numerous efforts to work with a broad coalition of key stakeholders—from patients, to healthcare providers and administrators, to for-profit and not-for-profit health organizations—to raise greater awareness about the factors that exacerbate the racial and ethnic differences in access to quality health care, as well as in health preferences and health outcomes. Ever the communicator—Larry did a stint in radio as a young man—he also wrote a nationally syndicated monthly column about new developments in the pharmaceutical industry.

Larry's incredible accomplishments, however, began long before he joined PhRMA. Not only did he receive a bachelor of science degree in education from Jackson State University in Mississippi and honorably serve the Nation in the United States Air Force, but he conceptualized and launched a landmark outreach campaign at the Bureau of Census for

the 1980 census program that involved over 86,000 government jurisdictions. One testament to the success of this effort—which is but one of many during his 16 years with the Bureau—is that the program was replicated in the 1990 and 2000 censuses.

Recently appointed to the Africa Diaspora North Initiative Strategic Planning Committee Board, as well as to the board of trustees for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP—where he is involved in their contribution fund and health committee—Larry holds numerous leadership positions on the boards of directors, as well as advisory boards and councils of some of the Nations' most influential and prominent organizations. Among them are the following: the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc., the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Hispanic Medical Foundation and The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Larry Lucas also serves on the boards of directors for the Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute, the Providence Health Foundation Providence Hospital, Yale University's School of Nursing External Advisory Board, and is a founding member of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators' Business Board of Advisors.

Through his commitment to excellence and unwillingness to accept mediocrity, Larry is highly regarded as a respectful, trustworthy, prepared and savvy federal and state legislative affairs expert. Through his perseverance and unrelenting focus on and dedication to reducing racial and ethnic, gender and geographic health disparities, Larry is widely known as one of the Nation's most passionate health equity champions. And, through his continued support of the efforts of not only the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, but of the Congressional TriCaucus, Larry is not only a brilliant mind, but a great mentor and friend who will be missed, but who also will serve as an inspiration to so many others for many decades to come.

On behalf of all those who have been touched and informed by Larry Lucas's efforts, and whose health, health care, wellness and thus life opportunities have been improved by his myriad professional and personal successes, I thank, honor and congratulate Mr. Lucas today, and wish him health and happiness during a long retirement with his loving wife Camille, family and friends.

RECOGNIZING MR. BOBBY STOUT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has honorably served his country in the United States Navy and his community of the City of Wichita and Sedgewick County, Kansas.

After 53 years of involvement in the local criminal justice system, Mr. Bobby Stout will be retiring from his position as the Wichita Crime Commission's Executive Director, effective June 30th, 2010.

This remarkable achievement is the culmination of an extraordinary career. After completing his military obligation in the United

States Navy, he joined the Wichita Police Department as an officer in 1957. He served there for 23 years, retiring in 1980 as Deputy Police Chief to accept his current position.

In the 30 years Mr. Stout has served on the Wichita Crime Commission, he is personally credited with developing advanced and specialty training programs for officers. This year, under his direction, the Crime Commission is conducting its 16th Annual Midwest Law Enforcement Conference on Gangs and Drugs. This annual program has provided training for more than 2500 law enforcement officers state-wide.

His involvement in the "Making Good Choices" program has directly impacted Wichita's youth by highlighting the consequences of poor decisions before they are faced with them. Mr. Stout was also the face of the weekly "Crime Stoppers" segment on local television, where his work earned him the distinction of Kansas "Crime Stopper" of the Year in 1993.

While tirelessly devoting his efforts to improving the lives of his fellow citizens, Bobby is first and foremost a devoted husband to his wife, Jerry, and a proud father and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, when parents in Wichita, or anywhere in our country, search for role models in their community that their children can aspire to, they need look no further than Bobby Stout. It is my distinct privilege to honor him today in the House of Representatives.

INVESTOR DEPOSIT YARDSTICK  
(INDY) ACT

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce with Rep. DAVID DREIER the bipartisan Investor Deposit Yardstick (INDY) Act.

On July 11, 2008, 6,500 depositors in IndyMac bank woke up to find huge chunks of their life savings had vanished. IndyMac collapsed, and with it went \$233 million in deposited funds.

These small business owners, retirees and working families were not speculating wildly on the stock market—they were saving money in a bank they thought was secure.

Three months later, as the economy cratered, the federal government rode to the rescue of customers of other failing banks. In October 2008, the government raised the FDIC insurance limit from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

But it came too late for IndyMac customers, and for customers of five other banks across the country that were taken over by the FDIC. The new limits applied only prospectively to banks that would fail, not retroactively to those that already had.

IndyMac was the largest savings and loan in the Los Angeles area and its downfall hit California especially hard. Imagine your child's education fund practically wiped out overnight. Imagine your retirement nest egg decimated. And when you go to claim your FDIC insurance coverage, you are told you can't recover up to \$250,000 but your neighbor can.

And many customers claim they were misled by IndyMac employees into believing that

savings in excess of \$100,000 were fully insured.

I am pleased to have partnered with Chairman FRANK and the FDIC to resolve this problem, as well as my co-author DAVID DREIER, and I urge prompt passage of this legislation, which is fully paid for out of fees assessed on financial institutions.

IN SUPPORT OF SECTION 45G, THE  
SHORT LINE RAILROAD TAX  
CREDIT

**HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Section 45G Short Line Railroad Tax Credit, which expired on December 31, 2009, so that we can support our nation's railway industry and the jobs that it creates.

Section 45G was enacted in 2004 to help America's lighter-density freight rail lines invest in their infrastructure. Because this credit has not been extended for 2010, the Buckingham Branch Railroad in the 5th district of Virginia has been unable to make track repairs and much needed upgrades, thereby affecting Amtrak schedules and long term planning. Fifty cents of every dollar that the Buckingham Branch Railroad spends on improving its rail infrastructure is directed to labor costs, keeping Virginians employed.

The Short Line Railroad Tax Credit generates 6,890,000 rail track worker-hours each year and 3,305 full-time jobs nationwide. These numbers do not include the tens of thousands of jobs in the American steel, timber, and aggregate industries that make steel rail, railroad ties, and other railway equipment.

Section 45G is vital to enabling railway companies to pay their track employees and invest in tracks that serve local businesses. Short line rail tracks connect many of America's small businesses to the national freight rail network and promote economic development in areas that need it most.

I respectfully encourage the conference committee to ensure that the Short Line Railroad Tax Credit is successfully maintained.

HONORING CHARLES ROLAND  
"BUDDY" HUGHES

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man, who has given of himself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Charles Roland "Buddy" Hughes' work is present in DeKalb County, Georgia for all to see, being an advocate for the youth, the elderly, the poor and ordinary citizens like you and me; and

Whereas, this giant of a man thought there was never an issue that was too tall; he would protest, picket, march and speak out against injustice, because he knew that in order to have a better community it would take us all; and

Whereas, this remarkable man gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life; he never asked for fame or fortune to uplift those in need, he just wanted to do what was right and when he committed to doing something his actions would cut like a knife; and

Whereas, Buddy Hughes was a husband, a father, a son, a brother and a friend; he was our warrior, our general, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of our community until his end; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow an honorable mention and recognition on Charles Roland "Buddy" Hughes for his leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens in Georgia and throughout the world; a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 111th Congress that Charles Roland "Buddy" Hughes of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honorable Mention": Mr. Charles Roland "Buddy" Hughes, U.S. Citizen of Distinction, in the Fourth Congressional District.

OFFICER BENJAMIN L. KELLY

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a Congressman from the 8th District of Washington, a resident of the great Pacific Northwest, and a former law enforcement officer, to honor a man who acted courageously under perilous circumstances late last year. Seattle Police Department Officer Benjamin Kelly answered the call of duty in the wake of the heinous and unprecedented ambush of four officers in Lakewood, Washington. Because of his efforts, law enforcement officers and residents of Washington could breathe a sigh of relief knowing a violent gunman was no longer walking the streets.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund named Officer Kelly its "Officer of the Month" in March and Officer Kelly has received distinguished praise elsewhere for his brave actions in the early morning hours of December 1, 2009. That morning, Kelly encountered a parked car with its engine running. He pulled up behind the car—which he suspected was stolen—and started the process of documenting his discovery and determining the status of the vehicle. At the same time, Kelly noticed a man standing nearby who was wearing a hooded sweatshirt. Alert, Kelly focused on his task and his surroundings. Suddenly, Kelly spotted the man walking toward his patrol car from behind. Kelly left his vehicle, ordered the man to stop and immediately recognized him as the suspect in the terrible police ambush 48 hours earlier. Instead of stopping, the suspect darted away from the officer while reaching for a weapon. Kelly shot the suspect and killed him, ending the most extensive police manhunt in Washington's history and taking a ruthless killer off the street.

Officer Kelly acted bravely, there is no doubt. I know the courage it takes to confront a dangerous and cold-blooded suspect. He

didn't hesitate and placed himself in harm's way without thinking twice. Even more, what I believe distinguished Kelly's actions that morning was his intelligence. He was fully aware, didn't take any actions for granted, and his mind never stopped processing the scene. This entire House is proud of his distinguished service.

Madam Speaker, Officer Kelly is back on the job, serving the people of Seattle and trying his best to avoid the adulation and spotlight that accompanies his outstanding actions. He is a humble servant; he is an outstanding officer; he is a hero.

HONORING COLONEL EDWARD J. KERTIS FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF GEORGIA

**HON. PAUL C. BROUN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Edward J. Kertis for a distinguished career and the outstanding help that he has been to me, my staff, and the people in my district.

Col. Kertis assumed command of the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on June 29, 2007. Since his appointment, he has been responsible for a \$4 billion military design and construction program; water resources planning, design and construction; hazardous, toxic and radiological waste cleanup; and real estate activities.

Residents of my district are especially grateful for his help with water resources management during an historic drought. As the rains finally began to return, Col. Kertis took the unprecedented step of stopping flow from Thurmond and Hartwell Dams, allowing the lakes to fill while water was flowing into the Savannah River from flooding creeks and streams. This common-sense decision provided economic relief to those communities who rely so heavily on the preservation of the beautiful lakes and parks of the upper Savannah River. But he has served his country in other ways as well.

Prior to his assignment to the Savannah District, Col. Kertis commanded the Walla Walla District, USACE, in Washington State from 2002–2004. He has also served as a platoon leader, staff officer, and battalion executive officer in the 27th Engineer Battalion; company commander in the 41st Engineer Battalion; and engineer company commander in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment—Delta. He was also the inaugural commander of the Northern District, Gulf Region Division, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he managed construction projects in support of Coalition forces and the Iraqi government.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Col. Kertis for his service to the nation and the dedication he has given his duties, and in wishing him a long and wonderful retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on May 26, 2010 I missed rollcall vote 302. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" or "aye."

PHYLLIS REEDER RETIREMENT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to one of the most caring, dedicated, and selfless citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District, Ms. Phyllis Reeder, longtime employee of the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWCD), and current LCSWCD Administrative Treasurer. After serving the community of Lake County, Indiana in this capacity for the past twenty-five years, Phyllis will be retiring at the end of this month. In honor of Phyllis, a retirement open house will be held by the LCSWCD on Friday, May 28, 2010 at the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Crown Point, Indiana.

Phyllis Reeder is a lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana who is extremely proud of her Hoosier heritage. In 1944, Phyllis was born in LaPorte County, Indiana. Her family later moved to Schererville where Phyllis attended Saint Michael's Elementary School. She went on to graduate from Dyer Central High School in 1963. She then attended and graduated from Keypunch School in Hammond. Phyllis then began to work in the data processing department at Simmons Mattress Company in Munster. Later that year, on November 22, 1963, Phyllis married her beloved husband, Charles "Chuck" Reeder. They started a family and raised four girls: Theresa, Debbie, Donna, and Diana, and one boy, Charles. Phyllis was an active parent and also continued to work at Simmons until July 1980 when the company closed its doors. In 1977, Phyllis and her family moved to a ten-acre mini-farm in Cedar Creek Township. It was during this time that Phyllis's passion for environmental conservation began to grow. On the farm, they have a large garden which, at the time, provided their large family with fruit, vegetables, and herbs. The farm also has a windbreak on the property, which helps to prevent wind erosion and also saves energy. In addition, Phyllis's five children participated in many 4-H projects, which included such topics as water conservation, wetlands, foods, basketry, and food preservation.

In 1985, Phyllis's passion for conservation led to her career at the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District. Phyllis currently serves as Administrative Treasurer for the LCSWCD, where she is known for her friendly demeanor and positive attitude. She consistently goes out of her way to assist co-workers and customers with their needs. Included in her many achievements at the LCSWCD, she expanded the LCSWCD's educational program and trained as a facilitator for Project Wild and

Aquatic, Project Learning Tree, and Project WET. These workshops are offered throughout the county to local schools and are facilitated by Phyllis. Because of her strong belief in conservation, her efforts extend well beyond her working hours at the LCSWCD. Phyllis is actively involved in numerous volunteer organizations and has served on many boards throughout the community. For her unwavering commitment to environmental conservation efforts and to Northwest Indiana, she is worthy of the highest praise.

Phyllis's dedication to the community and her career is exceeded only by her devotion to her wonderful family. Phyllis and Chuck have been married for 47 years and they enjoy spending much of their time with their beloved children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Phyllis Reeder for her lifetime of leadership, service and dedication to the community of Lake County, Indiana. She has touched the lives of numerous people through her efforts at the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District and through her extensive volunteer work. While she will be missed by the people with whom she worked, Phyllis's service and selfless dedication will forever be remembered, and I ask that you join me in wishing her well in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL RONALD L. MARSELLE

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Ronald L. Marselle for his outstanding service to our nation on the occasion of his retirement. His dedicated service to the citizens of our nation, the Department of Defense, and our Congress is both admirable and commendable.

Colonel Marselle earned his commission as a Distinguished Graduate from the United States Air Force Academy in 1985. He attended undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base and as an aviator, served as an aircraft commander, instructor, and evaluator in the KC-135 aircraft.

He returned to the Air Force Academy in 1998 where he led, mentored, and developed our nation's future Air Force officers. Colonel Marselle continued his excellent service to our nation in Washington, D.C., as Deputy Division Chief, Future Concepts and Transformation Division, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

Most recently, Colonel Marselle provided legislative counsel for the Commander of the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM). His in-depth knowledge of the legislative process and USTRANSCOM helped foster the strongest of working relationships. Without doubt, Colonel Marselle's efforts in this regard were instrumental in support of and service to our nation, and will not be forgotten.

Colonel Marselle's successful journey during his many years of service could not have been completed without the support of his loving family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Ronald L.

Marselle on his well deserved retirement, and in thanking him for his service to our country.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA

**HON. ALBIO SIRE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the bicentennial of the Republic of Argentina. Two hundred years ago in Buenos Aires, a week-long series of revolutionary events took place, known as the *Revolucion de Mayo*, which set in motion events that led to Argentina's momentous declaration of independence from Spain in 1810.

Since gaining independence, Argentina has emerged as a leader in Latin America and as a valuable ally to the United States. In the western hemisphere, Argentina has always been a friend who shares our values of freedom and democracy. In the global arena, it continues to be an important economic partner, with nearly 500 U.S. companies currently operating within its borders. As a founding member of the United Nations and in its most recent position as Secretary General of the Union of South American Nations, Argentina has also proven to be a cogent diplomat.

Argentina benefits from rich natural resources, a globally competitive agricultural sector, and a diversified industrial base. Additionally, as a country that has been richly endowed with culture, varying from eloquent tangos to loyal soccer fans, Argentina remains one of the cultural epicenters of Latin America.

The positive bilateral relationship between the United States and Argentina has been based on many common strategic and ideological interests, securing Argentina's position as an important ally and friend to the United States. I commemorate this historic occasion with Argentineans in the United States and again congratulate the people of Argentina on 200 years of independence.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ARGENTINA'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bicentennial of the Republic of Argentina. On May 25, 1810, the Argentine people declared their independence from Spain and since that time, their nation has become an important regional and global actor.

I feel a personal connection to the nation of Argentina. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, I have had the privilege to lead two official congressional delegations to Argentina. I am always welcomed with a warmth and respect that speaks to the character of the Argentine people. President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner is a distinguished leader whose service to her people is impressive. Likewise, Argentina's Ambassador to the United States Hector Timmerman and

his excellent team work hard on a daily basis to advance the Argentine cause here in the United States.

In many ways, the United States and Argentina share much more than a hemisphere; we share common values of freedom, equality and a commitment to democracy that transcend national borders. Our nations have also worked closely on issues pertaining to regional security, and Argentina has established itself as a leading voice in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation and counterterrorism. I welcome this cooperation and I look forward to our continued collaboration on these vital fronts.

I hope you will join me in commemorating the 200th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Argentina. May our two nations grow closer and may our shared values grow ever stronger.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF HARKNESS HOUSE TO PROVIDE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR VETERANS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to applaud the opening today of Harkness House, a four-apartment Victorian in my hometown of New Haven that will provide transitional housing for Connecticut veterans, and thus help to repay those who have served in uniform and now need our help.

Thanks to the hard work of Columbus House, a local organization dedicated to helping homeless Americans, as well as financial and logistical support from the Errera Community Care Center, VA Medical Center in West Haven, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Harkness House will give up to fourteen homeless male veterans a place to live for up to two years, as they work to get back on their feet and reintegrate themselves into the community.

This new haven for homeless veterans is just one of many very worthwhile programs by Columbus House to alleviate the crushing burdens on the homeless men, women, and children in our midst. They also provide temporary and permanent housing at a number of other facilities around our community, as well as outreach services to this and other at-risk and highly vulnerable populations.

Along with providing a crucial resource to homeless veterans, Harkness House is particularly well-named. Its namesake, Dr. Laurie Harkness, has spent a career working to foster supportive housing for Connecticut's veterans in danger of homelessness. She has played a formative role in the creation of several such residential projects all across the state, and brought both housing and hope to over 250 homeless veterans and their families. And she has been a dear personal friend to me.

I congratulate Laurie on this well-earned honor today, and I thank Columbus House and everyone else involved for their leadership and commitment to making Harkness House a reality. Because of their efforts, veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country, but have fallen on hard times, will now have a better chance at a second chance.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF NOLAN KAMITAKI

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Nolan Kamitaki, a young constituent from Hilo, Hawaii. I would also like to congratulate him on his graduation as valedictorian of Waiakea High School's Class of 2010.

From a young age, Nolan has been deeply fascinated with natural phenomenon and mathematics, and his passion for these pursuits is reflected in his many achievements. He led Waiakea High School's Math League, Math Bowl, and Science Bowl teams, and participated in Japan's International Micro Robot Maze Contest. Nolan's aptitude for science has been recognized at numerous competitions and symposiums including the 2010 International Engineering and Science Fair, where Nolan earned the first place grand award. Nolan has received prestigious recognition as a 2009 Davidson Fellow for his project, "Programming a Network Approach to Contain the Spread of Epidemic."

Nolan's outstanding achievements in academics and his exemplary leadership and community service have earned him distinction as one of two 2010 U.S. Presidential Scholars from Hawaii. He plans to pursue a career that merges biological processes and computer science.

Nolan is a rising star in the sciences and a proud product of the Hawaii public school system. I am inspired by his impressive accomplishments at such a young age, and I look forward to following the career of this future leader.

TRIBUTE TO GILL GALLO, DIRECTOR OF THE RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my Congressional District for his years of service to Riverside, California. Gill Gallo has served as director of the Riverside National Cemetery since May 14, 2006. And after four years, Gill Gallo is leaving this appointment to serve as the Director of the National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

In his position as director, Gill was responsible for all burial, maintenance and administrative operations at the cemetery. He also trained under Steve Jorgensen, the longtime director at Riverside who helped bring hundreds of volunteers into the cemetery's community support network. Gill often speaks of the historical significance of his work, and has remarked that there is no better place to pay tribute and learn about our veterans than by visiting the headstones and commemorating the fallen in our national cemeteries.

Prior to coming to Riverside National Cemetery, Gill served as director at the Willamette National Cemetery in Oregon. He also served

as director of the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Illinois, assistant director of the Willamette National Cemetery, director at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso, Texas, director at Eagle Point National Cemetery in Oregon and director at the Santa Fe National Cemetery in New Mexico. Additionally, Gill served more than 20 years in the U.S. Air Force before retiring in 1986. He received an associate's degree from the University of Maryland, European Division in 1984.

Gill and his wife, Amparo, have three children: a son in the U.S. Air Force Reserve; a daughter in San Antonio, Texas; and a son in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Gill Gallo's tireless passion for community and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. I am proud to call Gill a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many people are grateful for his service, and wish him the very best in San Antonio.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF SOUTH KOREAN SEAMEN KILLED BY NORTH KOREA

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in sympathy with the families of those killed in the sinking of the Republic of Korean ship (ROKS) Cheonan. I stand in solidarity with the people of the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of this tragic incident. However, I have serious concerns with language in H. Res. 1382. While it appropriately expresses sympathy to the families of those killed in the attack, it also appears to express support for possible military action against North Korea.

North Korea announced yesterday that it is severing all relations with South Korea, further exasperating an already contentious relationship. This resolution "urges the United States" and "its allies . . . to take appropriate actions in response to the sinking of the ROKS Cheonan and other hostile acts of North Korea." The resolution also "urges the international community to provide all necessary support to the Republic of Korea as the Government of the Republic of Korea prepares to respond to the actions committed by North Korea, which led to the sinking of the ROKS Cheonan." State Department officials, including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, have also made public statements vowing that the attack will not go unanswered.

Congress and the Administration can better express support for the people of the Republic of Korea by recommitting to promoting dialogue between the two nations. The expression of congressional support for a possible military response to North Korea's actions can only serve to heighten the likelihood of a military confrontation. Military action in retaliation to North Korea's attack on the South Korean ship can only result in the further loss of life. I believe strongly in the power and necessity of diplomacy. The United States has a responsibility to utilize its unique role as an ally of South Korea to bring the nation closer to resolution with North Korea.

HONORING MS. ALMA GAMMAGE

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Alma Gammage has given of herself as an educator of E.L. Bouie, Sr., Elementary Theme school, a daughter, a mother and friend; and

Whereas, Ms. Gammage has been chosen as this year's Teacher of the Year, representing E.L. Bouie Elementary school; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her tireless works, motivational speeches and words of wisdom; and

Whereas, Ms. Gammage is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared with the world her vision and passion to help ensure that our future, our children, receive an education that is relevant for today, but also for the future; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Alma Gammage for her leadership and service for our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim April 23, 2010, as Ms. Alma Gammage Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF SOUTH KOREAN SEAMEN KILLED BY NORTH KOREA

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to convey my deepest condolences for the people of South Korea following the tragic sinking of the naval ship, Cheonan, which has severely traumatized the nation and disrupted peace and stability in the Land of the Morning Calm.

As a longtime friend of the Korean people, I fully support the resolution introduced by my colleagues, Representatives FALCOMAVAEGA, ROS-LEHTINEN, ACKERMAN, MANZULLO, and BERMAN, that expresses sympathy to the families of the 46 sailors killed as a result of North Korea's aggression, and demonstrates our solidarity with the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of this tragedy.

For me in particular, this incident is very personal and excruciatingly painful. As a veteran who fought in the Battle of Kunuri during the Korean War, I have witnessed the anguish and the suffering inflicted on the Peninsula as a result of North Korea's invasion of the South on June 25, 1950. In fact this year marks the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, which evidently has yet to end.

The Korean people have lived in a state of division and instability in the Peninsula for sixty years. The recent disaster is clearly a somber reminder that the United States must reaffirm our alliance with the Republic of Korea to help bring closure to the first and last conflict of the Cold War and ultimately build a path toward reconciliation between the two Koreas.

#### RECOGNIZING PROSPERO J.J. SANCHEZ FOR HIS DEDICATION TO NEW MEXICO BOYS STATE

**HON. HARRY TEAGUE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Prospero J.J. Sanchez, someone who truly loves our country and is a veteran of the Army who makes his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A few years ago, after some arm twisting by his father, Prospero, Sr., a World War II Marine Veteran, he was taken for the first time 30 years ago to attend the American Legion New Mexico Boys State. After that year there was no more arm twisting involved with Prospero Sanchez attending the annual Boys' State session. This year's American Legion New Mexico Boys' State session being held at the Campus of Eastern New Mexico University will mark Prospero J.J. Sanchez's 30th consecutive session of attendance.

Prospero has held many positions throughout the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State organization which has taught thousands of New Mexico High School Seniors the rights and responsibilities of being citizens of this great country of ours. Numerous members of our society have attended an American Legion Boys State or an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State session held annually on campus across this nation.

The program's alumni has held positions as CEO's, Artists, Athletes, Newscasters, Justices on the Supreme Court, both chambers of the House and Senate and even held the Position of President of the United States. It is organizations such as the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, who after wearing the uniform of our country, return home and continue to selflessly serve the communities to which they belong such as Prospero Sanchez has, not only as a very active member of the American Legion where he is one of the New Mexico's Past Department Commanders and the Current Alternate National Executive Committee Man.

Prospero J.J. Sanchez is commended for his dedication of many years of service to the youth of the nation at American Legion New Mexico Boys State, where he currently holds the position of President of the American Legion New Mexico Boys State Board of Directors. I thank him for his many years of service and I am honored to have the opportunity to have him recognized in the Congress today.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL  
OF ARGENTINA'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Representative ELIOT ENGEL of New York, in congratulating the great people of Argentina in celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of their independence from Spain, which occurred on the 25th of May of 1810.

Born in 1810 out of a newfound sense of national identity, the trajectory of Argentinean independence is inspired by the same enlightenment ideas of self-determination and representative government that inspired America's independence movement. Like George Washington, Jose de San Martin, the liberator of Argentina, led the fight for freedom in armed struggle against the shackles of Spanish rule. At the heart of the U.S. example was the creation a constitution free from monarchy, building an infant democracy surrounded by European power in the new world. Capitalizing on Napoleonic control, Argentina's cry set in motion the wars of independence across South America and the creation of new republics by the decade's end.

America's 200-year relationship with Argentina commenced officially when President James Monroe promulgated a foreign policy based on the preservation of our republics from imperial intervention, thus securing a shared destiny of independence. In an unprecedented gesture of aid to an unrecognized country, President Monroe sent a representative whose primary objective was to assure the Argentinean people that "U.S. has the most sincere disposition towards its neighbors from Latin America and considers friendly exchanges as mutually beneficial." In 1822, the U.S. became the first non-Latin nation to establish formal diplomatic relations with Argentina. Our countries' friendship has been strong ever since.

An entire week of May leading up to the 25th is devoted to celebrating several events that sparked Argentina's movement towards independence, with expatriates and Argentinean-Americans in cities across the United States also partaking in celebrations. Argentineans have a proud history of enriching the world's literary, art and musical, and sports arenas. Tango performers like Carlos Gardel, and writing artists like Jorge Luis Borges, have injected masterpieces into our global tapestry, while one of the most famous soccer magicians Diego Armando Maradona amazed fans during the 1986 World Cup.

It is with great joy, Madam Speaker, that I ask the rest of my colleagues to congratulate our great neighbor on this historic achievement for their people. I wish the President of Argentina and Argentineans across the world a festive week.

HONORING JEFFREY SIEGEL

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Jeffrey Siegel of

Berrien Regional Educational Service Agency. After over three decades of service to the education community of southwest Michigan, Mr. Siegel will be retiring as the Superintendent of Berrien RESA.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in psychology from Adelphi University in New York, Jeff made his way to Mount Pleasant, Michigan where he attended Central Michigan University and earned both his master and specialist degrees.

Mr. Siegel has served as Berrien RESA's superintendent for over seven years and has accomplished many great milestones during his distinguished tenure. Jeff created a Medicaid billing site in southwest Michigan and has worked with local school districts to reduce the number of children referred to special education across the county by nearly 15 percent. He redefined his organization's service scope to include programs and services specifically related to supporting classroom technology, student data management, business office support, career training and school safety.

In addition to his professional responsibilities at Berrien RESA, Mr. Siegel, serves his community as a leader of the Berrien Community Foundation, Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Rotary, Temple B'Nai Shalom, Consortium for Community Development, Community Partnership for Lifelong Learning, and the Great Start Collaborative Early Childhood Investment Corporation. He also serves as a member of a variety of state and local professional organizations and has been appointed by the Michigan Department of Education to provide leadership and oversight to committees related to Medicaid and intermediate school districts.

For over three decades in the Berrien County education community, Jeffrey Siegel's leadership, skills, compassion, and commitment to education have made him an indispensable asset to the citizens of Berrien County. As Mr. Siegel prepares for his retirement, he leaves a legacy that will benefit the community for years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR.  
STEPHEN L. PAGE, ED. D. AS SUPERINTENDENT,  
HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,  
NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Stephen L. Page, Ed. D. on his June 30th retirement from his position as the Superintendent of Henderson County Schools. Dr. Page's efforts have been central to the development and success of the public school system of Western North Carolina where he has served faithfully and effectively for the past 37 years.

Before beginning his career in the public school system, Dr. Page served honorably as a First Lieutenant, Combat Executive Officer, in the United States Army. For his bravery and meritorious service during the Vietnam War, Dr. Page was awarded the Bronze Star.

Dr. Page is also actively involved in the Henderson County Community. He is a member of the Civitan Club of Hendersonville and

serves as Chairman of the Civitan Foundation Board of Directors. He serves on the United Way of Henderson County Board of Directors and on the Daniel Boone Council of Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Page also served as the Honorary Chairman of the 2007 March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign in Henderson County.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Stephen Page today, to thank him for his tremendous service to the community, and to wish him well in his retirement.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS  
P. BELKOFER FOR HIS SERVICE  
TO THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA IN THE THEATER OF  
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay special tribute to a military hero from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. United States Army LTC Thomas P. Belkofer, 44, of Perrysburg, Ohio, lost his life in combat on May 18, 2010 as a result of wounds sustained in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer was assigned to the headquarters of the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York. He is survived by his dear wife Margaret, and their daughters Alyssa and Ashley.

An individual dedicated to giving his all in everything, Thomas Belkofer was a determined athlete at his alma mater, Rossford High School, where he graduated in 1983. Thomas served in the Ohio Army National Guard, and in the Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC, in college. In 1992, Thomas received his Bachelor's Degree from Bowling Green State University in Architecture and Environmental Design. It was this same year he married his college sweetheart, Margaret Maness, and both were commissioned in the United States Army. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer earned his Masters in Business Administration degree from Syracuse University during his active duty service.

A committed Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer served 18 years at various military assignments, including the bases in Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort George G. Meade in Maryland; The Pentagon; a 13-month deployment to Afghanistan; Vincenzo, Italy; and Fort Drum, New York. During his first deployment in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer assisted with the establishment of a financial infrastructure for Afghan government employees, many of them soldiers. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer's life and accomplishments reflect his commitment to his country and the protection of its freedoms.

In addition to his various assignments that have taken Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer all over the world, he received many badges, medals, and ribbons. These include the Overseas Service Bar, Army Staff Identification Badge, Air Assault Badge, Parachutist Badge, Combat Action Badge, Army Joint Meritorious Award, NATO Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with

the Bronze Service Star), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Bronze Star Medal, and the Legion of Merit Medal.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and selfless service of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas P. Belkofer. We stand with his family and loved ones in mourning the loss of America's finest, and remain forever grateful for his sacrifice toward the peace and security of our nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JACKSON STATE COLLEGE SHOOTING THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF PHILLIP LAFAYETTE GIBBS AND JAMES EARL GREEN

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Jackson State College shooting that claimed the lives of Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green.

Gibbs was a college student exercising his first amendment right to freedom of speech. Green was a prospective college student looking forward to the opportunity to make his mark during the Civil Rights Movement and define his place in society. Both young men lived in a time and place plagued by racial prejudice and discrimination.

Four decades ago, four students were killed at Kent State University (Ohio) when National Guardsmen opened fire on hundreds of unarmed students during an on campus antiwar rally. The killings received national media and public attention and have annually been remembered in the 40 years that followed.

Just 10 days after the Kent State fatal shooting, on May 14, 1970, around 9:30 p.m., rumors began to circulate that Fayette, Mississippi's Mayor Charles Evers (brother of slain civil rights activist Medgar Evers) and his wife had been shot and killed. Protesters, both students and non-students who were still tense from demonstrations held the day before, gathered throughout the campus grounds of Jackson State College, in Jackson, Mississippi to protest. Some protestors damaged property and set a construction truck on fire. About 75 law enforcement officers from both the Jackson Police Department and the Mississippi Highway Patrol arrived on the scene armed with carbines, rifles, submachine guns, shot guns, service revolvers and other undocumented, non-service weapons and began to open fire on the student protesters.

It was not until after nearly 30 seconds of continuous, relentless shooting that officers yelled commands to cease fire. An investigation filed later by the Federal Bureau of Investigations reported that Alexander Hall dormitory had been struck over 450 times by bullets or bullet fragments. In that same report the FBI said no evidence was found to support

that any officers had come under fire before the shooting started or that anyone in the immediate crowd of protesters had displayed a weapon. Miraculously, many lives were spared during the ordeal, but sadly two were not.

Phillip Lafayette Gibbs, a 21-year-old junior pre-law student, was shot three times in the head and once under his left armpit. Gibbs, who was married and the father of an 18-month old son was pronounced dead at the scene. James Earl Green, a 17-year-old Jim Hill High School student and track standout, was shot once in the side of the chest. Green, just weeks away from graduation, planned to attend the University of California, Los Angeles, collapsed and died just blocks away from his home. In the early morning hours of May 14, 1970, this country lost two potentially prominent and profound components of the legal and sports world.

Unfortunately, this tragic incident, similar to the Kent State shooting, received no national media coverage.

The FBI investigated the incident as well as President Nixon's Commission on Campus Unrest. Both bodies agreed that the shooting was an, ". . . unreasonable, unjustified over-reaction . . .", and that a law enforcement response of this nature is, ". . . never warranted." However, no charges or arrest were ever made in the killing of these two young men and justice never prevailed.

In the spirit of remembrance and appreciation I stand before you to bring attention to the loss of two precious lives which sparked the ignition for change for a campus, a community, a state and a nation.

Please join me today in honoring the lives of Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE PRIVATE OPTION HEALTH CARE ACT

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Private Option Health Care Act. This bill places individuals back in control of health care by replacing the tax-spend-and-regulate health care law Congress passed last month with reforms designed to restore a free market health care system.

The major problems with American health care are rooted in government policies that encourage excessive reliance on third-party payers. The excessive reliance on third-party payers removes incentives for individual patients to concern themselves with health care costs. Laws and policies promoting Health Maintenance Organizations, HMOs, resulted from a desperate attempt to control spiraling costs. However, instead of promoting an efficient health care system, HMOs further took control over health care away from patients and physicians. Furthermore, the third-party payer system creates a two-tier health care system where people whose employers can afford to offer "Cadillac" plans have access to top quality health care, while people unable to obtain health insurance from their employers face obstacles in obtaining quality health care.

The Private Option Health Care Act gives control of health care back into the hands of individuals through tax credits and tax deductions, improving Health Savings Accounts and Flexible Savings Accounts. Specifically, the bill:

A. Provides all Americans with a tax credit for 100 percent of health care expenses. The tax credit is fully refundable against both income and payroll taxes;

B. Allows individuals to roll over unused amounts in cafeteria plans and Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA);

C. Provides a tax credit for premiums for high-deductible insurance policies connected with a Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and allows seniors to use funds in HSAs to pay for medigap policies;

D. Repeals the 7.5 percent threshold for the deduction of medical expenses, thus making all medical expenses tax deductible.

This bill also creates a competitive market in health insurance. It achieves this goal by exercising Congress's authority under the Commerce Clause to allow individuals to purchase health insurance across state lines. The near-monopoly position many health insurers have in many states and the high prices and inefficiencies that result, is a direct result of state laws limiting people's ability to buy health insurance that meets their needs, instead of a health insurance plan that meets what state legislators, special interests, and health insurance lobbyists think they should have. Ending this ban will create a truly competitive marketplace in health insurance and give insurance companies more incentive to offer quality insurance at affordable prices.

The Private Option Health Care Act also provides an effective means of ensuring that people harmed during medical treatment receive fair compensation while reducing the burden of costly malpractice litigation on the health care system. The bill achieves this goal by providing a tax credit for negative outcomes insurance purchased before medical treatment. The insurance will provide compensation for any negative outcomes of the medical treatment. Patients can receive this insurance without having to go through lengthy litigation and without having to give away a large portion of their awards to trial lawyers.

Finally, the Private Option Health Care Act also lowers the prices of prescription drugs by reducing barriers to the importation of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved pharmaceuticals. Under my bill, anyone wishing to import a drug simply submits an application to the FDA, which then must approve the drug unless the FDA finds the drug is either not approved for use in the United States or is adulterated or misbranded. This process will make safe and available imported medicines affordable to millions of Americans. Letting the free market work is the best means of lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

Madam Speaker, the Private Option Health Care Act allows Congress to correct the mistake it made last month by replacing the new health care law with health care measures that give control to health care to individuals, instead of the federal government and politically-influential corporations. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THOSE WHO PERISHED  
ON THE DEEPWATER HORIZON  
OIL PLATFORM

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 11 workers who lost their lives on April 20, 2010 in the explosion of a deep sea oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana. I also offer my sympathy to the four workers who were critically injured.

My deepest condolences also go out to the families of the deceased. The offshore drilling industry is known for its dangers. Oil rig workers often labor in severe and uncertain working conditions, fraught with difficulty. We are indebted to these courageous workers for their contributions to our country.

This is a tragedy not only for the workers and their families but the residents of the entire Gulf Coast region, and the United States. We honor the legacy of these men and their families and affirm that their contributions to a field crucial to our society are recognized by all.

We wish a speedy recovery to the four additional workers who were critically injured during the rig explosion. We also offer a heartfelt thank you to the emergency response workers who responded to the disaster. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

This incident highlights the importance of implementing and enforcing stricter offshore drilling regulations. Oil rig explosions and resulting oil spills can lead to the deaths of workers and cause irreversible damage to our environment, marine life, wildlife, food industries, and our economy. It is important that we address the lack of oversight in the offshore drilling industry and protect the lives of dedicated oil rig workers who make daily sacrifices in the interest of the United States.

RECOGNIZING RALPH KEMP FOR  
HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

**HON. HARRY TEAGUE**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a patriotic American who has given much of himself in securing the future of this country. Mr. Ralph Kemp is a veteran of the Marine Corps and the Vietnam War. Mr. Kemp also served as a retired Albuquerque Police Department Lieutenant in his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico a few years after his military service. Some years ago, after some arm twisting he was taken on a trip to attend the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State. After that year there was no more arm twisting involved.

This year's American Legion New Mexico Boys' State session being held at the Campus of Eastern New Mexico University will mark Ralph Kemps' 30th consecutive session of attendance.

Ralph has held many positions throughout the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State organization which has taught thousands of New Mexico High School Seniors the rights

and responsibilities of being citizens of this great country of ours. Numerous members of our society have attended an American Legion Boys State or an American Legion Auxiliary Girls' State Session held annual on campus across this nation.

The program's alumni has held positions as CEO's, Artists, Athletes, Newscasters, Justices on the Supreme Court, both chambers of the House and Senate and even held the Position of President of the United States. It is organizations such as the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, who after wearing the uniform of our country, return home and continue to selflessly serve the communities of which they belong such as Ralph Kemp.

Ralph Kemp currently serves as the Executive Director of the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State program. Besides the dedicated week Ralph gives to the Boys' State program he has also served on the American Legion Boys Nation Staff for the past 15 years.

This is a week-and-a-half-long program where two boys from each state are selected to come to the Nation's Capitol to learn about government at the federal level. If two and half weeks of volunteer time working with this nation's youth is not enough, Ralph Kemp volunteers and additional week of his summer serving as the Director of the American Legions Junior Shooters programs annual competition. Ralph Kemp is to be commended for his dedication of many years of service to the youth of the nation at American Legion New Mexico Boys State and American Legion Programs. I thank him for his service and am very proud to have him recognized in the House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING PRINCIPAL JAN  
KING ON BEING NAMED THE 2010  
WACHOVIA NORTH CAROLINA  
PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Principal Jan King of Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School in Mills River, North Carolina on being named the 2010 Wachovia North Carolina Principal of the Year. The designation of Principal of the Year not only signifies her effectiveness as an administrator but also the respect she has earned among her students, their parents, and their teachers.

With this honor Mrs. King will be appointed to the State Superintendent's Principal's Advisory Committee and will serve a one-year term as advisor to the State Board of Education. Principal King will also be appointed to a one-year term on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Public School Forum and will chair the 2011 Wachovia Principal of the Year Selection Committee.

As a native of Jackson County and an educator in the area, Mrs. King has spent most of her life in Western North Carolina. Throughout her educational career, Jan King has set a high educational standard for herself and her peers. In 2003, Mrs. King was named Henderson County Schools' Teacher of the Year and

achieved National Board Certification. Mrs. King has also been selected to speak at various events including the North Carolina Gifted Education Conference, North Carolina Social Studies Conference and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Conference. She also served as a teacher and a consultant for the Library of Congress American Memory Fellow Program.

The children of today are the leaders of our nation tomorrow. Educators like Principal King are central in providing these children the tools they need in order to be productive citizens in the future.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Principal Jan King and to thank her for her tremendous service to the students in Western North Carolina.

MEDIA SHOULD DEMAND  
ANSWERS FROM OBAMA

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today President Obama had his first full news conference in about 10 months.

That's longer than former President George W. Bush ever went between news conferences.

Here's what the Washington Examiner's chief political correspondent, Byron York, wrote recently about why the national media have tolerated President Obama's silence:

While Obama dodges questions, his spokesman stonewalls them.

In one sense, the press, or at least some members of the press, have only themselves to blame.

Obama treats them with contempt because he knows that when big tests come, they've always been on his side.

There's no reason for him to think they won't be there in the future.

Why does Obama do it? Because he can.

The national media should demand answers from the President, not give him a free pass on news conferences.

UNFAIR TREATMENT OF FEDERAL  
POSTAL WORKERS IN AMERICAN  
SAMOA

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

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention an amendment that I proposed to H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2011, but unfortunately was not included for Floor consideration.

This proposed measure would amend the appropriate section of the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act of 2009, Subtitle B of Title XIX of Public Law 111-84, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, to allow otherwise eligible workers in American Samoa to be paid territorial cost of living adjustment (TCOLA) rates that match the now frozen TCOLA rates applying to Guam.

Madam Speaker, just a year ago, the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act (NAREAA) was signed into law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 or Public Law 111–84. In essence, COLA would be phased out and locality pay would be phased in over 3 years for all current and future Federal employees, regardless of whether or not they received COLA payments.

Before last year, American Samoa was the only non-foreign area in which Federal employees did not receive COLA. Notwithstanding that by law, Federal employees in the U.S. Territory of American Samoa were eligible to receive COLA payments, OPM decided not to create a separate non-foreign COLA-designated area for American Samoa.

This was especially frustrating given that American Samoa faces many of the same issues, driving higher prices for goods, services, and travel that face other territories in similar situations, and its seemed discriminatory that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has chosen not to provide COLA to Federal employees in American Samoa.

These were the concerns that I continued to raise with OPM over the years but to no avail until last year and I want to thank my good friend from Hawaii, Senator DANIEL AKAKA for his leadership and efforts on this issue. As a result of NAREAA, GS and white-collar Federal employees in American Samoa are now receiving locality-pay.

Madam Speaker, the enactment of Public Law 111–84 has made more glaring the discrepancy that continue to exist for USPS workers in American Samoa that were not receiving territorial cost of living adjustments (TCOLA) rates.

Only Postal Inspectors and employees of the Postal Service Office Inspector General in non-foreign areas are receiving locality pay like other federal employees in the non-foreign areas. The rest of the USPS employees would continue to receive TCOLA payments.

Unfortunately, USPS workers in American Samoa did not receive any adjustments called for under Public Law 111–84 as OPM has never designated American Samoa to receive TCOLA rates. Despite the fact that American Samoa by statute is eligible to receive TCOLA payments, OPM continues to deny American Samoa COLA-designation.

Now that COLA is being phased out and we are now in the 10th pay period since locality pay kicked in and COLA rates have been frozen, it is highly unlikely OPM would ever establish American Samoa as a COLA area because there is not more COLA per se and other GS and white-collar Federal employees in American Samoa are now receiving locality pay.

Therefore, the intent of my amendment is to give the USPS employees in American Samoa the same TCOLA treatment accorded to USPS employees in Guam.

Madam Speaker, as I have been saying throughout all these years, it seems unreasonable that OPM asserts that the cost of living in American Samoa is not high enough to justify payment of COLA when no survey has even been conducted in American Samoa. Especially, American Samoa is about 8,000 miles away from Washington, DC with unique economic challenges and issues.

Madam Speaker, while my amendment was not accepted by the U.S. House Committee on Rules, nevertheless, I will continue to pursue

a solution to this critical issue for the people of American Samoa. the people of American Samoa.

NETWORKS SHOULD HOLD ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the television news networks failed to hold the Obama administration accountable for its response to the Gulf Coast oil spill crisis, according to an analysis by the Media Research Center.

Out of 157 news stories during the 4 weeks after the disaster, 148—95 percent—featured no criticism of the administration whatsoever. Just nine had some scrutiny of the administration.

And just two of the stories—about 1 percent—focused on the administration's handling of the crisis.

The national media gave no such leeway to former President George W. Bush's handling of crises during his administration.

The networks should hold the Obama administration accountable, not give them a free pass.

IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH J. HOFFMAN SR., BELOVED GLOUCESTER COUNTY CLERK

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Joseph J. Hoffman Sr. of Franklinville, who died from pancreatic cancer in his home on May 13, 2010 at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Wanda, two sons, and six grandchildren. Mr. Hoffman's life made a lasting mark on the Gloucester County community.

Mr. Hoffman was a graduate of Clayton High School, where he was an avid member of the baseball team. His skills as third baseman for Clayton High School were recognized with his early induction into the Gloucester County Sports Hall of Fame. After high school, he had the opportunity to attend training camp for the Philadelphia Athletics minor league team, but turned it down to work on his family's three farms in Franklinville. He remained involved with community sports, playing for many semi-pro South Jersey baseball teams, and later becoming President of the Franklin Township Babe Ruth League.

After nine years as Township Clerk for Franklin Township, he was elected Gloucester County clerk in 1962. Mr. Hoffman served for a record forty-four years as Gloucester County Clerk. He was then successfully re-elected for seven consecutive five year terms, ending with his retirement in 1997. Not only was Mr. Hoffman involved with the local government, he also served 43 years on the board of Newfield National Bank, volunteered with the

Franklinville Fire Department, and served as General Chairman of fundraising for Underwood Memorial Hospital in Woodbury. In 1995, his achievements were recognized by the Boy Scouts of America when he received the Southern New Jersey Council Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizens Award. He also was rewarded the Public Service Award by the NAACP.

Madam Speaker, Joseph J. Hoffman Sr.'s commitment to Gloucester County and its citizens should not go unrecognized. I express my deepest condolences to his family for their loss and pay tribute to the memory of this outstanding individual.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF GARY S. ADAMS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary S. Adams as he is named by the Cleveland-Marshall Law School Association a 2010 Alumnus of the Year in recognition of his continued entrepreneurship, hard work and business achievement.

Mr. Adams grew up in the Cleveland area. As a graduate of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, he has consistently utilized his legal expertise to help support, promote and grow the auto industry throughout Greater Cleveland. In addition, he has maintained a special focus on locally owned dealerships, employees and customers.

For many years, Mr. Adams served as the President of the Greater Cleveland Auto Dealerships' Association and is now the President of the annual Cleveland Auto Show which draws tens of thousands of visitors every year. Mr. Adams is an expert in his field. He has an unparalleled knowledge of many aspects of the auto industry, including government policy, public relations and consumer rights. Moreover, Mr. Adams is known as man whose kindness, integrity and generosity match his competitive spirit.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of Gary S. Adams upon being named as a 2010 Alumnus of the Year by his alma mater, the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Adams' leadership, expertise, integrity and dedication to supporting the economic base of our community have made it a better place to live.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of the amendment by Representative MURPHY to repeal the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy.

The Don't Ask Don't Tell policy is discriminatory and it harms U.S. military readiness. Over the last 17 years, our nation has paid a heavy price for pursuing this policy. Since 1993, more than 13,000 qualified, well trained men and women have been dismissed from the military simply because of their sexual orientation. These are men and women we could ill afford to lose, especially at a time when our armed forces are engaged in two major military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This is why so many of this country's highest current and retired military leaders favor repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, including the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mullen. Admiral Mullen recently wrote, "No matter how I look at this issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens." Retired General Colin Powell and the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili also have urged repeal.

The argument has been made that repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell would negatively affect military unit cohesion. The evidence simply does not support this. Many other countries—including Britain, Canada and Israel—successfully allow gays and lesbians to serve openly. In any case, the Murphy amendment specifically states that repeal will take place only after the President and our nation's military leaders certify that the Department of Defense has prepared the necessary policies and regulations to implement repeal and that these policies are consistent with military standards for readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion, recruiting and retention.

---

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Chair, I rise today to clarify why I was unable to vote on Thursday, May 27 and Friday, May 28 in favor of the so-called Murphy Amendment and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, respectively. I would also like to reaffirm in the strongest possible terms my support for repealing the law known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which prohibits gay and lesbian service members from serving openly, as soon as possible.

As you know, Congressman PATRICK MURPHY's amendment, which passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 234-194, provides for a process to be set in place to implement the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell as soon as the Pentagon completes its review of

the issue and President Obama, Defense Secretary Gates, and Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, certify that repeal implementation will not negatively affect our military.

During the Rules Committee's meeting on Wednesday to consider amendments to the Defense Authorization bill, I openly declared my support for the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and for Congressman MURPHY's amendment.

Unfortunately, I had an official trip in my capacity as Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission) that was scheduled prior to the vote. The consideration of amendments to the Defense Authorization bill on the House floor was such that I was unable to vote. Had I been present and not on official travel, I would have voted in favor of the Murphy amendment's inclusion, as well as in favor of the final Defense Authorization bill.

I commend my colleagues, Congressman MURPHY, Senator LIEBERMAN, and Senator LEVIN, for their leadership on this repeal effort. As I have said time and again, Don't Ask, Don't Tell threatens our national security and costs us millions of dollars each year to kick out dedicated and highly-skilled service members because of their sexual orientation and to retrain new ones.

I am also heartened to hear that our colleagues in the Senate Armed Services Committee voted 16-12 to bring Senator LIEBERMAN's companion amendment to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell to the Senate floor along with the Defense Authorization bill for consideration.

It is indeed a historic day for our military, the American people, and our nation. What should have happened 17 years ago is now closer than ever before. By passing the Murphy amendment along with the Defense Authorization bill, the House of Representatives has pledged to fulfill its promise of upholding the values for which the United States stands by allowing gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military.

As we celebrate this victory, we are reminded of the long battle that has brought us to this point. I would be terribly remiss if I did not acknowledge the hard work and sacrifices of countless service members and veterans, many of whose lives have been negatively impacted by this bigoted law, as well as those military and policy leaders, advocacy organizations, and everyday Americans who have taken a stand against discrimination.

Madam Chair, I am eternally grateful to the brave men and women in our Armed Forces who protect this nation and the American people each and every single day and look forward to Don't Ask, Don't Tell being repealed once and for all.

---

ASSURING QUALITY CARE FOR VETERANS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5145, which will increase the reimbursement amount for Vet-

erans Administration, VA, health professionals who continue their professional education. It will also expand the VA's authority to offer education reimbursements by allowing all health professionals employed by the VA to qualify, including optometrists, nurses, chiropractors, and other vital health care providers who are currently ineligible. This important measure will ensure that the VA community has up-to-date training so that they can best treat our veterans who so selflessly serve our country.

I thank Chairman FILNER for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman MCNERNEY, for his dedication to ensuring that we offer our veterans the highest quality health care.

Madam Speaker, our brave men and women in uniform have assumed the responsibility of protecting us and the values that we cherish as American citizens. We, then, have a solemn obligation to provide them with the resources and services that they need. This includes the best available medical treatment for our veterans who return home wounded or with disabilities. With a new generation of veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, it is as important as ever that the VA medical staff is fully equipped to treat traumatic brain injuries, post traumatic stress syndrome, and other health complications that are increasingly prevalent due to the new threats of 21st century warfare.

As the representative of a district that is home to over 24,000 veterans and the VA Medical Center of Long Beach, I am sensitive to the health care needs of our servicemen and servicewomen returning home from overseas. These young men and women in uniform risk their lives on our behalf and ask little in return. The least we can do to repay their sacrifice is ensure that they have access to the most modern and effective treatments and a comprehensive array of services. This bill will do just that.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5145.

---

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF SOUTH KOREAN SEAMEN KILLED BY NORTH KOREA

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1382, expressing sympathy for the families of those killed by North Korea in the sinking of the Republic of Korea Ship *Cheonan*, and solidarity with the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of this tragic incident. I would like to thank Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA for introducing this resolution reaffirming our long-standing friendship with the people of South Korea.

Madam Speaker, South Korea has suffered a senseless and tragic loss due to a vicious attack from their northern neighbor. On May 20, 2010 a group of 74 experts, 50 from South Korea and 24 from the international community, published a report containing conclusive evidence that North Korea, in clear violation of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, sank

the Ship *Cheonan* without provocation. The *Cheonan* lost 46 of its 104 sailors in the attack, and the people of South Korea still mourn their loss.

The Republic of South Korea has been a steadfast ally to the United States for over 50 years, providing a vital foothold for security and stability in Asia; moreover, the United States is bound to South Korea through a shared belief in the values of democracy and the rule of law. We must not stand idly by while our allies overseas are attacked. Foreign aggression is a threat to international stability, and as such also threatens the security of the United States and its people. Secretary of State Clinton has already called out to the rest of the world, showing unwavering conviction that “we cannot allow this attack on South Korea to go unanswered by the international community.” Nor can we in the U.S. Congress remain silent.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to reaffirm the United States’ commitment to our alliance with the Republic of South Korea. We condemn in the strongest terms the actions of North Korea for their attack and demand a full apology for their aggression, along with a commitment to never again violate the terms of the Korean War Armistice Agreement. The United States must coordinate with our allies to take appropriate action in response to the hostility of the North Korean Government. We also strongly urge the international community to faithfully implement all United Nations Security Council Resolutions pertaining to security on the Korean Peninsula.

I support this resolution not only out of sympathy for our South Korean allies, but also because of the message it sends to potential aggressors abroad. It says we understand that stability around the world is necessary for security at home; it says that we will not remain silent in the face of violations of international treaties; it says that hostility towards peaceful democratic nations will not go unanswered. The safety of the people of the United States depends on our ability to work with the international community to stand by our allies and respond to aggressors.

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTHDAY  
OF ATATURK

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, As co-chair of the Turkish Study Group in the House, I was invited to a celebration of the birthday of Ataturk, revered as the father of modern Turkey. At the event 16 year old Selin Odabas-Geldiy was asked to speak about the occasion. This very poised young woman gave extremely articulate and pertinent remarks which I felt were worthy of being shared with a much larger audience and am including them here.

REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF ATATURK’S PROCLAMATION OF YOUTH AND SPORTS DAY IN TURKEY TO MEMORIALIZE THE START OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, SELIN ODABAS-GELDIY, MAY 20, 2010, HOME OF MIRAT AND HUDAI YAVALAR

It is a great honor for me to be here tonight and to speak about our great leader

Ataturk and the importance of May 19th. Ninety-one years ago yesterday, Ataturk took a very dangerous trip from Istanbul to Samsun, a city on the Black Sea. There he assumed command of the 9th Ottoman Army. This was a turning point for Turks as it represented the beginning of the Independence War. Because of the significance and the importance of that day, Ataturk dedicated this day to the Turkish youth as he had great confidence and trust in the ability of the Turkish youth to protect and continue the Turkish Republic he founded. I am one of those Turkish youth. When Ataturk spoke of the youth, he was not only referring to those young in age but also to those with open minds, ready to embrace and conquer new challenges.

For as long as I can remember, I have taken great pride in my Turkish heritage. Whenever I meet someone new, I always make a point of telling them that even though I was born in the United States, which I love, my roots are from Turkey. Even in my high school, if someone doesn’t know me personally, he or she will still know me as “the Turkish girl.” I have taken on this identity as a result of my upbringing and how my parents installed this pride in me by example. Ever since I was little, I have watched my parents say with joy, “I live in the United States, but I’m originally from Turkey.” This phrase soon became my own as I met new people. As I was growing up, I remember attending many birthday celebrations for Ataturk at the home of our hosts Mirat and Hudai Yavalar (since May 19th is also considered Ataturk’s birthday) and I thank them for also being good role models in teaching young people about Ataturk. Those are the only birthday parties I attended where the person whose birthday we are celebrating is missing in person. But I realize that Ataturk continues to live in our hearts and minds. How many leaders do you know who evoke such strong feelings of love and devotion in people’s hearts 72 years after they are gone? Not too many, I assure you.

As a child I attended Turkish school every Sunday. We would learn grammar, history, and music, but most of all we would be learning about Ataturk. His leadership and bravery as a military genius were always highlighted. His achievements as a statesman are unmatched. I do not know of any other nation that has gone through and embraced the kinds of reforms Ataturk introduced in Turkey. Creating a secular republic, giving women the right to vote and be elected, changing the alphabet to Latin letters almost overnight, changing the way people dress are just a few of the incredible reforms he promoted and established in Turkey.

As I mentioned earlier, May 19th is dedicated to young people, not only to those who are young in age, but also those who are young in mind, meaning open to learning new ideas and new things. I am happy to be celebrating this important day with all of you.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you tonight.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
CLEVELAND MAYOR FRANK  
JACKSON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Mayor Frank Jackson as he is

named by the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association as a 2010 Alumnus of the Year for his work and leadership on behalf of those who live and work in the City of Cleveland.

Mayor Jackson has lived in Cleveland his entire life, and today resides in the same neighborhood in which he grew up. He began his formal schooling in the Cleveland Public Schools. He moved on to Cuyahoga Community College, where he earned an associate’s degree. Subsequently, he earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Cleveland State University and later earned a law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Mayor Jackson was elected to the Cleveland City Council in 1989, where he led the charge to protect our most vulnerable citizens. Mayor Jackson is also a United States Veteran, having served our country in Vietnam with honor.

Mayor Jackson continues to work on issues such as jobs, the foreclosure crisis and affordable housing. He remains a public advocate for the homeless members of our society and he is the first Mayor to attend the annual Homeless Memorial Day event and other events organized by homeless citizens.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mayor Frank Jackson as he is being recognized by the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association for his tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Cleveland.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Chair, when the President announced his decision to repeal the current policy, known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” earlier this year, the military service chiefs and the Secretary of Defense requested the opportunity to carry out the President’s directive in an orderly manner that would assure the maintenance of discipline and morale in the Armed Forces. It was agreed to at that time, including by the President, that a survey would be sent to all the troops so that their input would be taken into account regarding how best to implement the new policy, and that a report with such recommendations as to how to best implement the new policy would be issued this December, before any legislative action was taken. I believe that process, which was agreed to by the President pursuant to the request of the service chiefs and the Secretary of Defense, should be followed.

Breaking the agreement now by having this vote is most unfortunate, and I strongly disagree with the decision of the President, the Speaker, and the majority leadership to break that agreement today.

THANKING RICK WEIDEMANN FOR  
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on May 25, 2010, we rise to thank Mr. Rick Weidemann for his 22 years of distinguished service to the U.S. House of Representatives. Rick has served this great institution as a valued employee of the Clerk of the House for 8 years and House Information Resources (HIR) in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for 14 years.

Rick began his career at the House with the Office of the Clerk in November 1987 as a Data Entry Clerk for the Finance Office. A year later he was promoted to the position of Senior Telecommunications Administrator with the Office of Telecommunications. In June of 1995, Rick joined HIR when the Office of Telecommunications was transferred to the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. During this time, Rick managed the landlines and wireless requirements of Members, committee, leadership and House support offices.

In recent years, Rick has handled the increased workload and challenges of the position brought on by the explosive growth and variety of personal digital assistants (PDAs) and Smart Phones.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Rick for his years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives.

**NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011**

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011," which provides \$726 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy.

I thank Chairman SKELTON for his masterful leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Chair, I support this bill for three reasons: (1) it restores and enhances the readiness of our troops, equipment, and defense infrastructure; (2) it takes care of our military personnel and their families; and (3) it authorizes the needed investments to keep our nation strong, safe, and respected in the world.

Let me briefly highlight some of the key provisions. This legislation:

**TROOP AND EQUIPMENT READINESS**

Provides \$1.2 billion for projects in Afghanistan to allow our commanders on the ground

to immediately respond to military construction needs in theater.

Authorizes \$13.6 billion for the training of all active duty and reserve forces to increase readiness as troops experience greater dwell time following the Iraq drawdown.

Authorizes \$345 million to fully fund the first increment of construction funds to modernize DOD schools.

Authorizes \$9.7 billion to fully fund day-to-day maintenance requirements of DOD facilities.

Provides a total of \$7.2 billion for the National Guard and Reserve, including \$700 million above the budget request.

**HELP FOR MILITARY FAMILIES**

Provides a 1.9 percent military pay raise.

Expands TRICARE health coverage to include adult dependent children up to age 26.

Increases family separation allowance for troops who are deployed away from their families.

Increases hostile fire and imminent danger pay for the first time since 2004.

Expands college loan repayment benefits.

Contains the most comprehensive provisions to address sexual assault in the military, including 28 recommendations of the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault.

Establishes a pilot program to help military spouses take advantage of their personal skill sets to identify and obtain desirable and portable careers.

Authorizes an additional special one-time payment to seriously wounded servicemembers to pay for the relocation costs of their caregivers.

**IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN**

Bans permanent bases in Iraq and prohibits U.S. control of Iraqi oil.

Requires report on responsible redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq, the development of military capabilities that are necessary for the Government of Iraq to stand on its own, and the status of nearly 1,000 projects, programs, and activities that will need to be closed or transferred over a short period of time as a result of the drawdown.

Bans permanent bases in Afghanistan.

Requires reports to assess progress toward security and stability in Afghanistan and the conditions and criteria that would need to permit the transition of lead security responsibility to the Afghan government, and allow the redeployment of U.S. forces from Afghanistan.

**HOMELAND SECURITY AND COUNTERRORISM**

Authorizes \$87.8 million for the Combating Terrorism Technical Support office.

Authorizes \$2.6 billion for Homeland Defense and counterproliferation activities, including \$1.6 billion for chemical biological defense.

Provides \$20 million for two cybersecurity new start programs.

Provides \$1.6 billion to support nations providing support in Iraq and Afghanistan in the fight against al Qaeda and the Pakistan Taliban.

Extends DOD's Pakistan Counterinsurgency Fund through FY11.

**RICHARDSON AMENDMENT #1**

Mr. Chair, in my remaining time let me discuss an additional reason why I support this legislation. With the support of Chairman SKELTON and his committee, this bill includes an amendment I offered which I will briefly describe.

My amendment, Richardson Amendment #1, improves the bill by instructing the TRANSPORTATION COMMAND (TRANSCOM) to update and expand the PORT LOOK 2008 Strategic Seaports study. This study remains a crucial tool to ensure that our ports are ready to respond in the case of an emergency. My amendment would expand the scope of the report to include consideration of the infrastructure in the vicinity of strategic ports, including bridges, roads, and rail capacity, in addition to the facilities inside the port that are already covered.

Mr. Chair, it bears repeating that in time of war, "the role of the ports is to protect the forts." If the transportation systems and infrastructure in and around our strategic ports is deficient, the ability of these ports to fulfill their indispensable national security role will be compromised. That cannot be allowed to happen. My amendment will ensure that we have the information needed to make the investments needed to keep our strategy the best in the world.

I thank the Rules Committee for making my amendment in order and Chairman SKELTON for accepting it.

**RICHARDSON AMENDMENT #2**

I also offered a second amendment, Richardson Amendment #2, to increase the effectiveness of the Northern Command ("NORTHCOM") in fulfilling its critical mission of protecting the U.S. homeland in event of war and in providing support to local, state, and federal authorities in times of national emergency. Specifically, my amendment would have ensured that NORTHCOM (1) develops and has in place a leadership strategy that will strengthen and foster institutional and interpersonal relationships with state and local governments and (2) develops an instructional program to train key personnel how to lead effectively in the event of a disaster when they do not have command authority to dictate actions.

The purpose for NORTHCOM is to bring the capabilities and the resources of the U.S. military to the assistance of the American people during a catastrophic disaster. NORTHCOM leaders will be much more effective in saving lives, protecting assets, and enhancing resilience after the disaster has occurred if they are trained in the techniques of effective engagement with civilian leadership. My amendment would have ensured that such training will be available. Although this amendment was not made in order by the Rules Committee, my present intention is to introduce this legislation as a separate bill when the House reconvenes next month.

**CONCLUSION**

Madam Speaker, let me express my thanks to Chairwoman SLAUGHTER of the Rules Committee for making the Richardson Amendment in order and to Chairman SKELTON for accepting it. I also want to acknowledge the yeoman work of the Committee staffs and the excellent work of my Legislative Director, Gregory Berry, and Jeremy Marcus, my Senior Legislative Assistant.

In conclusion, I support H.R. 5136 because it restores and enhances the readiness of our troops, equipment, and defense infrastructure. It takes care of our military personnel and their families. And it authorizes the needed investments to keep our Nation strong, safe, and respected in the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the bill on final passage.

HONORING THE 178TH FIGHTER  
WING**HON. STEVE AUSTRIA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, we are honored to recognize the contributions of the 178th Fighter Wing for their 60-plus years of service to our nation during their Hail and Farewell Ceremony on June 5, 2010.

The heritage of the 178th Fighter Wing and 162nd Fighter Squadron traces its roots back to the world famous 357th Fighter Group, the "Yoxford Boys" and the 362nd Fighter Squadron in England.

During World War II, the Wing's combat victories totaled over 695, a mark no other fighter unit anywhere has matched. Ever since, the 178th Fighter Wing has played an active role in air combat and support, training, security forces, engineering, medical, communications, aircraft maintenance, human resources and transportation in support of contingency operations around the world.

As the military's needs evolve with the emergence of new threats and advancing technology, the Base and Wing will be transitioning to new missions that will enable our military to meet the unique challenges of the 21st Century. It would have been impossible to imagine, during World War II, that planes conducting missions over nations half a world away would be piloted by the 178th Fighter Wing in Springfield, Ohio. It would be equally difficult to imagine then the quality and speed of the intelligence gathering process that will also take place in Springfield, through NASIC. We are confident the men and women of the 178th stand ready to meet future challenges and missions successfully, as they begin a new chapter in a proud legacy.

Thus, with great pride, we congratulate the men and women of the 178th Fighter Wing and their families for their exemplary service to this community and our country and extend best wishes to them for the future.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011. The bill authorizes \$726 billion for defense programs, global military operations and pay and benefits for active duty military personnel, veterans and their families. As Memorial Day approaches, we are reminded of the great debt we owe to our men and women in uniform. This bill continues our commitment to

them, to their civilian colleagues, and to their families for their support and sacrifice.

The welfare and safety of our troops and their families is a priority of this Congress. That is why this bill authorizes funding to support not only the healthcare programs that our military personnel and their families depend on, but also the funding to ensure that our troops have the equipment and support they need for their mission.

In addition to authorizing funding for training, transportation and equipment, the measure includes additional funding specifically targeted to protecting troops in harm's way. For those currently serving on the front lines in Afghanistan and Iraq at risk of injury from improvised explosive devices, the bill authorizes \$3.5 billion for counter measures, \$3.4 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, and almost \$1 billion to up-armored Humvees.

The sluggish economy places a special burden on the limited financial resources of military families. That is why the bill authorizes an average 1.9% pay increase for military personnel and establishes a career development pilot program for military spouses.

Healthcare for our troops and their families is a priority of this congress. The bill authorizes \$32.4 billion for defense health care programs. This includes a one-time authorization for cash payments to severely wounded combat veterans for attendant care, an extension of health care coverage to dependent children of Tricare Beneficiaries up to age 26, and \$524 million for medical research and development, including \$3 million in extra funds for research in alcohol and substance abuse disorders. For those suffering from mental health problems associated with multiple deployments and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, the bill also authorizes a 25% increase in the number of mental health providers for the military. According to the military, the number of military personnel who committed suicide in 2009, exceeded the number who died in combat in Afghanistan that year. This is a growing and silent killer that must be addressed.

I am pleased to report that the bill also authorizes \$2.5 million for the Bethesda Hospitals Emergency Preparedness Partnership which includes the Naval Bethesda Medical Center, the National Institute of Health Clinical Center, the National Library of Medicine, and Suburban Hospital, to develop plans and procedures to respond rapidly and successfully to any emergency situation in the Washington DC region. And, the measure also authorizes \$5 million for the Hydrodynamic Test Facilities at Carderock to replace the wavemaking equipment at the Carderock Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center. These authorizations will not only strengthen our national security, they will also help create and retain good paying jobs for Montgomery and Prince George's county residents.

And, finally, I support the repeal of the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. Since 1994, thousands of qualified and committed service members have been fired simply on the basis of their sexual orientation. At a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in February, Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, "I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy that forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens." And, General Colin Powell, changing his long held position

on Don't Ask Don't Tell recently said, "It's been a whole generation since the legislation was adopted, and there is increased acceptance of gays and lesbians in society. Attitudes and circumstances have changed."

We cannot afford to turn away dedicated, talented and committed soldiers just because they are gay. Though this change will not go into effect until the Pentagon completes an ongoing review due in December, and the president and secretary of defense certify that a repeal is consistent with the military's standards of readiness and effectiveness, the end of this discriminatory policy is finally in sight.

Madam Speaker, this bill authorizes much needed funding for vital programs that benefit our men and women in uniform, their civilian colleagues, our veterans and to their families. I urge its immediate passage.

IN HONOR OF DETECTIVE DONALD  
MALLOY**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Detective Donald Malloy as he celebrates retirement after nearly thirty years of excellent service to the City of Cleveland Police Department.

Detective Malloy was appointed to the force on August 7, 1981, and he began as a patrol officer in the 4th District. During his career, Detective Malloy completed the Ohio Fire Academy program, became a certified finger print examiner and worked in the Crime Scene Records division. He spent the majority of his career in the Financial Crimes Unit, investigating and assisting in the arrests of numerous perpetrators.

Detective Malloy has been honored with commendation for his service, including awards from the City of Shaker Heights, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and the former Mayor of Cleveland, Mike White.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Cleveland Police Detective Donald Malloy, whose dedication, expertise and concern for the people of the City of Cleveland has helped to protect our community. We are grateful for his service. I wish Detective Malloy, his family and friends health and happiness.

CONGRATULATING GREATER  
MOUNT ZION CHURCH**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on June 12, 2010 the Greater Mount Zion Church in Brazoria, Texas will observe the Grand Opening and Church Dedication of their new worship facility. Greater Mount Zion Church is one of the fastest growing churches in Southern Brazoria County, having quadrupled their active membership and attendance since 2005. Greater Mount Zion services Southern Brazoria County with over 40 ministries, including several ministries aimed at serving children, teenagers, and young adults.

In 2005, in order to better serve the people of Brazoria County, the Greater Mount Zion (GMZ) Education and Development Center was created. The GMZ Education and Development Center has implemented a number of programs focusing on areas such as academics, employment, financial management, family stability, and civic involvement.

Greater Mount Zion's newly finished facility will facilitate in continuing partnerships, as well as creating opportunities for new partnerships, with other churches, faith-based groups, schools, community organizations and businesses, thus allowing Greater Mount Zion and GMZ Education and Development Center to better serve their community. While Greater Mount Zion's prior facility consisted of a sanctuary that seated 130 individuals, three classrooms, and a multi-purpose building with a half-gym, the new campus includes a sanctuary which seats approximately 500 individuals, 10 classrooms, and a multi-purpose building with a full gym. The new campus will allow more individuals and organizations to use the facility for academic and other programs that help the residents of Brazoria find employment, achieve financial success, and attain their other personal and professional goals.

Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate the staff and congregation of Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church on the opening of their new facility and I thank them for all they have done for the people of Brazoria County.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5136 the Fiscal Year 2011 Defense Authorization Appropriations Act.

It is fitting that we are considering this bill on the Friday before Memorial Day. In my state of North Carolina, patriotism never went out of style. We were patriotic before patriotism was cool. With Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, other bases and our Guard and Reserve, units in my district, America's service members are our friends and neighbors, sons and daughters. We swell with pride at the work being done by our service members in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. As we pray for their safe and speedy return, we also remember those veterans who came before them, who served their country and protected our freedom throughout history. I am proud every single day, not only on Memorial Day.

Mr. Chair, this bill recognizes the service of our men and women in uniform, and gives our troops the resources they need. It provides \$567 billion to the Department of Defense and Department of Energy, and commits \$139 billion for today's active operations. In terms of future security, the bill strengthens our

counterterrorism efforts, providing our military with the additional tools they need to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda and its extremist allies. Of particular importance to Fort Bragg, which houses the Special Operations Command, it enhances our capacity to directly act against terrorist forces. It also brings warfare into the information age by integrating cybersecurity protection with the protection of physical security.

H.R. 5136 strengthens protection for our troops at home and abroad, and increases support for our soldiers and their families. It honors our covenant with the Guard and Reserve by raising their pay and by investing in new equipment. It strengthens our compact with the citizen soldier, so that when Guard and Reserve are called to active duty that they have the equipment and training they need to be effective.

The bill contains an amendment that I offered with Congressman LARRY KISSELL and Congressman SANFORD BISHOP that reinforces the pact between the communities that host the military bases and the Department of Defense. The change confirms Congress' commitment to the quality of life of America's soldiers, officers, civilians and their families. While the Office of Economic Adjustment in the Department of Defense is tasked with providing technical and financial assistance to communities affected by Defense adjustments, there are often community needs that cannot be financed in a timely manner with local resources. Our amendment makes sure that Office now has the full authority required to fulfill its mission. The Department now has clear authority to roll up its sleeves, so the Department can help out while the changes are happening. I appreciate Chairman SKELTON's willingness to accept this amendment, and I hope that we can work together to fund those needs.

Mr. Chair, the members of our armed forces give so much to our country. Whatever we ask, even for the ultimate sacrifice, we know will be given. On the eve of our Memorial Day observation, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on this bill, ensuring that our military is fully prepared for threats and challenges worldwide and that our troops get the benefits they deserve and have earned.

#### CONGRATULATING THE BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH FOR 59 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

#### HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Bethel A.M.E. Church for 59 years of outstanding community service.

Organizations such as Bethel A.M.E. strengthen communities through faith and selfless charity. From the Church's humble beginnings to the present day, those involved with Bethel A.M.E. have shown steadfast dedication to their surrounding community and have worked diligently to improve the lives of those less fortunate Americans.

Once again, congratulations to Bethel A.M.E. Church on its 59th anniversary. The

Church has truly been a force of good in Barstow and I look forward to its continued growth and progress in advancing goodwill throughout California's 25th District.

IN HONOR OF COMMANDER  
DEBORAH WASHINGTON

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Commander Deborah Washington as she celebrates retirement after nearly thirty years of exemplary service to the City of Cleveland Police Department.

Commander Washington started as a patrol officer in the 3rd, 4th and 5th districts after she was appointed to the force on June 1, 1981. She worked in the Juvenile/Gang Unit, Complaint Unit, Community Relations Division and the Financial Crimes Unit. On April 30th, 1999, Deborah Washington was appointed to the position of Commander of the City of Cleveland 5th District.

Commander Washington has been honored with numerous awards for her service, including commendations from Playhouse Square, Aftercare Residential Center, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, the United States Secret Service and Judge Ronald Adrine's office.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of Commander Deborah A. Washington, whose service and leadership has helped protect the citizens of our community. She has helped keep our streets safe and strengthened the bonds of unity within the Cleveland Police Department. I wish Commander Washington, her family and friends health and happiness.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
JULIANNA MARIE PETRONE

#### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual in our community, Julianna Marie Petrone.

Julie's dedication to serving veterans and active duty military personnel was evident when she first began her career in the federal service at my Congressional District Office in 2002. Julie served the veterans and military personnel of New York's 2nd Congressional District with such passion and determination that she gave new meaning to the phrase "above and beyond the call of duty." Julie has worked tirelessly to ensure that these veterans and military personnel have received their medals and benefits with the dignity and justice they deserve.

Julie is now taking her call to serve our nation to the highest level. On Sunday May 30, 2010, Julie will be commissioned as 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and will be serving at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base following Officers Training.

Julie has touched the lives of veterans on Long Island, and now she will touch the lives

of the citizens of our entire nation as she steps into her new leadership role as 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

I congratulate Julie upon her tremendous achievements and wish her the best in her next step of service.

---

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chair, it is with great appreciation that I rise in support of provisions contained within H.R. 5136, the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, relating to the procurement of steel armor plate and the definition of the term "produced."

Recently, the Department of Defense has implemented a regulation that allows the use of steel armor plate that is melted in foreign countries to be used in various defense applications, and I want to thank Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCKEON for including language that specifies that this type of steel must be melted in the United States.

I was informed of the urgency of this issue during a Steel Caucus hearing in March of this year, when we discussed that a Department of Defense regulation now merely requires the finishing processes of armor plate manufacturing to take place domestically, which is contrary to over thirty-five years of precedent requiring melting processes to occur in the United States. After this hearing, Rep. TIM MURPHY and I spearheaded a Steel Caucus letter to Secretary of Defense Gates, with 35 other Members of the Caucus signing the letter, which urged him to fully examine the implications of this regulation.

Steel armor plate plays a vital role in the protection of our troops and the defense of our nation, and the Specialty Metals Amendment, as originally included under the Berry Amendment in 1973, aims to ensure that American steel is used to protect our troops. The regulation amends the definition of produced under the Specialty Metals Amendment, and I am thoroughly concerned that this threatens the safety of our troops and the defense of our nation. Steel armor plate is used in Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles and MRAP All-Terrain Vehicles, and we must do everything possible to ensure that American made material is used in the production of these vehicles.

I understand that the House Armed Services Committee has closely followed this situation and has included report language in the past cautioning the Department of Defense on the implications of this regulation, and I applaud your continued efforts today on remedying this situation and protecting our national security and the American industrial base.

RECOGNITION OF SANDRA GARDEBRING OGREN

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate a dedicated public servant and friend, Sandra Gardebring Ogren.

Sandee has served California Polytechnic (Cal Poly) State University remarkably as the Vice President for University Advancement. Drawing upon her long record of distinguished public service, Sandee's leadership has contributed to the university's national recognition as an institute of higher education and excellence. Her tireless efforts have helped the university continue to flourish as an invaluable source of innovation and graduates of the highest academic level.

Prior to her work at Cal Poly, Sandee served as Vice President for University Relations at the University of Minnesota for six years. From 1991 to 1998 she was a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court and for two years previously she was a member of the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Additionally, she has held a variety of other public sector jobs including Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5 Enforcement Division.

Clearly, I could talk all day about the extraordinary accomplishments of Sandee and her work in the areas of the law, the environment, human services, transportation, and education, just to name a few. I am honored to work with her and proud to call her my friend.

---

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chair, I am proud to have joined with my friend from Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, in introducing this amendment which will provide our servicemembers that are affected by Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) with access to cutting-edge treatments. As we all know, TBIs have become the "signature wound" of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Record numbers of troops return to American soil in need of treatment and rehabilitation. While the Department of Defense has been a leader in providing treatment to our wounded warriors, it has been slow to embrace innovative treatments, such as Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.

This amendment would establish a five-year "pay for performance" innovative treatment pilot program. The pilot program would allow healthcare providers outside of the Department of Defense to treat active duty military personnel and veterans with cutting-edge TBI treatments not offered at military medical facilities. The private healthcare providers would only receive reimbursement from the Department of Defense if the treatment was proven to be successful. Servicemembers and veterans who voluntarily opt into this program would do so at no cost.

I see this amendment as a win-win. Not only will our troops receive access to innovative therapies, but it encourages the private sector to invest in new and inventive treatments for TBI. The amendment also requires the Department of Defense to maintain a database to track the effectiveness of such treatments. It is my hope that after the conclusion of this five-year pilot, the Department of Defense will begin providing proven therapies at military medical facilities.

Our men and women in uniform deserve the best treatments available. This common-sense amendment would help to expand access to new therapies in a fiscally responsible way. I encourage all of my colleagues to join with me to support this amendment.

---

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEOFF DAVIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 27, 2010, I was unable to participate in all of the day's votes due to a family emergency. Had I been present I would have voted: on rollcall No. 306—No—H. Con. Res. 282, Providing for adjournment or recess of the two Houses; on rollcall No. 307—No—H. Res. 1404, Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011; on rollcall No. 308—Yes—H. Res. 1161, Honoring the Centennial Celebration of Women at Marquette University, the first Catholic university in the world to offer coeducation as part of its regular undergraduate program; on rollcall No. 309—Yes—H. Res. 1372, Honoring the University of Georgia Graduate School on the occasion of its centennial; on rollcall No. 310—Yes—Skelton of Missouri Amendment No. 1; on rollcall No. 311—Yes—Marshall of Georgia Amendment No. 4; on rollcall No. 312—Yes—McGovern of Massachusetts Amendment No. 13; on rollcall No. 313—Yes—Inslee of Washington Amendment No. 82; on rollcall No. 314—Yes—Gutierrez of Illinois Amendment No. 21; on rollcall No. 315—No—Eshoo of California Amendment No. 42; on rollcall No. 316—No—Pingree of Maine Amendment No. 80; on rollcall No. 317—No—Patrick Murphy of Pennsylvania Amendment No. 79; on rollcall No. 318—No—Sarbanes of Maryland Amendment No. 47.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011. This legislation authorizes \$725.9 billion for defense programs this year, including \$159.3 billion specifically for the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the so-called "war on terror." Once again, the House of Representatives easily approves billions of dollars for war, while a bill that would provide genuine assistance to our constituents gets watered down by the demagoguery of fiscal responsibility.

Our national security is not preserved or furthered through the military occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. Our presence in the region continues to foment resentment toward us and undermines the human rights of the Iraqi and Afghani people. To date, more than 4,000 U.S. servicemembers have lost their lives in Iraq, and more than 31,000 have been wounded. As the number of troops in Afghanistan surpasses the number in Iraq, over one thousand U.S. troops have been killed thus far. With the continuation of the wars, we are creating a new generation of Americans that will experience the trauma of war, like Vietnam veterans before them.

According to the United Nations, air strikes continue to be the leading cause of civilian deaths in Afghanistan, despite the Administration's claims that avoiding civilian casualties is a cornerstone of the Afghan strategy. Innocent Afghans are killed, detained or threatened in frequent night raids conducted by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces, while Afghan President Hamid Karzai buys million-dollar villas in Dubai. This bill also authorizes \$4.9 billion for ammunition and weapons systems, including for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles—or drones—that conduct indiscriminate attacks against suspected militants in Pakistan. According to a study conducted by the New America Foundation, three civilians die for every suspected militant killed by a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) drone in Pakistan.

I am also concerned about a number of the amendments adopted in the bill that I believe have no place in a bill that is intended to address our national security. Language addressing sex-offenders and language that has considerable implications on our foreign policy was included as part of an en bloc amendment that addressed a significant gap in the health care services provided to our veterans pre and post-deployment. An amendment was also adopted that would allow the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to conduct defense-related pilot programs with the Department of Defense (DOD). I have fought for years to keep NASA separate from DOD in order to preserve NASA's mission integrity and therefore, longevity.

While I oppose the underlying bill, I supported an amendment that would lead to the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) military policy. For the past 17 years, DADT has forced our service men and women to hide who they are as they selflessly sacrificed their lives for our country. The amendment would repeal DADT following the receipt of recommendations from a Pentagon working group tasked with formulating the implementation of the repeal and certification from the President and Secretary of Defense that the Department of Defense is prepared to implement its repeal.

Since the implementation of this discriminatory and misguided policy in 1993, almost 14,000 service members have been fired because of their sexual orientation. The United States is well behind many of our allies in allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. Policies, like DADT, that create an atmosphere of fear and mistrust among colleagues serving side-by-side have no place in the military. I applaud the repeal of DADT and believe it is a significant step toward ensuring equality in our military and securing rights for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

I urge my colleagues to reflect on the policies and fiscal implications included in this legislation. As the country struggles to pull itself out of one of the worst economic recessions in history, we must commit to our priorities here at home—protecting our environment, keeping people in their homes, and getting people back to work.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose out of control war and defense spending. This bill (H.R. 5136) would authorize a record \$726 billion for defense. Congress refuses to find money to maintain COBRA premium assistance for jobless workers, but somehow we can afford yet another increase to our already bloated defense budget.

We should recognize that this legislation would fix a long-standing injustice by creating a path for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." I was proud to vote for the Murphy Amendment and I look forward to the day when LGBT Americans enjoy equal rights in all facets of society, including marriage. Although I strongly support the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," I cannot vote for this legislation.

The waste in this bill is shameful. It includes \$361.6 million more than the Pentagon wants for a missile defense program that doesn't work, and \$485 million in funding for another engine for a fighter jet that already has a working engine. I offered an amendment that

would have cut the extra funding for missile defense, but it was not allowed to come to the floor for a vote. An amendment to strike money for a duplicative engine that the Pentagon doesn't want or need was also defeated.

Congress needs to get our priorities in order. We should be working to create jobs and assisting those impacted by the recession, not continue runaway defense spending. I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this wasteful bill.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 27, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 312.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2011, though I have concerns about certain provisions that have been included in the bill.

While I strongly support many aspects of the bill, I am concerned about the inclusion of language to overturn the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Earlier this year, the Secretary of Defense ordered a study of the issue of repealing "Don't Ask Don't Tell." He said that while he believes it should be repealed, he first wanted to gather input from the troops before moving forward with repeal. I agree with the approach of Secretary Gates. I also agree with our military's service chiefs, including Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, who said we should complete the Secretary's review before passing legislation to repeal "Don't Ask Don't Tell." I believe we should follow the lead of our military leaders. That means following the process we set up earlier this year to gather input from our troops and study the effect of repeal on our military forces. That is the best way to make sure our troops have their views heard, and that the right decision is made for the men and women in our armed forces.

While I voted against the amendment to end the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, I will be voting in favor of final passage of the 2011 NDAA. I believe that it is vitally important that Congress enact its yearly Defense Department authorization bill in a timely matter. This legislation helps to set military policy and any delay

in its enactment will have a negative effect on the department's ability to effectively and efficiently make decisions to execute that policy.

This bill also includes an important pay increase for our soldiers, authorizes funding for badly needed equipment for our Guard and Reserve and includes my amendment to continue the Joint Family Support Assistance Program. Additionally, the bill authorizes important military construction projects in North Dakota including nearly \$19 million to construct a new Air Traffic Control Complex at Minot Air Force Base, \$11.2 million to renovate and expand the Readiness Center at Camp Grafton and \$500,000 to begin planning and design of a Central Deployment Center at the Grand Forks Air Force Base. These programs must be authorized so that the DoD can put these important initiatives in place. My vote in favor of this bill is a vote to move the important process of authorizing the activities of the Defense Department forward in a timely manner and a vote in support of our soldiers.

APPLAUDING THE MACOUPIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE'S INCLUSION AS ONE OF THE "150 GREAT PLACES IN ILLINOIS"

### HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride to applaud the Macoupin County Courthouse and its inclusion as one of the "150 Great Places In Illinois" as determined by the American Institute of Architects as part of its 150th anniversary celebration. This remarkable courthouse in the City of Carlinville has long had great historical significance. It was built to replace the courthouse where a persuasive attorney named Abraham Lincoln once practiced law, and since its completion it has stood as a central part of the county and local community.

Completed in 1870, the courthouse was designed by Elijah E. Myers, who later designed numerous state capitols. This extraordinary building resembles the Corinthian order with its impressive portico on the north side and south elevation. The large dome, classical detailing and use of native limestone all add to the building's splendor. At the time of its completion, this courthouse was among the largest county courthouses in the United States, rivaled in size only by the one in New York City. Within Illinois it became an impressive symbol of grandeur, as it even outsized the Illinois Statehouse in the Springfield Capital.

Along with its aesthetic appeal, the building also garnered praise for being technologically advanced. The Macoupin County Courthouse was designed and constructed to be nearly fireproof—a characteristic not at all common among structures of the day. Stone, brick and metal were used almost exclusively, with wood used only sparingly. The painted sheet metal was magnificently detailed, and some of the major doors were constructed from cast iron. The ornate design, materials and construction resulted in a cost of over \$1.3 million dollars once completed, roughly \$19 million by today's standards.

The Macoupin County Courthouse still serves as the seat of the county government

143 years later, which demonstrates the enduring impact and quality of the structure. With its inclusion as one of the "150 Great Places In Illinois," the Macoupin County Courthouse joins other significant landmarks such as the State Capital and the homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in Oak Park. I applaud the American Institute of Architects for including the Macoupin County Courthouse and recognize that it will continue to be a proud symbol of Illinois achievement and magnificence for generations to come. I thank the Speaker for allowing me to share this moment of joy stemming from the 17th Congressional District of Illinois.

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

### HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this important amendment and I thank my friend from New Jersey, BILL PASCRELL, for allowing me to work with him on this issue. The Department of Defense and the RAND Corporation have recently estimated that 20 percent of our military personnel who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan have suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

Because symptoms of TBI often go unnoticed, at least initially, it is difficult to know exactly how many troops are living with this disability. If not diagnosed early on, TBIs can lead to memory loss, severe headache disorders, and alcohol and drug abuse.

Neurocognitive assessment has been proven to be an effective tool in detecting and measuring the severity of TBI. This is why the fiscal year 2008 National Defense Authorization required the Department of Defense to screen ALL military personnel for TBI both before and after deployment. Post-deployment screenings are to be compared with pre-deployment (or baseline) assessments to determine whether or not the servicemember is suffering from a TBI.

Unfortunately, too many of our men and women returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are still not being screened for TBI. Servicemembers that have been screened post-deployment are currently given a self-assessment checklist, in which the results are not even comparable to their pre-deployment neurocognitive screenings. Not to mention that because the checklist is self-administered, the results are typically inaccurate since these troops either do not realize or do not want to admit that they are living with a TBI.

I am pleased that this year's Defense Authorization includes language requiring the Department of Defense to implement a comprehensive screening and assessment policy by the end of 2011. However, until this policy is fully implemented, thousands of our men and women in uniform are returning from com-

bat without the necessary screenings to ensure that they receive proper treatment.

This amendment, which I am proud of to have introduced with Congressmen PASCRELL, ANDREWS, COLE, ORTIZ, COFFMAN and JOE WILSON, will ensure that until the Department of Defense has put in place a comprehensive screening policy, all of our military personnel will receive neurocognitive assessments both before and after deployment. The amendment requires that the same neurocognitive tool used for pre-deployment assessment also be used for post-deployment evaluation. Using the same test allows physicians to compare the baseline screening with the post-deployment results to determine whether a TBI does in fact exist. The current system of using different tools for pre and post deployment screenings is like comparing apples to oranges. It is essential that our men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect us every day receive immediate and appropriate care.

Though TBIs are difficult to detect because no one symptom exists, it is imperative that the Department of Defense take every possible measure to diagnose and treat our troops affected by TBI. This is why I strongly support this amendment and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

### MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, as Memorial Day approaches, it is important we each take a moment to pay tribute to the generations of Americans who have given their lives so that we may enjoy the rights and freedoms we hold so dear. It is important to remember and honor those who have served us and have given the ultimate sacrifice.

As the daughter of a veteran of the Korean War, I had the privilege of knowing firsthand the pride commanded through military service by those who served and the families who supported them. As a member of Congress, it has been my honor to work to provide those who have served our Nation with benefits reflective of their service.

This Memorial Day, each of us can express our gratitude with a simple yet powerful act of tribute. Americans are asked to pause at 3 p.m. for a National Moment of Remembrance. Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, stop for just one minute. Consider all the rights and liberties that are guaranteed to us as Americans, but withheld from so many others around the world. Consider the members of the armed forces who served, fought and died so that our great Nation can be strong and we can live with liberty and security.

### TRIBUTE TO RETIRING EDUCATORS

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sandra Resnick, Marta

Kinsberg, Ruth Sondik, and Sue Faiman for their distinguished careers as educators. The students, faculty, and parents of Taylor Mills School owe them a great debt of gratitude for their commitment to child development and educational excellence.

We all remember a favorite teacher who inspired us to strive to reach our full potential. While Taylor Mills School community will miss the many years of knowledge and experience these devoted teachers will take with them, their personal influence on thousands of children will be their lasting legacy.

On a personal note, I am delighted that Sandra Resnick's retirement will allow her to spend even more time nurturing the grandchildren we share, who, as she knows, are perfect.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these wonderful teachers on their retirement and thanking them for their many years of commitment and hard work.

---

#### PROTECT CAMP ASHRAF

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS—

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I am very concerned about the safety and security of the 3,400 members of the main Iranian opposition who are residing in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. The United States Government signed an agreement with each and every individual in that Camp to protect them against potential attacks and mistreatment from Iran or its proxies in Iraq. In return for that promise to protect them, residents of Camp Ashraf voluntarily turned over all their weapons in 2003 to the our military. U.S. Military Forces took on full protection of the camp in 2003, and continued to closely monitor it from their base in FOB Grizzly in Ashraf, beginning in 2009. I am concerned for their continued safety as the United States prepares to rapidly leave Iraq.

America has a moral and legal obligation towards the residents of Camp Ashraf. They are vulnerable to persecution by Tehran's proxies. In addition, many family members of Camp Ashraf residents have been sentenced to death in recent weeks in Iran. I have met with many family members of Camp Ashraf who live in the United States, including in New York State, and they are very committed and dedicated individuals who seek not aid but only the safety and security of their loved ones. Many of the Camp Ashraf residents spent years in Iranian prisons and underwent torture and mistreatment by Tehran's henchmen before they managed to leave Iran and take up residence in Camp Ashraf. Many student leaders, academics, teachers, and intellectuals who were threatened with arrest and execution by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Ministry of Intelligence made their way to Camp Ashraf. They are a major source of encouragement for the democracy movement in Iran.

Given the current instability in Iraq, and given the fact that the Maliki Government has stated that it intends to forcibly displace and/or expel the Camp residents, which would certainly lead to further bloodshed, I believe we should be doubly alert about the safety and security of Camp Ashraf's residents. I want to

urge President Obama, and Secretary Clinton to make sure that we live up to our moral obligations. I do not want to see a situation a few months from now, in which we would find ourselves investigating the U.S. role in failing to protect these people.

---

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. FARR. Madam Chair, when we pass the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, we take a historic step to restore equality in the ranks of our military by voting to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell.

Looking back in our history, social change occurred because of leadership. President Obama, our military leaders and gay Americans have shown leadership to overturn this discriminatory policy. Comparable to the leadership shown by President Truman in 1948 when he issued Executive Order 9981 that ordered the integration of the armed forces, we can be proud that the civil rights of all Americans who want to serve in our All Volunteer Forces is preserved. During its 17 year history, DADT has discharged far too many highly qualified and trained Arab linguists, doctors and mission critical specialists in every field and in every service who simply wanted to serve their country. For the last 17 years I been a Member of Congress who has fought to overturn this policy that has prohibited openly gay men and women from serving in the military.

Madam Chair, as we move forward in the legislative process, you may be assured of my continued strong support for repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell.

---

#### RECOGNIZING THE DOBSON HIGH WIND SYMPHONY AND JAZZ BIG BAND, SELECTED FOR THE 2010 SHANGHAI WORLD MUSIC EXPO FESTIVAL

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mesa Arizona's Dobson High Wind Symphony and Jazz Big Band, which will represent our state at the 2010 Shanghai World Music Expo Festival in China. I wish to convey my pride and that of all Arizonans in the efforts of these talented and dedicated students, and thank the Dobson faculty and community for its remarkable support.

As a former teacher, I believe very strongly that participation in the arts, especially on such a global scale, leads to cultural enrich-

ment and enhances education and learning across all subjects. This opportunity to perform on a world stage, and the subsequent rush of community support to make this trip possible, is a well-earned reward for the hard work and commitment of the Dobson High Wind Symphony and Jazz Big Band and its supporters. To make this trip possible, band members raised \$3,000 apiece to pay for travel expenses. I believe in the old saying, "it is hard to be successful unless a lot of other people want you to be." So I also applaud all the parents and community members who helped in this effort as well.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Dobson High Wind Symphony and Jazz Big Band as they represent the State of Arizona at the 2010 Shanghai World Music Expo Festival in China. I wish the band all the best during their performance in China and I am confident they will use this trip as an opportunity to learn about a new culture and positively represent our state and country within the global community. I know they will make us all proud.

---

#### CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNUAL MANTUA KIDS CARE CLUB RACCOON RUN

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th Anniversary of the Mantua Kids Care Club Raccoon Run. Each year, hundreds of participants and spectators come together for this race to promote charitable action and to celebrate the spirit that makes Mantua the vibrant community that it is today.

The Raccoon Run began in 2000 as a community endeavor to raise funds for Mantua school families in need. Conceptualized by Joyce Montgomery, the initial name was the "Rocket Run" but was changed to Raccoon Run in honor of the Mantua Elementary School mascot. The Mantua Kids Care Club embraced the idea, and became an early supporter of the race.

When 5th grade teacher Roberta Romano was diagnosed with cancer, the race was restructured to benefit a single cause: Life with Cancer. Life with Cancer is a program administered by the INOVA Health System that provides critical support to caregivers and those afflicted with cancer.

Every year on Mother's Day weekend, we come together to honor the memory of Roberta Romano and to support a worthy cause. In the ten years since the race's inception, the Raccoon Run has raised nearly \$100,000.00 and has benefited countless Northern Virginians. As a resident of Mantua, the former president of the Mantua Civic Association, and most importantly, the father of a Mantua Elementary School graduate, I am grateful for the strong sense of community exemplified by this annual event.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding the efforts of the Mantua community and in thanking all those who have supported this worthwhile cause. Events like the Raccoon Run are the fabric of a true community and of our society at large.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, as we prepare to observe Memorial Day, the House passed a measure that makes a significant investment in our armed forces. In addition to much-needed additions in equipment, mental health care, and health services, the FY 2011 Defense Authorization Act includes a significant step forward for human rights. I am proud to say that this Congress has taken action to end the outrageous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. By the end of 2010, it is my hope that all members of our armed forces will be able to serve our nation proudly and openly.

I am also pleased that the Committee has taken my request for additional environmental cleanup funding seriously. This bill provides \$20 million over the President's request, which is a small, but important first step. Our nation has tens of millions of acres of land that are contaminated with toxins and munitions left over from military training. Much of this now serves as parks, housing, or business development where Americans work and play every day. Yet the last of these sites won't be cleaned for another 250 years. It was my hope to include a provision, which I submitted to the Rules Committee as an amendment with Representatives BROWN-WAITE and FARR, to require that the military notify families and businesses living and operating on these sites. I am disappointed that this simple and common-sense amendment was not made in order, and it is my intention to offer it as a stand-alone bill. Americans have a right to know.

The continuous commitment to the escalation in Afghanistan concerns me greatly. The money and effort is misplaced and ultimately ineffectual. I am also disappointed that the House voted to preserve funding for the extra engine program for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. I have opposed this program for years, as have President Obama, Secretary Gates, the Army, Navy, and Marines. This is a sad reminder of how parochial interests can overwhelm good policy, and I will work with my colleagues to remove this funding in conference with the Senate.

I also look forward to working with my colleagues to clarify the Department's role with respect to the siting of wind energy projects, and to clarify the bidding process with regards to the Army's M915 truck.

No bill is ever perfect, and I will work to refine and strengthen this legislation through the conference process.

## TRIBUTE TO VIOLA DUVALL STEWART

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an unsung civil rights pioneer and educational justice advocate. Mrs. Viola Duvall Stewart, who is currently 90 years old, filed the first lawsuit in 1945, seeking equal pay for African American teachers in South Carolina.

Viola Louise Duvall was born the only child of Vincent and Pearl Duvall in Charleston, South Carolina on June 30, 1919. She was named for two of her mother's sisters who died in the Spanish flu pandemic of that era. After her mother and Vincent Duvall were divorced, she married Coleman Wheeler and Viola gained two sisters, Angela and Ruby.

Viola graduated as salutatorian from Conception High School in 1937. That fall she enrolled in Howard University from which she earned a Bachelors of Science degree in chemistry in 1941.

In 1944, Viola Duvall was in her third year teaching science at Burke High School in her hometown of Charleston making just \$12 a week. She was recruited by the South Carolina NAACP to be the plaintiff in a case to equalize teachers' salaries in the State. Due to the intimidation and fear of losing their job, many teachers refused to participate in the lawsuit. Ms. Duvall was shunned by her fellow teachers and neighbors, who were fearful to associate with her for the public stand she was taking.

The case went to trial in April 1944. Ms. Duvall was represented by NAACP Chief Counsel Thurgood Marshall, who was nervous about being in South Carolina for the first time. The judge on the case was U.S. District Court Judge J. Waites Waring, a member of an old Charleston family.

The case didn't have an auspicious beginning when Judge Waring asked the School Board attorneys for the date of the Donald Murray case in Maryland. Mr. Marshall jumped up to respond and was dismissed by the judge. The same line of questioning continued, each time Mr. Marshall knew the response because he had been the attorney on all the cases in question, but the judge would not allow him to speak. The packed audience began to whisper because they feared Judge Waring would not give Ms. Duvall and her distinguished attorney an opportunity to be heard. And they were right.

Without giving the plaintiff the chance to present her case, Judge Waring turned to Mr. Marshall after he ended his questioning of the School Board attorneys and apologized for seeming rude. It is reported he said, "This is a very simple case, but what I wanted to find out from the School Board was how long it knew it was supposed to pay Negro teachers equal salaries and hadn't paid it. There's no need to take the court's time on this." In less than 15 minutes, without either side making an argument, the case was decided in favor of the plaintiff, Viola Duvall.

As a result of Ms. Duvall's determination and sense of justice, it took just a matter of months to ensure all of South Carolina's 6,000 black teachers received the same pay as their

white counterparts. However, she didn't remain in South Carolina long to enjoy the fruits of her labor.

Ms. Duvall met her future husband, Nathaniel C. Stewart, a second lieutenant with the Tuskegee Airmen on a blind date in 1945, when he was stationed in Walterboro, South Carolina. They were married on August 14, 1945, and later that year moved to his hometown of Philadelphia so he could attend pharmacy school. He graduated and went onto become the first African American department head at Philadelphia General Hospital as the director of pharmacy services.

Mrs. Stewart took a break from teaching to focus on her family. She did return to the classroom in 1964, as an intenerate special education instructor serving visually handicapped children around middle and high schools in the Philadelphia Public School District. She retired from teaching in 1981.

Viola and Nathaniel Stewart had two sons, Nathaniel, Jr. and Louis, and five grandchildren. She currently resides in Silver Spring, Maryland. She is a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She also served for many years as Treasurer of Galilee Baptist Church of Philadelphia, where she has been a member for more than 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of this remarkable woman. Viola Duvall Stewart is one of the many heroes whose selfless acts led to a better life for so many people. Her name is not one that is recognized, but her actions left an indelible mark on the teaching profession and the civil rights movement in South Carolina. It is my honor to thank Mrs. Stewart for taking a stand despite the tremendous challenges of the day. It is because of people like her that I, and so many others, are where we are today.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chair, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. The bill continues a strong tradition under the leadership of Chairman IKE SKELTON of Missouri of providing our men and women in uniform with the training, equipment and authorities that they need to protect our country. In particular, I rise in strong support of subtitle C of title 28 of this bill which includes several provisions that further strengthen Congressional oversight of the military build-up on Guam and directly address concerns raised in the draft environmental impact statement on the military build-up.

Of significant importance is Section 2822 which grants authority to the Secretary of Defense to assist the Government of Guam in

providing funding for civilian infrastructure improvements required as a result of the realignment of military installations and the relocation of military personnel on Guam. Congress has granted this authority before, most recently during the realignment of forces to Bangor, Washington. The authority granted to the Secretary addresses concerns raised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our community in regards to mitigating the impact of the buildup on our local infrastructure. The authority granted in Section 2822 also expands on President Obama's request for \$50 million in transfer authority to modernize infrastructure at the Port of Guam. To accommodate the influx of servicemembers and their dependents, our island will have to modernize aging infrastructure, build and repair roads, improve water and wastewater capacity, and increase capacity at the Port of Guam among many other preparations. This authority will assist our island in preparing for the realignment of forces to Guam and mitigate impact to our community.

Section 2824 is also important as it allows the Secretary of Defense to transfer rights and management authority of Navy's water and wastewater system to the Guam Waterworks Authority. This provision will create one single water and wastewater system on the island, create economies of scale, and will remove redundancies in our current system.

Most importantly, I worked to include an amendment that incorporated the full text of H.R. 44, "The Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act," to the National Defense Authority Act for Fiscal Year 2011. This provision would recognize the people of Guam for their sacrifices during World War II when Guam was occupied by enemy forces. With the realignment of forces to Guam, it is important that this longstanding issue be resolved so that the military build-up on Guam is implemented with community support. The Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act was adopted by the House as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, but was subsequently removed during conference with the Senate. I thank my colleagues for voting to adopt this provision once again.

I want to thank Chairman IKE SKELTON of the House Armed Services for his leadership on issues affecting the readiness of our military forces. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward passage of H.R. 5136 by the full House of Representatives.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING  
HOUSING FUNDING TO COMBAT  
AIDS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 137, "Expressing the sense of the Congress that the lack of adequate housing must be addressed as a barrier to effective HIV prevention, treatment, and care, and that the United States should make a commitment to providing adequate funding for developing housing as a response to the AIDS pandemic," as introduced by my

distinguished colleague from New York, Representative NADLER.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to be a serious issue in the United States. A growing body of empirical research shows that HIV patients' housing and other socioeconomic factors are of equal or even greater importance than their medical care or personal health behavior in determining their long term health status. 70% of all persons with HIV or AIDS have reported periods of homelessness or unstable housing in their lives, the rates of HIV infection are 3–16 times higher for those who are homeless or have unstable housing, and the HIV/AIDS death rate is 7–9 times higher for homeless adults than the general population.

The link between poverty and HIV risk and outcomes is well established. Poor living conditions such as homelessness and overcrowding undermine safety and efforts to promote responsible sexual behavior. A lack of stable housing greatly reduces people's ability to reduce their risk of HIV, as people who are homeless or have unstable housing are 2–6 times more likely than the general population to use hard drugs, exchange needles, or trade sex for money or shelter.

Despite this evidence that adequate housing is an important effect on HIV prevention, the housing resources devoted to the national response to HIV/AIDS have been inadequate and housing has been largely ignored in policy discussions at the international level.

H. Con. Res. 137 recognizes that stable, affordable housing is a key component of any effective strategy to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as its treatment and care. It further recognizes that the United States should make a serious commitment to providing adequate funding for developing housing as a response to the AIDS pandemic. I am proud to support this resolution, and strongly urge my colleagues to join me.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Chair, we've heard these arguments before.

The Secretary of the Army said he was concerned about how the proposed change would affect "the efficiency . . . of the Army."

A five-star General warned of "social experiments" and worried that with reform in military personnel policy ". . . we may have difficulty attaining high morale."

Those are not quotations from 2010 about the right of gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military. They're from more than 60 years ago, during the debate over racial integration of the armed forces.

Does anyone believe they were right? If so, please speak up.

Is anyone prepared to argue that our military has suffered from the full participation of African-Americans in its ranks?

I hope we all remember this history lesson as we prepare to vote on a repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, an embarrassment unworthy of a great country and a great military.

It is responsible for the discharge of 13,000 honorable Americans, men and women who were told their service is dispensable . . . not because of how they behaved, but because of who they are.

It does violence to cherished American values like equality, inclusion, and tolerance. And it damages our national security too.

Given the military's recruitment challenges at a moment that we're still, unfortunately, fighting two wars . . . it is incomprehensible to me that we would reject any capable person who wishes to serve.

It was particularly galling to watch as hundreds of language specialists who could speak Farsi and Arabic were dismissed just when they were needed most, when our occupation of Iraq began.

The assertion that openly gay service members would undermine unit cohesion is just bunk, Madam Chair.

It is an argument based on fear, not fact. The research suggests that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are comfortable serving side-by-side with fellow soldiers who happen to be gay or lesbian.

To suggest otherwise is to insult our troops, as the author of the amendment Mr. MURPHY has pointed out. Because the morale argument assumes our soldiers are so unprofessional—and even unpatriotic—that they would let another soldier's sexual orientation distract them from the mission.

Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, may have put it best when he said, "I cannot escape being troubled by . . . a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. For me personally, it comes down to integrity—theirs as individuals and ours as an institution."

And now it comes down to our integrity, the integrity of those of us privileged to serve in the people's House.

We must have the integrity to do what's right . . . to support our troops and strengthen our military . . . by repealing the cruel and un-American Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

RECOGNIZING NYASHA SPROW AS  
A STATE HONOREE IN THE 2010  
PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY  
AWARDS PROGRAM

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nyasha Sprow from Prince William County, Va., for being a state honoree in the 2010 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program. Nyasha is a volunteer with the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross and a seventh-grader at Virginia Virtual Academy. Additionally, she has become a passionate advocate for organ and tissue donation.

Nyasha has become a spokesperson for the National Kidney foundation and she works to

stress both the importance of protecting one's organs and the need for more organ donors. She makes presentations at elementary schools, distributes literature at health fairs and community events and does interviews with the local news media. Furthermore, Nyasha participates in fund-raising events sponsored by the National Kidney Foundation and the Regional Transplant Community and has further spread the word about organ donation as a contestant in the National American Miss pageant.

Madam Speaker, Nyasha Sprow represents the best of our nation's youth, and her work with organ and tissue donation demonstrates her dedication to helping those around her. I congratulate her on this award and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BETTY WHITE

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Betty White, who is receiving the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association's (GLAZA) Beastly Ball Award.

Betty began her impressive performing career in the 1940s on the radio. Her first big break was in 1949 when she joined Al Jarvis on a daily, live, local television show, which she eventually hosted. In partnership with writer George Tibbles and producer Don Fedderson, she formed her own production company and produced her first comedy series, *Life with Elizabeth*, receiving an Emmy in 1952. Appearing frequently on major variety and game shows, she was a recurring regular with Jack Paar, Merv Griffin, and Johnny Carson, and a regular on *Mama's Family*.

Ms. White's first appearance on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* in the show's fourth season led to her becoming a recurring cast member, and her portrayal of Sue Ann Nivens, the *Happy Homemaker*, brought two Emmys for supporting actress in 1974–75 and 1975–76. She received her fourth Emmy for Best Daytime Game Show Host for *Just Men*. Nominated seven times for Best Actress in a Comedy Series for *The Golden Girls*, she won the Emmy in 1985, and won a sixth Emmy for Best Guest Actress in a Comedy Series in 1996 on *The John Larroquette Show*. Since 2000, Betty has appeared in *Ally McBeal*, *That 70s Show*, *Boston Legal* and *The Bold and the Beautiful*. In May 2010, Betty hosted *Saturday Night Live*, resulting in the long-running show receiving its highest ratings ever. In June of this year, she will appear in a new weekly TV Land Series, *Hot in Cleveland*. Betty's movies for television credits include *Chance of a Lifetime*, *Stealing Christmas*, *Annie's Point*, and *Animal Planet's The Retrievers*. Her big screen endeavors include *Hard Rain*, *Dennis the Menace Strikes Again*, *Bringing Down the House*, *The Proposal*, and *You Again*, which will be released in September 2010.

Along with the Emmys, Betty has won numerous awards during her seventy-year career. They include the Pacific Pioneers in Broadcasting's "Golden Ike" Award, the Genii Award from American Women in Radio and TV, the American Comedy Awards' Funniest

Female Award as well as their Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, she was honored with the Career Achievement Award from the Television Critics Association, the Life Achievement Award from the Screen Actors Guild and the Lifetime Achievement Award in Acting from the American Women in Radio and Television. In 1995, Betty was inducted into the Television Academy's Hall of Fame.

Betty's work on behalf of animals is close to her heart and legendary. She is President Emeritus of the Morris Animal Foundation, serving as a Trustee since 1972, a member on the Board of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association since 1974 and an eight-year Los Angeles Zoo Commissioner. Among the awards she has received for her work for animal welfare include the American Veterinary Medical Association's Humane Award, the Jane Goodall Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award, and an honorary doctorate from Western University Veterinary School as "Doctor of Humane Veterinary Sciences." In 2006, Betty was honored by the City of Los Angeles with the title of "Ambassador to the Animals."

The time, energy and devotion Betty has given to GLAZA is extraordinary, and the residents of the greater Los Angeles area have benefited enormously from her generosity. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in commending Betty White upon receiving the 2010 Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association's Beastly Ball Award.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Courtney/Petri/Matsui amendment which would transfer the Troops to Teachers Program back to the Department of Defense from the Department of Education and would make essential improvements to the program to ensure that veterans returning from service have access to its benefits.

Currently, the Troops to Teachers Program is operated by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) within the Department of Defense. The Department of Education simply transfers funds to DANTES. Our amendment would transfer the program back to the Department of Defense, thus streamlining the program. Both the Department of Defense and the Department of Education support this transfer, which is reflected in the President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget request.

Additionally, our amendment would ensure that veterans participating in the Troops to Teachers program receive a \$5,000 stipend for teaching three years in any school that is in a district receiving Title 1 funds. This change would create a 49-percent increase in the number of schools eligible under the program.

As the language of H.R. 3943 reflects, it is the intent of this amendment to strike "high need" from the stipend participation language in the Troops to Teachers statute. There was a late night drafting error that mistakenly did not delete the term "high need" as was planned and is consistent with the language in H.R. 3943. As this provision is finalized in conference, it is essential that this technical change be made to implement the original intent of the amendment.

This amendment also makes this program more accessible to our veterans returning from service by reducing the length of service requirements for active military. Many of our young men and women returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan who would like to pursue teaching careers are currently ineligible for the program. The amendment reduces the required length of service from six years to four years.

Finally, this amendment creates an advisory board to ensure continued success, by increasing awareness and participation and ensuring the program meets the needs of schools and veterans.

I want to thank my colleagues, Representative COURTNEY and Representative PETRI for their work on this amendment and for their continued support of the Troops to Teachers Program, as well as both the House Committee on Armed Services and Committee on Education and Labor for their assistance in this amendment. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment. es to support the amendment.

#### HONORING STANISLAUS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Stanislaus County Medical Society upon celebrating its 100th anniversary. The medical society will be celebrating the anniversary during the annual membership meeting to be held on Thursday, May 27, 2010, at the Del Rio Country Club in Modesto, California.

During the 1820s, early settlers to California began migrating near the Stanislaus River. In 1848, California was ceded to the United States, gold was soon discovered and in 1854 the boundaries were set for Stanislaus County. Between the gold rush and the Central Pacific Railroad laying tracks through the area, Stanislaus County was growing fast. In 1878, there were 10 men listed as licensed to practice medicine in Stanislaus County. By 1891, a county hospital had been built and the number of practicing physicians had risen to 15.

In 1903, Dr. Surryhne built the first private hospital in Stanislaus County. By 1910, the Stanislaus County Medical Society was established with Dr. W.J. Wilhite serving as president and Dr. Surryhne serving as secretary. The society meetings typically took place at the Hotel Modesto, with an attendance of eighteen to twenty members. By 1946, physicians were returning from World War II and the Society grew in numbers and specialties, such as obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics, G.U., general surgery and internal medicine.

The physicians of the Stanislaus County Medical Society formed the Stanislaus Foundation for Medical Care to guarantee the delivery of quality medical care on a prepayment basis at a just and equitable cost to both the patient and physician. The foundation was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1957, and acts as a health management system. It was created and operated by local physicians to serve the best interests of the public and professional community.

Today, the Stanislaus County Medical Society has over 650 active, retired and resident members. The members serve the purpose of "promoting and developing the science and art of medicine, conserving and protecting the public health, promoting the betterment of the medical profession, cooperating with organizations of like purposes and uniting with similar societies from other counties of the State to form the California Medical Society."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Stanislaus County Medical Society upon 100 years of service. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Society, and all of the members, many years of continued success.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

### HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of amendment number 38 to the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2011.

I would like to thank Chairman SKELTON for including this amendment, which I introduced, in an en bloc package today.

Representative JOHN FLEMING of Louisiana, a member of the Armed Services Committee's Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, is cosponsoring the amendment. I appreciate his support and the leadership he has shown on the issue of improving and protecting our nation's bomber fleet.

This amendment requires reports from the Institute of Defense Analyses, the Congressional Budget Office and the Department of Defense that, taken together, will provide a comprehensive review of the sustainment and modernization requirements and costs related to the U.S. bomber force and long-range strike capability.

Over the past year, as I've met with Air Force leaders, including Secretary Michael Donley and Chief of Staff General Norton Schwartz, we have discussed the need to sustain and modernize our nation's current bomber fleet as the Air Force begins to develop a next-generation bomber and long-range strike capability needed to maintain a strategic deterrence.

Since I was first elected to Congress in 2004, I have worked closely with the brave air-

men at Ellsworth Air Force Base in my state of South Dakota. Ellsworth is home to two wings of B-1 bombers, and I know the important role those planes have played in Iraq and Afghanistan. These planes, and the other bombers in our fleet, project power across the globe in order to keep potential enemies at bay and also serve to protect and save the lives of troops fighting on the ground.

As Members of Congress, we are charged with equipping our Armed Forces and are responsible for allocating taxpayer funds in the most fiscally responsible manner. This amendment ensures that we will accomplish both goals by better informing Congress and the Department of Defense on the best path forward for our nation's bomber fleet.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment.

PRESIDENT OF GABON, ALI BONGO ONDIMBA

### HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, in early March, it was my pleasure and privilege to meet the new President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba.

President Bongo was in New York in his capacity as head of state of the country that, for the month of March, presided over the United Nations Security Council. Gabon is one of three African countries that are members of the Security Council on a rotating basis.

President Bongo came to office after the death of his predecessor last year. Between June and October, Acting President Rose Francine Rogombe, who had previously served as president of Gabon's Senate, led a smooth and swift transition.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, and Chair of the Financial Services Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, I understand the importance of the relationship between the United States and countries of the Central African region.

In our conversation, I was impressed by President Ali Bongo's determination to improve the quality of life for the people of Gabon. He is committed to eliminating corruption that has plagued Gabon in the past.

I was particularly interested in Gabon's role as one of the six members of the Bank of Central African States and as a member of the Economic Community of Central African States. Gabon's capital city, Libreville, is also the location of one of the key regional offices of the African Development Bank, and it is the headquarters of the locally-owned and operated Gabonese Development Bank.

As one might expect, Central African countries, including Gabon, were hit hard by the global economic meltdown of the past few years. As a report from the International Monetary Fund noted on March 15, "The Gabonese economy went through a difficult year in 2009 due to the unusual domestic environment because of painful social developments and the preparation of the presidential elections on the one hand and to the unfavorable international economic situation on the other."

Given these circumstances, I listened carefully as President Bongo explained what his

government and those of neighboring states were doing to stabilize currency in the region and to regularize customs and tariffs. He also expressed his desire for attracting more foreign investment to Gabon—especially beyond the dominant oil-industry sector—and his vision for how to achieve that.

During his visit to the United States, President Bongo met with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in Washington. Secretary Clinton said after their meeting that "Gabon is a valued partner of the United States, and this visit gave us an opportunity to discuss a wide range of common concerns." She went on to thank President Bongo "for his and Gabon's efforts on behalf of regional stability in Central Africa and for its leadership on the world stage, particularly at the United Nations."

In line with my own conversation with President Bongo on the same topics, Secretary Clinton said "We are very supportive of Gabon's efforts to diversify its economy, widen the circle of prosperity, and create new opportunities for its people" and added: "I want to recognize President Bongo's efforts to improve government efficiency, eliminate waste, and fight corruption."

To offer a sense of the purpose of President Bongo's visit to the United States, I would like to insert in the RECORD an article from America.gov by Jim Fisher-Thompson entitled "Gabon's President Meets Clinton, Calls Corruption Africa's Cancer," which was published on March 9.

[From America.gov, Mar. 9, 2010]

#### GABON'S PRESIDENT MEETS CLINTON, CALLS CORRUPTION AFRICA'S CANCER

(By Jim Fisher-Thompson)

WASHINGTON.—Gabon's president, Ali Bongo, intends to use his country's two-year seat on the United Nations Security Council to highlight democratic reforms and his fight against corruption, which he terms a "cancer" sapping Africa's strength and potential. "Unfortunately, when it comes to the African body, we have many diseases—and corruption is one of them," Bongo told America.gov in an interview after meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton March 8 at the State Department.

"Corruption is a major problem that has to be stopped," the African leader said, "which is why we are committed to fighting it. We know if we want to build a better future with responsible people, we especially need accountability, and this is what has been lacking." Gabon, with a population of fewer than 2 million, is largely dependent on the energy and extractive (mining and timber) sectors and is the fifth-largest supplier of oil in sub-Saharan Africa to the United States. In 2009, the nongovernment group Transparency International rated the nation 106 out of 180 countries in its annual corruption index, tied with Argentina, The Gambia, Niger and Benin.

After his election as president in August 2009 and before traveling to the United States, Bongo instituted a number of government reforms, including cutting Cabinet posts while restructuring the Treasury Department and launching an environmental effort called "Green Gabon."

At the same time, he streamlined government by eliminating several agencies and bureaucracies that were hindering innovation and investment in Gabon. He has also threatened criminal penalties for persons attempting to bribe public officials, according to a recent press report.

Despite the challenges of corruption and reform, Bongo told America.gov: "I remain

optimistic about Africa's future. We know we will make mistakes; we will struggle, and at times we will fall. But we will get up and move forward."

In international affairs, Bongo said U.S.-Gabon relations are "very good," adding, "We would like more progress on the economic front and are working on a trade agreement with the U.S. government."

Acknowledging Gabon's new responsibilities on the U.N. Security Council, Bongo said, "We are going to work very closely with the United States and all the permanent members of the Security Council to make sure that the world is a better place." He had earlier addressed the Security Council, which Gabon chairs for the month of March.

Speaking to the press after her private meeting with the African leader, Secretary Clinton said, "I want to recognize President Bongo's efforts to improve government efficiency, eliminate waste and fight corruption."

"We know, as the president knows, that economic progress depends on responsible governance that rejects corruption, enforces the rule of law, provides good stewardship of natural resources and delivers results that help to change people's lives for the better."

"We stand ready to support Gabon as it further strengthens its democratic institutions and processes," Clinton said.

The secretary added, "We are very supportive of Gabon's efforts to diversify its economy, widen the circle of prosperity and create new opportunities for its people. Gabon is participating in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and taking other steps that will give confidence both to international investors but, more importantly, to the people of the country."

Speaking two days before the State Department issues its annual human rights report, Clinton said: "I also want to applaud the leadership that Gabon has shown in combating human trafficking. We have forged new partnerships with the Justice Department, and Gabon is moving toward ratifying the U.N. protocol. This is one more example of the reform-minded leadership that President Bongo is bringing to his country."

"We've come a long way," Bongo responded. "We've gone through a democratic process, and now we are moving forward. Good governance, [the] fight against corruption, diversity [in] our economy and our partners. This is what we're doing."

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Each year, Congress acts to authorize national defense spending. Matters of defense spending have been one of my highest priorities throughout my time in Congress. Especially during times of war, we, in Congress, have the utmost obligation to ensure our service men and women have the adequate re-

sources they need to serve both honorably and safely. Moreover, we must remember our retired and wounded service men and women and ensure that they receive the benefits and care respectful of their heroic sacrifices.

There are many provisions of this \$567 billion authorization to be proud of. This bill strengthens four pivotal national objectives including, but not limited to, counterterrorism efforts, missile defense, nuclear nonproliferation, and benefits and care to our nation's service members and their families.

Some provisions that particularly stand out are the funding authorizations that support the President's agenda in Afghanistan. This bill takes steps to address prior shortfalls of our efforts in Afghanistan under the Bush Administration. Specifically, the bill outlines resources that will give U.S. commanders in the field the tools they need for success, as well as the means to forge meaningful strategic partnerships with neighboring nations so as to both facilitate victory and a swift and safe return for our brave service men and women. The bill also furthers the President's efforts to secure the nuclear arsenals across the globe. If Cold War politics have taught the world one thing, it is that nuclear proliferation could lead to dangerous situations. H.R. 5136 makes significant strides in aligning our defense policy with 21st century challenges, including facilitating a mobile missile defense system and regulation of nuclear arms. I believe Congress must do all that it can to ensure that the development of nuclear technologies is globally regulated and transparent. This bill, in funding key programs like the Department of Energy's Global Threat Reduction Initiative and Department of Defense's Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, takes important steps to ensuring that weapons grade nuclear materials do not end up into the hands of terrorists and dangerous states.

I am proud to speak to the funds authorized for the benefits and care of our military servicemembers and their families. A nation with the best military in the world should provide the best care in the world. Among its many provisions, H.R. 5136 provides a 1.9% pay raise to our troops, increases imminent danger pay, and expands college loan repayment benefits. Furthermore, the bill includes a "pre-separation" counseling program to help provide discharged servicemembers and their spouses with financial and job assistance. Especially in these tough economic times, it is important to promote financial literacy efforts across the board so as to better educate and inform average Americans of their financial and professional options.

Finally, I am extremely encouraged by language included in the final Defense Authorization bill that recognizes the harmful implications of poor nutrition as it pertains to national security. As Chairwoman of the Healthy Families and Communities Subcommittee, I have been very active in efforts to increase access to child nutrition programs. It is important that Congress recognize the vast impact proper child nutrition has on our nation. H.R. 5136 includes a sense of Congress that hunger and obesity are impairing military recruitment and must be properly addressed. I am proud to lead efforts to improve access to important initiatives like direct certification systems, and the national school lunch and summer food services programs. The language in this bill regarding obesity underscores the vast and

grave consequences an unhealthy nation can have.

Again, Mr. Chair, I support the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I commend both Chairman IKE SKELTON and Ranking Member HOWARD MCKEON for their hard work in putting together a tremendous piece of legislation that, in my opinion, adequately supports our active and retired service men and women.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICANS IN WARTIME IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the National Museum of Americans in Wartime (the American Wartime Museum), which will break ground later this year in Prince William County, Va. This museum is being built to honor all Americans who have served or presently serve our country in any branch of the United States military from World War I forward.

It will tell the stories and recognize the contributions and sacrifices of the brave men and women who dedicated themselves to defending and preserving our Nation's freedoms through their service in the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, the Reserves and the National Guard.

The museum will offer a unique interactive history of major conflicts from the 20th and 21st centuries and focus on educating young Americans about wartime experiences and the sacrifices made by those Americans who "answered the call" in service of our nation.

The American Wartime Museum is the culmination of a partnership between private and government entities. The Museum will be built on a 70 acre site that has been generously donated by the Hylton family of Prince William County. It will feature a large collection of vintage and modern operational military vehicles, some of which will be used for demonstrations and reenactments. There will be large outdoors "Landscapes of War" with authentic replicas of battle scenes. Visitors will be able to hear, touch and experience military vehicles, aircraft and naval vessels. The planned National Veterans Visitor Center will offer special services and activities for veterans including opportunities for military reunions and the ability to record oral histories for future generations of Americans. Visiting the Museum will be truly interactive and will not only educate but actually provide a very realistic sense of the experiences of those who have served in uniform.

This project enjoys broad, bipartisan support from the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States Congress. George Mason University is a key partner in this endeavor, which will provide new academic and research opportunities for students, historians and the public. The leadership team of the museum includes Craig Stewart, President and CEO; Allan Cors, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; former Virginia Governor and U.S. Senator Chuck Robb; a Medal of Honor recipient

and other distinguished veterans; military historians, authors and journalists; and prominent business leaders.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in recognizing the vision and dedication of those individuals and organizations that have worked together to create The American War-time Museum. This museum will educate, inspire, and most importantly, honor all who have served our great nation in uniform.

And as we celebrate Memorial Day this weekend, I also ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincerest appreciation to every man and woman who has answered the highest call of duty by serving our country in the United States military. Their sacrifice, honor, and selfless dedication to the defense and protection of our country is deserving of the utmost respect and gratitude of every American.

IN HONOR OF MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM ROBERT AND BETTY CAMPBELL

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. and Mrs. William Robert "Bob" and Betty Grigsby Campbell of Franklin, Tennessee. They are long standing residents of the community which I represent and have raised five children in the area. Their children have added twelve grandchildren to the family tree and it is one of their grandchildren that have notified me of this special year of celebrations, the occasion of their 80th birthdays and their 60th wedding anniversary.

Bob grew up in Nashville, TN as the eldest son of a printer and secretary. He attended Vanderbilt University before owning his own business. Betty grew up in the Grigsby family home in Elkton, TN. Her family farmed the home place that was surrounded by cotton fields. Her father was an engineer and her mother was actively involved in the Methodist church and community.

Bob and Betty met on a blind date. They wed in a double wedding ceremony with Betty's sister, Dorothy (Mrs. John Brevard), who also resides in Franklin, TN. Bob and Betty settled in Nashville, TN and their children Bobby, Cindy, Nicky, Cathi and Chuck were born and have fond memories of camping and taking family vacations to Florida in the back of many station wagons. As their children moved on, Betty worked caring for children at their church and Bob continued to develop his small business.

During their retirement they have enjoyed traveling with their friends both throughout the country and internationally. They continue to be active members of the Baptist Church, while Bob maintains his small business restoring antique furniture. They regularly see their grandchildren who are spread from California to Louisiana to Washington, DC. Their grandchildren tell me they are looking forward to enjoying many more holidays with their "MaBet and Papa" in Franklin.

It is clear that the world in which Bob and Betty were born in 1930 was quite a different world than what their grandchildren experience today. But they have taught their children and

grandchildren traditions that stand the test of time. Bob and Betty have been role models for their family in Southern hospitality and grace. They have taught the generations that true character is shown by commitment to each other, responsible engagement in community, dedication to God and strong family ties. These values last throughout time, throughout the economic turmoil and throughout the latest fad. I have no doubt that the Campbell family will continue to carry on these traditions for the rest of their lives due to the strong foundation provided by Bob and Betty.

I want to congratulate Bob and Betty on their banner year and wish them and their Campbell Clan good health, safe travels and much more shared laughter.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LEE HALE

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lee Hale, the recipient of the NASSP/Virco National Assistant Principal of the Year Award for the state of Florida. Mr. Hale is a dedicated educator whose professionalism and innovative ideas have helped many students in my district succeed, and it is a great privilege to recognize him on this day.

Mr. Hale began his career in education after graduating from Samford University with a degree in Business Administration. After subbing at various schools in Okaloosa County, he was hired to teach at Choctawhatchee High School. Mr. Hale taught Alternative Education and Business and Technology courses for ten years all the while pursuing a Master's degree in Education, Global Leadership and Administration from Jones International University. While teaching during the day and advancing his own education through online courses, Mr. Hale made himself available to help struggling students recover credits by coordinating the Choctaw Academy. Mr. Hale's hard work did not go unnoticed, and in 2007, he became an Assistant Principal of Choctawhatchee. Most recently, Mr. Hale is pursuing a Doctor of Education, Curriculum and Instruction from the University of West Florida.

Lee Hale is well-deserving of Florida's Assistant Principal of the Year award, and it is apparent throughout his community leadership positions and continuing professional development activities. Mr. Hale leads Sunday School and coaches youth baseball and still makes time to attend workshops, such as the Florida Educational Technology Convention, so that his students are well prepared for the future.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress it is an honor to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of this outstanding educator. My wife Vicki and I congratulate Mr. Hale on his award and thank him for his 15 plus years of teaching service.

HONORING DR. LYNN WOLAVER

**HON. STEVE AUSTRIA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Dr. Lynn Wolaver, who was inducted into the Ohio Senior Hall of Fame on May 24, 2010.

Dr. Wolaver's contributions to his country and the community are invaluable. A former member of U.S. Army and World War II veteran, he flew in C-47 aircraft in the European Theater of Operations. Following his military service, Lynn devoted himself to public service, holding positions as a member of the Fairborn City Planning Board, City Council, Deputy Mayor and Mayor of Fairborn. He has been an active member of the Fairborn Chamber of Commerce, Fairborn Rotary Club and the American Region. He currently serves on numerous local boards and committees, applying his knowledge and expertise for the betterment of the region.

Along with his natural penchant for service to his country and civic engagement, Dr. Wolaver has an extensive academic background. He studied at the University of Illinois, The Ohio State Extension at Wright Field and at the University of Michigan, where he received his doctoral degree. Dr. Wolaver spent nearly 40 years as an employee at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Springfield, OH, holding various positions, including Dean for Research Emeritus at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. During his time at Wright-Patt, Dr. Wolaver taught and conducted research in the areas of navigation, astrodynamics, bio-engineering and systems analysis, and he has authored over 60 technical papers on these topics. His academic achievements have earned him induction into prestigious honorary societies, and various honors and awards, including the Fairborn Chamber of Commerce's Ed Duncan Distinguished Citizen Award, Fairborn Chamber of Commerce President's Award and University of Illinois Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Finally, as a husband, father of two and grandfather, Dr. Wolaver has demonstrated the importance of balancing various obligations and activities with the needs of family.

Thus, with great pride, I congratulate Dr. Lynn Wolaver for his lifetime of remarkable achievements and his unparalleled contribution to our community.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to offer an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 that addresses the plight of Iraqis who have worked for the United States in Iraq and whose lives have been placed in grave danger for their service.

Under the Status of Forces Agreement signed in November 2008, there is not ONE mention of Iraqis who have worked with the United States, which I find to be most unsettling.

And while the December 2011 date for withdrawal of our troops seems far away, there is another benchmark of August 2010, when nearly 50,000 troops will be withdrawn from Iraq, which will limit our ability to protect U.S.-affiliated Iraqis at risk.

These U.S.-affiliated Iraqis have risked their lives to work alongside our troops, diplomats, and aid workers to help build a more stable and Democratic Iraq committed to peaceful pluralism among both factions and sects. They are considered to be “collaborators” or “traitors” by Al Qaeda in Iraq and other insurgent groups and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their work at the hands of these terrorists.

I am increasingly concerned that the Obama administration has turned its focus away from this crisis. As we drawdown U.S. troops in Iraq, the thousands of Iraqis who work for our government and live on our bases will no longer have the security of our military once we are gone. The United States cannot turn its back at this critical juncture.

An organization that I have had the privilege to work with over the past several years, The List Project to Resettle Iraqi Allies has done a remarkable job on this front in advocating for and providing pro bono representation to these courageous Iraqis at risk.

The List Project’s founder and executive director Kirk Johnson recently published a report entitled “Tragedy on the Horizon: A History of Just and Unjust Withdrawal.” It is a report that I would encourage all of my colleagues to read.

In particular, the report discusses the withdrawal of British troops from southern Iraq two years ago and states, “militias conducted a systematic manhunt for Iraqi employees of the U.K. In a single incident, 17 interpreters were publically executed, and reports surfaced of others dragged to their deaths behind cars through the streets of Basrah. To imagine this as an isolated experience ignores this history of withdrawal, a bloody and predictable churn of violence upon those who ‘collaborated’ with the departing power.”

Time is of the essence. We must put in place a plan to ensure that those Iraqis allies who have helped our country are protected. We have a moral obligation to do this, and we still have time to avert a crisis—but not a lot of time.

Turning our backs now would be fatal for our Iraqi allies and would set a negative precedent for other theaters of war in particular Afghanistan where we need to win the loyal collaboration and hearts and minds of the population.

This week marked a turning point, in that the number of troops in Afghanistan exceeded those in Iraq for the first time since 2003. Reports now suggest that Afghans working as in-

terpreters for the United States are increasingly facing the same lethal risks endured by our Iraqi employees.

We will be hard-pressed to find more help in Afghanistan if the United States is seen as quick to abandon its friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF SANDY BOWEN’S DECADES OF SERVICE TO NATIONAL SAFE PLACE AND AMERICA’S YOUNG PEOPLE

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who spent her career tirelessly fighting to ensure young people in crisis have a place to get help, no matter where they are and no matter what they are going through.

National Safe Place is a national organization that oversees a network of shelters and resources that provide young people with immediate assistance, whenever they need it. Sandy Bowen has played an absolutely integral role in spreading the organization’s mission across the Nation, transforming Safe Place from a single service located in one community into a nationally-renowned network that has touched the lives of almost a quarter of a million young people in 38 states. And we in Louisville couldn’t be more proud that she calls our community home.

As Sandy reaches the end of her exceptional career of service at Safe Place, we should have known from the start that she was destined to live a life dedicated to helping others. Her first job, in fact, was operating a nursery school and a pre-school in her backyard where children could attend for just \$1 a week.

After working in the Jefferson County Public School system and for the 4-H Program, Sandy joined Safe Place. At the time, it was a local program operated in greater Louisville, established to give young people in crises a comfortable and safe place when they have no where else to turn.

Sandy came on board a few months after its founding. Since that time, it is no coincidence that National Safe Place has grown in leaps and bounds, expanding across the country, garnering recognition from Congress and 3 Presidents, and helping and educating tens of thousands of young people.

Safe Place has served 100,000 young people in Kentucky alone, and every citizen of our commonwealth can be particularly proud of its extraordinary work. Our home-grown organization has flourished thanks to Sandy Bowen’s leadership, developing into a nationally-recognized symbol of hope and security for young people.

When she retires this year, Sandy Bowen will leave behind a legacy of service to our Nation, a record of commitment to helping those most in need, and a safe place for young people throughout our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Sandy Bowen for her career of service, and I wish her nothing but luck and continued success in the next chapter of her life.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Polis/Langevin/Cohen amendment that has been included in the En Bloc amendment No. 4. Unfortunately—despite what proponents of this amendment are saying—I do not believe that this amendment does anything to alleviate the draconian problems of section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Even if this amendment passes, Americans will still not be able to increase the supply of fuels from alternative sources derived from resources available in the United States. Oil shale will remain trapped in rock, and we will not be able to use clean carbon captured coal-to-liquid for fuel.

The amendment intends to create an exception under section 526 for generally available fuel not predominately produced from a non-conventional petroleum source, and all federal agencies—including DoD—will still be able to purchase Canadian fuels with traces of oil sands that may create more of a carbon footprint than completely conventional fuel. However, I am concerned that “predominantly from a nonconventional source” is not defined in this amendment. This stipulation could expose gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel produced from crude oil—with significant components of oil sands—to the prohibition in section 526.

Mr. Chairman, even under the provisions of this amendment, DoD—as well as every other federal agency—won’t be able to utilize any of the sources of fuel that may be totally derived from clean domestic alternatives we have readily available.

This is precisely why I offered an amendment to the Rules committee on this bill; to provide a waiver to the Secretary of Defense to be freed from the handcuffs of section 526. I support a full repeal of section 526 because the cost of refined product for DoD has increased by over 500 percent in the last ten years when volume only increased by 30 percent. I offered my amendment—that was rejected by House Democrats—as a middle ground to not stifle domestic energy innovation and to save taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Chairman, I fear that this amendment does nothing to rectify the underlying problem with section 526 that prevents the Federal Government from utilizing domestic resources to reduce fuel costs, so I must oppose this amendment and ask all my colleagues to do the same.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2010 GRECIAN FESTIVAL IN WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the St. Spyridon Grecian Festival, to be held June 4th, 5th and 6th in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Festival has been held biennially in Worcester since 1976, and has served as a wonderful exhibition of Greek culture, customs, faith and food.

The St. Spyridon Grecian Festival was founded by Father George Stephanides. Upon his arrival in Worcester in 1974, his idea for a large Greek festival was met with skepticism. To prove that such an event would be viable, Father George organized a small food fair in 1975. With its success, the stage was set for the first ethnic festival of its kind in New England. With over twenty thousand visitors in the festival's first year, there was no doubt that the Grecian Festival would become a mainstay in the community for years to come. To this day, the Festival remains one of the largest in New England, with over 25,000 attendees.

For three days in early June, the St. Spyridon Grecian Festival will once again open its doors to the community to enjoy the best of Grecian cuisine and hospitality. From the abundance of Greek food and homemade pastry, to the art exhibits, dance performances, music and cultural displays, the Grecian Festival provides the entire community, both young and old, an opportunity to experience and interact with Greek culture on all levels.

Madam Speaker, I invite the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the St. Spyridon Grecian Festival for the important role it has played over the past thirty-four years in sharing the wonders of Greek culture with our community.

**NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011**

SPEECH OF

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chair, I would like to submit the following exchange of letters:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND LABOR,

*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Re Corrected Bill Number.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Education and Labor in

matters being considered in H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 5136 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the Committee Report and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

The Committee on Education and Labor also asks that you support our request to be conferees on the provisions over which we have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER,

*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. GEORGE MILLER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Education and Labor has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Education and Labor is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Education and Labor.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,

*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. IKE SKELTON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I am writing regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. As you know, the Committee on Energy and Commerce has jurisdictional interest in a number of provisions of this bill.

In light of the interest in moving this bill forward promptly, I do not intend to exercise the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce by seeking sequential referral of H.R. 5136. I do this, however, only with the understanding that forgoing consideration of H.R. 5136 at this time will not be construed as prejudicing this Committee's jurisdictional interests and prerogatives on the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. In addition, we reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference named to consider such provisions.

I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,

*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,  
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Energy and Commerce has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,

*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. IKE SKELTON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. While this legislation as reported contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of Committee on Financial Services, the committee waives consideration of the bill in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the committee report or in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 5136 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

BARNEY FRANK,

*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. BARNEY FRANK,  
*Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Financial Services has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill

in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Financial Services is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Financial Services.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. IKE SKELTON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

This bill contains provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the interest of permitting your Committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this Committee's right to mark up this bill. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of Foreign Affairs Committee conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Please include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. HOWARD BERMAN,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Foreign Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 20, 2010.*

Hon. IKE SKELTON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Rayburn House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I write to you regarding H.R. 5136, the "National Defense Au-

thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011," introduced on April 26, 2010.

H.R. 5136 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, agreeing to waive consideration of this bill should not be construed as the Committee on Homeland Security waiving, altering, or otherwise affecting its jurisdiction over subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of Homeland Security conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this or similar legislation. I also ask that a copy of this letter and your response be placed in the Committee Report accompanying the legislation and the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill.

I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Ford Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Homeland Security has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Homeland Security is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Homeland Security.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,  
*Chairman.*

#### RECOGNIZING DR. JUDY BENSE

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Judy Bense upon being inducted into the Orden de Isabel la Catlica. Dr. Bense is a dedicated archeologist and received this award due to her research strengthening the ties between Northwest Florida and Spain. Madam Speaker, Dr. Bense's commitment to her work is truly remarkable. For that reason, it gives me much pleasure to recognize her on this day.

The Royal Order of Isabella the Catholic is one of Spain's highest civil honors granted in recognition of services that benefit Spain. The

Order was created on March 14, 1815 by King Ferdinand of Aragon in honor of his ancestress, Queen Isabella I, with the intent of rewarding the firm allegiance to Spain and the merits of Spanish citizens and foreigners in good standing to the nation.

Dr. Bense was inducted into the Order by Spanish King Juan Carlos for her hard work to defend the shared legacy and strengthening the relationship between Florida and Spain. Just like the Order's namesake, Dr. Bense is an extremely accomplished and distinguished woman. With a career in archeology that has spanned more than three decades; she has been at the forefront of studying Spanish roots in Pensacola, Florida. Currently serving as the President of the University of West Florida, I am certain that her experience and commitment to education will provide the needed leadership to guide the university in its pursuit of academic excellence.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Judy Bense is a leader that I am proud to have serving in the Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful community, I congratulate Dr. Bense on her significant historical accomplishments.

#### TRIBUTE TO NATHAN DAVID KEHREIN

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding young men of my community who unfortunately is no longer with us. I also take this opportunity to express condolences to his family as they negotiate their way through this period of transition.

Nathan Kehrein was born the same year that I was first elected to public office and that is around the time that I first got to know his parents, Glen and Lonnie.

Nathan grew up in the Austin Community, as a matter of fact a couple of blocks where I and my family live. He had a normal and exciting childhood, actively involved in youth activities organized and provided by the Rock of our Salvation Church and the Circle Urban Ministries both of which his family were founders of and are actively involved with.

Nathan was a good student and a good athlete. He attended Lane Technical High School and was an All City Football Player. After high school Nathan enlisted in the Armed Services and after a tour of duty, was honorably discharged from the United States Air force.

After Nathan returned home from his military experience he became ill and suffered from bouts with depression; but continued to live as normal a life as he could.

Nathan's life was a journey of experiences; his family lived comprehensively and was intimately associated with many different kinds of people. Nathan's life was a reflection of this upbringing; therefore, one could say that he was an ambassador of goodwill.

I salute Nathan for being the man that he was, thank him for the service he gave to our community and to his country and may his soul rest in peace.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I support the provisions in this bill that support a second engine for the F-35.

The Air Force will soon shift its air-to-ground, air-to-air, and air-supremacy roles to the F-35, and the F-35 will eventually number more than a thousand jet fighters, or 95 percent of the fighter force structure.

To power these aircraft, the Air Force will require some 2500–3000 engines at a cost of more than \$100 billion.

We are fortunate to have two excellent engine manufacturers, Pratt Whitney and GE. Both started out as candidates for the F-35 engine.

The question now comes: Do we need and want a second engine, produced by GE?

More specifically—

Do we want to sole source, run this program out 25 years or more, without price competition?

In addition to price competition, do we want competition on innovation, reliability, and durability?

Do we want to run the operational risk of having no back-up if problems show up in one engine?

Do we want to keep competition in the defense production base?

A second engine for the F-35 makes sense and saves money.

I urge the House to leave intact the second engine provisions in the defense authorization bill before us today.

## AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan—as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28.

Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire on May 28, 1918. Though the Azerbaijan Republic later succumbed to Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan achieved a number of measures on state-building, armed forces, education, economy, and universal suffrage, from which it benefits today.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom and independence began in 1990 as Azerbaijanis began gathering in protest against Soviet rule. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan declared anew their independence.

On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, their Constitution was approved.

The last 19 years of independence has not been without challenges. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was violated and the Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan have been occupied by neighboring Armenia. In 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. NATO, OSCE, EU and other international organizations also repeatedly called for the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, and I support a swift, peaceful resolution to this conflict, as well.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer our own country with unconditional support in its anti-terrorism efforts, providing use of its airspace, airports, and troops for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq.

Azerbaijan has extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Azerbaijan has opened Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region and has become the main artery delivering Caspian Sea hydrocarbons to the U.S. and our partners in Europe. Notably, in 2009 Azerbaijan provided nearly one quarter of all crude oil supplies to Israel and is considered a leading potential natural gas provider for the U.S. supported Nabucco pipeline.

Madam Speaker, as a proud member of Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the celebration of Republic Day, and commend President Obama's nomination of Matthew Bryza to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan. I believe that Mr. Bryza has the knowledge and experience necessary to reassure our Azerbaijani friends that the United States appreciates their support and will continue to work with them to achieve peace and stability in the Caucasus. I look forward to further collaboration between our two nations.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for mili-

tary activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Chair, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a strong supporter of the Joint Strike Fighter alternative engine program, I rise today in opposition to the Pingree/Larson Amendment.

This amendment, which would redirect funding for the program, is about terminating jobs, killing competition and giving a \$100 billion monopoly to one contractor who is already \$2.5 billion (50 percent) over budget.

This amendment would add \$20 billion to the deficit by eliminating the savings GAO says will occur with competition.

Supporting this amendment means making the choice to give one company a sole source contract for the next 30 years versus having two companies compete head-to-head every year, resulting in the best price and best engine.

There was no competition for this program. The engines for every major weapons program in history have been competed—except for the Joint Strike Fighter, the largest defense program ever.

Congress is not required to give a rubber stamp to the Defense Department, which has been proven wrong in its opposition to several key programs, including development of the Predator, creation of the U.S. Special Operations Command and funding for the V-22 Osprey.

If this amendment passes, our national security will be put at grave risk, as the U.S. and Allied forces will depend entirely on one engine for 90 percent of their fighter jet fleets.

And, there will be job loss. We must maintain our support of the competitive engine program to sustain the thousands of jobs in the United States that are a result of this program.

I am pleased to join both the Armed Services Committee Chairman and Ranking Member, and the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Air & Land Forces, the Sea Power & Expeditionary Forces Subcommittees, and the Acquisition Reform Panel in opposing this amendment.

My colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee and I approved funding for the alternative engine program to continue, and the Department of Defense's own analysis states that "the estimated costs of a competitive engine acquisition strategy are projected to be approximately equivalent to a sole-source scenario." If that is the case, I am confident the benefits of a competitive engine strategy warrant continued support.

Therefore, I strongly oppose the Pingree/Larson amendment and I rise in support of keeping jobs, sustaining competition, and our country's national security.

## IN HONOR OF MAJOR RONALD WAYNE CULVER, JR.

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a model citizen, revered husband and father and one of our Nation's great heroes. On May 24, 2010, our State and Nation lost a true patriot when Major Ronald Wayne Culver,

Jr., aged 44, died in Iraq from injuries sustained during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Major Culver was raised in Shreveport, LA, by his loving parents, Ronald and Betty Culver, and graduated from Louisiana State University in Shreveport. He lived and worked in El Dorado, AR, for most of his life and has been the commander of the John C. Carroll VFW Post 2413 in El Dorado for the last three years.

He was an active member of the El Dorado community and served on the Union County 4-H Foundation Board, helping to raise funds for the local 4-H program's activities.

Major Culver served in the Army National Guard for 22 years. He carried out his duties with pride in his country and without reservation and each of us owes him our eternal gratitude for his selfless sacrifice.

Major Culver was a highly-decorated combat veteran and received numerous awards and citations during his 22-year career, including the Bronze Star; Purple Heart; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Louisiana War Cross; Louisiana Commendation Medal; Louisiana Longevity Ribbon; Louisiana Emergency Services Ribbon; Louisiana Cross of Merit; Combat Action Badge; and Overseas Service Bar.

Major Culver committed his life to his family; his community and his country. My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his loving wife, Tracey, and two children who live in El Dorado, his parents and the rest of his friends and family during this extraordinarily difficult time.

Our Nation is safer and stronger because of brave heroes like Major Culver. Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Major Wayne Culver and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great country.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Chair, when the President announced his decision to repeal the current policy, known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," earlier this year, the military service chiefs and the Secretary of Defense requested the opportunity to carry out the President's directive in an orderly manner that would assure the maintenance of discipline and morale in the Armed Forces. It

was agreed at that time, including by the President, that a survey would be sent to all the troops so that their input would be taken into account regarding how best to implement the new policy, and that a report with such recommendations as to how to best implement the new policy would be issued this December, before any legislative action was taken. I believe that that process, which was agreed to by the President pursuant to the request of the service chiefs and the Secretary of Defense, should be followed.

Breaking the agreement now by having this vote is most unfortunate, and I strongly disagree with the decision of the President, the Speaker, and the majority leadership to break that agreement today.

#### HONORING THE CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS IN THE STANLEY CUP FINALS

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today because the Roar is back on Madison.

My Chicago Blackhawks are Western Conference champions and just a day away from Game 1 of the Stanley Cup finals.

Diehard Hawks fans have been waiting since 1961 for the Cup to come home to the Windy City.

And it's on behalf of every last one of them that I want to thank the brain trust that has made this all possible.

In just three years, Rocky Wirtz, Dale Tallon, John McDonough, Stan Bowman, and Jay Blunk have resurrected a franchise and reminded Chicago that it has always been a hockey town.

Tomorrow night the United Center will be bathed in red and rocking so loud folks might just mistake it for the old Chicago Stadium.

As I've said here before, I look forward to coming back this summer with Lord Stanley's Cup freshly engraved with names like Toews, Kane, Byfuglien, and Niemi.

We're just four wins away.

#### CONGRATULATING THE PATRIOTS OF PACE HIGH SCHOOL'S BASEBALL TEAM

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today and congratulate the Patriots of Pace High School on becoming the Region 1 Class 5A Baseball State Champions. The hard work and dedication of all the young men on the team is truly extraordinary. For that reason, Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor and recognize their accomplishments.

Pace High School's baseball team, led by Coach Charlie Warner, finished the season with an impressive 29-2 record. While they were ultimately able to achieve their goal and bring home a State championship, it was not done without countless hours of practice and immeasurable amounts of sacrifice. The time

the team spent together on and off the field will not only be remembered for leading them to a second state title in five years, but the forged friendships and lessons learned will never be forgotten. The character, talent and commitment of the young men on Pace High School's baseball team has indeed set the bar high for their classmates and the community.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the entire community of Northwest Florida, I congratulate Pace High School's baseball team for winning their fourth State championship. Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of these young men. My wife Vicki and I wish them much continued success in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, May is National Arthritis Awareness Month and I rise to let Americans know how they can prevent and decrease the pain and disability of arthritis. Arthritis is the nation's most common cause of disability in the U.S., affecting 46 million adults and 300,000 children. Arthritis is also a common co-morbidity for most other chronic diseases. For example, 57% of adults with heart disease and 52% of adults with diabetes also have arthritis.

There are over 100 types of arthritis. Osteoarthritis, the most common form, affects 27 million Americans, often causing severe pain and disability, interfering with work productivity, and resulting in joint replacement. The risk of osteoarthritis increases rapidly beginning at age 45, affecting many people in their prime working years. The combination of the aging Baby Boomer population, increased longevity, and the obesity epidemic are creating a "perfect storm" for dramatically increasing the prevalence of osteoarthritis, especially in women.

Despite this troubling prediction, there is some good news. Numerous new initiatives are underway to address these issues. The National Public Health Agenda for Osteoarthritis, developed through a partnership of the Arthritis Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 50 other organizations, a blueprint for actions to stem the tide of osteoarthritis. The Agenda states the need to increase availability of evidence-based intervention strategies; increase public health attention for prevention and disease management; increase research to better understand disease risk factors and other effective disease management strategies.

In addition, a new national public service advertising campaign is being undertaken and the Arthritis Foundation is encouraging adults to take simple steps to prevent or decrease the pain and disability of osteoarthritis. The new multimedia campaign features messages about the important role that physical activity and weight reduction play in preventing and managing osteoarthritis. The related website—[www.fightarthritispain.org](http://www.fightarthritispain.org)—includes important information, like an osteoarthritis risk assessment tool for people to find out their risk level and learn how to fight osteoarthritis pain, and

tips, videos and podcasts on how to get moving.

While these are important steps to help individuals cope with arthritis, more needs to be done to research the causes and new interventions for the disease. That is why I am a strong supporter of H.R. 1210, the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act. This bill, which currently has 173 bipartisan co-sponsors, would invest in needed arthritis research, provider training, and public education efforts. I encourage my colleagues to join me as a co-sponsor of this legislation to support all Americans currently living with arthritis, and those who will be diagnosed in the future.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF SUSAN TOFT TO THE CARLSBAD HI-NOON ROTARY CLUB

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the many outstanding achievements of Susan Toft, the outgoing president of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club. Susan's leadership during the 2009–2010 Rotary year has contributed significantly to the Hi-Noon Rotary Club, the community of Carlsbad and the mission of Rotary. During her tenure, the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club sponsored Interact, a youth service club; RYLA, a youth awareness leadership conference; a Christmas party and provided meals and gifts to needy elementary school children; an Oktoberfest fundraiser that benefited the Carlsbad Women's Resource Center, Carlsbad Boys and Girls Club and other charitable organizations; sponsored a golf tournament which funded scholarships for Carlsbad high school students and provided financial support to needy military personnel and their families; promoted literacy by providing dictionaries for English and Spanish speaking elementary school children; made 1,200 books available to the Jefferson Elementary School students; conducted a business and ethics conference for high school students; participated in a matching funds program with a local college to provide scholarship funds for returning Marines; supported the Boy Scouts of America Food Drive Program; teamed with the Assistance League to provide footwear to needy elementary school students and provided food and support to La Posada, a facility for the homeless.

In addition, under President Susan Toft's leadership the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary and its membership completed a number of other projects. We assisted in the distribution of food, clothing, and toys to over 400 needy Carlsbad families in conjunction with the Carlsbad Christmas Bureau. Through our Gazebo project, a city landmark structure was refurbished and relocated for public enjoyment. In addition, support was provided to the Veterans Association of North County.

In the international arena, under Susan Toft's leadership, a team of Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotarians joined with others to build a house in Mexico for a needy family. Through our support of the Paul Harris Foundation, we co-sponsored numerous other humanitarian

projects all over the world including the effort to eradicate polio world-wide, and provided funding for the Micro-banking project enabling third world countries to develop entrepreneurial skills and become self sufficient. We also participated in the Shelter Box program to help the needy in Haiti; helped provide computers to students in Belize, collected shoes for Haitian relief and provided support to the needy of Mulege, Mexico as a result of hurricane Jimena. In addition, one of our members made the largest bequest ever to the Rotary International permanent fund so that it may continue to carry out its international humanitarian efforts. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the many fine achievements of Susan Toft. Without question, her leadership and the fine work of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club are worthy of recognition by the House today.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LATE GEORGE ARNOLD

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of the late George Arnold, a founding faculty member of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, an avid nature lover, and a steadfast supporter of environmental initiatives. George passed away on May 14, 2010 at the age of 93.

George's great love for the environment began in Carbondale, Illinois, on an old family farm where his mother Elizabeth and his father William grew apples and peaches. From those early days, friends and family of George knew him as an environmental trailblazer, a man well ahead of his time, and an early leader in the green movement of the 1970s.

George received his Doctorate in Environmental Science from Washington University in St. Louis in 1964, proudly boasting the university's first doctorate in air pollution. He also received a Master's Degree in physics and a Bachelor's Degree in education, physics, and mathematics at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Though George completed his education at Southern Illinois and Washington University in St. Louis, he never left academia. He taught classes at Kemper Military School, and moved on to teach physics, navigation, and meteorology at Glenview Naval Air Station following his enlistment in the U.S. Naval Reserve. George then became a founding member of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where he returned as a staple of the college faculty and an influential member of the technology and engineering department. Most notably, Arnold was vital in creating a new environmental studies program for the university in the 1960s.

George was also essential to the green movement outside of education. He laid the foundation for a rich Madison County trails system, advocating for bike trails around the area. His hard work and dedication led some to call him "the grandfather of Illinois bikeways." In addition, he spent time lobbying for additional mass transit, determined to create livable and accessible communities.

George Arnold was active in numerous organizations and groups. He was the President of the Lewis and Clark Society, archivist for Marquette-Joliet Tercentennial, co-chair of the Illinois-Missouri Trails Coalition, secretary of the Grassroots Trailnet Committee, chairman of the Piasa Palisades Sierra Group, and president of the Vadalabene Nature Trail Volunteers.

As a celebrated environmental activist and educator, George received several awards and honors. He received the Edwardsville Meritorious Service Award and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Distinguished Service Award for his lifetime commitment to the environment. His efforts in securing outstanding bike trails around the region led Madison County Transit to honor him once more.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me to express appreciation and gratitude to Mr. George Arnold for his countless contributions to Madison County and to all of Southwestern Illinois.

HONORING HENRIETTA PLEASANT-LACKS

**HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I wish to commemorate the Memorial Dedication Service in honor of Henrietta Pleasant-Lacks, which will take place this weekend at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Clover, Virginia. At this ceremony, the descendants of Henrietta Lacks will at last be able to dedicate a headstone for a woman who has for too long been buried in an unmarked grave.

Henrietta Lacks was born Loretta Pleasant on August 1, 1920, in Roanoke Virginia. The granddaughter of slaves, she was raised by her grandfather on a tobacco farm. She married David Lacks in Halifax County, Virginia in 1941, and moved to Baltimore County, Maryland, in search of work. Henrietta and David had five children: Lawrence, Elsie, David, Deborah and Joseph. In February of 1951, Henrietta was diagnosed with cervical cancer. Despite the treatments Henrietta received, she died just eight months later, on October 4, 1951, at the age of thirty-one. She was buried without a tombstone in a family cemetery in Clover, Virginia.

However, the story of Henrietta Lacks was far from over. Without the permission of Lacks, her husband, or any family members, doctors at Johns Hopkins had collected and saved samples of tissue from her cancerous tumor during her hospital stay. These tissue samples were given to George Gey, who had for decades had unsuccessfully attempted to grow cancer cells outside of the body in hopes of studying the causes of and cures for cancer. Lacks's cells finally provided the breakthrough he had been searching for: they doubled in number every 24 hours, and would continue to divide and replenish themselves indefinitely, providing an immortal line of human cells. The line was named "HeLa," and cells were distributed to researchers around the world. These cells are still in use today, and have provided invaluable advances in not only cancer, but also fertility, genetics, and

AIDS research. They also contributed to the invention of the polio vaccine—a fitting end for the cells of a woman who had been a vocal advocate for polio eradication. To date, some twenty tons of these cells have been grown.

The achievements these cells have made possible are undeniably thrilling, but we cannot forget the dark side of this story: that the cells were taken without Henrietta Lacks's consent, that her family was not told for many years what had been done, and that such practices were not uncommon. Lacks was just one of many individuals of that era whose right to consent to procedures performed on her own body was taken away in the name of scientific advancement. Had her cells not been so unusual, her story would likely not be known.

Today we not only honor Henrietta Lacks and her legacy, but we also remember every forgotten individual who because of racial discrimination or poverty was subject to some form of medical injustice. Her story contains at once the greatest heights and most shameful depths of which medicine is capable, and only in acknowledging both can we hope to pursue a world for our future generations that strives for both knowledge and justice.

This more just world requires that we work for access to health care for all, regardless of socioeconomic status. One of the greatest outrages of Henrietta Lacks's story has been that while the medical industry makes millions from advances she made possible, members of her own family have struggled to afford care, and have never been able to benefit from the medical discoveries made. As we fight for solutions to these injustices, I pledge to remember Henrietta's family's words, "We are asking each of you to be her voice." On behalf of the 5th District of Virginia, I thank Dr. Ronald Pattillo of the Morehouse School of Medicine for his support for the tombstone dedication and the Lacks family for their dedicated efforts to telling her story and ensuring that future generations will know that we have Henrietta's immortal cells to thank for countless discoveries made and lives saved.

HONORING HOLY TRINITY GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston, Maine on its 100 year anniversary and its subsequent consecration.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston, Maine was founded in 1910. As a small church on Lincoln Street in downtown Lewiston, it was established to serve more than 3,000 Greeks in the community who were drawn to the area by jobs in the Bates and surrounding mills. As the mills began to close in the 1950's, the Greek residents migrated south to the Massachusetts mills, and the population of Holy Trinity reduced significantly. Despite this drop in population, a new church was built in 1977 on Hogan Road, and Holy Trinity continued to be known as a pillar of civic leadership in the area.

On Saturday May 22, 2010, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church celebrated its 100th

Anniversary. On the following Sunday, they consecrated their 33-year old church building, marking a commitment to Greek Orthodoxy in Lewiston for generations to come. Greek Orthodox churches are consecrated just once in their lifetime, usually after a milestone has been met to ensure that the building is a permanent part of the parish. Archbishop Metropolitan Methodios chose the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston as one of only two consecrations he would preside over in 2010.

From 2000 to 2008, Holy Trinity, largely under the stewardship of Fr. Ted Toppses, extended its outreach past Lewiston to the surrounding areas and expanded its membership by fifty families. Always a vital part of Lewiston, the Church continues to address the spiritual and social needs of the surrounding communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the centennial and consecration of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston and all of the contributions they make to the communities in the greater Lewiston and Auburn area.

ON INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION  
RECOGNIZING THE CONVENTION  
ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN  
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD  
FAUNA AND FLORA ON ITS 35TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on its 35th anniversary.

CITES was created in 1973 to ensure that international trade in wild plants and animals does not threaten their survival. CITES entered into force on July 1, 1975 and thus will celebrate its 35th anniversary on July 1, 2010. Launched with a few signatory nations, CITES has now 175 parties that have an international obligation and responsibility to protect our planets' endangered animals and plants. Nearly 5,000 species of animals and 28,000 species of plants are protected by the Convention against over-exploitation through international trade. Adherence to these protective measures has proven to have benefited the conservation of animals and plants worldwide.

Unfortunately, more and more species are at risk of extinction and international trade, both legal and illegal, has exacerbated the dangers. International wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars per year and to include hundreds of millions of live plants and animals and derived products such as food products, leather and fur, ornamentals, medicinal, and timber. Such high levels of exploitation of and trade in wild animals and plants, together with other factors such as habitat loss, are capable of bringing some species close to extinction.

Between 1979 and 1989 more than 600,000 African elephants were killed for their ivory, cutting the continent's population in half. Nevertheless, poaching has continued with an estimated 38,000 elephants killed annually and

23.2 tons of poached ivory seized since 2007. As sea ice declines, polar bears will not be able to adapt to a terrestrial-based life resulting in increased mortality, reduced reproduction, increased human-bear conflicts, and overall drastic decline of populations. Several sharks have been severely depleted with declines as high as 99 percent in some areas as a result of the high demand for their fins and meat. Overfishing, increased consumer demand and inadequate enforcement of infractions have led to historically low populations of bluefin tuna.

Every two to three years the parties of CITES meet at the Conference of the Parties to review the status of species in danger of extinction and establish trade restrictions. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in March 2010. Several proposals were submitted during the summit, some of them ensuring better protections for endangered species, others trying to downlist species and re-open trade. While proposals to downlist elephant populations in Tanzania and Zambia were successfully defeated, several proposals to establish stronger protections for the polar bear, eight sharks, the bluefin tuna and other species were unfortunately rejected. I am saddened to see that economic interests have prevailed over species conservation, risking to bring species close to extinction. This is unacceptable.

My resolution will congratulate the Convention on its 35th anniversary and recognize the important contributions it has made since its establishment in regulating international trade in endangered species and protecting endangered species worldwide. It will also applaud the Convention's recent leadership in protecting elephants in Tanzania and Zambia. Lastly, the resolution will urge all parties to the Convention to collaborate effectively to curb excessive exploitation of species for international trade and, in particular, to adopt stronger protections for the polar bear, sharks, bluefin tuna and other endangered species at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2013.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a moral obligation to protect endangered species and their natural habitat. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to the diversity and stability of our environment. We must continue to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of both human beings and the world's most incredible species.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting wildlife and environmental conservation across the globe by supporting this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. COLLINS

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Robert J. Collins, Superintendent of the Grossmont Union High School District, which I have the pleasure of representing.

Bob Collins has served the Grossmont Union High School District with distinction for

the past 3 years, and I wish him nothing but the best as a new chapter in his life begins.

Prior to his service in Grossmont, Bob was a 39-year veteran of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Throughout his career Mr. Collins served as a social studies teacher, leadership advisor, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent, Superintendent of District One and Chief Instructional Officer for Secondary Schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

In November 2007, Bob became superintendent of the Grossmont Union High School District, where he established a singular focus for the district: the academic and personal success of every student. He has excelled in working with local leaders, while creating targeted programs to address the social and emotional needs of students; recognizing that student achievement is not just a classroom issue.

Restoring public confidence in schools has been a continuing theme of his administration that has been marked by significantly increased standardized test scores, greater parent engagement, and strong community and business relations. His efforts and the programs he developed have been recognized at the local, State and national levels and are models in many other schools and districts. His honors include being recognized as Principal of the Year in the State of California in 1989.

Madam Speaker, let us all applaud the 43-year service that Robert Collins has provided to our San Diego and Los Angeles communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the many achievements of this great public servant.

BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION,  
RISK REDUCTION AND AWARE-  
NESS ACT OF 2010

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2010 today, which will help provide accurate, evidence-based information to pregnant and breast-feeding women about medications, chemical exposures, foodborne illness and other exposures associated with birth defects or health risks to a breastfed infant.

Women who are pregnant or breast-feeding often have difficult questions, such as if they should continue taking medications for chronic diseases, or whether they should get vaccinated against H1N1 or the seasonal flu. The bill would establish a grant program to revitalize the national network of pregnancy risk information services (PRISs), more than half of which have closed over the last decade due to lack of funding. Over 70,000 women seek information from these essential services each year.

The legislation, which has been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, March of Dimes, the Organization of Teratology Information Specialists, Spina Bifida Association, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and Allergy and Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics, would also

call for a national information campaign to help increase public awareness among health providers and at-risk populations. I hereby submit for the RECORD letters of support from these organizations.

There is nothing more important than protecting our children, and this legislation will help expectant and breast-feeding mothers to obtain clear, accurate information about the potential risks of medications, illnesses, and other exposures during pregnancy and breast-feeding, helping them to both avoid risks and improve healthy behaviors like taking folic acid. Unfortunately, research shows that up to half of pregnant women are not counseled by their health care providers about the potential risks of medications they may be taking, and programs to provide this information have been closing due to state and local budget cuts. This legislation will finally help mothers and health care professionals access critical information to help them ensure their babies are healthy, and I urge my colleagues to support our efforts.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS,

*May 18, 2010.*

HON. ROSA DELAURO,  
*Rayburn House Office Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I would like to share our support for the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act.

Each year, about one in every 33 babies in our nation is born with a birth defect. Birth defects can be caused by genetic factors, environmental exposures, or a combination of the two. For the vast majority of birth defects, however, the cause remains unknown. Research continues to reveal important new information about the causes and prevention of birth defects.

The Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act seeks to provide a resource for pregnant women who have questions about whether certain medications, infections, or chemical or environmental exposures might cause or increase the risk of a birth defect, or pose a risk to a breastfeeding baby. The bill would support the provision of pregnancy and breastfeeding information services to women and health care providers seeking information about known or suspected risks. Breastfeeding mothers will receive information about how potential risks should be weighed against the significant benefits of breastfeeding. These services will address an important need as our understanding of birth defects and their prevention continues to evolve.

The AAP deeply appreciates your commitment to preventing birth defects and educating the public about potential risks. We are pleased to support the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the health of all our nation's children.

Sincerely,

JUDITH S. PALFREY,  
*President.*

MARCH OF DIMES FOUNDATION,  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, March 30, 2010.*

HON. ROSA DELAURO,  
*Rayburn House Office Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: On behalf of more than 3 million volunteers and 1,400 staff of the March of Dimes Foundation, I am writing to express support for the "Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act of 2010." As currently drafted, this bill authorizes funding to conduct a national media campaign, enhance surveillance and research on exposures that may lead to adverse birth outcomes such as birth defects or prematurity. It also authorizes funding to develop best practice guidelines to improve infant health.

Each year, an estimated 120,000 infants are born with major structural birth defects and one in five infant deaths is due to birth defects, which are a leading cause of infant mortality. It is important to ensure that the public—especially women of childbearing age—and health care professionals have access to clinical and evidence based information about exposures during pregnancy and the period of breastfeeding, because it is an important way of helping to decrease the incidence of birth defects and improve infant health. Unfortunately, studies show that up to half of pregnant women are not counseled by their health care providers about the potential teratogenic effects of prescription drugs that they are taking. Pregnancy risk information services can help to address the problem by making available to women information about the potential impact of exposure to medication, illnesses of others, and environmental agents that can affect the developing fetus and infant.

Thank you for your leadership on this very important issue, Representative DeLauro, we look forward to working with you on this and other issues central to the health and wellbeing of children in communities across the nation and around the world.

Sincerely,

DR. MARINA L. WEISS,  
*Senior Vice President.*

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
HEALTH CENTER,  
*West Hartford, Connecticut.*

HON. ROSA DELAURO,  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MS. DELAURO: As the coordinator of the Connecticut Pregnancy Exposure Information Service, I want to express my deep appreciation for your willingness to introduce legislation that would establish a program to fund pregnancy risk information services such as ours. As you know, over the past decade, more than half of the state services across the country have closed due to state budget constraints, and those remaining have experienced severe cuts. We simply are not able to reach all the women who need counseling on exposures that may pose a risk to healthy pregnancies. Without a Federal program to support pregnancy risk information services, it is unclear if we can continue to operate. Pregnant women and their health care providers NEED INFORMATION about exposures that pose a risk to pregnancy or breastfeeding infants. Thank you for recognizing this need and for introducing legislation to assure that we can continue to serve the public.

I am an officer of the Organization of Teratology Information Specialists and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you briefly in New Haven and take a photo with you for our newsletter.

Again, thank you so very much for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

SHARON VOYER LAVIGNE.

SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION,  
May 3, 2010.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,  
Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: On behalf of the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), the only national voluntary health organization working on behalf of the estimated 166,000 individuals who live with all forms of Spina Bifida and their families, I am writing to express our appreciation to you for introducing the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act of 2010. This legislation will provide much-needed support to pregnancy risk information services, which play a crucial role in educating women on how to reduce the risk of preventable birth defects, including Spina Bifida.

One of the primary goals of SBA is to increase awareness of the importance of folic acid consumption among the 65 million women in the United States of child-bearing age. The risk of Spina Bifida and other serious birth defects can be reduced by up to 70%, if women of childbearing age consume 400 micrograms (400 mcg) of folic acid (a B-vitamin) every day. Grants funded under the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act of 2010 will help ensure that women who are considering becoming pregnant have access to information on the importance of folic acid supplementation, as well as other key steps they can take to ensure a healthy pregnancy.

SBA thanks you for recognizing the importance of pregnancy risk information services. If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

CINDY BROWNSTEIN,  
President and Chief Executive Officer.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY,  
ASTHMA & IMMUNOLOGY,

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,  
Hon. MICHAEL BURGESS,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR Ms. DELAURO AND Mr. BURGESS: On behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, I write to express strong support for legislation you will introduce to fund the national network of pregnancy risk information services that are currently severely underfunded. These services counsel pregnant and breast-feeding women on exposures to medications, chemicals, infections, and other risks to healthy pregnancy and healthy infants.

A pregnant or breast-feeding woman lives in fear of any exposure that might pose a risk to her pregnancy or her baby. This is because of the paucity of information on the impact of exposures to medications, chemicals, infections and illnesses during pregnancy and nursing. Some exposures can be avoided, but for women with chronic diseases such as asthma, epilepsy, hypertension, or depression, continued use of medication may be essential to the health of both the woman and her infant. Asthma affects about 8% of pregnant women—over 300,000 women per year. Some women simply discontinue their asthma medications during pregnancy out of fear of a potential birth defect. However, uncontrolled asthma may pose a greater risk of complicating the pregnancy. Our organization has initiated a major study of asthma drugs in pregnancy in collaboration with the nation's pregnancy risk information services. This study simply could not be done without the resources available through these services. Unfortunately, more than half of the pregnancy risk information services in the country have closed over the past decade, and those that remain have sustained severe funding cuts. The legislation you are introducing will increase support for

these important programs and assure that the vitally important counseling and research services they provide can be reinvigorated.

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology is the largest professional medical specialty organization in the United States representing allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals, and others dedicated to improving the treatment of allergic diseases through research and education. We thank you for your leadership in support of prevention and research related to birth defects and are pleased to offer the Academy's support for your legislation.

Sincerely,

MARK BALLOW, M.D.,  
President.

## MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1258, "Expressing support for designation of May 2010 as Mental Health Month."

Mental health issues pose a serious problem for the people of this nation. Roughly 57 million people in the U.S. suffer from some form of mental illness. These illnesses affect not only the quality of life of the individual, but also the health of our communities, families, and our economic stability. Untreated mental illness is the leading cause of lost productivity and absenteeism in the workplace, resulting in an estimated \$193 billion per year in lost earnings.

In addition to lost time and productivity, untreated mental illnesses far too frequently result in lost lives. In recent years, the suicide rate has been double the homicide rate; suicide is the third leading cause of death for people between 15 and 24. While the problem of mental illness and depression knows no demographic boundaries, suicide rates are particularly high among the elderly and Native Americans.

The challenges of mental illness impact our military as well. Roughly a quarter of our service members suffer either psychological or neurological disorders, including depression and PTSD.

I support the designation of May as Mental Health Month, and urge my colleagues to join me. We need to recognize that mental well-being is as important as physical well-being for our citizens, families, and communities, and that our failure, as a nation, to prioritize mental health care is a tragedy. We need to remove the stigma from mental illness and encourage people to seek assistance, promote public awareness of the problem, and improve access to appropriate services for our citizens.

## HONORING HANDSON NASHVILLE

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts by the

citizens of Nashville in response to the recent floods, and the critical role that HandsOn Nashville played in coordinating those efforts.

As my colleagues know, earlier this month water levels in Nashville reached 32 feet above normal and 12 feet above flood level, causing devastating damage. Eighteen people died, hundreds were rescued, and many of our city's most beloved and famous attractions were partially submerged. Entire homes were destroyed, and many families have been displaced. Property damage in Davidson County is now estimated at almost \$2 billion.

Most remarkable about Nashville's story, though, is the spirit of giving and volunteering shown in abundance by the people in Nashville during and after this crisis. With very little fanfare or media attention, people from all across Middle Tennessee got to work to help their neighbors in need.

In particular, I want to salute the team at HandsOn Nashville, led by Executive Director Brian Williams. Between May 2 and May 19, over 60,000 volunteer hours were donated to flood recovery by HandsOn Nashville volunteers. During that same period, 14,200 Nashville citizens came forward to serve in flood-related programming coordinated by HandsOn Nashville, serving in over 760 separate projects to aid flood victims.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in honoring HandsOn Nashville for their crucial contributions to the Nashville community.

## VOTING AGAINST THE FY 2011 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

### HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I supported the version of the Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act that my colleagues and I on the House Armed Services Committee passed through Committee on May 19, 2010 by a unanimous vote of 59-0. The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" issue was never debated or considered by the House Armed Services Committee at all this year during consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act.

I associate myself with the remarks of Ranking Member BUCK MCKEON who stated that "The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff asked Congress to respect the process they developed to study the ramifications of repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell." He further stated that "we have a duty to honor that request and hear directly from our military personnel—and their families—before making a decision on a sensitive issue that directly affects them." I also agree with Chairman SKELTON's statement on this issue: "In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee this spring and in a recent letter, Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen asked Congress to defer any legislative action regarding 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' until after the Department of Defense completes its comprehensive review later this year. In a statement today, the Pentagon indicated that ideally, Secretary Gates continues to prefer that the Department complete this review before

Congress considers legislation. This is a reasonable and responsible request that I respect." He went on to say that "My position on this issue has been clear—I support the current policy and I will oppose any amendment to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' I hope my colleagues will avoid jumping the gun and wait for DOD to complete its work on this issue." I consider it an insult to our military leaders and service members for Congress to legislate change before the military's comprehensive study is complete.

Unfortunately, last night, during floor consideration, the House voted to attach an amendment to National Defense Authorization Act repealing the military's current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

I voted against this amendment and I can no longer support the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act if the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is included in the final bill. For the first time in my 20 years in Congress, I will be voting against the House approved version of the National Defense Authorization Act.

---

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 13, 2010, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall vote No. 268 on the Halvorson of Illinois Amendment No. 38 to H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

---

HONORING ELIZABETH A. "BETSY" MOLER

### HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Elizabeth A. "Betsy" Moler and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement. Betsy has been a preeminent voice on energy policy throughout her career and her knowledge, thoughtfulness, and kindness will be sorely missed.

Betsy began her career of public service in the office of Senator Mike Gravel of Alaska where she started out as a staff assistant. She went on to serve on the staff of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as Counsel for both Chairman Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson of Washington and Chairman J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana. During her time on the Committee, she was the principal staff member responsible for all natural gas issues and helped craft the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. While on the Committee, Betsy became a resource not only to the Chairmen, but also to the other members of the Committee.

In 1988, at the urging of all nineteen members of the Committee, President Ronald W. Reagan nominated her to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC. She was reappointed to the Commission by Presidents George H.W. Bush and William Jefferson Clinton. President

Clinton designated her to serve as the Commission's Chair in 1993. Betsy is the longest serving member of FERC and the only member appointed by three different Presidents. During her tenure as Chair of FERC, Moler led the effort that resulted in the successful restructuring of both the interstate natural gas industry under Order No. 636 and the wholesale electricity industry under Order Nos. 888 and 889. These latter landmark orders required utilities to open their transmission lines on an equal access basis to their competitors, which ushered in a new era of robust competition in wholesale electricity markets. This achievement is perhaps Betsy's greatest professional legacy.

President Clinton again turned to Betsy to serve, this time nominating her to be Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, DOE. While at DOE, she was the principal architect of the Clinton Administration's Comprehensive Electricity Competition Act, which was presented to the Congress in June 1998.

In 2000, Betsy joined Exelon Corporation, formerly Unicom, to head the Washington, DC office where she served as Executive Vice President, Government & Environmental Affairs and Public Policy. In this last position, Betsy remained a vital resource to those concerned about energy policy, testifying before Congress and FERC on numerous occasions. Most importantly, Betsy remained available to share her wise counsel with those seeking to improve our nation's energy and environmental laws. We thank her for her service and many contributions.

---

#### RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR OLEH SHAMSHUR

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of the United States, please let me express appreciation to Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, his Excellency Oleh Shamshur.

Since his appointment in December of 2005, he has worked tirelessly to strengthen ties between our two countries. As a co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I have had the distinct pleasure of working closely with the Ambassador.

Ambassador Shamshur was integral in the re-establishment of normal trade relations between our countries and the signing of the Trade and Investment Cooperation Agreement. With his help the United States and Ukraine signed an Agreement on Strategic Cooperation in December 2008, which has fostered democratic growth, transparency, and freedom in Ukraine. In addition, it has established goals to cooperate on concrete issues such as military, energy, and scientific cooperation. During the Ambassador's tenure great steps were taken to strengthen Ukraine's energy security and ensure its progress towards European integration.

Ambassador Shamshur worked with the Ukrainian-American community to ensure that the victims of the 1932-33 famine-genocide were given the honor they deserve. He understands that history demands truth. Properly securing a nation's past positions it forward to

the future—an important undertaking often undervalued by diplomats and leaders. In addition, he has taken steps to grow Ukrainian-American exchange programs in order to promote democratic values and strengthen the bond between our two nations.

We wish him, his wife Tetiana, and his daughter Tetiana all the best as their journey continues. I know Dr. Shamshur will continue to help Ukraine achieve the democratic freedoms she has fought for since achieving her independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. He is a wonderful representative of Ukraine and her people, a good friend, and a true statesman. Thank you, Ambassador Shamshur, for your service.

---

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday I missed the first four rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately I missed these votes because I was detained in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 306, on Agreeing to the Resolution—H Con. Res. 282—Providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses.

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 307, on Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Res. 1404—Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 308 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 1161—Honoring the Centennial Celebration of Women at Marquette University, the first Catholic university in the world to offer co-education as part of its regular undergraduate program.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 309, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 1372—Honoring the University of Georgia Graduate School on the occasion of its centennial.

---

AADITH MOORTHY OF PALM HARBOR, FLORIDA WINS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Aadith Moorthy, a 13-year-old eighth grader from Palm Harbor Middle School, which I have the privilege to represent, won the National Geographic Bee in our Nation's capital this week.

This is quite an accomplishment for this Pinellas County teenager, as this is one of our Nation's most difficult academic competitions. It took hours of studying and preparation time. Aadith says one of his keys to success was his writing down 20 facts at a time and memorizing them. As he got closer to the national competition, he upped his daily routine to writing and memorizing 50 facts a day.

While others were out enjoying our great weather in Florida, Aadith was inside studying 10 hours a day on weekends. His hard work and dedication paid off with this national honor, along with winning a \$25,000 college scholarship and a trip to the Galapagos Islands.

Aadith brought with him to Washington his personal cheering section that included his father Subramaniam, his mother Suguna, and Michelle Anderson, his teacher from Palm Harbor Middle School.

Madam Speaker, following my remarks I will include for the benefit of my colleagues a report from the St. Petersburg Times by Theodora Ageles that describes in detail the tense competition that led to Aadith's title. It also talks about the pride his principal Victoria Hawkins and all of his classmates and teachers at Palm Harbor Middle School have in Aadith and the national acclaim he has brought their school.

Please join me in honoring and congratulating Aadith Moorthy as the 2010 National Geographic Bee champion and for months of hard work and study that resulted in a job well done.

**PALM HARBOR STUDENT WINS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE**

(By Theodora Ageles)

Aadith Moorthy will get the star treatment in New York City today, a day after winning the 22nd annual National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C.

"I'm going to be interviewed on The Early Show, Fox 13, CNN and MSN tomorrow," he said Wednesday in a telephone interview while en route to the airport for his flight to New York. "I'm happy. I feel relieved that I don't have to study anymore."

The 13-year-old eighth-grader from Palm Harbor Middle School beat out nine other boys in a battle of world knowledge. He wins a \$25,000 college scholarship and a trip to the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific west of Ecuador.

"I can take a break and get back to my singing," said Aadith, who gives local performances of Carnatic music, the classical music of southern India. "I haven't had much time to practice, and I've missed that."

Interestingly enough, he was put on the spot during introductions when host Alex Trebek asked him to sing a Carnatic tune.

The final question asked for the largest city in northern Haiti, which was renamed following Haiti's independence from France. The answer was Cap-Haitien. Aadith had it and gave a small fist pump.

"I feel great," Aadith said with a big smile shortly afterward. "The mission is accomplished."

His father, Subramaniam Satyamoorthy, gave him a hug and bowed slightly before his geography whiz son.

When writing 20 new facts a day helped him win the state championship, Aadith boosted his fact writing to 50 a day studying for the national bee. That preparation helped him advance to the final 10 Tuesday and win it all Wednesday.

By now, "he has enough (knowledge) for a couple of books," his father said.

Aadith spent most of the bee, though, on the edge of defeat. He was the only contestant to answer incorrectly in the first round of Wednesday's finals and would have been eliminated if he was wrong again. He acknowledged he was scared, but nerves didn't throw the aspiring physicist.

"We were worried when he missed that question in the first round," said Aadith's mother, Suguna Moorthy. "Now we are so

happy there are no words to express how we feel.

"He spent so many hours preparing. On school days, he studied geography before he completed his homework. On weekends he studied 10 hours a day."

His teacher, Michelle Anderson, who also traveled to Washington to watch Aadith compete, said that misstep didn't shake his confidence.

"His first question was really tough," Anderson said. "It was something about which city had 71/2 million people within its city limits. He had three choices.

"Aadith knew it wasn't Kiev. When he chose Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and it was Kinshasa, he didn't lose his concentration. He stayed focused, which says a lot for his control, his stamina and endurance. And he took the whole competition."

Aadith clinched the victory with knowledge of Botswana, Argentina and Sweden in the best-of-five final round, as his final opponent, 13-year-old Oliver Lucier of Wakefield, R.I., stumbled.

"They were hard. They were really hard," Oliver said of the final questions.

Still, Oliver, a soccer player, will take home a \$15,000 scholarship for second place. Karthik Mouli, 12, of Boise, Idaho, came in third to win a \$10,000 scholarship. Both runners-up also represented their states at the national bee last year.

Right after the victory, Aadith and his proud entourage were giving nonstop interviews to television crews, newspaper reporters and radio show hosts. A few hours later, he was off to New York.

Aadith knows he will get a break on Friday when he comes home, but when he was asked what he's looking forward to, he said, "Sleeping in my own bed."

Principal Victoria Hawkins of Palm Harbor Middle School is thrilled for Aadith, the school and the school district.

"We are so proud of him," she said. "He is an unbelievable student with a huge thirst for knowledge."

His teacher, Anderson, said she "felt a sense of immense joy and pride when he answered the winning question."

"I'm proud to have had a small role in helping him. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

**Fast facts**

**Questions asked in the final round**

1. Tswana is a Bantu language spoken by the largest ethnic group in what land-locked country? Answer: Botswana.

2. The Oresund Bridge opened in 2000; it connects Copenhagen, Denmark, with what Swedish city? Answer: Malmö.

3. Cam Ranh Bay has served as a naval base for Japan, France, U.S. and the former Soviet Union. This bay is located in which country. Answer: Vietnam.

**HAMMOND ROTARY CLUB HONORS BILL BEATTY**

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. William Beatty, who has been recognized by the Hammond Rotary Club as an outstanding club member who has demonstrated consistent achievement in mentoring young men and women in the community of Hammond and throughout Northwest Indiana. His devotion to teaching

young people the importance of community service is to be commended. For his outstanding efforts, he will be presented with the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award by the Hammond Rotary Club on Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

The Hammond Rotary Club was established in 1920, adhering to the principles of Rotary International: "World Peace through Understanding" and "Service above Self." These values are vigorously upheld by the Hammond Rotary Club members, who passionately serve their community. Each year, the club recognizes an individual or organization who enthusiastically reaches out to the youth of the community by honoring the recipient with the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award, and this year's recipient is William "Bill" Beatty.

Bill Beatty grew up in Hammond, Indiana and is a proud graduate of Hammond High School. He went on to attend Purdue University where he studied mechanical engineering. After college, Bill joined the family business, which at the time was called Beatty Machine, and is now known as Beatty International. In 1975, Bill succeeded his father and became the company's leader. In addition to his amazing career, Bill has been involved with the Hammond Rotary for many years and is recognized for his work with the youth of the community as well as his positive attitude and contagious laugh. He has been the inspiration behind the Hammond Robotics Team, a science and technology competitive team, and has led these students to many State, regional, and national championships. In addition, he has assisted other school districts in forming their own robotics teams. His willingness to encourage and guide the youth of the community is constant and unwavering, and it is because of his efforts that he is the recipient of the 2010 Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award.

Bill's dedication to the community and his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Bill and his wonderful wife, Lisa, have two beloved sons, Brian and Jeff.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Bill Beatty on receiving the Robert V. Heinze Vocational Service Award, and in honoring the Hammond Rotary for their outstanding contributions to the community of Hammond and all of Northwest Indiana. Their constant commitment to improving the quality of life for countless individuals in Northwest Indiana is truly inspirational, and they are worthy of the highest praise.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 246–248 on Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall 246–248 on May 5, 2010 because I was on official business. I would like to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote 246, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res.

1320, "Expressing support for the vigilance and prompt response of the citizens and law enforcement agencies in New York and Connecticut to the attempted terrorist attack in Times Square, May 1, 2010," I would have voted aye;

For rollcall vote 247, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as to H. Res. 1272, "Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the May 4, 1970, Kent State University shootings," I would have voted aye;

For rollcall vote 248, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended, H. Res. 1301, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day," I would have voted aye.

ON MEMORIAL DAY AND EVERY DAY, LET US REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION

### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, as we recognize Memorial Day 2010, I wanted to remember each of the American Service Members from Florida's 7th Congressional District who have lost their life to hostile actions since 1996 as reported to me by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Let us remember all those who have fallen in service to our Nation. Let us never forget those who have served and paid the ultimate price so that we can live in this great land.

We must forever keep these heroes in our thoughts and prayers. Let us today, on Memorial Day and every day, thank the good Lord for their incredible sacrifice.

They have made it possible for all Americans to live in freedom. Let us also remember and pay tribute to the families and loved ones whose loss is immeasurable.

On Memorial Day and every day, let us continue in our hearts and minds to hold dearly all those who have served and are serving this Nation.

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

1. Patrick Fennig, Air Force, Palm Coast—June 25, 1996, Khobar Towers.

2. Michael Heiser, Air Force, Palm Coast—June 25, 1996, Khobar Towers.

3. Brian McVeigh, Air Force, DeBary—June 25, 1996, Khobar Towers.

4. Kenneth Conde, Marines, Orlando—July 1, 2004, Iraq.

5. Jason Dwelley, Navy, Apopka—April 30, 2004, Iraq.

6. Bradley Fox, Army, Orlando—April 20, 2004, Iraq.

7. Arthur Mastrapa, Army, Apopka—June 16, 2004, Iraq.

8. Antoine Smith, Marines, Orlando—November 15, 2004, Iraq.

9. Theodore Bowling, Marines, Casselberry—November 11, 2004, Iraq.

10. Patrick Rapicault, Marines, St. Augustine—November 15, 2004, Iraq.

11. Arthur Williams, Army, Edgewater—December 8, 2004, Iraq.

12. Carlos Gil, Army, Orlando—February 18, 2005, Iraq.

13. Alwyn Cashe, Army, Oviedo—November 8, 2005, Iraq.

14. Gene Hawkins, Army, Orlando—October 12, 2006, Iraq.

15. Sean Tharp, Army, Orlando—March 28, 2006, Iraq.

16. Marco Miller, Army, Longwood—December 5, 2006, Iraq.

17. Nicholas Rogers, Army, Deltona—October 22, 2006, Iraq.

18. Angelo Vaccaro, Army, Deltona—October 3, 2006, Afghanistan.

19. John Mete, Army, Bunnell—September 14, 2007, Iraq.

20. Brandon Bobb, Army, Orlando—July 17, 2007, Iraq.

21. Sandy Britt, Army, Apopka—August 21, 2007, Iraq.

22. Alexander Rosa, Army, Orlando—May 25, 2007, Iraq.

23. Bryan Tutten, Army, St. Augustine—December 25, 2007, Iraq.

24. Adam Quinn, Army, Orange City—October 6, 2007, Afghanistan.

25. Robert Miller, Army, Oviedo—January 25, 2008, Afghanistan.

26. Jason Dahlke, Army, Orlando—August 29, 2009, Afghanistan.

27. Randy Haney, Army, Orlando—September 6, 2009, Afghanistan.

28. Anthony Davis, Army, Daytona Beach—January 6, 2009, Iraq.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, I was absent from the House floor, during rollcall vote No. 277 on H.R. 5325, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

### CONGRATULATING MALAYSIA IN ITS 50TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

#### HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Malaysia's 50th anniversary of Independence. Since Malaysia gained its independence from the United Kingdom on August 31, 1957, Malaysia has made tremendous progress toward democracy and economic growth. The road to democracy and economic stability has not been easy, with a number of bumps along the way; however, I believe it is important to recognize Malaysia's perseverance in moving its democracy and economy forward.

Today, Malaysia is a middle-income country with a multi-sector economy based on services and manufacturing. It is now our 10th largest trading partner and we are Malaysia's largest foreign investor. Since its independence, Malaysia has had one of the best economic records in Asia. Malaysia's GDP has grown by an average of 6.5 percent per year since 1957. The Malaysian government has taken an active role in ensuring that its economic development also benefits marginalized

groups, such as the ethnic Malays and other indigenous groups. Through economic programs, such as the New Economic Policy of 1971, the National Development policy, and the National Vision Policy, Malaysia has demonstrated its commitment to eradicate poverty, enhance the economic standing of ethnic and indigenous groups, promote education, and its intent to focus on higher-technology production. I believe it is also commendable that Malaysia has set a national goal to become a fully developed economy by the year 2020. With its historical progress, I believe it is feasible and I look forward to witnessing their progress and deepening our bilateral relations in the years to come.

In addition to our robust economic ties with Malaysia, I would also like to highlight our joint efforts to combat international terrorism. Malaysia has been a key ally to the U.S. and a leader in counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics in Southeast Asia. Through intelligence sharing, close cooperation in law enforcement, participation in joint exercises and trainings, Malaysia has been a tremendous partner in security cooperation. In May 2002, Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. on counterterrorism and we made a joint declaration that provides a framework for counterterrorism cooperation. As a progressive and moderate Muslim nation, Malaysia is a good example of a modern, prosperous, multi-racial, and multi-religious society.

Since coming to power in 2003, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has provided opportunities for the U.S. to improve diplomatic and political relations with Southeast Asian nations. As a moderate secular Islamic nation, Malaysia's experiences and cooperation could play a key role in coping with religious extremism, countering terrorism, and exerting a moderate influence on the Islamic community in Southeast Asia. Under Prime Minister Badawi's leadership, Malaysia is adopting an "Islam Hadhari" approach, which encourages and emphasizes a view of Islam that is focused on development, social justice, and tolerance. Malaysia's progressiveness is highly commendable and has the potential to have great influence internationally.

Malaysia has come a long way and, as a key ally to the United States, I would like to commend Malaysia for its continued progress and remarkable achievements and congratulate the people of Malaysia in their celebration of 50 years of independence.

### HONORING ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Archbishop Hovnan Derderian on the 30th anniversary of his ordination into the Priesthood and the 20th anniversary of his elevation to the rank of Bishop. Archbishop Derderian is Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America. The Western Diocese covers the Western United States.

Archbishop Derderian was born in 1957 in Beirut, Lebanon. In 1980, he was ordained as a priest in the Armenian Apostolic Church. In

1987 Archbishop Derderian received his Master's Degree in Theology from Oxford University, and was raised to the rank of "Dzairakuyun Vartabed." In 1990 he was elected Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in Canada, and later in 1990, was ordained as a Bishop by His Holiness Vazken I. On February 18, 1993 he was made an Archbishop. In 2003, Archbishop Derderian was elected Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America by the 76th Annual Assembly.

Since being elevated to the rank of Archbishop, he has led many projects of great importance to the Church and the community. He created the Christian Youth Mission to Armenia in 2003 which builds ties between youths living in America to Armenia through travel and internship programs. Under his leadership, the Church is nearing completion of the first ever Cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church on the West Coast, located in Burbank, California. Additionally, since his appointment as Primate he has ordained five new priests to serve the Western Diocese.

Archbishop Derderian's commitment to serving the faithful and the community are admirable. I congratulate him on his 30 years of service in the Priesthood and thank him for his leadership.

SPECIAL AGENT SAMUEL HICKS  
FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2010*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2711, the Special Agent Samuel Hicks Families of Fallen Heroes Act. I also want to thank my colleague, Mr. ROGERS, for introducing this important legislation.

This legislation aims to authorize the FBI to pay the relocation and moving expenses for families of FBI agents who are killed in the line of duty. At present, the law only provides for the FBI to cover these expenses if an FBI agent or an employee is killed overseas. However, payment for the relocation of a decedent's immediate family if the death occurs in the U.S. falls outside the ambit of the current statutory provision.

Special Agent Hicks, the man after whom this legislation is named, was a former police officer with the Baltimore police department. Upon receiving an assignment as an FBI agent, Hicks and his family relocated to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Special Agent Hicks regrettably lost his life when he was fatally shot on November 19, 2008 at the age of 33 while executing a Federal search warrant associated with a drug distribution ring. He is survived by his wife and their 2-year-old son. The Bureau was unable to assist the Hicks family in moving back to Baltimore because of restrictive construction of the statute providing only for the financial assistance to families of agents perishing overseas.

This instance of a family of a federal law enforcement officer being denied the financial assistance they required to relocate is indicative of the error in the construction of the ini-

tial remedial statute. Allowing for domestic family members of fallen federal agents or employees to receive the same assistance that foreign families receive will widen the scope of the statute and provide much needed relief to those persons touched by such tragedy.

FBI employees take on tremendous responsibilities to ensure the safety and the security of these United States. As such, agents and their families are moved throughout the country, dispersed to its very corners, in pursuit of this nation's protection. In the event of an untimely and tragic death, we would like to bring help to the fallen hero's family within the perimeter of this new legislation—regardless of whether the tragedy strikes abroad or here at home.

Unfortunately, in the recent past there have been instances in which such authority was needed to support the families of agents or employees who gave their lives for this country, and received no assistance at all. This legislation seeks to remedy this wrong, and hopefully with its passage the immediate family of FBI agents or employees will receive the help they deserve.

The foregoing reasons outline the importance of our attention this legislation seeks to afford those families of federal agents or employees that the initial statutes did not cover. We must provide financial assistance to the families of domestic fallen heroes.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING  
MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES  
AND VETERANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 25, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1385, which recognizes the courage and sacrifice of our veterans and members of the Armed Forces, and urges all Americans to honor their brave service. This important resolution expresses our national gratitude for the willingness of our men and women in uniform, past and present, to risk their lives on our behalf.

I thank Chairman SKELTON for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor. I also thank the Congressman for sponsoring this legislation and for his dedication to ensuring that this Nation does everything it can to repay our veterans and members of the Armed Services for the sacrifices they have made to protect us and the values that we cherish as American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, the members of our Armed Forces have endured hardship and suffering—many of them making the ultimate sacrifice—on behalf of our Nation. Time and again, they have answered the call to serve the United States, leaving their homes, their families, and American soil, in times of war and peace. From World Wars I and II to the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm, our men and women in uniform have fought valiantly to protect American citizens and promote global security.

Since the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, the Armed Forces have served with an inspirational sense of duty and country. Since

2001, more than 1,000 Americans have lost their lives and more than 5,500 Americans have been wounded in the Operation Enduring Freedom. Since 2003, over 4,300 servicemen and servicewomen have sacrificed their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. More than 31,000 Americans have returned from this conflict wounded or with disabilities. California has lost nearly 600 servicemen and servicewomen in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom; two of these brave individuals came from my district. Almost 4,000 men and women from California have been wounded in these conflicts. I am forever grateful for these sacrifices and for the dedication of our Armed Forces to ensure the safety of the American people at a time when our Nation faces challenging new threats from abroad.

These brave men and women have assumed the responsibility of protecting us; we, then, have a solemn obligation to them. We must always provide the members of our Armed Forces with the resources, supplies, and equipment they need to carry out their mission as safely and successfully as possible. We must work hard to support our veterans who return home from overseas, serving their needs with the same vigor and sense of duty that they displayed in serving our country. As the representative of a district that is home to over 24,000 veterans and the VA Medical Center of Long Beach, I know how important it is to ensure that our veterans have access to affordable health care, housing, and job opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1385.

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON  
OECD MEMBERSHIP

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 26, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1391, a resolution congratulating Israel on its accession to membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Membership in the OECD, which includes the United States and most of the nations in the European Union, will yield greater stability and security for Israel. However, like many Israelis, I believe that true long-term stability and security for Israel depends upon a peaceful relationship with its Palestinian neighbors.

The OECD stated values include "a commitment to pluralist democracy based on the rule of law and the respect of human rights." As such, the body has a responsibility to ensure its members uphold and comply with those values. Absent from the debate on this resolution was the revelation that the economic data submitted to the OECD for membership included Israeli citizens living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in violation of OECD's own values and international law.

The submission of this data did not thwart Israel's acceptance into the OECD; however, continued illegal settlement building in the Occupied Territories and the debilitating blockade of Gaza does thwart Israel's long-term security. The acceptance into the OECD despite this data sends a signal to members of the

international community that they can violate international law and be rewarded for it. Furthermore, it threatens to undermine the fragile proximity talks facilitated by U.S. Special

Envoy George Mitchell, as settlement building continues to be a main obstacle to progress.

Stability is not secured solely through economic growth. Anyone truly supportive of Israel must work with the Israeli government to bring it closer to a just and peaceful resolution

with its Palestinian neighbors. I support a strong Israel. I believe that Israel's position in the international community can be strengthened by a demonstrated commitment to human rights and international law.