Congressional District of Michigan. Should I have been present for today's legislative business, I would have voted ''yea'' on approving the Journal (rollcall No. 25); ''yea'' on approving H.R. 2707, The Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act (rollcall No. 26); and ''yea'' on S. 714, the land transfer of Bureau of Land Management property to Douglas County, Oregon (rollcall No. 27).

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3473

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3473.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

U.S. POLICY UNDERMINES HAITIAN GOVERNMENT

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a Member elected from Florida, I have always supported the citizens of Haiti, and I was one of the ones that went and witnessed the fair election of Mr. Aristide.

Let me just say that it was just as fair as the election that took place in Florida. But sadly, even though Haiti is right off the shores of Florida, this administration has treated Haitians and the Haitian people like unwanted stepchildren.

Right now in Haiti, people are starving to death and being slaughtered in the streets, and the U.S. is nowhere to be found. U.S. policy has undermined the Government of Haiti. Let me say again, the U.S. policy has undermined the duly-elected Government of Haiti and continues today to threaten the very lives of the Haitian people.

I ask this President, how can he justify our attack of Iraq by claiming we are building a democracy while he sits idly by and watches a democracy in Haiti being destroyed by thugs whose only goal is to steal power from a duly-elected President?

Shame on you, Mr. President.

HONORING ERIC ULYSSES RAMIREZ, AN AMERICAN HERO

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to express the condolences of a grateful Nation. I rise so that this Nation will never forget the service and sacrifice of those fallen while working to keep us free.

I rise today specifically to honor the life of Eric Ulysses Ramirez. Specialist Ramirez was killed when his unit was attacked by Iraqi insurgents.

Eric was a sheriff's deputy and a National Guardsman who answered the call to duty when his unit was activated last February. He only had 42 days remaining before his planned return to family and friends when his unit was attacked by RPG, cutting short the life of a young father.

This past weekend I attended services for Specialist Ramirez and can share with my colleagues that his family is very supportive of our actions in Iraq and that we need to honor the fact that he has a very loving wife, children, and parents, and his parents actually live in my district.

We know very well that our freedom could not have been won nor our liberty maintained without those willing to make this ultimate sacrifice, but I know that these are very weak words to the grieving family left behind. I pray that the Lord and that everyone who knew Eric will maintain their memory of Eric and that this will help to assuage their pain.

Eric was a loving father, son, and husband, and this country owes its freedom to Eric and those who came before him. So do the citizens of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this American hero.

URGING U.S. TO MOVE FORWARD IN PROVIDING SECURITY IN HAITI

(Mr. MEEK of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Bush administration to move forward in providing the kind of security that we need in Haiti right now. On average, every day in Haiti, 15 to 16 Haitian nationals are losing their lives due to rebel forces and anti-Aristide forces.

I will tell my colleagues right now that the violence will continue to escalate. The rebels are getting more and more arms. They are getting body armor, they are getting helmets, they are getting all of the things that they need to continue to carry on the nightmare in Haiti.

I want to say to the U.S. citizens here tonight, standing by will not make things better in Haiti. Being from Florida and being from Miami, Florida, there is going to be a number of individuals coming to our shores if we do not stand in and intervene now. It is important that the U.S. moves forth with France and Canada, who are willing to bring about peace in Haiti, so that we can have diplomatic talks with the opposition forces.

The reason why there was not an agreement today at 5 o'clock is because there is no agreement to be made. The rebels cannot be controlled by opposition parties right now, and it is important that this administration acts now before military action will be paramount.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

(Mr. BALLANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to celebrate Black History Month and the achievements and the accomplishments of African Americans in America, today I would like to recognize Elizabeth City State University, one of our historically black universities located in my congressional district, and Chancellor Mickey Burnham, trustees, faculty, alumni, and students.

Elizabeth City State University was founded in 1891 ''for the purpose of teaching and training teachers of the colored race to teach in the common schools of North Carolina.'' Just three decades after the Civil War ended, African Americans worked hard to live up to the ideals of liberty and freedom. Although there were many challenges faced by African Americans, many persevered and took advantage of established institutions such as Elizabeth City State University in the hopes of educating African Americans.

□ 1945

Despite the obstacles, there was a positive belief that the key to a successful future lies in education. This belief remains today.

As I think about the bright educators and students trying to be triumphant over adversity, I feel very proud of Elizabeth City State University. I wish Elizabeth City State University continued good fortune and success as they work to educate all of our people.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER RICARDO LIZARRAGA

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness and regret that I rise to inform my colleagues of the death of Los Angeles Police Department Officer Ricardo Lizarraga, who was killed in the line of duty on Friday, February 20, 2004, while answering a domestic violence dispute in the area of Western and Vernon Avenue in my district. Officer Lizarraga became the first LAPD officer since 1998 to be shot and killed in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, as many of us know, domestic violence calls can be the most volatile and unpredictable situations to which police officers respond. After a woman flagged down Officer Lizarraga's police car and asked for help, the officer and his partner went to remove an abusive boyfriend from her apartment. According to official accounts, the suspect emerged with a gun and shot the 30-year-old officer just below his bulletproof vest.

Officer Lizarraga had only recently joined the police force 2 years ago. Fellow officers described him as cheerful,