

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DEERE & COMPANY IN RECOGNITION OF THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF JOHN DEERE

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deere & Company on the 200th anniversary of founder John Deere's birth.

John Deere, who developed the world's first commercially successful, self-scouring steel plow, thereby opening the West to farming, was born on February 7, 1804. John Deere emigrated to the western Illinois settlement of Grand Detour in 1837 and set up a blacksmith shop near the Rock River. After fashioning the first self-scouring steel plow, John Deere moved to a water-powered factory along the Mississippi River in Moline, Illinois—a town of roughly 55,000 people just outside my district.

In 1868, John Deere incorporated his business under the name Deere & Company and established enduring values that have sustained his company for over 165 years—quality, integrity, innovation and commitment. Today, Deere & Company does business in more than 160 countries and employs roughly 43,000 employees worldwide, many of whom reside in my Congressional district. They are the world's leading manufacturer of agricultural and forest equipment, a major manufacturer of construction equipment, and a leading supplier of equipment used in lawn, grounds and turf care.

Today, I wish to recognize Deere & Company on the achievements of pioneer blacksmith John Deere and congratulate the company he founded on the 200th anniversary of his birth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday January 27th, Wednesday January 28th, and on Tuesday February 3rd, I was unavoidably detained due to family matters I had to take care of in California and was not present for rollcall votes on those days.

Had I been present I would have voted the following:

Rollcall No. 6, to extend the provision of title 39, United States Code, under which the United States Postal Service is authorized to issue a special postage stamp to benefit breast cancer research, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 7, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 8, on the Baldwin Substitute Amendment, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 9, on the motion to recommit with instructions, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 10, on final passage of S. 1920, a bill to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall No. 13, on the motion to instruct conferees, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 14, expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* their lives, and extending heartfelt sympathy to their families, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 15, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding several individuals who are being held as prisoners of conscience by the Chinese Government for their involvement in efforts to end the Chinese occupation of Tibet, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 16, recognizing the 93rd birthday of Ronald Reagan, I would have voted "yea."

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE BY CHINESE GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN EFFORTS TO END CHINESE OCCUPATION OF TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 157 and strongly condemn the Chinese government for the continued detainment and torture of Tibetan political prisoners. I remain extremely concerned that men and women in China are routinely persecuted by the Chinese government. China has for too long been at liberty to detain, torture, intimidate and oppress its people.

The Tibetan people are denied basic human rights guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the right to self-determination, freedom of speech, assembly, movement, expression and religious belief. Hundreds of Tibetans are currently in prison for peaceful expressions of political or religious belief. The majority of Tibetan political prisoners are Buddhist monks and nuns.

Each year the situation in Tibet worsens. The unchecked migration of Chinese into Tibetan areas is resulting in social, economic and cultural destruction of Tibetans. His Holiness the Dalai Lama considers this demographic strategy the greatest threat to the survival of the Tibetan culture and identity. More than 6,000 monasteries and nunneries and their contents—irreplaceable jewels of Tibetan culture—have been destroyed since the Chinese occupation and thousands of monks and nuns have been kicked out of their monasteries for refusing to renounce the Dalai Lama.

The Chinese government routinely refuses to allow independent international human rights monitors, including U.N. human rights representatives, to conduct unhindered investigations into the human rights situation in Tibet. Religious freedom in Tibet is non-existent.

Tibetans are routinely imprisoned for participation in non-violent political activities, such as hanging flags or promoting independence. Prisoners serve lengthy sentences and are routinely mistreated and tortured while in prison. I visited Tibet in 1997 and was able to witness first hand the conditions there and the continued repression of the Tibetan people. I met with monks, nuns and Tibetans on the street who revealed to me how bad the conditions are in Tibet. I visited the prisons and heard first hand accounts of the brutality taking place deep in the shadows.

The following is a firsthand account of the arrest of Phuntsog Nyidron, a 20-year-old nun arrested in 1989 for peaceful demonstration in Lhasa. "During arrests nuns are kicked, beaten and given electric shocks on their hands, shoulders, breasts, tongue and face. During the interrogation, they are suspended by their hands, which are shackled behind their backs, for prolonged periods and beaten with iron rods."

As I close, 10 Catholic bishops are in China today under house arrest. The Protestant Church is being abused and beaten in China. The Falun Gong are being persecuted on a daily basis. The Chinese have plundered Tibet. America must do more to force China to adhere to fundamental human rights and religious freedom.

The clock is ticking for Tibet. If nothing is done, a country, its people, religion and culture will one day be lost.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes on February 3, 2004. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 12, on H. Res. 507, expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* their lives, and extending heartfelt sympathy to their families, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote No. 13, on H. Res. 157, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding several individuals who are being held as prisoners of conscience by the Chinese Government for their involvement in efforts to end the Chinese occupation of Tibet, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote No. 14, on H.J. Res. 84, recognizing the 93rd birthday of Ronald Reagan, I would have voted "yes."

• 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.

IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL'S
SECURITY FENCE

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Israel's security fence.

In yet another example of political manipulation of a U.N. body, Palestinians and their supporters have convinced the International Court of Justice to take up the issue of Israel's security fence.

On December 8, 2003, the General Assembly of the United Nations, sitting as an Emergency Special Session, adopted resolution ES/10/14 requesting the ICJ to render an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's security fence. This recent action by the Arab nations is an indignation both in relation to the jurisdiction of the Court to address such an issue, and the propriety of such a proceeding.

The International Court of Justice was set up in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations to be the principal judicial organ of the Organization. The blatant use of the ICJ to further a political agenda is not only an outrage but an obvious conflict with the original purpose of the Court.

Article 36 of the Court's Statute states that contentious issues may only be brought before the Court with the consent of all parties. In this case, not only is the issue at hand clearly contentious, but the parties have already agreed on appropriate mechanisms for resolving such issues between themselves. Israel has voiced their deep reservations about the Arab initiative to involve the ICJ in complex political issues that should be resolved through negotiation and the abuse of the U.N. and the ICJ as part of a narrow political campaign.

A significant group of states, including the United States, Switzerland, Uganda and Italy stated in the General Assembly that they oppose the request for an advisory opinion because it goes directly against the Road Map and the wishes of the Security Council, which unanimously endorsed the Road Map in Resolution 1515 of November 19, 2003 and which has repeatedly called for resolution of the conflict via direct negotiations in accordance with Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

The Government of Israel has recently reiterated its commitment to the Road Map. It believes that those who support the efforts of the Quartet and the international community in bringing the sides together should stress to the ICJ the importance of not prejudicing that process and emphasize that the Court should refuse to respond to the question at hand.

The U.N. General Assembly has been a hotbed of anti-Israel activity, passing more resolutions against Israel than on any other subject—more than 400 since 1964. In contrast, the body has never investigated the Palestinian terror campaign against Israel, nor has it investigated abuse, torture and other human rights violations by non-democratic states in the Arab world.

On a host of issues, the U.N. and its agents, in this case the ICJ, have become not only irrelevant to the cause of furthering classically liberal democracies and peace, but actually hostile to our efforts to promote basic freedoms.

I urge the International Court of Justice to uphold the integrity of its Statute and recog-

nize Israel's security fence as a necessary measure to protect their people from those who believe that the path to salvation is paved by killing Jewish women and children. Otherwise, once again a U.N. entity will end up on the wrong side of peace, security, freedom and democracy.

COMMEMORATING LOYD E.
WILLIAMS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. ESHOO rise today to commemorate the life and many accomplishments of Mr. Loyd Williams, who passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2003. Mr. Williams will long be remembered for his integrity and dedication to the welfare of all people in his community, and for his advocacy and hard work on behalf of the members of the United Association (UA) of Plumbers, Steamfitters, and Refrigeration Fitters Local 393 and the entire labor movement.

Loyd Williams was born in El Morro, NM on April 15, 1941. At the age of 2, he and his family moved to San Jose, CA, where he attended Cambrian Elementary School and then Camden High School. Mr. Williams had his first experiences with the labor movement and its concerns while in his early school years, working as a prune harvester and later becoming a harvest contractor. During which, Loyd fired his own brother for poor job performance. Consequently, he learned a valuable lifelong lesson when Loyd's father later advised him that his brother was not properly trained. Instilled with his father's wisdom and insight, Loyd became one of the most respected labor leaders by modeling and teaching what he expected of others. After graduating from high school in 1959, Mr. Williams became an apprentice plumber and was elected president of his apprenticeship class. In 1964, he became a journeyman plumber and was active for 8 years in UA Local 393. Loyd Williams was elected business agent in 1973 and served continuously until he became business manager in 1992.

Loyd's 43-year dedication to UA Local 393 was not merely confined to his role as a business manager. He gladly took on many other responsibilities within the union and the community. Recently, Loyd Williams chaired the UA Local 393's Centennial Committee, organizing the Union's 100th Anniversary Celebration on January 24, 2004. He also chaired the Board of Trustees for the UA Local 393 Pension Fund, served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Western States Pipe Council, and acted as delegate to the Santa Clara/San Benito Trades Council, the South Bay Labor Council, the California State Pipe Trade Council, and the UA National Convention. Mr. Williams' co-workers fondly remember his outspokenness and willingness to fight for labor rights. Members of the community recall his many other contributions that included helping to establish the South Bay Children's Urgent Care Center and participating in the Christmas in April program.

Loyd Williams was characterized by his fervent advocacy on behalf of laborers and his continuous belief in the inherent goodness of

people. His own life not only had taught him the values of hard work and perseverance, but also the need for cooperation in order to achieve common goals. Mr. Williams will always be remembered as one of the most dedicated and successful business managers of the UA Local 393. His life constitutes a wonderful example for many young people today who wish to engage in the labor rights movement and who want to actively support their communities.

Mr. Williams is survived by his wife, Carolyn, of 37 years and his son, Jonathan. Also, he is fondly remembered by his siblings Oren, Bill, and Linda Fanelli. The entire community of Santa Clara County gives thanks and commemorates the life and many accomplishments of Mr. Loyd Williams.

Mr. Speaker, we extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Williams' family and friends. Please join us in honoring Mr. Loyd Williams, a truly exceptional individual who dedicated his life to the service of others.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF VAN MILLER, THE VOICE OF
THE BUFFALO BILLS

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, all good things must come to an end, and it is with both sadness and great respect that we acknowledge the end of Van Miller's remarkable career as the announcer for the Buffalo Bills. At 76 years of age, Mr. Miller has been the most devoted and longest-tenured broadcaster in the history of the National Football League. He began his distinguished career with the Bills on July 30, 1960, commenting for an exhibition game against the Boston Patriots. For the following 37 years, Mr. Miller lent his voice to the Buffalo Bills and their loyal fans, creating a steadfast following with the phenomenon known as Vandemonium.

As the play-by-play announcer for the Bills, Mr. Miller articulated their decades of both triumphs and defeats, displaying his love for the game and the team through good times and bad. He is renowned not only for his professionalism in the booth, but also for his enthusiastic announcing. The excitement of the fans matched his own exhilaration at watching his favorite team play.

The lead commentator for Super Bowl XXV between the Bills and the New York Giants, Mr. Miller was the voice of professionalism in announcing the Giants' victory over his beloved Bills. Though a devastating moment for the team, Mr. Miller made the call with poise and calm, ably performing his announcing duties while displaying the utmost respect for both teams. It is this dedication to his job and team that explains why Buffalo may be the only city in the world where football fans turn down the volume on their televisions and turn up their radios when a Bills game is on.

Van Miller is more than a voice, however. As beloved as he is for his football commentary, his friendly presence and genuine care for the team and fans touches the entire Buffalo community. When Bills fans tuned in to Mr. Miller, they felt as though they were listening to a good friend. As John Murphy says of

his colleague, "It's like Van's a member of every fan's family." His name and voice have become intertwined with the world of Buffalo Bills football, and it is no surprise that Mr. Miller was inducted into the Buffalo Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 1999. In fact, after his 752nd and final Bills broadcast, Mr. Miller's equipment was sent to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Ohio, commemorating both the field of play-by-play broadcasting and the man who left an invaluable and indelible mark upon it. We will surely miss his presence on the field and on the air this coming season, but we know his contributions to Buffalo will continue for years to come.

TAIWAN

HON. CHRIS BELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of efforts by the Taiwanese President and people to facilitate a peaceful, stable, and democratic environment in East Asia. Despite continued aggression by the People's Republic of China, Taiwan has maintained grace and sensibility. For this, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of President Chen Shui-bian and the Taiwanese people.

On March 20, 2004, the Taiwanese people will vote on a referendum for peace, which will consist of two questions. One is:

Would you agree that our Government should engage in negotiations with Mainland China on the establishment of a "peace and stability" framework for cross-strait interactions in order to build consensus and for the welfare of the people on both sides?

This would be the first official communication between Taiwan and China since 1949, a historic attempt at conciliation between two sparring nations. I would remind my colleagues of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, in which we put forth the expectation that "the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means" and state that "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means . . . is of grave concern to the United States." As Taiwan makes a sincere effort to improve relations with Mainland China and support a peaceful continuation of the status quo, we must applaud and support them.

The other referendum question is:

The people of Taiwan demand that the Taiwan Strait issue be resolved through peaceful means. Should Mainland China refuse to withdraw the missiles it has targeted at Taiwan and to openly renounce the use of force against us, would you agree that the Government should acquire more advanced anti-missile weapons to strengthen Taiwan's self-defense capabilities?

This referendum is neither provocative nor a move toward Taiwanese independence. It constitutes an effort to prevent Mainland China from using force and unilaterally changing the status quo. China has never renounced the use of force in the Taiwan Straits and has 496 missiles targeting Taiwan. I urge China to withdraw those missiles, which upset the military balance in the Taiwan Straits and whose continued presence demonstrates China's hostile approach to cross-strait relations.

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right

to life, liberty and security of person." Taiwan has the right to voice its concerns and to protect itself from harm. A nonviolent resolution of the Taiwan Straits issue is Taiwan's ultimate goal. This peace referendum is the first step in that process and the right of the Taiwanese people.

In the Taiwan Relations Act, we reaffirmed our nation's commitment to "the preservation of human rights of the Taiwanese people." Now is the time to stand behind that statement. For President Chen Shui-bian's work to create a stable, peaceful, and democratic environment in the region, he deserves our recognition and support.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY BELL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Shirley Bell, a dear friend of Minnesota veterans and a great mentor, leader and activist in my community.

Shirley Bell was an active member of the United Veterans Legislative Council since its inception and volunteered as its Secretary for many years. She was also a member of the Gold Star Wives, an association of survivors of brave men and women who gave their lives in battle or as a result of their service. Everyone who knew her loved and admired her.

Along with Shirley Bell's service to our veterans, she was also deeply involved in the well-being and education of others as the co-program director of The School of Anesthesia at Northwestern Hospital of Minneapolis. She went on to develop the Baccalaureate Completion program for CRNA's as an Associate Professor of Nursing Anesthesia in the School of Medicine at the University of Minnesota—a position created especially for Shirley to enable her to use her creativity and exceptional mentoring skill to promote and encourage students. As recognition for her accomplishments in Anesthesia Education, Shirley received the Helen Lamb Outstanding Education Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in 1994.

Shirley Bell's work and selfless dedication to helping others in our community was tremendous. Her leadership, commitment and tireless efforts will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRIAN L. POTTS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I know that you and my distinguished colleagues are aware that we usually appear before the House of Representatives to voice the concerns of our constituents on matters related to the legislative process and about particular issues associated with bills that warrant our attention. Yet, while debating the issues of the day, we often take for granted the hard work and dedication required to transform an idea into a bill, and a bill into a law. It is with these thoughts in mind that I am here today to pay

tribute to Mr. Brian L. Potts, a dedicated staff member of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction.

Brian is departing the House Appropriations Committee at the end of this week to begin a new position with the Senate Appropriations Committee. His departure is a loss that will be felt for quite some time, yet it is good to know that we have another friend working in the Senate.

Brian came to the Committee from the Naval Audit Service as a Detailee in 1997 and joined the Committee staff in January 1999, and his contributions to the Committee are many. He has always been a focused and hard working individual who conducts himself with the utmost professionalism, and his strengths and accomplishments are many. As a Certified Public Accountant Brian has a keen ability to cut to the heart of a Department of Defense audit report and find savings that have offset the costs of the Military Construction bill. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, Brian is a wizard with spreadsheets and tables, and an invaluable support to the Subcommittee clerk.

During my tenure as the Chairman of the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee, I have found Brian to be a quietly powerful and effective staff member, possessing the unique ability to impart a sense of calmness to emotionally charged situations. One of his finest characteristics is his ability to treat others with kindness and respect. Brian views his job as a privilege and feels fortunate to contribute. These are rare qualities that enable him to effectively carry out his duties and have opened the door to new opportunities for him in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Mr. Brian Potts on his career, his time spent doing invaluable work for the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction, and to thank him for his outstanding service to this great legislative body. Finally, I ask for God's Blessings as Brian embarks on this phase of his career with the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is very lucky to have him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TIMUCUAN
ECOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVE
BOUNDARY REVISION
ACT OF 2004

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that provides needed protection to an historic area of Florida with great national significance known as American Beach. This bill will expand the current boundaries of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve to include approximately 12.5 acres of land in American Beach, Amelia Island.

The Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve currently provides protection to an important ecological treasure and the addition of American Beach will serve to enhance its national significance.

This beautiful stretch of shoreline provides a great history and a great story. Founded in the 1930s by A.L. Lewis, American Beach provided a sunny paradise for those Americans

who, because of segregation, were not able to enjoy most of America's beaches. This area of Florida's northeastern shore attracted African Americans from all over the country. While this nation struggled to find equality within its shores, American Beach provided a relaxing, culturally unique vacation spot for African Americans along the ocean's edge.

The significance of this site was recognized when the beach and 120 residential homes in the area were added to the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, in 1992, the Florida Legislature named American Beach the first site on the Florida Black Heritage Trail.

In his recently released budget, President Bush provides resources for a new "Preserve America" program through the National Park Service. This initiative is designed to encourage heritage tourism throughout the country. Today, this legislation answers the President's call without spending a single dime of taxpayer's money.

Last year, American Beach's neighbor, Amelia Island Plantation made arrangements to donate these 12.5 acres to the National Park Service. Unfortunately, the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve is not able to accept this generous gift because the acreage rests outside the boundaries of the Preserve.

This legislation allows the National Park Service to accept this historic site by simply modifying the boundaries of the Timucuan. I support this addition to the Timucuan—and others like it—where willing property owners and the National Park Service can work cooperatively as stewards of our national treasures.

Mr. Speaker, it is especially fitting this legislation comes to the floor of this House as we celebrate Black History Month to honor those individuals who worked to bring equality to all Americans.

THANKING COURTNEY AND CHLOE SMITH FOR REPRESENTING LOUISIANA DURING THE CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK CELEBRATION

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 3-year-old twins, Courtney and Chloe Smith, of Alexandria, Louisiana. Courtney and Chloe have been selected to serve as ambassadors for the millions of kids treated this year at children's hospitals across the United States.

Born in March 2000, Courtney and Chloe are the smallest twins at birth ever to survive in the U.S. For over 3 months, they fought for their lives in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at CHRISTUS St. Francis Cabrini Hospital. Due to their miraculous show of strength, they will serve as representatives for Foresters Champions Across America, a national Children's Miracle Network program.

As representatives of Louisiana, Courtney and Chloe will visit Capitol Hill and the White House to meet with some of our Nation's leaders. They will also travel to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida to participate in the taping of the Children's Miracle Network celebration.

As the father of twin girls, I am able to comprehend the magnitude of such a situation.

Children are a gift, and any parent is twice as happy when two special children are brought into the world at one time.

I come to the floor of the House of Representatives today to personally commend, honor and thank Courtney and Chloe Smith for taking on the responsibility of representing Louisiana during such an important and meaningful event. It is rare that we as Members of the U.S. Congress are able to recognize people that are so young and yet so fierce in their fight for life. Courtney and Chloe can truly attest to the life-saving abilities and importance of the Children's Miracle Network. This nationwide system of hospitals deserves tremendous acknowledgement and appreciation for all the assistance they bring to families such as the Smiths.

Again, thank you to Courtney and Chloe Smith for so honorably representing the state of Louisiana.

HONORING GEORGE M. MOORE JR.

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George M. Moore, Jr., a resident of my district, for his service and commitment to America's veterans. Mr. Moore has served as Director of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Martinsburg since 1998. In 1999, Moore became the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service Line Director, making him responsible for the management of all prosthetic operations in Martinsburg, WV, Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, DC. Previously he has worked with the VA in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Jackson, MS.

Moore served our country on active duty as an Air Force fighter pilot in Vietnam. Recently, the Disabled Veterans of America recognized him as their 2003 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year.

All of us in West Virginia and in Congress are proud of the service George Moore has given to our Nation. Both as a soldier himself, and later as a worker for disabled veterans, Moore has distinguished himself as a leader in our Nation's fight for freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize for my absence from the House floor this past week. My father, Ralph Pombo, Sr., underwent heart surgery last week and it was important that I be with him and my family in California during this trying time. As such, I was unable to attend votes last week. We all pray for his swift and full recovery.

HONORING ED CASEY, RECIPIENT OF THE "HEART O'GOLD AWARD"

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that I honor Ed Casey, an outstanding American who has dedicated himself to cultural exploration and community service, as the "Heart O'Gold Award" is bestowed upon him by the Quaboag Highlander Pipe Band of Monson, Massachusetts.

Ed Casey is an icon in the Pioneer Valley and western Massachusetts and is well known throughout the community for his commitment to bagpipes and Celtic culture. As a resident of Springfield and Belchertown, MA, Ed has played his pipes at parades, inaugurations, celebrations, and internments. He is loved by so many in our area.

Mr. Casey, who spent years as a public school teacher in Holyoke, MA, has taught the craft of playing the bagpipes to many others interested in learning to play. Yet, unlike most music teachers, Ed did not learn to play music through the traditional route of lessons and formal training. He learned to play the bagpipes, as he would say, "by ear" and "by heart."

Mr. Speaker, there are many families in western Massachusetts who have never met Ed Casey, but perhaps it is their lives that have been most directly impacted by his generosity. For years, in lieu of accepting any fee for performing at internments, Ed Casey has directed families to instead make donations to the Open Pantry, a food collection and distribution center in Springfield that feeds the hungry in western Massachusetts. In doing so, thousands of dollars have been collected to provide food for the poor and the needy.

It is my pleasure to honor Ed Casey today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as someone whose selflessness and talent should be recognized and emulated by those around him. Congratulations Ed upon receiving this honor. Your good work has not gone unnoticed.

HONORING BENSON'S BATTALION

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to praise a valuable organization based within the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania which has made a significant improvement in the lives of western Pennsylvanians. I am proud to represent the congressional district which is the headquarters for Benson's Battalion, a charitable organization created to fight terror and provide financial support to Pennsylvania police, fire and other related public safety groups.

Kris Benson, a pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates, along with his wife Anna founded Benson's Battalion in October 2001 following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Since the creation of the organization, Kris and his wife have donated a significant amount of time and money to benefit local firefighters and police agencies. Benson's Battalion has provided

local police stations with over \$3,000 in funds matched by the government for new equipment and over \$5,000 in grants for local firefighters to assist in the purchase of new equipment as well. This is truly an organization that makes the lives of Western Pennsylvanians better every day.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this fine organization and the volunteers who support it. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to recognize Benson's Battalion for its efforts to improve the safety of western Pennsylvanians.

**SUPPORTING VIRGINIA'S WHITE
COAT DAY**

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Virginia's White Coat Day. As many as 1,500 physicians from all over the State marched on the Virginia Capitol today to make the case for common-sense medical liability reform in the state legislature.

Led by the Medical Society of Virginia, today's White Coat Day march on Richmond is designed to educate State lawmakers on how doctors' skyrocketing malpractice insurance is limiting patients' access to medical care. Outrageous runaway jury awards are causing malpractice premiums to rise uncontrollably, and many doctors are being forced to shut their doors.

The doctors' offices across the Commonwealth that are closed today for the march are symbolic of what out-of-control insurance premiums are doing to our medical system. Doctors being forced to close their doors because they can no longer afford insurance directly affects rural, low-income and senior health care in my district and State.

Mr. Speaker, the pattern of doctors nationwide protesting high medical insurance premiums is a clear sign that the entire system is broken. Not only should the Virginia Legislature address this issue, but we as a Congress need to do the same. We need to take President Bush's lead in ending the jackpot payouts that our legal system encourages. While the House has passed legislation to reform the medical liability system, it is now time to enact common sense reforms into law.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the doctors in Virginia for taking a stand today. I know they do it for their patients.

**SAFEGUARDING SCHOOLCHILDREN
OF DEPLOYED SOLDIERS ACT**

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Safeguarding Schoolchildren of Deployed Soldiers Act of 2004.

Today there are 129,000 United States troops serving in Iraq alone, including nearly

80,000 reservists and members of the National Guard. As the Congressional Representative for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, I recognize the enormous disruption of deployment on their families.

When soldiers are deployed, many arrangements must be made. Many men and women are leaving a job, a family, or even children behind.

We have long recognized the need to minimize the hardships to these men and women, as demonstrated in the comprehensive Servicemember's Civil Relief Act. Originally enacted in 1940, this law provides relief to military personnel from many of the economic and legal burdens they have incurred because of their deployments. This law never anticipated lengthy deployments by mothers and fathers who may not have any choice but to send their children to live with another parent, sister, or grandfather one or two towns away.

I learned firsthand how deployments can cause significant upheaval in a child's life when the brother of a deployed soldier recently contacted my office. He explained that his niece had moved to live with her mother while her father was away fighting in Iraq. As a result, she was prevented from attending her normal high school because she no longer resided within the school district.

According to the Department of Defense, there are currently 1.2 million children with military parents in the United States. This number is only slightly less than the total number of adults currently serving in the Armed Forces.

I am proud to introduce, along with my colleague Representative BROWN-WAITE, the Safeguarding Schoolchildren of Deployed Soldiers Act. This bipartisan legislation would ensure some measure of continuity for children who change residence as a result of their parent's military service by allowing them to continue to receive an education at their schools, even if they are temporarily residing outside the school district.

As our men and women in uniform continue to be deployed in support of military operations around the world, it is vital that we do our best to minimize the disturbance to their lives and that of their families.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Safeguarding Schoolchildren of Deployed Soldiers Act. We owe this protection to the education of our children and to the peace of mind of our soldiers.

**TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANK GULIUZZA
III**

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Dr. Frank Guliuzza III, a resident of Ogden, Utah, and a professor of political science at Weber State University, on his reception of the CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) Award for Teacher of the Year. I am pleased that the CASE organization recognized the caliber of Dr. Guliuzza as a professor and as a citizen.

Dr. Guliuzza has an impressive record: he has published two books (*American Government*, *American Ideals* and *Over the Wall*:

Protecting Religious Expression in the Public Square) and three more will be completed by 2005. He has served as the Chairman of the Department of Political Science and Philosophy at Weber State University since 2002 and has taught courses including Constitutional Law, The Modern Presidency, and Constitutional Rights and Liberties. Earlier this year, Dr. Guliuzza was presented with Weber State University's most prestigious faculty honor: the John S. Hinckley Fellow award for excellence in teaching, service, and scholarship.

Dr. Guliuzza is an asset to his university and community. He founded the Weber State university mock trial team in 1996 and, under his direction, Weber State has earned several top-ten finishes at national tournaments. Dr. Guliuzza ran for the United States Senate in 2000 and has served as a Chair of the Weber County Republican Party and Vice Chair of the Utah Republican Party. A licensed minister, Dr. Guliuzza has served in ecclesiastical positions at Calvary Baptist Church in Ogden, First Baptist Church in Brigham City, and Mountain View Baptist Church in Layton. He has served his fellow men at the most basic and important level. Dr. Guliuzza and his wife of 21 years, the former Kathy Spaulding, are the foster parents of two children, Matthew Williamson and Timothy Stoddard.

Despite all of these awards, accomplishments and interests, Frank's true passion lies with teaching. As a former high school history teacher, I understand this purpose. And he is an excellent teacher, in the truest sense of the word. As Dr. Guliuzza said, "One need not be prominent to be a great woman or man." Frank is a great teacher, one who guides his students, who enlightens, shapes and challenges them. He is also a great American, and I am pleased to recognize him on this occasion.

**TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ROSE
KENNEDY**

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the holiday season 2003 marks the passing of a loved and beloved member of our community of Toledo, Ohio. Rose Kennedy, a mother for our community and a pioneering activist of her North Toledo neighborhood, passed from this life on December 26, 2003 at age 76.

I came to know Rose and her husband Bob nearly three decades ago as she vigorously pursued improvements in her neighborhood, Toledo's oldest. Small in stature, unassuming by nature, she worked on larger-than-life projects side-by-side with community leaders on the revitalization of the heart of our city, starting in North Toledo with beautification initiatives. Most notably, North Toledo's signature effort, the Buckeye Basin Greenbelt Parkway, has Rose's imprimatur. Without Rose Kennedy's personal tireless efforts, this major parkway construction which diverted traffic from North Toledo streets and upgraded the entire region with a linear greenbelt in the heart of our city would not have been realized. She pursued this goal for nearly a quarter century, and proudly stood by as the dream was finally brought to fruition and ribbons cut.

In addition to her community activism, Rose Kennedy, together with her husband Robert, brought a sense of family to eighteen children: four adopted and fourteen fostered. She explained, "These kids needed love and that was about all we had to give them."

The oldest of six children, Rosalie Kennedy spent her entire life in her North Toledo neighborhood. After marriage, she and her husband were involved in veterans' organizations-heading up the Toledo chapter of the DAV in the 1950's—in addition to neighborhood groups. She worked with the Northriver Development Corporation and the Economic Opportunity and Planning Association. Civic-minded as well, Rose served for many years as her precinct's Democratic committeewoman. Rounding out her community and civic responsibilities, she also served her faith as Secretary to her church, Salem Lutheran Church.

In spite of her family and community demands, Rose found time to enjoy her hobbies of crochet and crossword puzzles and reading. She was an ordinary woman who accomplished extraordinary feats. To her husband, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, we extend our heartfelt sympathy. Rose Kennedy lived life large, and her actions left a lasting legacy. We will miss her earnest resolve, her unrelenting dedication, and the loving gift she gave of herself.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, because my flight, United Airlines #950 was cancelled due to mechanical problems, I was absent from votes on February 3rd. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 12, 13 and 14.

HONORING THE NORTHERN CIRCLE INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority (NCIHA) as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

The NCIHA is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for eight federally recognized Indian Tribes in Northern California. Originally created in 1980, the NCIHA is a valuable asset to Butte, Colusa, Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties, providing safe and sanitary housing for low and moderate-income Native American families. The NCIHA is governed by a twenty member Board of Commissioners and staffed by 17 dedicated employees.

Over its 25-year history, the NCIHA has built 324 housing units in nine locations, directing \$60 million in construction planning and development programs. The organization manages an additional 232 housing units located in seven reservation communities. The NCIHA also administers a down payment as-

sistance home ownership program, rental subsidy programs, housing rehabilitation and replacement services for member tribes.

In addition to these services, the NCIHA has worked to develop a Community Housing Development Organization to access state funding and increase housing opportunities for Native Americans. The NCIHA is sharing valuable resources and providing technical support with the newly formed United Native Housing Development Corporation to help assure its success.

Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of the NCIHA are recognized by many, most notably by the Office of Native American Programs, who awarded the NCIHA a Certificate of Excellence in 2000 and declared the organization one of the best of its kind. With the support of both the federal government and private foundations, the NCIHA is committed to the establishment of healthy communities for the Native Americans it serves. In addition to constructing and managing sufficient housing, NCIHA builds infrastructure including roads, water and sanitation facilities, and electric services.

Mr. Speaker, for its commitment to serving the Native American population of Northern California, it is appropriate that we honor the employees and board of the Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority as they recognize their 25th anniversary.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE ELMO B. HUNTER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of the Honorable Elmo B. Hunter of Kansas City, MO.

Judge Hunter earned his law degree from the University of Missouri in 1938. He went on to post-graduate work at the University of Michigan. Judge Hunter served his country in World War II with the United States Army, working in military intelligence. When he came home he joined the law firm of Sabree, Shook, Hardy & Hunter in Kansas City.

Judge Hunter served on the bench as a state circuit judge from 1951 to 1957 and moved on to serve as a state appeals judge in that year. He remained in this post until 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson appointed him to the federal bench.

In recognition for his service, Judge Hunter was awarded the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award in 1987. He was also the recipient of the American Judicature Society's Distinguished Service Award and served as the society's chairman and president. In 1991, the American Judicature Society saw fit to found the Elmo B. Hunter Citizens Center for Judicial Selection. The center researches nonpartisan, merit-based judicial selections, sponsors national forums, monitors state judicial reform projects and educates international visitors on the U.S. judicial selection process.

Mr. Speaker, Elmo Hunter was a valuable member of the judiciary and a credit to his profession. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Shirley; his daughter

Nancy; and all of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF SAM MAMULA

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Sam Mamula of Breckenridge, Colorado for his exemplary public service.

Mr. Mamula has proven his dedication to Breckenridge. He has held a variety of local government positions during his residency, including 8 years on the town planning commission and 8 years on the town council before becoming Breckenridge's mayor.

The citizens of Breckenridge have benefited greatly from Mr. Mamula's dedicated leadership. Specifically, Mr. Mamula has taken leadership roles in Breckenridge's use of biodiesel in its diesel municipal vehicles which is reducing pollution in Colorado.

Mr. Mamula has also been a tireless advocate for affordable housing in Summit County and was recognized nationally when Breckenridge won an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Award for Smart Growth Achievement in the built projects category for the Wellington Neighborhood affordable housing project. This project included a cooperative partnership among the town of Breckenridge, Summit County, the Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and a private developer.

The dedication, enthusiasm and activism with which Mr. Mamula has pursued his work deserves our most sincere thanks. Thus, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Sam Mamula for his service and many contributions to his community. He is much appreciated.

For the benefit of our colleagues, I am attaching a copy of a recent story about Mr. Mamula that appeared in the Summit Daily News.

[From the Summit Daily News, Jan. 28, 2004]

MAMULA TO END A POLITICAL ERA

We have to admit it. We are big Sam Mamula fans. Nobody is sorer than we are that the Breckenridge mayor is stepping down after one term as hizzoner.

Mamula is a quote machine without peer, except for County Commissioner Tom Long. In this business, we like that.

The thing about Mamula is that he always makes a point. We like that even better.

Usually, his point is about the quality of life in the greater Breckenridge area. With Mamula at the top spot in town, locals knew they had somebody battling for the soul of the Summit.

We say that with due apologies to The Summit Foundation, which considers itself the "Soul of the Summit," and with good reason.

But the battle for soul—quality of life—is really fought in the trenches of planning commissions and town councils where hundreds of small decisions add up to something ugly if somebody isn't on guard.

Ironically, one of Mamula's biggest achievements on behalf of the town and taxpayers will occur after he's left office—the huge open space purchase of the B&B Mines property in the Golden Horseshoe.

The deal is scheduled to close in June.

Mamula spent eight years on the town planning commission and eight years on the town council before ascending to mayor. It was a good run.

"It was a tough decision. I stalled to the last minute," said the reluctant retiree who needs to spend more time with his convalescing wife.

"I really like being mayor. I liked being on the town council and I liked being on the planning commission. It really has been a labor of love for me rather than a carrying out of duties," he added.

Mamula called it "fulfilling" to work with a "great town council and staff."

"With a town manager like Tim Gagen, being mayor is 'relatively simple, frankly,'" Mamula said.

Mamula vows to stay involved in the town but promised not to become a "town council observer."

"There has got to be something I can cut out of this whole thing that someone is going to let me do," he added.

We hope so, too.

RECOGNIZING THE 93D BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday we celebrate the 93d birthday of Ronald Reagan and I rise again to recognize his efforts to renew the American spirit and to spread freedom around the world. Ronald Reagan once stated that, "The leadership of the free world was thrust upon us two centuries ago in that little hall of Philadelphia. In the days following World War II, when the economic strength and power of America was all that stood between the world and the return to the dark ages, Pope Pius XII said, 'The American people have a great genius for splendid and unselfish actions. Into the hands of America God has placed the destinies of an afflicted mankind.'" Reagan further stated that, "We are indeed, and we are today, the last best hope of man on earth." As we face many challenges today, the words of our 40th President still ring true. As we mark his birthday, we should remember his dream of creating a better, safer world and reaffirm that this Nation must continue to show the courage and persistence to turn that dream into a reality and provide hope for all those who do not have freedom.

HAPPY 109TH BIRTHDAY, ARMINTA LESTARJETTE ULRICH

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a very special woman, Arminta Lestarjette Ulrich, known simply by the name "Mint" to her friends. Mint will be celebrating her 109th birthday on February 21. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge this important milestone in her long and fruitful life.

Mint has had the gift of living through three centuries in this great Nation—one can only

imagine the many changes she has witnessed. She is a living time capsule, a treasure to us. By sharing her memories and experiences with us, we can learn more about ourselves and our Nation. Mint gives us strength in knowing where we came from and hope of who we can become.

Her full, rich life began in Cotulla, Texas in 1895. She was one of eleven children: five sisters and five brothers. The stories she tells of her youth allow us to vicariously experience life in the foreign land of South Texas as it was during the early part of the 20th century. For instance, Mint is often heard recounting how she used to ride atop a horse as it swam across the Nueces River. Or, how she used to travel by wagon to Kerrville, Texas, a journey that lasted two to three days. Today, this trip would take roughly three hours by car to complete.

Mint moved to San Antonio in 1915 where she began work as a switchboard operator for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. She worked with Missouri Pacific until her retirement. During her career, Arminta developed lasting friendships with workers all over the switchboard system.

One of the most enduring relationships she developed was with a young man who worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad—his name was Arthur Frederick Ulrich. Arthur grew to love Mint, but she was already engaged. However, like most young men suffering the pangs of love, Arthur was not dissuaded. He called her everyday and told her, "I'll get you yet". This persistence, coupled with her interest in his striking good looks and unquenchable high-spiritedness, made Arthur's prediction come true.

Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich were married on April 11, 1929 and did not have any children. Sadly, Arthur passed away in 1983, just six days before what would have been their 54th wedding anniversary. Their relationship was strong and serves as an example of the joy that a marriage can be if it is full of true friendship and love.

Mint has attributed her longevity to the use of "One-A-Day" vitamins and her lasting good looks to daily use of "Oil of Olay". I am suspicious, though, that her secret to long life and happiness also involves her sense of humor, positive attitude, and commitment to friends and family.

I am proud to count myself among those who have had the opportunity to know and learn from Mint. Her joy of living and her humanity have helped her to become an enduring spirit that continues to spread joy to those who know her. I wish her many blessings and the very best for her 109th birthday.

CONGRATULATING STEARNS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AS MINNESOTA'S OUTSTANDING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF THE YEAR

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Administrator Dennis Fuchs, the staff and board of supervisors,

and all the residents of Stearns County, Minnesota, on Stearns County's recognition as Minnesota's Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District of the Year.

Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District has been very active in protecting natural resources for all to enjoy. The District has been successful in developing programs to assist landowners with such conservation practices as soil erosion prevention, animal waste storage, wildlife habitat preservation, and lakeshed management.

This award is based on a number of factors including program participation, training for staff and supervisors, and increased involvement in Minnesota's Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts work to better manage our precious natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Minnesotans I would like to congratulate Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District on receiving this recognition and thank them for their commitment to conservation.

HONORING OBIE SNIDER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Obie Snider, an extraordinary man who passed away on the night of December 18, 2003. After enlightening the lives of those around him for seventy-seven years, the memories of his generosity and genuine care for others have served to comfort those who knew him best, as well as the community which benefitted tremendously from his numerous contributions.

As a pillar of strength within his community of Bedford County, Pennsylvania, Mr. Snider was a role model and leader who was admired for his loyalty to God, his family, and his comrades. With the help of his vision and guidance the East Freedom Chapel was founded, and it was under that roof that he became director of Young Life in the 1950s. Mr. Snider remained a devoted Christian throughout his life, and that piety translated into his every action. In addition to being a Sunday school teacher, he was the chairman of Truth and Praise, a publisher of hymnals, and the chairman of the Christian Workers Fellowship Fund of Kansas, among other things.

After graduating from Replogle High School in 1943, Mr. Snider's experiences in college prepared him for the enriched life he would lead. Two years after marrying Mary Ann Gilbert on June 1, 1948, he graduated from Penn State University. Grounded by a strong marriage and a solid education, Mr. Snider established Singing Brook Farms and eventually became a trustee of his alma mater, a position that lasted 21 years. His appointment to Trustee Chairman in 1985 marked the first time that an agriculturalist filled the role, and in the years following he was named a distinguished alumnus and received the status of trustee emeritus in July of 2000. Mr. Snider dedicated a large portion of his time to the improvement of the university and succeeded in administering numerous changes throughout the system. Without Obie Snider's influence and vision, Penn State University would not be the renowned institution of higher learning that it is today.

Mr. Snider's commitment to agriculture and education has proved to affect and benefit not only the state of Pennsylvania, but the entire nation. The numerous organizations and boards that he selflessly served were all positively changed by his presence, and they will undoubtedly miss his spirit and direction. Obie Snider has left behind a legacy of dignity and merit that will not be forgotten.

FORMER BUSH INSIDERS NOW
FREE TO TELL THE TRUTH

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, there has been a very interesting phenomenon in recent months that demands attention. A steady stream of former high-ranking Bush administration officials have conscientiously pointed out the inaccuracy of many of the claims the administration has made and continues to make about its policies.

In December, last year, I inserted into these pages a very interesting article by Richard Haass, former chief of the policy planning staff of the State Department, who confirmed what many of us have long argued—namely, that the war in Iraq was a war of choice and not of necessity. That is, Mr. Haass made it clear that the decision to go to war with Iraq was not driven by a fear that Iraq was any serious threat to the United States of a physical sort, but rather was part of an administration policy about how the world ought to be structured.

Most dramatically, former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill has been widely quoted as a result of the book by Ron Suskind not only essentially agreeing with Mr. Haass about the genesis of the Iraq war, but making clear the great gap that exists between the reality of Bush administration economic policies and the rhetoric they have used to describe them.

Recently, a third high-ranking Bush official has rebutted the administration's claims, and buttressed this with reference to actual events in which he participated as a member of the administration.

Flynt Leverett was a high-ranking official at the National Security Council from 2002 until 2003, serving as Senior Director for Middle Eastern Affairs. In a recent article published in the New York Times, he refutes the administration's argument that the decision by Libya to renounce nuclear weapons was a direct result of the administration's war in Iraq. His argument is a compelling one, combining very thoughtful analysis with a good history of the events that led up to this. It is impossible to do justice to this thoughtful essay by compressing it, so I ask that it be inserted here so that Members and others may read it and draw their own conclusions.

But I do believe that the conclusion of Mr. Leverett's article—remember he was a high-ranking National Security Council official appointed by the Bush administration—is worth underlining:

Until the Bush administration learns the real lessons of the Libyan precedent, policy toward other rogue regimes is likely to remain stuck in the mud of ideology.

[From the New York Times]

A LESSON IN DIPLOMACY
MORE THAN THREATS LED TO QADDAFI'S
REVERSAL

(By Flynt Leverett)

WASHINGTON.—As President George W. Bush made clear in his State of the Union address, he sees the striking developments in relations with Libya as the fruit of his strategy in the war on terrorism.

The idea is that Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi's apparent decision to renounce weapons of mass destruction was largely a result of the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, which thus retroactively justifies the war in Iraq and holds out the prospect of similar progress with other states that support terrorists, seek weapons of mass destruction and brutalize their own people.

However, by linking shifts in Libya's behavior to the Iraq war, the president misrepresents the real lesson of the Libyan case. This confusion undermines America's chances of getting countries like Iran and Syria to follow Libya's lead.

The roots of the recent progress with Libya go back not to the eve of the Iraq war, but to the Bush administration's first year in office. Indeed, some credit should even be given to the second Clinton administration.

Tired of international isolation and economic sanctions, the Libyans decided in the late 1990's to seek normalized relations with the United States, and held secret discussions with Clinton administration officials to convey that message. The Clinton White House made clear that no movement toward better relations was possible until Libya met its responsibilities stemming from the downing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

These discussions, along with mediation by the Saudi ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, produced a breakthrough: Libya turned over two intelligence officers implicated in the Pan Am 103 attack to the Netherlands for trial by a Scottish court, and in 1999 Washington acquiesced to the suspension of UN sanctions against Libya.

Then, in the spring of 2001, when I was a member of the State Department's policy planning staff, the Bush administration picked up on those discussions and induced the Libyans to meet their remaining Lockerbie obligations.

With our British colleagues, we presented the Libyans with a "script" indicating what they needed to do and say to satisfy our requirements on compensating the families of Pan Am 103 victims and accepting responsibility for the actions of the Libyan intelligence officers implicated in the case.

We also put an explicit quid pro quo on the table: If Libya met the conditions we laid out, the United States and Britain would allow UN sanctions to be lifted permanently. This script became the basis for three-party negotiations to resolve the Lockerbie issue.

By early 2003, after a Scottish appeals court upheld the conviction of one of the Libyan intelligence officers, it was evident that our approach would bear fruit. Indeed, Washington allowed the UN sanctions against Libya to be removed last summer after Libya reached a compensation agreement with the Pan Am 103 families and accepted responsibility for its officials' actions.

But during these two years of talks, American negotiators consistently told the Libyans that resolving the Lockerbie situation would lead to no more than elimination of UN sanctions. To get out from under the separate U.S. sanctions, Libya would have to address other concerns, particularly regarding its programs in weapons of mass destruction.

This is the context in which Libyan officials approached the United States and Britain last spring to discuss dismantling Libya's weapons program. The Iraq war, which had not yet started, was not the driving force behind Libya's move. Rather, Libya was willing to deal because of credible diplomatic representations by the United States over the years, which convinced the Libyans that doing so was critical to achieving their strategic and domestic goals.

Just as with Lockerbie, an explicit quid pro quo was offered: American officials indicated that a verifiable dismantling of Libya's weapons projects would lead to the removal of American sanctions, perhaps by the end of this year.

The lesson is incontrovertible: To persuade a rogue regime to get out of the terrorism business and give up its weapons of mass destruction, the United States must not only apply pressure but also make clear the potential benefits of cooperation.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration has refused to take this approach with other rogue regimes, notably Iran and Syria. Until the president is willing to employ carrots as well as sticks, he will make little headway in changing Iranian or Syrian behavior.

The President's lack of initiative on this point is especially disappointing because, in the diplomatic aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, the administration had a singular opportunity to effect strategic realignments by both Iran and Syria.

Well-placed Iranians, including more pragmatic elements of Iran's conservative camp, have indicated through diplomatic channels and to former officials (including myself) their interest in a "grand bargain" with the United States. Basically, Tehran would trade off its ties to terrorist groups and pursuit of nuclear weapons for security guarantees, a lifting of sanctions and normalized relations with Washington.

Likewise, senior Syrian officials—including President Bashar Assad himself, in a conversation in Damascus last week—have told me that they want a better strategic understanding with the United States. To achieve this, however, Washington needs to be willing to spell out what Syria would get in return for giving up its ties to terrorists and its chemical weapons and ballistic missiles. As Assad told me, Syria is "a state, not a charity"—if it gives up something, it must know what it will gain in return.

One reason the Bush administration was able to take a more constructive course with Libya was that the White House, uncharacteristically, sidelined the administration's neoconservative wing—which strongly opposes any offer of carrots to state sponsors of terrorism, even when carrots could help end such problematic behavior—when crucial decisions were made.

The initial approach on the Lockerbie case was approved by an informal coalition made up of Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser, and Secretary of State Colin Powell. Likewise, in the lead up to the negotiations involving Libyan weapons of mass destruction, the neoconservatives at the Pentagon and in the shop of Under Secretary of State John Bolton were left out of the loop.

Perhaps a coalition among members of the State Department's bureau of Near Eastern affairs and the National Security Council's more pragmatic elements can chart a similar course involving Iran and Syria.

However, until the Bush administration learns the real lessons of the Libyan precedent, policy toward other rogue regimes is likely to remain stuck in the mud of ideology.

HONORING COLORADO NONPROFIT
WEEK**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform our colleagues that the week of March 1 to March 5, 2004 will be Colorado Nonprofit Week and to express my gratitude for nonprofit organizations in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, we in Congress have dedicated our energy to help solve the problems which persist in America. However, in a country as large and diverse as ours, there are many problems that cannot be addressed by government alone. Nonprofit organizations throughout the nation play powerful roles in sustaining our communities and providing resources to help solve a myriad of problems. In Colorado alone, there are over five-thousand charitable nonprofit organizations that devote tireless effort year after year to improve the quality of life in our communities. In appreciation, the State of Colorado honors these organizations and the causes they champion by declaring the week of March 1st to March 5th to be Colorado Nonprofit Week.

In Colorado, there are hardly any social problems that do not have a group of dedicated individuals trying to solve them. Indeed, there are nonprofits addressing such diverse challenges as promoting arts and humanities, protecting animals, sheltering the homeless, providing job training and saving open space, to identify just a few. Colorado's nonprofits have succeeded in raising awareness for their causes in recent years. As a result, the number of nonprofits organizations in Colorado and the magnitude of services they provide have more than doubled in the last decade.

These organizations give hundreds of millions of dollars and countless hours of volunteer time to address their respective issues, yet are rarely given the credit they deserve. By recognizing the contributions of the nonprofit sector during Colorado Nonprofit Week, we acknowledge the exemplary public service and positive direction they provide for our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing Colorado Nonprofit Week and in thanking nonprofit organizations for all of the good and important work they do in Colorado.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AS AMBASSADORS TO
AND FROM CONGRESS**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, there is a long list of people and institutions that have helped our nation flourish through our nearly 228 years of independence. One of our greatest traditions as Americans is to welcome friends from around the world into our lives—sometimes professionally and sometimes personally.

Most congressional offices host American college students, to help our nation's future

leaders understand the political complexities affecting our constituents and our jobs as their representatives. Now, thanks to the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, some of Australia's best and brightest university students have had the opportunity to participate in six-week, full-time internships in House and Senate offices. These internships have proved to be an invaluable learning experience, both for the students and for their hosts.

The program is the brainchild and pro bono non-partisan effort of former long-time House and Senate staffer Eric K. Federling, who began lecturing at Australian universities in the early 1990s while working for our former colleague Norman Y. Mineta of California. Mr. Federling wanted to bridge what Australians call "The Tyranny of Distance," which can prevent Americans and Australians from knowing each other as well as our mutual interests and traditions suggest we should.

Five universities now participate and a dozen Australian students travel to Washington, DC annually as part of the program. An important reason for the exchange's success is the careful matching of students and their interests with our work and constituencies. This year, Laura Crommelin, a law student from the University of Melbourne, joined my staff for most of January and February. She is professionally poised, and sophisticated in her understanding of our mission as a chamber and my work for the 8th District of New York. Meeting Laura has given my staff and me an insight into Australian politics and society, as well as a fresh perspective on the work we are doing here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I believe my experience has not been unique. The students and other congressional hosts in 2004 should be congratulated for their participation in this exchange: Richard Abraham, of Macquarie University, in the office of Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut; Kirstin Ferguson, of the University of Wollongong, in the office of Representative ALCEE HASTINGS of Florida; Netta Goussac, of the University of Western Australia, in the office of Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ of California; Elli Jacovides, of the University of Melbourne, in the office of Representative JIM CLYBURN of South Carolina; Leng Lee, of the University of Melbourne, in the office of the Joint Economic Committee, minority staff; Ian Repper, of the University of Western Australia, in the offices of Representative BOB NEY of Ohio and the House Administration Committee, majority staff; Heather Rietdyk, of the University of Canberra, in the office of Representative SAM FARR of California; Louise Squire, of the University of Western Australia, in the office of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, minority staff; Lisa Sharland, of Macquarie University, in the office of Senator CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska; Ken Shaw, of the University of Melbourne, in the office of the House Small Business Committee, majority staff; and Jane Stewart, of the University of Melbourne, in the office of Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER of New York.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that this effort has received programmatic assistance from both the U.S. and Australian governments, as well as numerous individuals and institutions in Washington, DC that have welcomed these students during their visit. I am proud to participate in this worthwhile program, and wish it continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber, on January 21, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 4.

I was also unavoidably absent from this Chamber on January 28, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 8, 9 and 11. I would also like the record to show that I would have voted "no" on rollcall 10.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. PAUL
SWANSON**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I rise to recognize and congratulate Dr. Paul Swanson. This dedicated and giving man will be honored tonight with the Ambassador for Peace Leadership in Reconciliation and Peace-Making Award. A resident of Northwest Indiana, Dr. Swanson has devoted his life to the preservation of peace in his community and throughout the world. His work will be honored this evening at the Ambassadors for Peace Awards Banquet.

Throughout his career, Dr. Swanson has united his fellow citizens by demonstrating the importance of compassion and understanding toward those of different beliefs. As a mentor to many pastors in the Midwest, Dr. Swanson has broken new ground in the areas of ecumenical and interdenominational dialog.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Paul Swanson is currently a Professor Emeritus of Family Counseling for the Lutheran School of Theology at the University of Chicago. Although he has spent his career helping others, Dr. Swanson's family has always been his first priority. His wife Cordie, and their two children provide the inspiration for Dr. Swanson in his commitment to improve the community around him.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Paul Swanson for his outstanding service to the residents of Northwest Indiana. His efforts to improve his community should be commended, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

REMEMBERING PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS HOLLY McGEOGH**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to Private First Class Holly McGeogh, Michigan's first female soldier killed in the conflict in Iraq. Private McGeogh was from Taylor, and a constituent of mine.

Private McGeogh, who was 19, was one of three soldiers killed in a roadside explosion near Kirkuk. She was assigned to Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas. Two years ago, she graduated Truman High School, where she was a cadet in the Junior ROTC for four years. During high school, Private McGeogh won numerous awards and recognition for her service to her school and community. She was dedicated to enlisting in the Army, and to serving her country, which she did with distinction.

Before leaving for Iraq she told her family that if she were killed in battle, to remember she died for a reason and a cause she believed in. Those words should be remembered and cherished today and always.

Mr. Speaker, Private McGeogh is a hero. She died trying to make this world a safer, kinder, and more humane place, and for that we are all humbled. Our thoughts and our prayers go to her parents, her family, and her friends. I would like you to join me in commending her limitless courage for our country. She has shown the entire nation what it means to be a hero.

HONORING FATHER JOSE LUIS
OCHOA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous respect that I rise today to honor Father Jose Luis Ochoa, who is retiring from his post with the parish of St. Pius X in the City of Santa Fe Springs to return to Guadalajara, Mexico and work with the Guadalupe Missionaries. Throughout his career of service, Father Ochoa has spread faith and charity throughout many parts of the world.

Father Jose Luis Ochoa was born in Mexico on December 5, 1940, the third child of seven children. In 1953 he entered the "Diocesano de Mexico" seminar. In 1956, he continued his schooling at the "Seminario de Misiones" with the Jesuits. Even during his vacations from the seminary, he would dedicate his time to travel outside of Mexico wherever there was a need for priests.

On July 10, 1966, he was ordained at the chapel "Seminario de Misiones" and assigned as a missionary to Kenya, Africa. Upon his arrival in Nairobi, Kenya, Father Ochoa began to work as a vicar in the parish of Amakura. While there, he built a secondary school for girls to help instill in them the values of dignity and self-respect and help them reject exploitative and unhealthy practices.

In 1975, he was assigned back to Mexico to serve as a Director to the Department of Promotions and Development. This work was a necessity for the "Instituto de Misioneros de Guadalupe," and he worked with Bishops from different Archdioceses and became responsible for getting financial and vocational opportunities for the missions.

After spending some time in Switzerland, Father Ochoa returned to Mexico once again in 1985 to help form a Seminary School in Guadalajara. While there, he also taught classes at a local school, helped construct a temple and a secondary school and started a food bank for the less fortunate.

In January 1991, he departed to Los Angeles to be an administrator in charge of a home for Guadalupe Missionaries and was in charge of all missionary work. While in Los Angeles, he promoted the Integral System of New Evangelization program. From 1996 to 2004, he served in several parishes of the Archdioceses, with the permission of the Guadalupe Missionaries. His last assignment for the past four years was at St. Pius X in the City of Santa Fe Springs, where he brought great joy to the parishioners.

I want to thank Father Ochoa for all he has done for my community and many communities throughout the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him good health and best wishes in his future endeavors.

MEDICAL DEVICES TECHNICAL
CORRECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act of 2003. This bill will help ensure medical devices are quickly approved and sent to market as intended by the Medical Device User Fee Modernization Act of 2002. In particular, the bill will clarify FDA third-party inspection requirements to ensure companies can use third-party inspectors for two consecutive inspections. Additionally, the legislation will authorize HHS to conduct a study to identify barriers to market entry for pediatric products, which often help small populations and, therefore, are not profitable to manufacturers.

These clarifications are critical to the medical device industry in the United States, which leads the world in the development and manufacturing of medical technology. Medical device companies produce nearly \$78 billion annually and generate nearly 6 percent annual growth. The products produced by these companies have a tremendous impact on our country's economy by creating great high-paying American jobs and consistently generating annual trade surpluses in the billions of dollars.

Advances in medical technology are improving the quality of life for people around the world as new and more effective treatments for various diseases and medical conditions are developed. New medical technology also helps reduce the cost of health care and Medicare as health problems are prevented and treated more easily through early detection, less invasive procedures and faster recovery times for the patient.

The medical device industry is critical to the economy of Indiana as well as the district I represent, Indiana's 3rd district. A large majority of the nation's orthopaedic devices are produced in Warsaw, Indiana, where DePuy, Zimmer and Biomet, three of the Nation's leading companies in orthopaedic devices are located. These companies control more than 60 percent of the global market share of orthopaedic joint replacements and generate \$4 billion dollars annually in sales. The combined economic and societal impacts of these three companies to my district and the state are

highly significant. I commend the House for summarily passing H.R. 3493 and I encourage my colleagues in the other body to vote in favor of H.R. 3493, the Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act of 2003.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed four votes in the House of Representatives on January 28, 2004. Had I been in attendance I would have made the following votes:

Vote on the Baldwin of Wisconsin Substitute Amendment to S. 1920, the Farmer Bankruptcy bill. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "no."

Vote on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on S. 1920, the Farmer Bankruptcy bill. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "no."

Vote on Passage of S. 1920, the Farmer Bankruptcy bill. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on the Motion to Instruction Conferees on S. 1920, the Farmer Bankruptcy bill. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "no."

Unfortunately, I missed three votes in the House of Representatives on February 3, 2004. Had I been in attendance I would have made the following votes:

Vote on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 507, a Resolution expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia their lives, and extending heartfelt sympathy to their families. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 157, a Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding several individuals who are being held as prisoners of conscience by the Chinese Government for their involvement in efforts to end the Chinese occupation of Tibet. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.J. Res. 84, a Resolution recognizing the 93rd birthday of Ronald Reagan. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

DEATH OF EMMETT BURKE, THE
SON OF ALDERMAN EDWARD
BURKE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend my condolences to Alderman Edward Burke and his family on the loss of his beloved son, Emmett Burke. It is with deepest sympathy that I rise to offer encouragement to the Burke family in their time of bereavement.

Mr. Speaker, Emmett Burke, only 30 years old, will be sorely missed by everyone who

knew him. For the past decade, Emmett Burke worked for the Cook County Forest Preserve Police Department. He started in patrol, then was promoted to the canine and search and rescue units, and eventually served as the deputy chief of the police department. Emmett Burke was known for his diligence, his commitment, and his excellence in the field of law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I personally understand the undescrivable sadness that occurs when a father has to bury his son. It has been nearly 5 years since I was faced with that same difficult reality. This is why I am able to stand today and encourage Alderman Burke to counter the hurt, pain, and sorrow with strong support from family and friends, and fervent prayers to God, who is the author and finisher of our faith.

And finally, I can assure the Burke family that the present agony felt from the loss of a loved one can only be replaced with the everlasting love and peace of God, the father, Jesus the son, and the Holy Spirit.

So, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathy to the Burke family, my prayers are with you, and know that in our time of mourning, God has promised to comfort us.

THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN
VIETNAM

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, President Bush and his Administration have begun a new relationship with the communist regime in Vietnam. Recently, the Vietnamese Defense Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister traveled to Washington for historic visits with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell. Shortly thereafter, the U.S.S. Vandegrift entered the port of Ho Chi Minh City, the first U.S. warship to visit Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War nearly three decades ago.

This newly forged friendship between the Bush administration and the communist regime in Vietnam comes amidst continuous reports of human rights violations committed by the Vietnamese government.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom reports that almost forty Buddhist monks and lay leaders are in prison, under house arrest, or in re-education camps, as well as twenty Hmong Protestants and at least ten Catholic priests in detention.

Freedom of speech in Vietnam is just as bad. According to a report by the Campaign for Freedom of Expression and Information in Vietnam, Vietnam's 500-plus newspapers and magazines are state-owned and vigorously censored while 2,000 of Vietnam's 5,000 websites are currently blocked for disseminating messages the state has deemed "subversive" or "reactionary." Worse yet is the case of a Vietnamese writer and journalist imprisoned just after he submitted written testimony to a Congressional Members' briefing that I sponsored.

Yet, every time I write the State Department, I get the same response, but no action,

just as the letter I am submitting for the RECORD today. The State Department tells me, in their words, "we share your serious concern" and are "deeply troubled by the restrictions that the Government of Vietnam places on its citizens' freedom of expression, as well as other human rights." They tell me that "[p]romoting human rights is a priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam."

If promoting human rights in Vietnam really is a priority for the Bush Administration, why are they having friendly meetings with high-level Vietnamese officials without initially demanding protection of human rights?

Why is the Bush Administration not, instead, condemning the communist regime in Vietnam for issuing a statement that attacks a human rights resolution this body passed with an overwhelming vote of 409-13? That Vietnamese statement, which I submit for the RECORD today, alleges that our Congressional resolution contains "false" and "inaccurate" information. Yet, our resolution is backed by reports from various respected human rights organizations, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and the U.S. State Department. Instead of condemning the reckless statement from Vietnam, the Bush Administration is embracing a communist regime it admits is a human rights violator.

The Bush Administration's hypocrisy and apathetic attitude towards human rights is unacceptable. As long as the people of Vietnam are oppressed, abused, and imprisoned, our President should not get friendly with a communist regime without first demanding protection of human rights.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, January 13, 2004.

Hon. ZOE LOFGREN,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MS. LOFGREN: This is in response to your December 30, 2003 letter to Secretary Powell concerning detained dissident Mr. Nguyen Vu Binh in Vietnam. We share your serious concern over his recent sentence and ongoing detention.

The Department strongly condemned the harsh sentence given to Binh on December 30, 2003. No individual should be imprisoned for the peaceful expression of his views. The sentencing of Binh clearly violates international standards for the protection of human rights, including freedom of expression. The U.S. Embassy sent an officer to the court, but he was unable to gain access to the trial, despite repeated oral and written requests to the Vietnamese Government.

We are deeply troubled by the restrictions that the Government of Vietnam places on its citizens' freedom of expression, as well as other human rights. These restrictions violate international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that Vietnam has ratified. We consistently urge the Government of Vietnam to adhere to its international obligations to protect the human rights of its citizens. The Government of Vietnam should release Mr. Binh and all others detained or imprisoned for the peaceful expression of their views.

Promoting human rights is a priority in our bilateral relations with Vietnam. We will continue to press the Government of Vietnam to take steps to improve its human rights record.

Let me assure you that our efforts to promote human rights and freedom in Vietnam continue undiminished. Please do not hesi-

tate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL C. POLT,
*Acting Assistant Secretary,
Legislative Affairs.*

EMBASSY OF VIETNAM,
Washington, DC, November 28, 2003.

Hon. ZOE LOFGREN,
*U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

The Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the United States of America presents its compliments to the Office of the Honorable Zoe Lofgren and has the honor to forward herewith the faxed copy of the Statement of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with regard to passing by the US House of Representatives of H. Res. 427.

The Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Honorable Zoe Lofgren the assurances of its consideration.

STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam altogether rejects H. Res. 427 Resolution adopted on 19th November 2003 by the United States House of Representatives and the Resolution adopted on 20th November 2003 by the European Parliament on the so-called "situation of religious freedom in Vietnam". These wrongful, negative resolutions do not serve the relations between the United States and the European Union on the one hand and Vietnam on the other.

Alleging false, inaccurate information provided by a handful of extremist elements who take advantage of the mantle of religion and in pursuit of political goals, distort the founding history of the Buddhist Church of Vietnam after the reunification of the country these resolutions slander the policies and practice of religious freedom in Vietnam. Today's so-called "United Buddhist Church of Vietnam" is nothing but a grouping of individuals who are driven by personal ambition and political motives to act against the nation's interest. As a result of their blatant violation of the law and of their attempts to spur confrontation and sow division among the Buddhist followers, this grouping stands completely isolated from the Buddhist congregation and the national community of Vietnam.

Expressing the will of the Vietnamese people, the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam supports the consolidation and development of Vietnam's relations with the United States and the European Union on the basis of mutual respect for their respective independence and sovereignty, of non-interference into each other's internal affairs and of mutually beneficial cooperation on an equal footing.

In that spirit, the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam urges that the US House of Representatives and the European Parliament stop lending their support to actions that slander the actual situation of religion in Vietnam and undermine mutually beneficial cooperation with Vietnam. At the same time, the National Assembly of Vietnam consistently advocates the enhancement of mutual understanding and narrowing down of differences through dialogue with the US Congress and congressmen as well as with the European Parliament and its members, for the sake of the long-term interests of the nations concerned, and of peace, cooperation and development in the world.

Hanoi, 26 November, 2003.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KEN BURNS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sad tidings that I announce the loss of Ken Burns, a dedicated House employee that many of us had the pleasure of working with.

Ken began his career with the House working for House Information Resources as a Communications Specialist in November 1999. During his time there, Ken served as the PBX administrator and supported video conferencing for all congressional offices. Ken also served as a Move Coordinator during the last transition. He was always very helpful and dedicated to the customer.

Ken received numerous letters of recognition for his cheerful and positive attitude. He never hesitated to go the extra mile to make sure his customers were totally satisfied. He made himself available to assist customers no matter when he was needed. He was a real pleasure to work with and always maintained an upbeat attitude—even when you knew things were not going well for him.

And for the past year, Ken worked at the Recording Studio, handling all the video teleconferences for Members. He was very knowledgeable about the systems and stayed on top of new technologies. Ken was always very helpful in many areas of that operation—he helped answer phones at the front desk and operated television cameras in the House studios regularly. Ken's personality was infectious, always positive, upbeat, and never had a bad word to say about anyone.

I feel privileged to have known Ken as a person and know that he will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL P. BIRRELL**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Michael P. Birrell on the occasion of his retirement from the Dearborn Fire Department after 29 dignified years of service.

Serving as the Chief of the Department since March 2000, Mr. Birrell has shown tremendous dedication and leadership throughout his long-lasting career. He joined the Department on December 9, 1975 as a probationary firefighter. Promoted to Firefighter 2 in 1980 and Firefighter 3, an engine driver, in 1985, Mr. Birrell's achievements resulted in him becoming Fire Lieutenant in 1990, Captain in 1994, and Battalion Chief in 1995.

In addition to serving in the Fire Department, Mr. Birrell finds many ways to channel his supportive energy into the community. He is a Certified Instructor of the Michigan Firefighter Training Council and a National Fire Academy Instructor of Incident Command and Emergency Response to Terrorism.

Mr. Birrell graduated from Saint Alphonsus High School in 1968 and attended Henry Ford

Community College and Eastern Michigan University. A veteran of the U.S. Army from March of 1970 to January of 1972, Mr. Birrell served with the Military Police and was honorably discharged as Specialist 4.

Mr. Birrell and his wife, Elaine, have one daughter, Kathleen, who is a senior at Edsel Ford High School. His stepson, Stuart Debrowsky, is also a Dearborn Firefighter.

As Mr. Birrell enters his retirement years, I would like to give him my best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable future. I would like to thank him for all of his hard work and commitment to the Dearborn Fire Department and Dearborn community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that my colleagues join me in commending Chief Birrell for leadership in both his Department and community, as we celebrate his 29 years of dedication to the Dearborn Fire Department.

FREEDOM FOR LIBRADO RICARDO
LINARES GARCÍA**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Librado Ricardo Linares García, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Linares is an engineer who was expelled from Castro's totalitarian Communist Party in 1992 after he called for economic reforms. Following his eviction, Mr. Linares decided the most effective way to fight Castro's brutal repression was to join the dissident movement. Eventually, Mr. Linares became president of the Cuban Reflection Movement.

Between 1995 and November 1999, Mr. Linares was continually harassed, arrested, detained, and fined by Castro's ruthless machinery of repression. Despite these constant setbacks, Mr. Linares persevered in his quest to obtain basic human rights for every Cuban citizen. Unfortunately, on March 18, 2003, the tyrant Castro had Mr. Linares arrested and convicted on sham charges.

According to Amnesty International, in the sham trial verdict, Mr. Linares was accused of "using his human rights work as a front for alleged counterrevolutionary activities such as meetings, conferences and seminars."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Linares is suffering because of the gross human rights abuses and outrageous repression that continue every day in totalitarian Cuba. Mr. Linares is languishing in the totalitarian gulag because he believes in basic human rights for every Cuban. It is that simple, Mr. Linares is confined in a dungeon because he believes in freedom and the tyrant Castro believes in repression.

My colleagues, we must stand as one and demand freedom for Librado Ricardo Linares García and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained. Had I been

present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 12.

HONORING JUSTIN GREGORICH

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Justin Gregorich, one of my young constituents who recently saved someone's life.

Justin was walking home from football practice last week when he witnessed an elderly man lose control of his car, drive into a retention pond, and begin sinking in the snake and alligator-filled water. Justin instantly dove into the water, and with the help of two other passers by, pulled the man from his submerged car to safety.

Justin's two helpers, Michael McBayer and Shawn Brady, live in Chairman BILL YOUNG's congressional district, which borders mine. Justin credited Mr. McBayer and Mr. Brady for saving the car's driver, though he said his only thought when he saw the crash was that "I gotta save that guy." I think that Justin's mother, Alice, must have taught her son to be humble and help others, which is exactly what he did that day. She certainly deserves credit for raising such an outstanding young man.

Mr. Speaker, Justin, Michael, and Shawn are heroes in the truest sense of the word. They disregarded their own safety for that of another. Their selfless actions should remind us all of the fundamental goodness and humanity that so many of our countrymen exhibit everyday. I urge our colleagues to join me in thanking them for their actions and for reminding us of the spirit of compassion and courage which makes our country great.

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR TAX-EXEMPT
FINANCING FOR UNITED
NATIONS FACILITIES**HON. AMO HOUGHTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleague from New Jersey, DONALD PAYNE, in introducing a bill to provide for tax-exempt financing for new United Nations facilities. This is a bipartisan effort by the two of us, as the current Congressional delegates to the United Nations.

The bill is straightforward and, like a provision in effect before 1986, would allow the use of tax-exempt bonds for the building of new UN facilities, other than the UN Headquarters itself. As a result of the 1986 changes, the UN is now treated as if it were a for-profit company for purposes of tax-exempt bonds, much less favorably than charitable hospitals, universities or State or local governments.

Most recognize that the United Nations Secretariat and Headquarters facilities are now more than 50 years old and greatly in need of renovation and reconfiguration to increase the efficiency of UN functions, improve security and life safety, and reduce overhead and administrative costs.

Let me give you a few examples of the need for the renovation. Most of the building

systems have passed their life expectancy: The plumbing was installed in 1952 and most of the electrical systems in the Secretariat building were installed in 1949. These are clearly outdated. The building contains asbestos and it does not have sprinklers, both of which create significant safety hazards. And, of course, the buildings were not built with today's terrorist threats in mind. These needs have been carefully and extensively studied not only by the UN but also by the United States General Accounting Office, which concluded that the UN's planning for renovation has been reasonable.

In the President's budget released earlier this week, he proposed that the United States provide the United Nations with a 30-year, \$1.2 billion loan to finance the renovation, another recognition of the importance of moving forward with the renovation.

The work cannot commence without a series of preliminary steps. These include financing and constructing a new building for the UN in New York City that the UN General Assembly, UN Secretariat and other UN personnel at UN Headquarters would occupy while the needed renovation and reconfiguration of Headquarters space proceeds. Due to the extent of the needed work and existing asbestos conditions, the current Headquarters space must be vacated until the Headquarters renovation and reconfiguration are completed.

New York City and State propose to provide the land for the new building without cost and to have a public benefit tax-exempt agency of the State arrange to finance, construct and operate the new building. The bonds that would be issued under this proposal would be secured by rent paid by the UN for its use of the new building until the bonds are paid, at which time the UN may become the owner of the land and new building. The UN will undertake the Headquarters renovation and reconfiguration independently, including payment of the cost for the work, without financing or other financial assistance from New York City or State.

Following completion of the new building, which is estimated to cost approximately \$475 million, the renovation and reconfiguration of the UN Headquarters facilities can begin. That work is expected to be completed in 2011 under the current schedule. When the work is completed, the new building will permit all UN Headquarters space and activities that are now scattered in different locations in New York City to be consolidated at that single location connected directly to the renovated and reconfigured Headquarters space.

Expedient work on the needed renovation and reconfiguration is very much in the interest of the UN and in our national interest. The work when completed will strengthen the effectiveness of the UN organization, address security and life safety requirements and improve efficiency, thereby significantly reducing ongoing costs. Moreover, the work will further cement the presence of the UN in the United States, which not only benefits the United States internationally but also provides substantial employment and business opportunities with tens of millions of dollars for Americans and for New York.

We ask for your support of this important legislation.

THE DECEMBER 22, 2003 EARTHQUAKE IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the sense the House of Representatives with respect to the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California on December 22, 2003. Most importantly, I would like to recognize and commend the public safety and law enforcement personnel, elected officials, and the people of San Luis Obispo County for their courageous and effective response to this disaster.

This earthquake occurred at 11:15 a.m. on December 22, 2003. Its epicenter was in San Luis Obispo County, approximately 6 miles northeast of San Simeon and 24 miles northwest of Paso Robles. The earthquake measured 6.5 on the Richter scale, the largest quake to hit the area since 1952, and it was felt from Los Angeles to San Francisco with the most extensive damage occurring in the City of Paso Robles.

Tragically two lives were lost and more than 40 persons sustained injuries. Thankfully, the loss of additional lives was averted through the quick and professional response provided by the public safety and law enforcement personnel and elected officials who serve the people of San Luis Obispo County and the State of California.

San Luis Obispo County experienced a massive disaster but it is evident that recovery has begun as a result of the vibrant actions taken by its residents and leaders. When complete, this renewal will serve as a reminder of the fierce determination displayed by the community and local, state, and federal governments to rebuild in the wake of this disaster.

Accordingly, I ask that this resolution be supported in order to recognize and honor those local officials, public safety and law enforcement personnel, and individuals, who served San Luis Obispo County in the aftermath of this natural disaster.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD ROA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I pay tribute today to the life of Richard Roa. Richard recently passed away, leaving a legacy of community work and commitment to those he loved. He was a magnanimous figure who was dedicated to his family, his friends, and his roots. It gives me no greater pleasure than honoring his memory today.

To all those who knew Richard, he exhibited generosity of spirit, love for his fellow man, and dedication to his work. He constantly challenged the status quo and was never afraid to speak his mind, undoubtedly leaving an immeasurable impression on his community.

The life of Richard Roa took him from Riverside, California, where he was born and raised, to Japan and Korea, where he was as-

signed to active duty as corporal for the 40th Infantry Division.

After completing his military service, Richard turned to business, working for Helgeson Buick, before moving on to community work. He was soon named Community Relations Coordinator for the City of Riverside and became the first president of the Casa Blanca Community Action Group (CAG), helping to address the problems of an area that needed his caring touch. At Casa Blanca, Richard found himself fighting for improved housing, increased business development, and the creation of important neighborhood public services. He always advocated for those in need and was beloved by those around him.

I join today with family and friends in paying my respects to Richard Roa. He was a generous and gentle man who fought the good fight and will be deeply missed by all.

CONGRATULATING BUSH
CHAUDHARY, ON HIS ACHIEVEMENT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate Mr. Bush Chaudhary of Providence, Rhode Island on his receipt of the prestigious Ambassadors for Peace Award. The Ambassadors for Peace Award is bestowed upon 50 outstanding American and other international leaders for exemplary service in the arena of interfaith reconciliation and cooperation amongst Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Mr. Chaudhary will be presented with the award at a ceremony on the 4th of February 2004.

As the founding President of the India Museum Heritage Society, Mr. Chaudhary has played a tremendous role in fostering interfaith tolerance in his community. As the past President of both the India Association of Rhode Island and the American Freedom Coalition, Mr. Chaudhary has served as a community leader for over 25 years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope our colleagues will join me in congratulating Bush Chaudhary for his achievement, and I wish him great success in all of his future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN GELFF, SAN
JUAN CAPISTRANO CITY
COUNCILMEMBER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay my respects to an individual whose contributions to his community were exceptional. San Juan Capistrano City Councilman John Gelff recently passed away and today I would like the House of Representatives to recognize his contributions to his community.

John's life is marked by his service to community and others. He served in many public capacities throughout Orange County during

his life and six years ago moved to San Juan Capistrano. His immediate devotion and commitment to San Juan Capistrano was evident in his leadership as Mayor in 2003 and his service as Chairman of the City's Redevelopment Agency.

Community members remark on his love for the city and charitable organizations, such as the American Diabetes Association's South Orange County Walk and his service on the Orange County Library Commission. His accomplishments during his short time as a city councilmember include the prevention of a second railroad track in town, the prevention of a San Diego Gas & Electric electrical substation being located in the City, and working with the Orange County Transportation Authority to make traffic improvements along the San Diego Freeway corridor.

In 2000, my congressional district changed to include part of San Juan Capistrano and immediately I was impressed with John's passion and commitment to his community. San Juan Capistrano is undoubtedly a better place because of John Gelf's contributions. His leadership and energy will be truly missed.

SHORT-CHANGING THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE IN PREVENTING BIOTERRORISM THROUGH THE MAIL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the discovery of ricin in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, and the resulting closure of all three Senate office buildings, is an unfortunate and disturbing reminder of our mail system's vulnerability to terrorism. As the Representative of the 12th District of New Jersey, my concern on this matter is heightened because of our area's direct experience with the anthrax attacks of 2001. At least one of the anthrax-tainted letters mailed to Capitol Hill was sent from a postal drop box in Princeton, New Jersey and processed at a sorting facility in Hamilton, New Jersey. Anthrax spores were also discovered in my Washington, D.C. office, which resulted in my congressional office—and several others—being relocated for three months.

I rise today to express my profound disappointment that our federal government seems to have learned very little from these incidents. I am concerned that the United States Postal Service (USPS) has not received adequate funding to protect postal employees and the general public from the risk of bio-terrorism in the Fiscal Year 2005 budget that President Bush delivered to Congress two days ago. Specifically, I am troubled that the USPS was denied emergency preparedness funding in Fiscal Year 2004, and would be denied again in the President's Fiscal Year 2005 budget request. This continued lack of funding leaves the United States Postal Service ill-equipped to defend against bioterrorism.

A safe postal delivery system is critical not only for our homeland security, but also for our economic security. Only sustained, significant investment in our postal system will ensure that we are prepared to prevent, detect, and respond to bio-terrorism through the mail. I will be writing to President Bush to recon-

sider this oversight and provide the USPS with funding for this important initiative.

RECOGNIZING STATE SENATOR JOHN L. BURTON OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize State Senator John L. Burton of California.

A bellwether in American politics, Senator Burton authored policy at the state and federal levels for 30 years. Prior to being elected to the California State Senate in 1996, Senator Burton served as a Member of Congress from 1974 to 1983. Elected President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate in 1998, he proudly represents the 3rd Senatorial District, encompassing the City of San Francisco and other Bay Area counties. He also serves as Chair of the Rules Committee and is a member of other powerful panels such as the Appropriations, Constitutional Amendments, Public Safety, and Revenue and Taxation Committees.

Under his leadership, Senator Burton has improved the lives of millions of Californians by authoring legislation that ranges from education to health care. He has made college accessible for thousands of low-income students, by guaranteeing Cal Grant scholarships of \$9,700 for students who meet the GPA requirements. In the first state budget enacted during his time as President Pro Tempore, he revived cost of living adjustments and increased benefits for the elderly, disabled, and welfare-dependent mothers. In the latest budget, he ensured that mental health services and juvenile crime prevention programs receive high levels of financial support. In addition, Senator Burton has spearheaded legislation that allows the use of DNA testing to improve criminal investigations, strengthen child support collection and reform the campaign monetary system.

During his illustrious political career, Senator Burton has received numerous honors by eminent organizations and institutions. Some of his past recognitions include: Legislator of the Year by the California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights Advocates, the California State University Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Sean McBride Award for Human Rights Work.

Well into his seventies, Senator John L. Burton continues to work hard for the people of California. He is a tireless and relentless leader, who I believe exemplifies the excellence in leadership today.

HONORING THE HARLANDALE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Harlandale High School Cheerleaders as the 2003 National Cheerleading Association's Senior and Junior

High School National Champions. In addition to this great accomplishment, this star team also placed first in the Large Co-ed Division and won the Innovative Choreography Award.

Angie Pina, cheer director, Delillah Loreda, captain, and Felicia Campos, co-captain, deserve praise for leading and motivating the squad to such a high level of accomplishment. Their hard work and athletic ability have made this team an impressive success, and their tireless dedication has been well rewarded. Not only am I proud of the team, but also of each individual member for her commitment to achieving such high goals. They have set a new standard for achievement.

As an alumnus of Harlandale High School, I would like to thank these students for bringing acclaim to Harlandale and keeping the school spirit strong. I know they will continue to excel this year and in their future endeavors—both in athletics and academic studies.

HONORING CURTIS MANCINI

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the contributions of Curtis Mancini of Davie, Florida. Curtis was among the seven U.S. soldiers killed on January 29 while serving in Afghanistan. He had served as a Davie police officer for 17 years and had been serving in Afghanistan for a year as a reservist.

Curtis was a soldier's soldier. His father, Commander Sergeant Major John Mancini of Rhode Island had served in the Army for 35 years and remembers Curtis saying he served now so that his children and other people's children would not need to later. Curtis had been promoted to sergeant first class, assigned to the 2nd Battalion Infantry, 10th Mountain Division and shipped off to Afghanistan on January 5. He served as a positive role model and longtime instructor at the Institute of Public Safety. Between 1989 and 2000, Curtis served on a drug task force in the U.S. DEA in Fort Lauderdale and upon returning to Davie, he became a training instructor. Friends and family remember Curtis as an avid sportsman, a brilliant instructor and dedicated father. He enjoyed running marathons, most recently the Walt Disney World marathon and ran 45 miles weekly.

In 2000, Curtis said in a Miami Herald interview, "It's better to burn out than fade away." This was the type of man Curtis was.

Curtis is survived by his three children, his former wife, and countless colleagues, friends and family.

RECOGNIZING THE DENTISTS OF CHESTER COUNTY FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN "GIVE KIDS A SMILE!" DAY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dentists in my district, as well as

those throughout the nation, who will be participating this week in the "Give Kids a Smile!" program.

On Friday, February 6, 2004, the nation's dentists are providing free oral health care services to thousands of low-income children across the country. The ADA's second annual "Give Kids a Smile!" national children's dental access day, during National Children's Dental Health Month, will enhance the oral health of large numbers of needy children. The "Give Kids a Smile!" initiative is designed to nationally promote the numerous charitable edu-

cation, screening, prevention and comprehensive treatment programs already in existence by having many of them coordinated and occurring on the same day. At the same time, the campaign has provided a framework for identifying, cataloging and recognizing the many access programs that take place throughout the year.

In Chester County, Pennsylvania over 30 local dentists will be doing their part to provide a wide range of dental services for underserved children. These dentists and their staff members will be volunteering their time in the

dental clinic at the Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) facility in West Chester. They will be providing much-needed free dental care to between 75 and 100 uninsured or underinsured children in the County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the dentists in Chester County, as well as those throughout our country, who are volunteering their time and services so nobly on Friday to provide dental care to thousands of uninsured and underinsured children.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 9

- 10 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security's budget for fiscal year 2005. SD-342
- Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Department of Homeland Security budget for fiscal year 2005. SD-342

FEBRUARY 10

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To resume hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for Fiscal Year 2005 and the future years defense program. SR-325
- 10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed fiscal year 2005 budget for the Department of Energy. SD-366
- 2 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2005 Department of Veterans Affairs' budget. SR-418

FEBRUARY 11

- 9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2005 budget request. SR-485

- 10 a.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine cable industry competition. SD-226
- 1 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
International Trade and Finance Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine financial reconstruction in Iraq. SD-538
- 2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations. SD-226

FEBRUARY 12

- 9:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine policy and programs relating to the State Department. SR-325
- Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense contractors who are abusing the federal tax system by either failing to file tax returns or not paying their taxes. SD-342
- 10 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2005 budget proposals. SD-608
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed fiscal year 2005 budget for the Department of the Interior. SD-366
- 2 p.m.
Judiciary
Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine evaluating a temporary guest worker proposal. SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 1466, to facilitate the transfer of land in the State of Alaska, S. 1421, to authorize the subdivision and dedication of restricted land owned by Alaska Natives, S. 1649, to designate the Ojito Wilderness Study Area as wilderness, to take certain land into trust for the Pueblo of Zia, and S. 1910, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out an inventory and management program for forests derived from public domain land. SD-366

FEBRUARY 24

- 2 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to ex-

amine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans. SH-216

MARCH 2

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005 and the future years defense program. SH-216
- 10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed fiscal year 2005 budget for the Forest Service. SD-366

MARCH 4

- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Jewish War Veterans, and the Blinded Veterans Association. 345 CHOB

MARCH 10

- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. SH-216

MARCH 18

- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, and the Fleet Reserve Association. 345 CHOB

MARCH 25

- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Military Officers Association of America. 345 CHOB

SEPTEMBER 21

- 10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion. 345 CHOB