

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## USE OF RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR IS WRONG

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2004*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, a recently released report has revealed yet more evidence of heinous human rights abuses committed by Burma's ruling military regime. The report by the Karen Women's Organization entitled "Shattering Silence" documents rapes of ethnic women by the regime's soldiers. If the allegations contained in the report are correct, the stories illustrate how Burma's regime uses rape to undercut resistance to its rule by attacking innocent and defenseless civilians.

I am especially horrified with evidence that over half of the rapes were committed by military officers, and 40 percent were gang-rapes. Reads one example: "While she was living in her village she was captured as the porter to carry shells for the SPDC. At daytime she was forced to carry heavy things and at night she was raped . . . She was raped every night by one to five persons. If she refused or asked them to not rape her, then they slapped her or beat her or closed her mouth . . . At that time they jumped on her body with their boots. While she was being raped at night she heard women shouting from other places. And so she knew there were many women suffering like her."

Furthermore, the report found that in 28 percent of the cases, the women were brutally killed and often mutilated after being raped by officers.

This is not the first time we have heard of the regime's use of rape as a weapon of war. This report supports previous evidence documented by the Shan Women's Action Network, Refugees International, and the Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor at the State Department.

The use of rape as a weapon of war was wrong in Bosnia, and it is wrong in Burma. Burma's regime must be held to account, and their climate of impunity must end.

## RECOGNIZING THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the constituents in my district who, through years of service, have made the Foster Grandparents Program a tremendous success in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The Foster Grandparent Program is a pairing of low income elderly over the age of 60 with special needs children. There are currently over 140 men and women who volun-

teer 20 hours per week, 52 weeks per year, giving love, guidance, tutelage, and the wisdom of their years of experience to children from infants to eighteen years of age at numerous locations throughout Montgomery County.

The Foster Grandparent Program brings countless benefits to the senior citizens and to the children with whom they interact. This program allows the volunteers to remain active and involved in their communities, as they are needed and valued by everyone with whom they interact. The children the senior citizens work with are developmentally delayed, physically handicapped, homeless, abused, neglected, teen parents, delinquent, learning disabled, or born to mothers addicted to drugs. Through this pairing, the children increase their academic skills, enhance their self-esteem and learn to cope with their disabilities and special problems. Thus, through the program, they gain the knowledge that they are special and cared for as we all attempt to make the world a safer, less violent place to live.

The Foster Grandparent Program is a very successful and worthwhile program that puts the time and talents of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania's senior citizens to work benefiting special needs children. The program is 32 years old and, for 28 years, it has been sponsored by Montgomery County Family Services. Nationally, the Foster Grandparent Program is 39 years old with 350 Foster Grandparent Programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Many of the people that have volunteered their time for the Foster Grandparent Program in my district have done so for several years. Mary Refino has participated in the program for 24 years; Elizabeth Baccke for 16 years; Dot Scandone for 15 years; Ann Dippolito for 11 years; Dolores Fogel, Rosa Lee Randall, Juanita Gray and Eldora Smith for 10 years; and Mary Banks, Betty Glover, Louise Watson and Ann Maire Williams for 5 years. It is the continuing dedication and commitment by these individuals that allows the Foster Grandparent Program to be such a success and help so many people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Foster Grandparent Program and all of their volunteers in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania and across our nation.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE SPEECH

**HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to the wisdom of a child.

One of my constituents, an 11-year-old girl from Post Falls, Idaho, named Dori Thomp-

son, recently delivered a simple but compelling speech about the Pledge of Allegiance, about American values, and about the source of the freedoms we enjoy.

I'd like to share it with you now:

Our nation's Pledge of Allegiance is 31 words. "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all." Are all those words important? I have been saying those words ever since I was in preschool and wanted to know what those words meant, where those words came from, and why our courts want to take "under God" away.

In 1892 our country was planning for the 400th anniversary of America's discovery. Two men, Francis Bellamy and James Upham, were interested in education and the planning of Columbus Day celebrations. To this day it is still not known which of the two men actually wrote the pledge, but it was published in "The Youth's Companion" September 8, 1892.

One month later more than 12 million school children said those words for the first time in schools around the nation. The pledge went through several changes over the years and the last change happened in 1954. Dwight D. Eisenhower added the words "under God" to confirm the belief that America's heritage and future were built upon faith in God. He thought that school children should dedicate our nation to God each day.

Now what do these 31 words mean? This is what I think:

I promise to be loyal to and love our symbol of freedom, our flag. It means each one of us is free; free because hundreds of thousands of soldiers have died for us so that we can have that right. I promise to be loyal to and love our government because it is for and has been chosen by the American people. Our nation exists because of God and was founded by our faith in Him, the Lord who is life, light, justice, truth, and love. Our nation cannot be divided under Him and we all have the right to our freedom and should be treated fairly, each and every one of us.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said the Pledge is unconstitutional because of the words "under God." Our country and values were made under the belief of God. So much of the world does not believe in God anymore. The world wants him taken out of everything. The Bible is not taught in public schools and therefore the world is not completely educated. Since these judges say that "under God" is unconstitutional, why do they start the day by saying "God save the United States and this honorable court?"

The Pledge of Allegiance should not be changed because some people are offended by it. It is part of our national heritage. I am a Christian and I understand the meaning of all those wonderful 31 words.

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't have put it better myself.

Dori attends Classical Christian Academy in Post Falls. She is the kind of young person who gives me hope and faith in America's future. Mr. Speaker, I hope you find her words and her example as inspirational as I do.

• 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.

LITTLE ELM PUBLIC LIBRARY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the new Little Elm Public Library. The City of Little Elm will be celebrating National Library Week with a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new library.

On August 11, 2003, Little Elm Community Library moved into Little Elm Town Hall to become Little Elm Public Library. Ms. Tina Hager was hired to be its first Public Library Director.

In the 7 months the library has been in operation, it has reached several milestones and helped the lives of the citizens of Little Elm. Accommodating nearly 9,000 visitors thus far, the Little Elm Public Library has checked out over 11,000 items and registered 1,236 new patrons. The computers in the library have been used over 4,000 times for database searching, job hunting, writing reports and resumes, learning how to speak English, and for a variety of other reasons.

National Library Week is a fitting occasion for Little Elm's ribbon cutting ceremony. This week is a time to celebrate the contributions of our Nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

I would like to commend Little Elm Public Library and its employees for their role in encouraging education in their community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KEVIN JONES

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Virginia Tech junior Kevin Jones, one of the fastest players in college football. Mr. Jones has become one of the most accomplished players in Virginia Tech history due to his tireless team spirit and incredible skill as a running back. Mr. Jones achieved recognition and greatness as a Hokie, becoming both a Doak Walker Award finalist and a Heisman Trophy candidate.

Kevin Jones was the most highly-rated recruit in Virginia Tech history. In 2000, while playing at Cardinal O'Hara High in Springfield, PA, he was ranked as the Nation's top high school player by agencies such as Super Prep and Student Sports. He was the number one running back and number one overall player in the East Region and won the first-ever high school Heisman award for the Northeast region.

Kevin helped his Virginia Tech football team complete an outstanding season which culminated in advancing to the Insight Bowl. Despite only starting one season, he secured a position on many of his team's record lists. Although recorded in the books as a great running back with impressive numbers, Mr. Jones is best known for his great work ethic and love of his team.

Kevin Jones' exceptional talent led him to a difficult decision. He has had such an extraordinary career with the Hokies that he has opted to forego his senior season and declare

himself eligible for the 2004 NFL draft. It is expected that he will be drafted in the first round. I wish Kevin the best in his pursuit of his dreams. He is a talented individual with the drive and determination to do anything that he puts his mind to.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. Kevin Jones. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending him for numerous achievements in his football career.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PEGGY REEVES

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Peggy Reeves and thank her for her extraordinary contributions in the Colorado General Assembly. She will always be remembered as a State Senator and Representative with the utmost dedication and talent, and will continue to be known as a leader in the community. As she moves on in her distinguished career, let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, are eternally grateful for all that she has accomplished in her tenure in the Colorado General Assembly.

Peggy was elected to the Colorado State Senate in 1996, and subsequently in 2000, after serving in the State House of Representatives from 1983 to 1996. Serving the people of Larimer County in District 14, Peggy has long been an advocate of budget reform, health care, education, and economic development. During this current term, Peggy serves as a member of the Appropriations and Joint Budget Committee. Her outstanding record has garnered Peggy praise and awards from numerous organizations throughout the state and country, including the March of Dimes Advocate of the Year in 2000, the Colorado Community Health Network 2001 Outstanding Legislator of the Year, and the Colorado Treasurer's Association 2001 Unique Woman of Colorado Award.

In addition to her service in the Colorado General Assembly, Peggy has dedicated much of her efforts to numerous civic organizations. She is a member of the American Association of University Women, Colorado State University Women's Association, and a past member of Fort Collins Community Foundation and United Way Campaign. In addition to her philanthropic endeavors, Peggy is the proud mother of two children, Margaret and Michael, and two grandchildren, Nathalie and Max.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that State Representative Peggy Reeves has displayed a terrific level of dedication and commitment to her community and the State of Colorado. She is a remarkable woman, who has achieved extraordinary things in her distinguished tenure in the Colorado General Assembly, and I am honored to be able to bring her hard work and dedication to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. It is my privilege to be able to express to her, and to this country, my gratitude for all that she has done for our wonderful state. I wish her and her husband Brent all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE ANNUAL BAYONNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Annual Bayonne Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance. On Sunday, April 18, 2004, the Inter-Faith Clergy and the Bayonne Jewish Community Council co-sponsored the Holocaust Memorial Observance Program held at 2 p.m., at Bayonne City Hall Council Chambers.

The Annual Bayonne Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance Program not only honored the victims of the Holocaust, promoted Jewish history and culture, but also served as an opportunity to bring together the Bayonne community to foster understanding among all people. The United Jewish Appeal Federation of Bayonne, the umbrella organization for the Jewish Community in Bayonne, has served to promote civic and communal duties, in order to enhance the quality of life in Bayonne.

The Annual Bayonne Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance Program was chaired by Alan J. Apfelbaum, an active and dedicated member of the Jewish community. Mr. Apfelbaum has been a constant figure at the Annual Bayonne Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance Program since its inception. The event included proclamations made by Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr., as well as keynote speaker Professor Harry Reicher from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

As Director of International Affairs and Representative to the United Nations of Agudath Israel World Organization, Professor Reicher has fought for international human rights, particularly religious freedom. Born in Prague and raised in Australia, Professor Reicher has done extensive research, focusing on Nazi legislation and its assault on the Jewish community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Annual Bayonne Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance for remembering the victims of the Holocaust; and I ask that we, too, remember the Holocaust, its victims, and the ruthlessness of the Nazi regime. We must never forget.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN T. SIMS, JR.

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal John T. Sims, Jr., 21, of Alexander City, Alabama, died on April 10, 2004 in Iraq. Lance Corporal Sims was a member of the Marine's 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, based at Camp Pendleton, California, and died of a gunshot sustained during combat. He is survived by his mother Margaret Kellum, stepfather Jerry Kellum, and his sister Daphne, as well as his father, John T. Sims of Millbrook. He is also survived by his sister Wendy Smith of Alex

City, his maternal grandparents William and Mary Peppers of Our Town and a paternal grandmother, Beulah Sims of Alexander City.

John Sims, Jr. was eager to serve his country as a Marine, Mr. Speaker. After graduating from Benjamin Russell High School in 2001, he joined the Marines and was known for his great sense of humor, his quick wit, and his big heart. Like every other soldier, he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Lance Corporal Sims died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF  
RUTH L. APPLGARATH

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ruth L. Applegarth; and

Whereas, Ruth Applegarth was a loving sister, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother to the members of her family. Ruth was a faithful member of the New Athens United Methodist Church and spent her time working with Flushing Chapter 369, Order of the Eastern Star. As a licensed Practical Nurse at the Hillview Nursing Home in Flushing, the Cadiz Convalescent Center, the Belmont Habilitation Center and the Cadiz Group Home, Ruth brought comfort and solace to those patients she cared for; and

Whereas, Mrs. Applegarth will certainly be remembered by all those who knew her because of her loving nature towards her family, friends and community; and

Whereas, the understanding and caring to which she gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. Her life and love gave joy to all who knew her;

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Ruth L. Applegarth.

SHELLEY CENTENNIAL

**HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the city of Shelley, Idaho, a community in the heart of my state's rich potato country that this year is celebrating the centennial of its founding.

John F. Shelley settled eastern Idaho in 1892, just two years after statehood. He built the first home, and later a store, in the town that would bear his name. The railroad saw promise in the area's rich volcanic soil and stalwart pioneers, and put in a spur line to connect them with the world. Shelley officially became a city in 1904.

In 1927, community leaders in Shelley organized the first annual Idaho Spud Day, a tradition that grew through the years and continues each September with the support of area growers and processors. Indeed, Shelley has become so thoroughly identified with Idaho's world famous potatoes that its high school teams are known as the "Russets."

That heritage has a special place in my heart, Mr. Speaker. My career in private business was focused on the potato industry. Over 30 years, selling Idaho potato products around the world, I came to know and appreciate my state's farmers and the towns and businesses and families their labors support—like Shelley.

It is a community with a rich and proud history, built on hard work and faith and values that endure. It is a place where people know one another, and look after one another. The people of Shelley are tough and resilient, and they are committed to keeping their hometown the kind of place much of America would still like to be.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Shelley and its fine citizens for a remarkable century of tradition, achievement and progress. I'm confident that Shelley, Idaho, will remain a special place to live, work and raise a family for generations to come.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION  
TURNS 100

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as a second generation doctor, who practiced medicine for 21 years, I am proud to congratulate the American Lung Association on this their centennial anniversary. The American Lung Association operates as the oldest voluntary health organization in the United States. The organization was founded in 1904 with the purpose of trying to combat tuberculosis. Today the Association fights all lung diseases with special emphasis on tobacco-related diseases and asthma.

One of the main focuses of the American Lung Association is the reduction of tobacco use in order to combat lung disease. The act of smoking itself makes it difficult for a person's lung to function properly which makes the lung itself vulnerable to carcinogens from the smoke inhalation. Cigarettes and tobacco contain many cancer-causing chemicals. Along with disabling the immune response and destroying the lung tissue, chemicals can wreak cancerous havoc within the lung, esophagus, throat, and mouth. Chemicals found in tobacco smoke also destroy the cellular mechanisms which remove particles from the bronchial passages and results in "smoker's cough". Helping America to stop smoking is a difficult, but worthy pursuit.

The second mission the association has been focusing on for one hundred years is

that of asthma. Asthma is a lung disease that can be life-threatening and is chronic. In other words, you live with it every day. Asthma can develop quickly and it can range from being a mild discomfort to a life-threatening attack if breathing stops completely. This is a deadly, often overlooked threat that the American Lung Association is fighting.

Today, lung cancer is the leading cause of death from cancer in men and women. Therefore, it is vital that both public and professional efforts be directed at effectively controlling this epidemic. The American Lung Association is doing its part in helping us to fight this deadly disease. They now operate by means of contributions and grants from corporations, foundations, and government agencies. Major medical and educational institutions help the association to provide information and programs to schools, communities, and different health agencies completely free or at a nominal fee.

Thank you for serving our nation for one hundred years in combating lung disease.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMEER NELSON

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Saint Joseph's University senior Mr. Jameer Nelson, who will go down in history as one of the greatest basketball players to have ever graced the court of St. Joseph's University. This 5'11" point guard recently completed a sweep of the National Player of the Year awards, winning honors such as the John R. Wooden Award, the award for Associated Press Player of the Year, and the Pomeroy Naismith Award.

This unanimous AP All-American selection led the Hawks to an incredible 30–2 season, topping the team in points, assists and steals, while simultaneously becoming Saint Joseph's career leader. His four-year class secured the most wins in school history with a 98–27 record and rallied the support of people in the greater Philadelphia area with four consecutive post-season appearances. This year, he and the Hawks attained their first-ever number-one seed in the NCAA tournament and advanced to the Elite Eight. In recognition of Mr. Nelson and his monumental career at Saint Joseph's, his number 14 will be retired.

As a Chester, PA native, Mr. Nelson has had an outstanding collegiate career and is now preparing for a professional basketball career. His talents and many awards provide him tremendous opportunity in the NBA and in life.

It is a privilege to recognize a young person whose ability, leadership, and commitment have brought success to his school and team. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Jameer Nelson for achievement in his basketball career.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TERRY  
PHILLIPS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Terry Phillips and thank him for his dedication to Colorado and his community as a two-term State Senator. The level of energy and integrity that he has brought to the General Assembly throughout his years of public service are truly outstanding. As Terry celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a great legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado and the Colorado General Assembly.

A Boulder County Assessor from 1989 to 1997, Terry was elected from District 17 to serve the community of Boulder in the State Senate in 1996, and subsequently in 2000. As a dedicated public servant, Terry also is a member of the Colorado Student Loan Program Advisory Committee, Executive Committee for the Council of State Governments West, Water Policy Committee, and the State/Local Forum and Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. For this current term he serves as a member of the Appropriations, Business Affairs & Labor, Finance, and Joint Computer Management Committees. Some of the honors he has received for his significant accomplishments while serving in the General Assembly include the Colorado Assessors' Association Legislator of the Year award in 2002, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center Alumni Legislative Award in 2000, and the University of Colorado Boulder Alumni Legislative Award in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Terry Phillips is a person that has displayed a terrific level of dedication and commitment to his life long pursuit of public service. Terry's selfless dedication to his Boulder community and the State of Colorado is truly outstanding, and it is my privilege to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this nation. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN D.  
HILLER

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Spc. Stephen D. "Dusty" Hiller, 25, of Killeen, Texas, died on April 4, 2004, in Iraq. Spc. Hiller was a member of the Army's 2nd Battalion, 5th Calvary Regiment, 1st Calvary Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas, and was killed when his unit was attacked near Baghdad. He is survived by his wife Lesley and their four children, and is the son of Elizabeth Hiller of Opelika, and Steve and Glenda Hiller of Waverly.

Stephen Hiller was eager to serve his country, Mr. Speaker, and earned the nickname "Dusty" from his father. After attending Opelika High School, in 1998 he pursued his dream of serving in the military and enlisted in the Army. He later served in the Alabama National Guard. Like every other soldier, he duti-

fully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Spc. Hiller died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

HONORING ZOILA PEREZ ROBAINA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zoila Perez Robaina on her 90th birthday. On Sunday, April 18, 2004, Mrs. Perez Robaina celebrated this momentous occasion with her closest friends and family.

Zoila Perez Robaina was born in Consolacion del Sur, Pinar del Rio, Cuba on April 22, 1914. She was one of 11 children born to Encarnación Robaina Gonzalez and Antonio Perez Robaina. At a young age in Cuba, Mrs. Perez Robaina took an apprenticeship in embroidery and fashion design. Once she was proficient, she began a private business from her home specializing in infant clothing and bridal accessories.

After sustaining 10 years under the Castro regime, Mrs. Perez Robaina, who met her husband Wilfredo Alfonso Ortega in Cuba, left the island with her daughter in 1969 and made her way to Newark, New Jersey. Her husband was forced to stay in order to be supportive of their son, Lazaro, who had been imprisoned for his political pursuits against the revolution. It was 4 years until the entire family was finally reunited in the United States.

Once in New Jersey, Mrs. Perez Robaina worked tirelessly at Koryette's Department store as an inventory clerk to provide for her family. She was a dedicated parishioner of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. After the passing of her husband in 1981, Mrs. Perez Robaina moved to the City of North Bergen where she began to attend Our Lady of Libera church. During her time at both Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and Our Lady of Libera Church, she was an active member of Mary's Legion.

Mrs. Perez Robaina is the loving mother of two children, Lazaro and Gloria, and the proud grandmother of 7 grandchildren. And at the age of 90 years, she is an integral part of her family, with her infectious energy and love.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Zoila Perez Robaina in celebration of her 90th birthday. I wish her good health and happiness in the years to come.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
DYLAN FOWKES

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Dylan Fowkes has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Dylan Fowkes has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Dylan Fowkes has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Dylan Fowkes must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 23 and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Dylan Fowkes as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN RELATIONS  
ACT

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan and to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act. Originated in the Congress, the Act protects a people who would otherwise be at the mercy of their larger cousins across the Strait.

The Act, signed into law by President Jimmy Carter on April 10, 1979, forms the basis for the security of our most important Asian ally and trading partner. It has enabled that beleaguered island to become an economic and political miracle.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan enjoys a vibrant democracy, with competitive political parties participating in free and open elections. Its government and its market-based economy are models for those nations struggling to lift themselves out of the poverty Taiwan once suffered.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARL  
MILLER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Carl Miller and thank him for his dedication to Colorado as a four-term representative in the State House of Representatives. Carl has brought an outstanding level of energy and integrity to the State House throughout his years of public service, and as he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a great legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado and the Colorado General Assembly.

A third generation Leadville native, Carl has always held firm to his beliefs of serving his community and country. Graduating from Leadville High School in 1956, he joined the army and served in Germany from 1958 to 1960. In 1977 Carl filled his first elective office as Lake County Commissioner, and served as past chairman and member of Region 13 Council of Governments. In 1996, Carl was elected to serve District 56 in the Colorado House of Representatives, and presently serves on the Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Committee; Information & Technology Committee; and the Capital Development Committee.

An active member of his community Carl has devoted his time to numerous civic organizations. A miner for twenty-seven years, Carl served as president and executive director of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum from 1989 to 1999. He has served on the Lake County School Finance and Scholarship Committees, Lake County Advisory group, Lake County Historic Preservation Committee, and the 3rd Congressional Military Academy Advisory Selection Committee. Carl and his wife Mary Ann of forty-three years have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that State Representative Carl Miller has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his district and the people of Colorado in the Colorado General Assembly. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service Carl and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING THE FAITHFUL SERVICE OF EDGAR B. JACKSON, JR., M.D.

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Edgar B. Jackson, Jr., M.D. in celebration of the establishment of a \$1.53 million endowed chair position in his honor at University Hospitals in Cleveland, OH. His dedicated work over the past 38 years with University Hospitals and Case Western Reserve University is exemplary.

Dr. Jackson began his work as a laboratory assistant at Western Reserve University, where he received his medical degree in 1966. He remained active at the university and became the first African-American at Case to become a professor of clinical medicine. One of Dr. Jackson's passions in life was to provide better health care for underprivileged Clevelanders, and he acted on this passion by establishing medical centers in Glenville in the 1970s and Fairfax in the 1990s.

Dr. Jackson went on to serve as the Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President of clinical affairs at University Hospitals. A true professional and family man, he is still practicing medicine but will begin to focus more of his time and attention on his grandchildren.

The Edgar B. Jackson, Jr., M.D. Endowed Chair is the first chair to be named after a black doctor at University Hospitals and will be funded by over 200 prominent Cleveland donors. Dr. Jackson served as my personal in-

ternist and is also a close friend. I would like to honor Edgar Jackson for the establishment of his endowed chair and thank him for his support and encouragement over the years.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio and the United States Congress, I pay tribute to the leadership, dedication, support, and commitment of Edgar B. Jackson, Jr., M.D. to University Hospitals and to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 2, 2004, I was unable to vote on H.R. 3108, On Agreeing to the Conference Report on the Pension Funding Equity Act (rollcall 117). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING CLUB ESPAÑA OF NEWARK

**HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Club España for continuing to promote Spanish culture throughout the City of Newark. On Saturday, April 17, 2004, Club España celebrated its 40th anniversary with a dinner/dance at 8 p.m., at 180 New York Avenue, Newark, New Jersey.

For forty years, Club España has served the city and community of Newark as a center for promoting Spanish culture. As the city continued to diversify, Club España has continued to provide a place to keep Spanish cultural tradition alive. Through music, traditional dance, and events, Club España has afforded generations of Spanish immigrants an opportunity to continue to practice the traditions of their native land and honor their heritage. Cultural centers, like Club España, provide communities with numerous opportunities to learn and participate in activities, and for friends, families, and strangers to meet and interact.

Club España not only serves as a Spanish cultural center, but has also been actively involved in its community. Located in Newark's historic Ironbound district, Club España has instituted several social programs for children, families, and seniors, in order to assist those who are less fortunate. One shining example is the youth members program, established to teach children about the history and culture of Spain. The programs offered by Club España provide a sense of community, as well as tools and assistance for our children to succeed in the future.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Club España for its distinguished public service, and its dedication to promoting Spanish culture in the City of Newark. I was truly honored to be Club España's guest of honor at the 40th anniversary Dinner/Dance event.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NOELLE RUPLI

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Tim and Linda Rupli are celebrating the arrival of their daughter, Noelle Rupli; and

Whereas, Noelle Rupli was born on the sixteenth Day of March, 2004 and weighed seven pounds and fourteen ounces; and

Whereas, Tim and Linda are proud to welcome their new daughter into their home; and

Whereas, Noelle Rupli will be a blessed addition to her family, bringing love, joy and happiness for many years to come;

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff in celebrating with Tim and Linda Rupli and wishing Noelle Rupli a very happy birthday.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. EDWARD J. KEPPEL

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward J. Keppel.

Mr. Keppel entered active duty as a second lieutenant on Sept. 1969 with an assignment to Det 10, 6 WW, Eglin AFB, FL. He separated from active duty in Dec. 1973 to pursue graduate studies in meteorology at Penn State University.

In Dec. 1974, Mr. Keppel returned to Eglin to continue the work he enjoyed supporting weapons testing—this time as a civilian staff meteorologist for Det 10 (later renamed 46th Weather Squadron).

Throughout the next 30 years Mr. Keppel has directly influenced many changes and great technical advancements. He has seen guided missile programs such as the Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) develop from concept to operational capability.

Mr. Keppel was a pioneer in developing weather support for armament testing. He utilized DMSP equipment and "metvans" to instrument test ranges for real-time and post-test mission analysis.

His efforts contributed greatly to the fielding of the first portable upper air sounding system—initially meant exclusively for testing, but is now used for many operational weather support applications around the world.

Mr. Keppel was a driving force behind instrumenting the Eglin test range with Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS)—which are used today to provide critical data for missions ranging from armament flight test to Army Ranger Training Battalion swamp movement training.

More recently, Mr. Keppel was recognized for his expertise with sound propagation models used in support of the first two test detonations of the Massive Ordnance Air Burst (MOAB), the largest conventional bomb in the U.S. inventory. This weapon was developed and tested for use in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

Mr. Speaker, I, on behalf of the United States Congress, salute Mr. Keppel for reflecting a great credit upon himself, and our nation. I offer my sincere thanks for all that he has done for Northwest Florida and this great nation.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 20, I was not present for business on the floor of the House due to personal business and was thereby absent for votes on rollcall Nos. 118 through 120. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 118, "yea" on rollcall No. 119, and "yea" on rollcall No. 120.

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TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN AMOS, II

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I pay tribute to an outstanding American, a true patriot, and a hero to his country, Private First Class John Amos II. Pfc. Amos was killed in action on Sunday, April 4, 2004, while serving in Kirkuk, Iraq for the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division of the United States Army. He bravely sacrificed his life to ensure the safety of his fellow soldiers, the Iraqi people, and the very idea of freedom throughout the world. He was remembered at funeral services held on the morning of Tuesday, April 13, 2004, in his hometown of Valparaiso, Indiana.

John Amos was raised in Griffith, Indiana and later moved to Valparaiso, Indiana where he graduated from Valparaiso High School in 2002. After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, John's dedication to his country led him to enlist in the United States Army right after his graduation from Valparaiso High School. Although the physical and mental demands were extremely difficult, John remained undeterred in his desire to serve in the military. The son of an Air Force Veteran, John understood the hardships of military life and accepted them with the courage and fortitude befitting a soldier dedicated to the defense of his country.

Pfc. Amos deployed for Iraq as part of the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. John was on patrol near Kirkuk, Iraq when an explosion hit his military vehicle and prematurely took his life. John wanted nothing more than to dedicate his life to the military, and he honored his unit on April 4, 2004, by sacrificing himself to preserve the values he treasured.

Although it was his ambition to serve his nation as a soldier, nothing was more important to Pfc. Amos than his family. He is survived by his mother, Susan Amos, his father, John Amos, a sister, Rebecca Amos, two half brothers, Hunter and Tyler Amos, grandfather,

Hank Amos, and grandparents Doug and Lucy Whitehead, as well as a nation and a community who will never forget the sacrifice that he made to protect our freedom. His father, John Amos, was an Air Force Veteran who John looked to for guidance and advice while contemplating service in the military. John remained close to his family until his death, and he will never be forgotten by those he left behind.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Private First Class John Amos II. Pfc. Amos is the 21st resident of Indiana to sacrifice his life in Iraq, and his passing comes as a difficult setback to a community already shaken by the realities of war. Pfc. Amos will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

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HONORING SALEM SHAPIRO'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 23, Salem Shapiro, a retired city planner now living in Redding, Connecticut, will celebrate his 95th birthday. Normally on an occasion like this, I would hail his service in the Pacific Theater during WWI and salute the idealism with which he battled suburban sprawl and exclusionary zoning. But such a standard tribute to his 60-year career misses the larger message of his life: his joyful refusal to bow to the clichés of old age.

Like many senior citizens today, Salem Shapiro took up writing in his late eighties. But instead of dwelling on autobiography and family genealogy, he composed satirical essays that channeled the spirit of Jonathan Swift. Claiming to be a master of "Non-Euclidean, Non-Linear Logic," he puckishly suggested that the elderly were fast becoming an endangered species because of their "unusually low birth rate when compared with other sectors of the population." His remedy was to champion the mythical organization called "Save the Elderly from Themselves." Then there was his mocking proposal to deal with the high cost of campaigning by suggesting that the presidency be let out for auction, thereby enriching the Federal Treasury rather than individual TV stations.

But nothing better captures Salem Shapiro's indomitable spirit as well as a poem he wrote a few years ago entitled "An Attitude." The last two stanzas deftly summarize his philosophy of aging:

I too have lived a lifetime  
Enjoying myself and serving society  
But I will not allow me  
To be cast off like the leaf  
In the Fall of my life.

I shall continue my activity  
In interacting with friends  
And people and groups such as this  
That constitutes my tree  
And resist turning dry and crumble.

Longevity encompasses far more than luck and genes. It is, in many ways, the ultimate art form.

Mr. Speaker, please join me as I hail Salem Shapiro on his 95th birthday.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRAD YOUNG

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Brad Young and thank him for his commitment to public service as a four-term member of the Colorado House of Representatives. Brad will always be remembered for the leadership and guidance he has provided, and as he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a great legacy in the Colorado General Assembly and for the people of Colorado.

Raised in Lamar, Colorado, Brad received his bachelor's and master's degree in agricultural engineering from Colorado State University. This academic background served Brad well in representing Baca, Bent, Huerfano, Las Animas, Otero, and Prowers counties in the 64th District, where agriculture and water issues are so vital. His work in the General Assembly also has included sponsoring the Habitat Partnership program, the Rural Doctor Tax Credit, Workers Comp Education by Community Colleges, and Aquaculture regulation by the Department of Agriculture. Brad's leadership and dedication in the State House earned him the important chairmanships of the Appropriations and Joint Budget Committees, and he is a former member of the Education and Transportation Committees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute before this body of Congress and this nation to State Representative Brad Young for his selfless efforts of public service during his tenure in the Colorado House of Representatives. The level of integrity and honesty Brad has displayed while serving his district and the people of Colorado has earned the respect and admiration of his peers. I would like to extend my congratulations to Brad on his retirement and wish him, his wife Rebecca, and his two daughters Cassandra and Laura all the best in their future endeavors.

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A PROCLAMATION HONORING JULIA MARIE ERICKSON

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, John and Michelle Erickson are celebrating the arrival of their daughter, Julia Marie Erickson; and

Whereas, Julia Marie Erickson was born on the twenty-fifth Day of March, 2004 and weighed seven pounds and one ounce; and

Whereas, Mr. And, Mrs. Erickson are proud to welcome their new daughter into their home; and

Whereas, Julia Marie Erickson will be a blessed addition to her family, bringing Cove, joy and happiness for many years to come;

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff in celebrating with

John and Michelle Erickson and wishing Julia Marie Erickson a very Happy Birthday.

CONGRATULATING NATIONAL  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR KATH-  
LEEN MELLOR

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kathleen Mellor for being named the 2004 National Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Mellor, a resident of South Kingstown, Rhode Island, is the first Rhode Islander and also the first English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher to be honored with such an award.

Mrs. Mellor currently teaches at Davisville Middle School and Hamilton Elementary School. She has twenty-three years of experience as a teacher and has worked with the North Kingstown School Department since 1985. She developed an ESL program for the school system that allowed ESL students to remain in mainstream classrooms for the majority of their day. She fostered a community within the school, while encouraging students to share their own cultures and languages with one another. This first-rate program flourished and is still in place today.

In addition to her many academic accomplishments, Mrs. Mellor volunteers in her community and started a program called Ladybugs where mothers of ESL students can practice their conversational English, so they can better understand their children's new lives. In recognition of her creation of a warm learning environment, energetic disposition, and determination for her ESL students to succeed, she was nominated for, and won, the 2004 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year Award.

Mrs. Mellor was named National Teacher of the Year by the Council of Chief State School Officers on April 20th, 2004. Today she will be recognized for her achievements by President Bush in the Rose Garden of the White House. In the next year, 150 national and international groups will have the honor of hearing Mrs. Mellor speak while she travels as the national ambassador for the teaching profession.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often enough that the hard work and determination of our educators are acknowledged, so it is with great pride that I recognize an exceptional teacher like Kathleen Mellor for all her accomplishments.

I hope our colleagues will join me in congratulating Kathleen Mellor on her award.

VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY  
SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues the following essay written by one of my constituents.

[From the 2003-2004 VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest]

MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE  
NEW MEXICO

(By Christina Durano)

The future of America does not depend on power of its government, the wealth of its

corporations, or the abundance of its natural resources. The future of America lies in its young people and their commitment to this extraordinary nation. As a young person, I cannot foretell America's future, but I can help decide it by my beliefs, my actions and most importantly my commitment to America's future.

Why is commitment so important? Because commitment is the power that enables a person to achieve his highest goals and greatest aspirations. Commitment is knowing what you want, and doing whatever it takes to get it. And, as an American, I am committed to my nation's future, in four distinct ways. Four C's, if you will.

I am committed to the common cause of freedom and equality for everyone, regardless of age, gender, race or religion. George Bernard Shaw said, "Liberty means responsibility." And responsibility requires commitment to the common cause of freedom. Without this commitment, the dreams of Americans, young and old, cease to exist. Personally, I'm looking forward to a college education, but because I've chosen alternative schooling, I need colleges to view potential students equally, without prejudice, whether they attend to public school, private school, or homeschool. Freedom, the common cause that upholds "liberty and justice for all", is dependent on each citizen's commitment.

Secondly, I am committed to communicating my convictions in both public and private situations. When I turn eighteen, like every other American citizen, I will be given the right to vote. I will use that right because I know that each vote counts. History records that Abraham Lincoln, one of the most influential Presidents ever, won his Presidency by only one electoral vote. In the same way, however, Adolph Hitler won his dictatorship by one vote. But even before I turn 18, I can communicate my convictions by living my life in accordance with deeply held beliefs. It may not be convenient or comfortable, but that's what commitment is all about. Commitment isn't a dream, a hope, or a goal; commitment is a lifestyle. And I am committed to communicating my convictions so that I can make a difference in America.

Making a difference often means creating change, the third "C" to which I am committed. An old proverb states, "If you want something to change, you have to change something." Change is the pathway to improvement, particularly when it is enacted with purpose and principle. I am one of millions of students who have the opportunity to determine America's destiny. So, does that mean I only have a slight chance of affecting change? Not at all! One-in-a-million changes happen every day. With my commitment to America's future, I can meet new challenges, overcome obstacles and influence others for change. I am committed to change because I know that if we never change, we will never find a better way.

My final "c" of commitment is caring. I have committed myself to caring by visiting nursing homes, helping clean neighbor's yards, and leading children's activities at a local daycare center. The tragedy of September 11 forced citizens to look beyond themselves and the result has been a wave of volunteerism sweeping across the country. Caring for one another unifies us as Americans. Caring is the key to a strong country and I am committed to caring.

With commitment to these four C's, I can help determine America's future. I am committed to America—to its common cause, to communicating my convictions, to changing and to caring. With this fourfold commitment—these 4 "C's", I foresee a great future for the greatest nation on earth. That is my commitment to America's future.

HONORING DR. DANIEL BERTOCH

**HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Daniel Bertoch, a dentist in my congressional district who routinely provides free dental services to those in his community who cannot afford them.

I met Dr. Bertoch and his staff several years ago while visiting businesses in my congressional district. Dr. Bertoch's office, located in Citrus Park, serves many of my constituents in Northwest Hillsborough County. He told me then that he believed in the importance of civic responsibility and helping those in need.

I am pleased to say Dr. Bertoch has acted on that belief. He recently invited a group of less fortunate children from the community to his office for free dental services. He and his staff (Dr. Maria Egir, Mary Anne Futch, Valera Senden, Janice Jonasson, Leigh Allen, and Maria Goetz) treated 17 children over the course of an entire day. They provided comprehensive exams to the children, gave them fluoride treatments, filled their cavities, and provided each child with a full dental treatment plan and copies of their x-rays. They also served breakfast and lunch to the group with the help of local businesses and hired someone to paint faces and make balloon animals for the children. As Dr. Bertoch said, "a great time was had by all."

Dr. Bertoch told me that he realizes that charity is not a health care solution. He added, however, that along with proper funding, communities can find ways to help underserved children who need basic health and dental care.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bertoch and his staff of caring professionals exemplify the spirit of generosity and compassion which forms our country's foundation. I am proud to know them and commend their work to our colleagues as we continue our efforts to make health care more accessible and affordable.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TAMBOR  
WILLIAMS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Tambor Williams, and thank her for her tireless efforts serving the people of Colorado as a four-term member of the Colorado House of Representatives. Tambor will always be remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader of the community. As she celebrates her retirement, let it be known that she leaves behind a terrific legacy of dedication and commitment to the Colorado General Assembly and for the people of Colorado.

A practicing lawyer and professional mediator, Tambor has used these skills to become an efficient and effective leader in the General Assembly through her four terms of office for District 50, which serves Weld County. She serves as the Speaker Pro Tem of the House, chairs the House Business Affairs & Labor

Committee and the Legislative Audit Committee, and is a member of the House Appropriations Committee. Her excellent record in the State House has earned her the Legal Reform Summit State Legislative Award from the United States Chamber of Commerce, as well as numerous awards and recognition from Colorado businesses and organizations.

Tambor's efforts to better her community include extensive involvement with civic organizations. She is an active member of the City of Greeley Mayor's Advisory Board, a member of the Commission of Judicial Performance and member of the Weld County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Tambor's involvement also has included serving as board chair of Union Colony Civic Center, board member for Parent Child Learning Center, board member of Right to Read, and serves as post advisor for the Explorer Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that State Representative Tambor Williams is a person who possesses dedication and commitment to her life long pursuit of public service. It is not only her incredible devotion, but also her passion for contributing towards the betterment of the Weld County community and the State of Colorado that I wish to bring before this body of Congress and this nation. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Tambor here today, and wish her and her husband Jim all the best in their future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
DAVID LEE RAUCH PARKS

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, David Lee Rauch Parks has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, David Lee Rauch Parks has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, David Lee Rauch Parks has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, David Lee Rauch Parks must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 312 and David's family and friends in congratulating David Lee Rauch Parks as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was also unavoidably absent from this Chamber on April 20, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 118, 119 and 120.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote Nos. 118 and 119, I was unavoidably detained at the White House. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for each bill.

HONORING ANNETTE GARNETT,  
JOHN THICH AND BRUCE DIN

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous and selfless acts of three Monterey County residents currently employed at Monterey Credit Union, a local financial institution. Annette Garnett, John Thich and Bruce Din saved their fellow employees from certain danger when approached by a disgruntled and armed former employee.

On the morning of March 17, Annette Garnett, a four-year veteran of the Monterey Credit Union, was approached and threatened by Douglas Chase, a former employee that had been arrested just a day earlier on weapons charges. In an attempt to free Ms. Garnett from Chase's hold, John Thich and Bruce Din, both employed for less than a month at the time of the event, wrestled the attacker to the ground and successfully disarmed him. They were also able to immobilize Chase until police arrived to take him into custody.

I am deeply moved by the compassion and bravery these employees exhibited and I believe they should truly be heralded as heroes. There is no way of estimating the potential danger that could have incurred if the response to Chase's attack had been less effective. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our community, I commend these three outstanding citizens for risking their lives in hope of protecting those of others.

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS EXCELLENCE PRESIDENT ZINE EL ABIDINE BEN ALI OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA VISITING WASHINGTON, DC, AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my most heartfelt welcome to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of Tunisia, on his visit to the U.S. on February 18, 2004. President Ben Ali has been an unstinting friend and ally in the war on terror. Thereby, he has maintained and nurtured an alliance between the U.S. and Tunisia that has existed for over two centuries, dating back to the Treaty of Peace of 1797.

It has been the hallmark of the Honorable Ben Ali's tenure as President of Tunisia, to in-

stitute meaningful and lasting reforms in several spheres. President Ben Ali has taken the lead role in the region as a consistent and ardent supporter of women's rights. His reform endeavors carry over into the area of economic modernization under the auspices of ambitious educational reform and investment in technology and infrastructure. The great people of West Virginia can certainly appreciate these advancements as they themselves continue to spearhead similar ventures through top-notch technology training institutes and initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, I am honored to welcome His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on his visit to the United States in order to meet with President Bush.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MOFFAT  
COUNTY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Moffat County in my home state of Colorado. Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture, along with the Department of the Interior, recognized Moffat County for the excellence of its Wildland Fire and Fuel Management Plan. The County has developed an innovative approach to combating the threat of catastrophic wildfire, and I am honored to recognize its dedication to the safety of its citizens.

Over the past two and a half years, officials from Moffat County have worked in conjunction with local residents, wildfire experts and government agencies to implement a comprehensive system for hazardous fuels reduction and fire suppression. As a result of these efforts, Moffat County has created a model countywide fire plan that provides a template for the implementation of similar programs in rural communities nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise and pay tribute to Moffat County. The County's commitment to integrating the needs and desires of the local community into their fire planning is certainly deserving of our praise. I am proud of Moffat County and its tireless dedication to the protection and betterment of its citizens.

PUTTING PREVENTION FIRST

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Pro-choice Caucus Co-Chairs—Congresswoman SLAUGHTER, Congressman GREENWOOD, Congresswoman DEGETTE, and Congresswoman JOHNSON for disregarding partisan lines and working together for the safety of women and to secure women's reproductive rights. I am proud to be an original cosponsor to such a comprehensive piece of legislation that does not focus on controversy but on preventive care and education.

Those who consider themselves pro-choice do not agree on many issues with those who

consider themselves pro-life. But the one thing that we both agree on is preventing women and teens from having unintended pregnancies and having an abortion. To succeed, we must provide education to young women about their bodies and about preventing pregnancies and STDs. I always say education is the key. We know that education works—rates of unintended pregnancies among teens have greatly declined as well as the number of abortions being performed. Yet, we have not done enough. In 2000, there were approximately 18.9 million new cases of STDs in the United States including an increase in HIV-AIDS.

The reproductive health of women should be a public health priority for our Nation. Although, I believe abstinence should be taught and stressed—it is not a reality for many of our young people. Family planning programs must be available to all women—young, older, poor, middle class, those with private insurance or on Medicaid. Again, I commend the pro-choice caucus for offering legislation that focuses on keeping abortion legal, safe, and rare with proper education and preventive health care services.

HONORING NOVA CHEMICALS, INC.

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Nova Chemicals, Inc., a chemical manufacturer located in Monaca, Pennsylvania, recently honored by Toyota Motor Manufacturing of North America, Inc. as a top supplier for 2003. It is truly an honor to have an industry leader in my district.

Annually, the Toyota Motor Manufacturing of North America, Inc. acknowledges those suppliers who have met their highest standards in quality, delivery, supplier diversity and value improvements for parts, materials, and transportation. Toyota is strongly committed to buying from local sources for U.S. manufacturing operations—currently, Toyota buys from 500 U.S. suppliers. By the year 2006, Toyota will have the capacity to build 1.66 million cars and trucks a year and 1.29 million engines in North America.

Nova Chemicals, Inc.'s Beaver Valley facility was recognized for both quality and delivery during this year's 2004 Supplier Awards Ceremony at Toyota's Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony. Since the company's start in 1954, it has grown into a multi-billion-dollar corporation and is now North America's largest producer of polystyrene. Furthermore, Nova Chemicals, Inc. is an active participant in the local communities where their facilities are based—not only do they provide financial improvements to the communities they join but they also improve the social surrounding as well.

I ask that all the members in the House of Representatives join with me in honoring this outstanding company based within the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania. I am pleased to represent this award winning chemical manufacturer.

TRIBUTE TO MS. LAUREN LINCOLN

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding, young American, Ms. Lauren Lincoln. Ms. Lincoln created, from the ground up, a Rainbow Winter Guard team for Special Olympians in Rochester, New York. This is a great accomplishment for any individual, but what makes Lauren's situation unique is she is just 16 years of age.

Lauren Lincoln, a resident of Irondequoit, New York, first developed the idea of creating a color guard after attending an exhibition by Special Olympians in Dayton, Ohio, last year. She quickly transformed this idea into reality after conversations with local Special Olympic officials. By September of 2003, the newly formed Rainbow Winter Guard was having weekly practices and on October 13, 2003, had their first official performance.

In addition to the creation and training of the Special Olympians, Lauren has managed the administrative tasks that accompany such an endeavor. She developed a budget, created a practice and performance schedule and raised monies to fund the costs of maintaining the program.

Mr. Speaker, Lauren Lincoln is one example of many exceptional youths who are displaying altruistic dedication to the public good. She is a model for all Americans and I commend her achievements.

INTRODUCING THE KNOW YOUR VOTE COUNTS ACT OF 2004

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Know Your Vote Counts Act of 2004, legislation which will amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require voting systems to print a paper record for each ballot that the voter can verify for accuracy before the ballot is cast. This makes a recount possible in the event that a state determines one is needed. Without a paper trail, a recount is impossible.

Current law permits precincts to print ballots for the first time after the polls have closed. Therefore, voters might never get to see their ballots. This creates a risk that the computer record may differ from the voter's true intentions, without the voter ever knowing. Moreover, computer malfunctions or insider hacking might occur between the time of voting and printout, defeating the goal of the paper record requirement. The Know Your Vote Counts Act eliminates these possibilities by clarifying to states that a ballot must be printed at the time of each vote, thus ensuring the achievement of HAVA's goal of electoral integrity.

Electronic voting systems are supposed to increase voter confidence in election results. Without this safeguard, they seem to do anything but. A prominent fear has developed that these machines will facilitate a cyber version of dumping ballot boxes in the river. Software could be set to record votes with no regard to

how the votes were actually cast. It is instructive that the Pentagon scrapped an Internet voting project because officials there determined there was no way they could guarantee that voting records could be kept secure. This issue should be a major concern for all of us.

The new Election Assistance Commission has plans to disburse \$2.3 billion as early as next month to states for technology upgrades in voting equipment. Complying only with the upgrades required under current law, however, poses future problems for states. Presently, states could purchase machines without the capability of printing ballots for the voter to verify for accuracy.

States have already experienced problems that illustrate the problems created by voting machines without an auditable paper record. In Indiana, a glitch resulted in 5,352 voters casting 144,000 votes. Virginia machines subtracted votes rather than adding them to a candidate's total in some cases. In Florida, 10,844 votes were cast; candidate won by 12 votes, but there were 137 under-votes. Florida state law requires a manual recount of all under-votes in a race with this tight a margin, but no paper trail was available and the recount was impossible. A recent study of Maryland electronic voting machines found that they were all equipped with one of two locks, which keys to the other machines could open. Finally, in Georgia, on Super Tuesday, ten voting terminals were found sitting in the lobby of a Georgia Tech building unattended, in unlocked cases. These machines easily could have been altered during this time.

This legislation protects the integrity of electronic voting systems by requiring a voter-verified paper audit record for each ballot. The voter can verify the ballot at that time, and the paper record created can be used if state determines that recount is needed. To preserve ballot secrecy and prevent voter intimidation, this bill prohibits voters from copying or removing the record from a polling place. The Know Your Vote Counts Act respects principles of federalism and defers to state law, allowing states to make their own decisions about when to require recounts while preventing computer error or deliberate fraud from altering election outcomes.

This is not a partisan issue. It is an American issue. All Americans must know that their votes count. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the Know Your Vote Counts Act of 2004 in the 108th Congress so that we can ensure that the votes cast are the votes counted.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SPC. JUSTIN REDIFER

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise and pay tribute to an outstanding patriot from my home state of Colorado. Army Specialist Justin Redifer recently returned from serving our nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in recognition of his actions, was awarded a Bronze Star with a distinction for valor. This incredible honor is a testament to Justin's courage and bravery, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize him before this body of Congress and this nation today.

A soldier in the 244th Engineer Battalion, Justin's responsibility in Iraq was to seek out and establish temporary operating bases for American forces. This dangerous task often put Justin's detachment, based in Grand Junction, Colorado, in harms way. A few months ago Justin's unit was involved in one harrowing firefight in the City of Samarra where a group of armed insurgents in a car headed straight for our troops. As the insurgent's vehicle passed Justin's position, he shot out the back window before the car careened into an area where the unit was able to effectively contain the situation.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise and recognize the actions of Specialist Justin Redifer for his service to our nation. Receiving the Bronze Star is a testament to the bravery and courage Justin displayed while in Iraq. His selfless sacrifice to his country serves as a model for all Americans who desire to serve their country in this war against terror. Many young men and women like Justin are now serving their nation, without regard to personal safety, to ensure the people of Iraq can have the same freedoms we enjoy. On behalf of my fellow Coloradans and Americans, I wish to thank Justin for his bravery and noble service.

HONORING WHITNEY YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Whitney Young High School of Chicago for its triumphant achievement on winning the first place title in the Illinois Academic Decathlon competition on March 13, 2004.

The Academic Decathlon is a team competition wherein students are tested through a diverse group of scholastic categories including: art, economics, essay interview, language and literature, mathematics, music science, social science and speech.

With up to nine members from each team competing in all ten events of the decathlon and representing a diversity of scholastic aptitude, the true spirit of this year's "America. The Growth of a Nation" theme has been advanced.

The decathlon, which was first created by Dr. Robert Peterson, has helped maximize the learning potential of young minds through competitive challenge. Whitney Young has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to shine among the best and brightest of Chicago's academic community.

As winners of the Illinois Academic Decathlon, Whitney Young High School will go on to represent our city and state in the national meet in Boise, Idaho. Nine of its students will compete in one of the most prestigious high school academic competitions in the United States.

I salute each of our Whitney Young High School Academic Decathlon Winners: Rachel Birkhahn-Romelfanger, Nailah Cash-Obannon, Clare Conroy, Christina Doocy, Sarah Duffy, Ikee Gardner, Lally Gartel, Deana Rutherford, Eleanor Sharp and Margaret Sharp.

Reaching this level of competition is a tremendous achievement and one that deserves special recognition. Indeed, Whitney Young

students set the standard for scholastic excellence that the Academic Decathlon seeks to attain.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all residents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois in congratulating Whitney Young High School on its achievement. I wish the Academic Decathlon winners the best of luck at the national competition in Idaho as well as continued success as their education continues. I am very proud of these young and future leaders of tomorrow.

A TRIBUTE TO MAY MARSHBANKS OF LILLINGTON, NC

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a public servant of the elderly in North Carolina, May Marshbanks, and her recent acceptance of the George L. Maddox Award. This award honors individuals in North Carolina who have excelled in developing and implementing creative programs for older adults. The award symbolizes years of tireless effort on the part of Miss Marshbanks to provide much needed services to the elderly populace of Harnett County.

May Marshbanks, who is eighty-six years old, has directed the Harnett County aging program for 32 years since the inception of the Harnett County Council on Aging in 1971. This marked a second career for Ms. Marshbanks, who retired as a principal from the Chapel Hill school system and moved back to Harnett County. She has been a passionate advocate for the aging and elderly ever since.

Through her pioneering spirit, Ms. Marshbanks forged a path for the Council to develop into the Harnett County Department on Aging. Today, the Department delivers a number of important programs to the elderly including minor home repair, In-Home Aid, an Elderly Nutrition Program, and the Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults. The Department provides legal assistance to seniors. It also offers a transportation program to provide seniors the ability to live independently and to provide them access to medical and social services.

As one colleague stated, "May Marshbanks is the Harnett County Department on Aging. The community sees her and the agency as synonymous." May Marshbanks has connected her life with others through noble causes, and her actions have effected hundreds of lives. She has provided needed services for older adults in Harnett County, informed local government officials of the needs of the elderly, and developed public and private cooperative partnerships among existing agencies and programs. I thank May for her service to the citizens of Harnett County. She truly is a compassionate person who makes good things happen.

AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE CHILD LABOR ACT OF 2004

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce "The Amusement Park Ride Child Labor Act of 2004, an act that directs the Secretary of Labor to prohibit the employment of minors as ride operators. For the sake of both the young employees and the park patrons, who are disproportionately children themselves, the Department of Labor should recognize that operating roller coasters and thrill rides requires split-second judgments that, if mishandled, can injure both the operator and dozens of riders. Let minors take the non-hazardous jobs in our parks—let adults run the rides.

If it were ever wise to allow minors to operate amusement park rides, it is not a safe practice today. Based on the National Electronic Information Surveillance System (NEISS), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that, nationwide, 800 employees are injured operating amusement park rides each year. This is in addition to the estimated 6,800–10,700 patrons injured on amusement park rides each year. The potential for dangerous, debilitating and sometimes deadly consequences when persons operating amusement park rides make misjudgments, either in the operation of the ride itself or in the reaction to a situation brought on by rider error or ride malfunction, is very serious.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 114 employees died while attending to amusement and recreation facilities during the 10-year period 1992–2002, and 7 of those fatalities involved children under the age of 18.

During 2001, nonfatal injuries suffered by amusement ride attendants totaled 2,475, and nearly one out of every five injuries was suffered by a child employee.

The fact is that in the past 15 years, the speed and complexity of amusement park rides has risen dramatically. All of the nation's 15 fastest coasters have been built in the last 10 years. But clearly, the margin for error is much narrower for the operator of a ride traveling at 100 mph than on a ride traveling 50 mph. People make mistakes, and the riders often act like children, because they often are children. This situation is dangerously compounded by allowing young teenagers to be put in charge of running these high-tech, high-speed machines.

The following are just a few examples of tragedies involving ride operators under the age of eighteen.

In August 1999, a 16-year-old boy ride attendant died from injuries he suffered at Lake Compounce amusement park in Bristol, Connecticut. The boy was working as a ride attendant on the "Tornado," a spinning ride more commonly known as the "Scrambler." The accident happened when the boy stepped onto the ride before it had come to a complete stop. His legs got caught underneath the ride and he was dragged until the operator activated the emergency stop. The boy was left pinned underneath the ride from the waist down. Firefighters used inflatable devices to lift the ride off of the victim. After the boy was freed, he was transported by helicopter to a

hospital, where he underwent surgery. His injuries included a head wound and broken bones, in addition to possible broken arms, dislocated shoulders, and multiple internal injuries.

In June 1997, a 17-year-old ride operator at Celebration Station in Tulsa, Oklahoma was killed while operating a swinging boat ride. The teen fell into the frame of the ride in an area underneath the boat while the ride was in motion. He was crushed and died within 15 minutes. Five children were passengers on the ride at the time of the accident. Investigators from the Oklahoma Department of Labor ruled the death accidental, saying that the ride had not experienced any mechanical failure.

In June 1996, a 16-year-old ride operator at Bonkers 19 Amusement Park in Weymouth, Massachusetts started the Mini Himalaya ride without notice. A 5-year-old girl's foot was gashed when it was trapped against the ride's track. Later that same year, in September, during the operation of the same ride by a different 16-year-old, part of the scalp of an 8-year-old girl was torn off when her hair became entangled in the motor powering the Mini Himalaya.

At least nine states have recognized that it is per se hazardous to employ children 17 years of age or younger as ride operators and have included provisions in their laws to restrict such employment. Alaska, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Wisconsin all have 18-year-old age limits. Some include exemption for "kiddie rides," but all have adopted state standards that make it the rule, not the exception, that minors shall not operate the vast majority of park rides in their states.

In addition, the Walt Disney Corporation has already recognized the wisdom of avoiding having youngsters placed in charge of the safe operation of their park rides. As a matter of park policy, Disney will not allow anyone younger than 18 years of age to operate a Disney ride.

The Department of Labor has jurisdiction over the safety of child amusement park employees. This legislation would be unnecessary if the DOL would simply use its existing authority to restrict this kind of employment. The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), 29 U.S.C. Chapter 8, § 212, directs the Secretary of Labor to carry out the objectives of the child labor provisions, namely, to prohibit "oppressive child labor." "Oppressive child labor" is defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. Chapter 8, § 203, as a condition of employment which the Secretary finds and declares as "particularly hazardous for the employment of children between such ages [16 and 18] or detrimental to their health or well-being."

Under this provision, the Secretary has issued 17 Hazardous Occupation Orders restricting children from certain hazardous jobs. For example, Order 7 declares "hazardous" the operation of most power-driven hoisting apparatus, including nonautomatic elevators exceeding one ton, 29 CFR § 570.58. Most people would agree that an amusement park ride has all the characteristics of a "power-driven hoist" that lead to its designation as "hazardous"—with the exception of the people at the DOL. With the support of the industry, the DOL has helpfully issued guidance to the public that specifically carves out amusement parks rides from this "hazardous" designation. It is difficult to understand how the DOL could

conclude that operating an elevator is hazardous to a minor, while operating amusement park rides is not.

Due to the seasonal nature of the amusement park business, many teenagers under the age of 18 seek summer employment at the parks, something that I applaud and encourage. Most jobs at the parks have nothing to do with hazardous machinery. Teenagers can safely fill jobs such as selling tickets, waiting on tables, or guiding patrons. But when it comes to filling a job as safety-critical as the loading and operation of ride machinery, it is simply irresponsible to risk the health of the employee or the park patrons by giving such a job to a minor.

As the amusement park season commences, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation and to help improve the safety of our nation's parks.

#### H. RES. 557—COMMEMORATING START OF IRAQ WAR

### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women in our Armed Forces who have served and continue to serve in Iraq. Their bravery and dedication is something all Americans should admire and honor.

It is not just their martial skill and training that proved outstanding during the combat phase of the Iraq campaign, their exceptional abilities to begin the rebuilding of Iraq have been essential. Our military forces have demonstrated again and again their professionalism when faced with incredibly difficult challenges. They truly are the best in the world.

I want to also give special recognition to our citizen soldiers—the men and women in our National Guard and Reserves—and their families. For them to leave their jobs and loved ones, in many cases for more than a year, requires tremendous sacrifice and commitment. In the last year, I have been there when many of our local Wisconsin units have left for deployment and been there when many have finally returned home. When they leave, I have seen their determination to get the job done combined with great sadness about their separation from their families. When they return, I have seen their pride at a job well done and their joy at being reunited with their families. No country could be better served than we have by the members of our Guard and Reserve.

I also want to pay my respects to the ultimate sacrifice paid by the 709 military men and women who have died in Iraq and express my heartfelt condolences to their families. Each one of them is a hero. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid but must always be remembered.

We also owe a great debt to the more than 3,200 who have been wounded in Iraq. Medical advances and improved safety equipment have meant fewer deaths, but many are surviving with serious injuries. We must fulfill our commitment to caring for them, ensuring that our veterans health care system can meet their needs.

Mr. Speaker, there is no Member of this Congress who is not grateful to our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen. No matter our positions on what the proper U.S. policies should be, let there be no doubt that we honor and appreciate their sacrifices.

It is with regret that I voted against the resolution presented to this House. I am very disappointed in the Republican leadership of this House for bringing forth a resolution under a closed rule without providing the opportunity for Democrats to participate in the drafting.

Honoring our troops should always be a non-partisan effort and should never be used as a partisan maneuver.

The resolution that came before us could have, and should have, won the backing of every Member of the House. A non-partisan resolution, drafted with input from both sides of the aisle, would have attained unanimous support, allowing the House of Representatives to speak with one resounding voice in honor of our men and women in uniform.

It is not simply the partisan nature of this resolution that caused me to vote against it. If that were my only concern, my desire to recognize our troops would have been stronger than my indignation about the means employed to do so. However, I voted against the resolution because it is being used to distract us from the very real and very important debate that we should be having about our Iraq policy and our counter-terrorism policies.

Mr. Speaker, there is a debate going on among the American people about Iraq and the war. The American people are concerned about our intelligence failures, the use of intelligence, the Administration's apparent obsession with Iraq, the failure of post-war Iraq planning, the cost of the war, the costs of reconstruction, the long-term demands on our military and how Iraq affects the war on terrorism. This Congress and this Administration has a responsibility to answer, or find the answers, to these questions. The American people deserve no less.

The American people are wondering if we are safer as a result of the war to remove Saddam Hussein as ruler of Iraq. This is a difficult question to answer, and to be quite frank, I don't know. But it is a question that is important to ask. And it should not be dismissed with an "of course" or the suggestion that anyone who thinks we may not be safer is unpatriotic or would be happy if Hussein were still in power. We must draw an important distinction between the following questions: Is Iraq better off? Is Iraq less of a security threat to the United States? And, is the United States safer as a result of the President's choice to go to war in Iraq. I believe the answer to the first two questions is yes. However, it is the final question that is by far the most important.

On September 11, 2001, the United States was attacked by Al Qaeda, an international terrorist group that was then based in Afghanistan with the support of the Taliban regime. Military action against Al Qaeda and the Taliban was widely supported by Americans, including me, to hunt down the perpetrators of 9-11 and eliminate their ability to operate in Afghanistan. We were joined by numerous countries who understood that the fight against Al Qaeda was their fight too. The initial phases of that campaign were successful in shutting down their training camps, capturing or killing many of their members and

deposing the Taliban. Like in Iraq, our military men and women performed exceptionally well.

But the victory in Afghanistan is not complete. Just last month, we launched, with Pakistan, another military initiative to find additional Al Qaeda forces hiding out in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan and western Pakistan. Security in Afghanistan is largely absent outside of Kabul and traditional tribal leaders and warlords have real control over most of the country. Scheduled elections may need to be postponed because of the inability of the international community to register voters in the countryside due to lack of security. Opium production is reaching record new levels. Our job in Afghanistan is clearly not done.

Our national security officials cannot focus on an infinite number of problems at once. There are only so many hours a day for the National Security Advisor, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and other top officials to do their work. They can't focus on everything and must make choices. There can be no doubt that Iraq required an incredible amount of time and resources in order to succeed. What is the opportunity cost? I fear that part of the reason for the slow progress in Afghanistan is the result of diversion of resources and attention to the invasion and reconstruction of Iraq.

The commitment of time, money and resources to Iraq has also impacted our homeland security. The war, occupation and reconstruction costs in Iraq are likely to exceed \$250 billion. That is a huge expenditure. By focusing our scarce resources during an economic downturn on Iraq, much less has been available to fund our first responders and protect our country.

A recent independent review of our homeland security efforts by the Century Foundation found major deficiencies. Their Homeland Security Report Card clearly indicates that a safer America will require significant improvements by the Department of Homeland Security. While there have been successes in passenger screening, the air marshal program and infrastructure analysis, this report highlights serious and disturbing shortcomings that leave Americans vulnerable. Protecting private planes, securing air cargo, providing funding for first responders, and better immigration oversight are critical to our security. It is disappointing to find that, according to the Century Foundation's report, in these areas we may be worse off than before September 11.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress needs to stop focusing on rhetoric about Iraq and begin to focus on the facts. We need to spend less time trying to portray loyal Americans as soft on terrorism because they raise questions and want to debate the most effective ways to prevent terrorism and protect Americans. A full and healthy national debate, in Congress and around the country, will not weaken our resolve, it will strengthen us. Building a consensus policy to combat terrorism will allow us to move forward united. A consensus policy will reduce friction about dedication of resources and will allow us to sustain a consistent policy for the duration of our fight against terrorism. That is the debate we should have had. That is the debate our country needs to have.

NATIONAL PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases (PIDD) are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases, which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States.

I am familiar with primary immune deficiencies because of a family in my district, the Driscolls. Kerstin and Dean Driscoll are from Greene, NY and have two sons who were born with an extremely rare PIDD called X-Linked Agammaglobulinemia, or XLA. Zack, 11, and Alex, 9, are confronting XLA head on. XLA is a genetic disorder that prevents production of B-cell antibodies that fight infection. When Zack was 3 years old and Alex only 9 months, they suffered chronic ear and sinus infections. Their recurring illnesses remained a mystery to their parents and doctors, until tests were done to confirm that the boys had primary immune deficiency diseases.

Soon after their diagnosis, Zack and Alex were treated with an immune globulin infusion (IGIV), which is prepared from the plasma of many blood donors, to support their immune systems. Zack and Alex receive their IGIV infusions once every 3 weeks and the infusion takes approximately 4 hours.

Zack and Alex are lucky because their primary immune deficiency disease was diagnosed early. However, despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis of PIDD is 9.2 years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the Driscolls face their sons' PIDD head on, by becoming active with the Immune Deficiency Foundation. Therefore, I commend the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership in this area and I am proud to join them in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to work with us to help improve the quality of life for PIDD patients and their families.

COMMEMORATING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

**HON. MARTIN FROST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, and pay my respects to the innocent people who died at the brutal hand of the Holocaust.

An anniversary like this is often filled with mixed messages of hope and sorrow, pain and promise. While these words contradict each other on paper, they live together in our hearts and minds on a day like today.

The emotions of sorrow and pain are easy to feel. By the time World War II was finished, 6 million Jews died for no reason. Countless families had been torn apart, Europe was virtually demolished, and the horrors of the Nazi regime were scarred into the minds of the entire civilized world. Looking at this tragedy, it is easy to see only bad things. It is easy to view the worst in people.

But, it was difficult, impossible in fact, to stop the world from denouncing these atrocities, and saying, "Never Again." Human-kind had the hope and promise to try to make this world better—to try to make this world more understanding and open.

The world has come a long way since the darkness of the 30's and 40's. In the almost 60 years since the Holocaust ended, we have become a more open and understanding society. But, our quest for a better world is constantly battling hate, discrimination and anti-Semitism.

We all know the violence that is carried out by those who hate. But, I also know that if our ancestors could get through World War II and the Holocaust, we can survive our own battle against hate and terror, and make the world safer for our children.

Mr. Speaker, Yom Hashoah serves as a memorial to those who both survived and lost their lives from the Holocaust. Let it also be a day to reaffirm our commitment to the values that won . . . love, honor and respect.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PFC. CHANCE PHELPS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Private First Class Chance Phelps, who honorably devoted his life to defending the freedoms of our nation. A member of the 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Chance was recently killed while defending the freedoms of the Iraqi people in Ramadi, outside of Baghdad. His story is one of honor, selflessness and sacrifice. As we mourn the loss of an American patriot, I think it is appropriate to call the attention of this body of Congress, and our nation, to the sacrifice that Chance made on behalf of a grateful nation.

A tall and athletic nineteen-year-old, Chance attended Moffat County and Palisade high schools where he was known for his fun-loving nature and being an avid outdoorsman. He came from a family with a rich military tradition, his father John being a Vietnam veteran, and his sister Kelley working at the Pentagon. After the terrorist bombings of 9-11, Chance knew that he had to do something for his nation, and resolved to join the Marines. As a dedicated member of our armed forces and as a patriot, he answered the call of duty, embarking on a journey to defend freedom and independence.

Mr. Speaker, Private First Class Chance Phelps will be sorely missed, and although we

will grieve over the loss of this incredible individual, we can take comfort knowing his sacrifice was made while fulfilling his dream of serving our nation. I would like to extend my heartfelt respects to his family and friends as they mourn his passing. It is my honor to pay tribute to the life of Chance Phelps before this body of Congress and this nation.

A TRIBUTE TO CANTOR BARRY REICH

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to honor and pay tribute to Barry Reich, the Cantor at Peninsula Temple Shalom of Burlingame, California, located in my Congressional District. Cantor Reich, who received his Hazzan Minister Commission in 1979 from the Cantor's Assembly of the Jewish Theological Seminary, is not merely a Cantor, but a multi-talented musician who has used his talents to affect the lives of thousands of people.

Cantor Barry Reich was born in 1948 in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, California, where he came from a long line of cantors. His father was a renowned cantor, and at the time of Barry's birth was the Cantor at the legendary Breed Street Synagogue. As one would imagine, Barry was immersed in world of music and religion as cantorial music from record players and music books could be heard and seen throughout the Reich home.

From a very young age it was obvious that Barry possessed extraordinary talents. In fact, Mr. Speaker, at the young age of five, Barry sang a solo during the High Holiday service of Slichot with such mastery that when he was finished the entire congregation congratulated him. This wonderful performance had the unintended consequence of Barry upstaging his celebrated father, who had to wait out the hosannas before he could continue the service which was supposed to begin immediately afterwards. Another indicator of his magnificent musical talents was shown when Barry, then only 8 years old, joined the Breed Street Synagogue Choir as its youngest member. He was aided by the fact that his father, the Cantor was in desperate need for a soprano vocalist and Barry was a wonderful soprano.

When the Reich family moved to Florida when Cantor Reich was offered an important position at Temple Emanuel of Miami Beach, Barry continued his musical education on the East coast where he attended the Frost Conservatory of Music. It was in Florida that Barry met Harry Volpe, a widely renowned guitarist, who Barry credits with being the single biggest influence on his musical direction.

By the time Barry was ready to attend high school his family, which had expanded to include his brother Brian, had returned to Los Angeles. After graduating from Lincoln High School, Barry Reich went on to study at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and San Francisco State College, where he earned his Bachelor of Music Degree.

Mr. Speaker, it was while he was in college that Cantor Reich's future employer, Peninsula Temple Shalom's Rabbi Gerald Raiskin first heard Barry Reich. When the then future cantor was performing at an Israel Bonds rally.

Rabbi Raiskin, who knew Barry's father, was so impressed with the eighteen year old Barry that he called Barry's father to request that Barry audition to be the cantor at Peninsula Temple Shalom. Since that fateful day, thirty-six years ago, Barry Reich has been the Cantor of Peninsula Temple Shalom and has become part of the fabric of the synagogue. By his own estimates he has prepared over 1500 youth for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah with his trademark passion and innovative approach to music and education.

Mr. Speaker, Cantor Barry Reich has poured his heart into to his cantorial work and has generously shared his talents with many, passing on his passion of music onto numerous persons. He is most deserving of this tribute and our praise, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in honoring a great man, an excellent musician, and an extraordinary Cantor.

THE DANGER OF THE CHAVEZ REGIME TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEMISPHERIC PEACE

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the deterioration of democratic institutions in Venezuela under Hugo Chavez and the need for immediate international action.

Under Hugo Chavez, Venezuela is becoming a cancer in the Americas. As Chavez seeks closer ties with the tyrant Castro, and other totalitarian regimes, the rule of law in Venezuela is eroding, human rights abuses are on the rise, and ties with terrorists are continuing.

The community of nations can no longer remain impassive as freedom loving Venezuelans are trampled on by the Chavez regime. At this moment in time, the countries of the Western Hemisphere must take a stand for freedom, and support the immediate approval of the recall referendum on the tenure of Chavez.

Why is immediate international action needed? Under the OAS agreement of May 2003, the recall referendum must occur before August 19, 2004 if the Chavez regime is to be removed from office before January 2007. If the referendum is held after August 19, 2004, and Chavez is removed from office by the Venezuelan people, then his appointed Vice-President would serve the remainder of his term. The Chavez regime will then have been removed from office but allowed to retain power. This would be a tragedy for the Venezuelan people.

If the referendum is held before August 19, 2004, and Chavez is ousted by the Venezuelan people, then there will be a special election 30 days later to elect a new President. Under the OAS agreement of May 2003, after the recall is certified and approved, the recall referendum must be held within the next 97 days. If Chavez is to be held accountable to the democratic will of Venezuela, then the recall must be approved by the second week of May.

The community of democracies must not allow Venezuela to become the next totali-

tarian state in the Western Hemisphere. Though Venezuela has been moving steadily towards a dictatorship, we must not allow the slow pace of repression to shield us from the reality of a Chavez regime with tyrannical intent.

Today and everyday we must extend our solidarity to the freedom loving people in Venezuela. We must bring an international spotlight and coordinated pressure on the recall process and Chavez' delaying tactics. It is my belief that the longer the international community passively observes the erosion of rights in Venezuela, the more probable dictatorship becomes. We cannot practice the politics of appeasement in Venezuela. We must practice the politics of solidarity and put pressure on the regime to ratify the recall signatures before the regime runs out the clock and retains two more years to wrap the rope of dictatorship around the necks of all Venezuelans.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the more than six million Jews who died in the Holocaust. Among those that were killed were women and men, adults and children, young and old. They were killed not for committing heinous crimes, but because of their religion. The Nazis seized their homes and murdered them in the gas chambers of Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Those who were not killed were worked until their bodies could no longer withstand the torture. Today, we remember all that they accomplished and the potential that remains unfulfilled. We also remember those whose lives were forever changed as a result of the Holocaust.

If you read towards the end of Jewish prayer services, you will find the Mourner's Kaddish. Although the Mourner's Kaddish does not speak of death, it has been interpreted to talk about the greatness of God and the desire for peace: peace between nations, peace between individuals, and peace of mind.

Unfortunately, the world in which we live is not one of peace. Every day, many Jews around the world face the injustice of anti-Semitism. Spurred on by propaganda and regimes that seek no less than the destruction of the Jewish people, anti-Semitism is gaining support around the globe. As we continue with the war on terror, let us remember those who have died and those who continue to be persecuted just because of their religion.

On this day, Yom Hashoah, we remember the more than six million Jews who died in the Holocaust and in the tradition of the Mourner's Kaddish, work for peace among nations, among individuals, and for peace of mind.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. WAYNE POTTER, VOLUNTEER

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who selflessly dedicated his

life to aid those who need it most. Wayne Potter of Harlingen was a man who went to great lengths to improve the community.

He took the time to volunteer. Even when his health was failing, he still found the time and energy to keep up with what was so important to him: his mission of volunteering. His life was an example we should all aspire to emulate.

Mr. Potter aided those patients who are mentally ill. He also served as volunteer board member of the Family Crisis Center, the Public Library, the Retired Teachers Association and the Rio Grande Valley Museum.

As a public official he was Harlingen City Commissioner and served a term as Mayor Pro Tem. His presence and his energy in the community have been sorely missed since we lost him last year.

Wayne Potter was a philanthropist for his country, his fellow teachers, neighbors and friends. As a math and science teacher, Mr. Potter ensured children's concerns were not overlooked; he served as a mentor and counselor to them in their time of need. During War World II when his country was in need, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Mr. Potter's service and volunteer efforts are greatly missed in The Rio Grande State Center. Since the center opened its doors, Mr. Potter volunteered his time and served as an officer of the organization. By the time of his passing, he had given 20,000 hours of his personal time to others. Mr. Potter leaves a legacy we all admired; as the Good Book says: "It is better to give than to receive." That's how Wayne Potter lived his life.

Mr. Speaker, the volunteering community of South Texas will honor Mr. Potter's memory and lifetime of service by naming the 55-bed mental health unit at the Rio Grande State Center the "Wayne Potter Memorial Building." His volunteering efforts will now live on through his name on the Center, which was so important to him, and his spirit of generosity.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the life and service of Mr. Wayne Potter, and in paying tribute to this great example of a man whose efforts and dedication made a difference in his community, with his students, and in the lives of those less fortunate than most of us.

HONORING JASON DEDWYLDER

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, a dedicated member of my staff has moved on to another phase of his career here in Washington DC, but I would like to take a moment to honor his service to my office and to the people of my district in Mississippi.

It was the Summer of 1998 when Jason Dedwylder first joined my team as an intern. Showing hard work, the will to learn and initiative, he came back to my staff in the Fall of 2000 to serve first as a Legislative Correspondent and then my Legislative Assistant. He worked on many issues in my office, but I am especially proud of the work he did in education and health care.

He assisted schools and Head Start centers in my district secure greater funding. He

helped shepherd teachers and principals through the No Child Left Behind reforms. When my constituents called and wrote with questions about our nation's education priorities and how our policies would impact Mississippi, Jason was always ready to discuss their concerns and answer their questions.

Jason worked many hours with me on the Energy and Commerce Committee as we crafted the landmark Medicare Act of 2003 that provided a prescription drug benefit to America's seniors. He was there as we introduced our provisions early in the process that addressed the needs of Mississippi's rural health providers to treat seniors who could otherwise not seek medical care. He was there while we built a self-injectible pilot program to reduce the costs to the Medicare system by expanding choice for seniors with afflictions like arthritis. He was even there that night when we finally passed the Medicare Act. I walked out of the Capitol that morning with Jason as the sun rose on a new day for American seniors.

Quitman—Jason's hometown in Clarke County, Mississippi—should be proud of him. He graduated from Quitman High School and then after earning a Bachelor of Science in Political Science at Mississippi State University, he came to Washington DC and made an impact not only on his family and friends back home, but on Americans across the nation. He learned the intricacies of policy and politics and added to his education a Masters in Public Policy from The George Washington University.

As Jason moves into the private sector, our office will miss his experience, knowledge, and skills, but I know he will continue to work for smart, positive policy that will benefit our nation.

Jason Dedwylder left a formative mark on the shape and operation of my office. We will not forget his good nature and considerate dedication to his work. I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO  
MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE  
RESERVE G.I. BILL

**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, as the largest mobilization of National Guard and Reserve troops since World War II continues, the high operations tempo is undoubtedly taking a toll on members and their families. Through March of 2004, 363,000 reservists have been mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. This new operations tempo reality for the Reserve components has altered perceptions of what it means to serve as a Reservist or National Guardsman, while raising serious questions about how Reserve members are compensated in terms of benefits. If the nation is to rely on the Reserves to assume a similar role to our active duty troops in military operations, then it is essential that Reserve compensation and benefits adequately reflect that new role.

Congress has become increasingly sensitive to the needs of these servicemembers and

their families and I am heartened that we have improved Reserve component benefits in several areas. Unfortunately, education benefit shortfalls for reservists have not drawn the attention they should, as one benefit that has been left behind is the Reserve Montgomery GI Bill.

When the modern Montgomery GI Bill was established in 1985, Guard and Reserve GI Bill benefits were set at 47 percent of active duty benefits. For every \$100 that an active duty servicemember or veteran received in GI Bill benefits, a Reservist would get \$47. This ratio continued until the late 1990s, when Congress improved the active duty Montgomery GI Bill through large increases. Our active duty servicemembers have more than earned this improved educational benefit, but no similar major increases have been made for the Reserve program.

As a result, Reserve MGIB benefits have slipped to 29 percent of active duty GI Bill benefits. This is simply unacceptable and with over 350,000 Guard and Reserve members having been mobilized in the last 2 years, and many thousands more scheduled for deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq, it is well past time to fix this problem. We must not leave our citizen-soldiers behind as they go into harm's way to fight the Global War on Terrorism. Helping them transition back to civilian life by improving their educational benefits will be one important way we can help.

Today, I am introducing legislation, along with Mr. MCINTYRE of North Carolina, which will increase the Reserve GI Bill to 50 percent of the Montgomery GI Bill over a 5-year period and then keep it linked to the Montgomery GI Bill at the 50 percent rate. This bill, the LoBiondo-McIntyre Reserve GI Bill Improvements Act of 2004, would also authorize Reservists who serve on active duty for 24 months during a 5-year period to qualify for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill program, which is now open to only active duty personnel. This is a fiscally responsible way to make an achievable increase in educational benefits for the Reserve component.

The 253rd Transportation Company out of Cape May Court House, New Jersey, in my district has just returned from over a year in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We are very proud of the 253rd and the great contributions they have made to the Global War on Terrorism. I dedicate this legislation to all the National Guardsmen and Reservists from the Second District of New Jersey and to the thousands of other Reserve component soldiers, sailors, airman, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who secure our freedom through their dedicated service to our nation.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

FREEDOM FOR PEDRO ARGÜELLES  
MORÁN

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker I rise today to speak about Pedro Argüelles Morán, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Argüelles Morán is a member of the Cooperative of Independent Journalists and the

Cuban Committee for Human Rights. He is an independent journalist who has contributed to Cuba Press, Cuba Free Press and Nueva Prensa, all publications who seek to expose the nightmarish reality imposed by the totalitarian regime.

Because Mr. Argüelles Morán fought to expose the truth about the ruthless dictator's politics of fear and repression, he has been constantly harassed by Castro's thugs since 1997. According to Amnesty International, the harassment Mr. Argüelles Morán has endured includes threats, warnings, and detentions in the totalitarian gulag. On January 15, 1999 he was summoned to appear before a chief of the so-called Revolutionary National Police where Mr. Argüelles Morán was found to be a "danger" because he didn't work for a state enterprise. On January 27, 1999 he was locked up for two days to prevent him from covering the birthday celebrations of Jose Martí on January 28.

On March 20, 2003, as part of the totalitarian regime's ruthless crackdown on pro-democracy activists, Mr. Argüelles Morán was arrested and, after a sham trial, sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag. According to CubaNet, Mr. Argüelles Morán has been confined in a security cell with inmates held for common crimes who are mistreating him. He also reportedly has kidney problems. Let there be no doubt, Mr. Argüelles Morán has been "sentenced" to 20 years in Castro's violent, inhumane totalitarian gulag because he believes in, and wrote about, freedom, democracy, and human rights for the people of Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Argüelles Morán is languishing in the deplorable, inhuman conditions of Castro's totalitarian gulag, simply because he wrote the truth about the tyrant's repressive regime. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Pedro Argüelles Morán and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

REGARDING THE PROPOSED PLAN TO REUNIFY CYPRUS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise to express my deep concerns with the final Annan plan to reunify Cyprus which will be voted on by both the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots on Saturday.

I am very fortunate and privileged to represent Astoria, Queens—one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek and Cypriot Americans in this country. It is truly one of my greatest pleasures as a Member of Congress to participate in the life of this community, and the wonderful Cypriot friends that I have come to know are one of its greatest rewards.

Along with these friends, I have been monitoring the negotiations to reunify Cyprus very closely during the past few months. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 35,000 heavily armed troops. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots, who fell victim to a policy of ethnic cleansing, were forcibly evicted from their homes and became refugees in their own country.

Despite the hardships and trauma caused by the ongoing Turkish occupation, Cyprus has registered remarkable economic growth, and the people living in the Government-controlled areas enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living. Sadly, the people living in the occupied area continue to be mired in poverty.

Last month, 46 members of the Hellenic Caucus joined in a letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to express their hope that any agreement to reunify Cyprus would explicitly recognize, among other provisions, property rights, the demilitarization of Cyprus, the establishment of the legal obligations of the guarantor powers (Turkey, Greece and the United Kingdom), and the presence of United Nations troops throughout a transitional period.

I also led a delegation of members of the Hellenic Caucus to meet with Secretary General Kofi Annan to discuss the negotiations regarding the reunification of Cyprus before it enters the European Union on May 1st. We expressed our support for the Secretary General's leadership in bringing the parties to the bargaining table, but expressed concerns regarding some of the issues that remained open: property rights, governance, free movement between Greek and Turkish areas of the island, and the pace of demilitarization of the island.

We stressed the importance of having a central government that has the ability to make decisions, and we expressed concern about limitations on the ability of Cypriots to travel unimpeded to all areas of the island.

Unfortunately, the negotiators were unable to reach a consensus, and Secretary General Annan was forced to step in to fill in the remaining gaps in the settlement. This final plan will now be voted on in two separate referenda by both the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots on Saturday, April 24.

The Greek Cypriots, who have worked continuously to end the forcible division of the island through a viable and lasting settlement, have several valid and important concerns with this final plan, which may lead them to reject it.

First, the Annan plan allows the indefinite presence of Turkish troops in Cyprus with a gradual decrease to 650 troops over a period of 14 years. The presence of these troops will prevent the full and genuine independence of Cyprus.

Next, while the plan allows the guarantor powers (Turkey, Greece, UK) to intervene unilaterally to preserve the "constitutional order" of the United Cyprus Republic and its constituent states, it neglects to clarify that the Treaty of Guarantee does not empower military intervention. This omission is troubling especially because Turkey believes that it still has the right to intervene militarily in Cyprus.

Previous UN Security Council resolutions called for the withdrawal of all settlers from Cyprus that were brought from Turkey after 1974, since the colonization of occupied territories is a crime under international law. The final plan provides that 45,000 of the settlers will automatically become citizens of the United Cyprus Republic. It also allows a large number of additional settlers to remain in Cyprus as permanent residents and after four years to apply for Cypriot citizenship. As a result, the vast majority of approximately 115,000 Turkish settlers, who are now illegally in Cyprus, could stay in Cyprus.

Under the Annan plan, for the first 19 years or until Turkey's accession to the EU, the number of Greek Cypriots who wish to permanently live in the Turkish Cypriot Constituent State (TCCS) will not be able to exceed 18 percent of its total population. After that time, their number will be permanently restricted to not more than 33.3 percent of the total population. Because the Greek Cypriots who will be permanently living in the TCCS will have its internal citizenship status, they will not have the right to participate in the elections for its 24 representatives in the federal Senate. Therefore, the plan establishes a system based on permanent ethnic division, while denying fundamental democratic rights to a segment of the population.

Finally, according to the Annan plan, the one third of the compensation to legal owners (Greek Cypriot refugees), who will be losing their properties, shall be guaranteed by the Federal State. Because the Federal State's sources will derive from Greek Cypriots by nine tenths and only by one tenth from Turkish Cypriots, the Greek Cypriots will be compensating their own loss of property. Therefore, instead of Turkey, they will be paying for the results of the Turkish invasion of 1974.

It is clear that divisions among people create harmful, destructive environments. I am disappointed that more progress was not made on these issues prior to the completion of the final plan. No matter what the Greek Cypriots decide on April 24, I will continue to support them in every way possible.

COMMENDING LOPEZ LOBOS, TEXAS CLASS 4A STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONS

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Brownsville, Texas, Lopez High School Lobos for their victory last weekend at the Class 4A State soccer championship, winning the game 2-1 and finishing their season at 25-4-1.

No team is greater than the student body and parents who support them, and that was Lopez' not-so-secret weapon. Over two-thirds of the crowd was there to support the Lobos, and their chants of "Si se puede" (we can do it) inspired this victory.

Lopez High School brought home to Brownsville the first championship title in UIL soccer. To find Brownsville teams that won State titles, you have to go back to 1985 and 1967 (both were cross country championships).

Lopez won seven playoff games for the right to compete for the State championship. Awful weather even played a part in the tournament. The title match was originally scheduled for the week before, but heavy rain and lightning postponed the championship game to another site and another time.

As any athlete can tell you, the rhythm of your game is a large part of the overall effort, and being mentally prepared for a game on a certain date—then having to postpone the game—can play havoc on your rhythm. But not for these young athletes; for them it did not matter that their shot at the title was postponed for a week. They redoubled their efforts

and practice . . . and played with purpose, endurance and confidence.

Lopez High School Principal Maggie Gutierrez summed up the lessons for the team to learn in this sweet victory. "This team has a spirit of never giving up no matter what," she said. "Lopez Lobos are born to succeed, and no one else will tell them any different." These athletes learned an important lesson in this championship: They are absolutely capable of doing great things; my prayer is that their imaginations will be their only limits in this world.

I offer my proud congratulations to each member of the team, to the coaches and their assistants, to the parents who must endure the practices and the injuries, and to the principal and teachers who set the example of combining education and athletics. Mostly, I want these young people to understand that they won far more than the respect that comes with a championship . . . they now know that dreams can come true.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our best wishes to the Lopez High School Lobos for their hard-fought and well-deserved victory at the Texas Class 4A State soccer championship.

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RECOGNITION OF LAWRENCE  
ROBERTS

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute a student at Mississippi State University who has demonstrated athletic excellence this year and distinguished himself in the ranks of college basketball not only in my state, but across the country.

Mississippi State's SEC Player of the Year, Lawrence Roberts, is the first Bulldog player since Rickey Brown (1979–80) to average a double-double for an entire season. Roberts completed the 2003–04 campaign as the SEC's No. 7 scorer (16.9 points per game) and second-leading rebounder (10.1 rebounds per game). Roberts also finished the year ranked fifth in the league in field-goal percentage (51.9%). With an SEC-leading 16 double-doubles on the season, the 6-foot-9, 235-pound Roberts ranks fourth nationally among active NCAA Division I players with 38 career double-doubles. The former University of Baylor transfer and Houston, Texas native has averaged 16.3 points (1,400 career points) and 9.5 rebounds (821 career rebounds) per contest during his three-year, 86-game collegiate career.

This season, Roberts helped lead Associated Press SEC Coach of the Year Rick Stansbury's eighth-ranked Bulldogs to a 26–4 overall record and league-best 14–2 SEC mark en route to claiming the school's first outright SEC regular-season championship since 1962–63. This year's State squad also made school history by appearing in a fourth consecutive postseason tournament and earning a third straight NCAA Tournament berth.

Roberts' teamwork benefited the entire Bulldogs squad. But his skill on the court distinguished him individually, and he has been recognized for his achievements. The accolades continue to roll in.

In addition to being named the SEC Player of the Year, Roberts is the first Associated Press All-American First Team selection from a Mississippi Division I school since fellow Bulldog Bailey Howell in 1958–59. In addition to earning a slot on the gold standard of postseason teams, Roberts has also garnered first-team all-America recognition this season by both the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA).

He adds first-team national honors by the Sports Illustrated.com and College Insider.com Web sites as well as by the Adolph F. Rupp Award committee. Roberts has also collected second-team all-America accolades by the Basketball Times publication and ESPN.com.

Roberts has been named a top five finalist for the 28th Annual John R. Wooden Award along with Stanford's Josh Childress, Chris Duhon of Duke, Jameer Nelson of Saint Joseph's, and Connecticut's Emeka Okafor. Roberts becomes Mississippi State's first-ever Wooden Award All-American, which dates back to the 1976–77 hoops campaign.

Bulldog fans will wait till mid-June to see whether Roberts will return for his senior year or enter the NBA draft. This young man has time to make that decision and consider his opportunities, but fans in Mississippi will be watching him either way, either on the collegiate court or in the professional arena.

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THE PASSING OF LARISA  
BOGORAZ

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on April 6 of this year, one of the true giants of the Soviet and Russian human rights movements, Larisa Bogoraz, passed away.

Born in eastern Ukraine, Larisa Iosifovna Bogoraz was by profession a linguist. In 1950, she married the writer Yuli Daniel who, together with Andrei Sinyavsky, was subsequently arrested by Soviet authorities in 1965 for publishing their stories abroad. This trial, marking the first prosecution of Soviet writers for their literary activities since the time of Stalin, gained international attention and laid the groundwork for the Soviet human rights movement.

Daniel and Sinyavsky were convicted by a kangaroo court and sentenced to long terms in a Soviet labor camp in the Mordovia region. Traveling to visit her incarcerated husband, Larisa Bogoraz met relatives of other political prisoners. Soon she was deeply involved in drafting and distributing petitions calling upon the Soviet Government to observe the basic civil liberties enumerated in the 1936 Soviet constitution.

In early 1968, Larisa Bogoraz joined Pavel Litvinov to produce a petition addressed to the international community and protesting the trial of dissident Alexandr Ginzburg, who had compiled the well-known "White Book" on the trial of Daniel and Sinyavsky. In August of that year, when, as Ludmilla Alexeyeva wrote so eloquently, "the Politburo decided to 'strengthen peace' by invading a sovereign country," Larisa and six other brave souls met on Red Square and unfurled banners in defense of

Czechoslovakia and condemnation of the crushing of "Prague Spring." For their noble efforts, they were arrested by the KGB, tried, and convicted of "slander" against the Soviet Union. Bogoraz was sentenced to 4 years of internal exile in the Irkutsk region of eastern Siberia, where she worked in a wood-processing factory. In a show of solidarity and respect for her, Larisa's dissident friends combined their resources and bought her a house to live in while she served her exile term. When she completed her sentence, she sold the house and gave the proceeds to a fund for political prisoners.

By 1976, she was back in Moscow actively involved in the compilation of the "samizdat" publication "Memory" dedicated to chronicling the repressions of the Stalin era.

Meanwhile, personal tragedy struck. Lansa's second husband, Moscow Helsinki Group member and political prisoner Anatoly Marchenko, died of a hunger strike in Chistopol Prison in December 1986. The Helsinki Commission, which I am proud to chair, had raised the Marchenko case on several occasions, and the late Warren Christopher, our head of delegation at the CSCE meeting in Vienna, led a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Marchenko. The Soviet and East German delegations walked out in protest, but a few weeks later Dr. Andrei Sakharov was released from his Gorky exile, and in February 1987 General Secretary Gorbachev initiated the wholesale release of Soviet political prisoners.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Larisa Bogoraz continued her involvement in human rights activity, working with her colleagues from days past as well as a new generation of activists from Russia and the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, in its eulogy to this dissident heroine, the Ryazan Memorial Society writes, ". . . texts that were signed 'L. Bogoraz still remain,' and our children will learn from them."

So might we all.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN S. BURD,  
PRESIDENT, BRENAU UNIVERSITY

**HON. NATHAN DEAL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House to honor a pioneer and friend within the higher education arena of Georgia. It is with immense pride and a great honor that I pay tribute to a man that has made similar contributions to our region, but in the higher education arena. Please join me recognizing a friend and a community servant, Dr. John S. Burd, as he retires as president of Brenau University in Gainesville, GA.

Since donning the mantle of president of what was then known as Brenau College in 1985, it could be argued that Dr. Burd has accomplished more in under twenty years than all previous presidents did in the first 107 years of this fine institution's history. Since he first assumed office, his vision of private liberal arts higher education, his dedication, hard work, personal sacrifice, and love of the arts have transformed the college into a nationally recognized university and enhanced the lives

of thousands of children and adults of all ages. This multifaceted institution has flourished academically, by student enrollment, by improved facilities, and economically.

In one of his first acts as college president, Jack Burd created the State's very first weekend college in 1986, enabling thousands of returning adult students an opportunity to advance their education and their career potential at Brenau. Just about every college and university in Georgia now emulates this educational model. In 1993, under Dr. Burd's leadership, Brenau College became Brenau University to more accurately reflect the comprehensive nature of the institution. Now graduate programs serve educators and business leaders in management, accounting, and healthcare, continuing education programs engage retired adults, and traditional and non-traditional scheduling formats serve a local, regional, and worldwide student population. And to even further extend the university's outreach, Dr. Burd created the Online College in 2001. This unique institution now includes the Women's College, the Evening and Weekend College, the Online College and Brenau Academy.

Jack Burd's greatest accomplishment may be that he was able to preserve the 125-year-old heritage and legacy of Brenau's original mission, which is the Women's College. At one time there were two-hundred plus women's colleges across the United States. Today there are only sixty-eight. According to the Women's College Coalition, the decline is despite evidence that proves going to a women's college greatly increases the chances that a woman will become a leader, that she will become a scientist or elected official and that she will keep her sights high. Brenau women are leaders in their chosen professions and in their communities.

Under Jack Burd's leadership, the arts assumed center stage at Brenau. The Permanent Art Collection, now one of the fastest growing collections of any college in the United States, boasts more than 1,200 pieces with such names as Renoir and Lichtenstein. Nationally and internationally acclaimed artists exhibit regularly at Brenau with works seldom seen outside New York or Los Angeles. School children by the thousands come to view exhibits and experience hands-on workshops hosted by the art & design department. The performing arts have also flourished under Burd's direction. He negotiated one of the first ever collaborations in higher education between a public institution, Gainesville College, and a private institution, Brenau. The merger, called the Gainesville Theatre Alliance, has brought accolades and honors, regionally and nationally, to all involved.

During Jack Burd's tenure the campus, located in downtown Gainesville, Georgia, has enlarged to include a new library, a new business and communication arts building, performing arts center, fitness center, tennis center, several student houses and apartment buildings. There has been extensive renovation of buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places—upgrading 19th century buildings for 21st century use. By preserving the university's heritage, Jack Burd brought stability to a neighborhood of Gainesville that is but two blocks from the center of town. Once a declining area with many structures in need of repair, Burd's endeavors and fund-raising increased property values and the

safety and security of the area, and revitalized what is now a vibrant, desirable area.

Spare time is hard to come by for a president of a busy college. But, Jack found time to lend his considerable talents for leadership and organizational planning to myriad community service groups such as Northeast Georgia Medical Center Advisory Board, First United Methodist Church, the Women's College Coalition, the Gainesville/Hall County Chamber of Commerce, Crawford W. Long Museum, Gainesville Symphony and the Georgia Association of Colleges.

In conclusion, to list all of the Brenau's accomplishments under Dr. Burd's leadership would be laborious and impossible. But a few notable ones that occurred over the past nineteen years include; increasing enrollment by more than 60 percent to 2,300 students; adding 7 graduate level degrees; renovating, constructing, and acquiring 19 campus buildings; obtaining national accreditation; and improving the university's financial situation dramatically from a meager endowment of \$2.5 million in 1985 to more than \$50 million today. There is no operational deficit and the university's economic contribution to the region is estimated to be \$38 million.

How can one exaggerate the importance of what this man has given to northeast Georgia? He leads a private college that manages its finances wisely, contributes to the economic welfare of all, returns highly qualified people to the workforce, and augments our quality of life with cultural events that feed the soul.

Thank you Dr. John S. Burd for all you have given the citizens of northeast Georgia. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNITION OF ASPHALT GREEN AND THREE OF ITS OUTSTANDING LEADERS, STEWART B. CLIFFORD, AL ZESIGER, AND BARRIE ZESIGER, ON THE EVENING OF THE BIG SWIM BENEFIT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Asphalt Green and its honorees, Stewart B. Clifford, Al Zesiger and Barrie Zesiger, on the evening of the Big Swim Benefit and Asphalt Green's 30th anniversary celebration. Asphalt Green is a wonderful nonprofit organization that offers a wide array of health and fitness facilities to New York City residents. Our community is truly fortunate to have such an enjoyable and necessary resource.

The Asphalt Green facility began in 1974 as one of the last city-owned open spaces on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. By 1976, the Asphalt Green campus included a one-and-a-half acre park, gardens and a wading pool, all of which were available for public use free of charge. Later that year, Stewart B. Clifford assisted the organization's successful efforts to persuade the City to designate the asphalt plant adjacent to the organization's park (Asphalt Green's namesake) as a New York City landmark and to convert the plant into a multi-use community center. In 1984, the former

plant was renamed the George and Annette Murphy Center, in honor of the organization's founder, Dr. George Murphy.

The next phase in Asphalt Green's development began when Dr. Murphy enlisted the help of two of this evening's honorees, Al and Barrie Zesiger, to add an Olympic-sized swimming pool to Asphalt Green's already extensive facilities. The pool, along with a full-service sports and fitness complex, opened in 1993. These facilities have been of tremendous benefit to New Yorkers—and not just on hot summer days. Indeed, water exercise classes at the pool are available year-round, and are particularly well-suited to the fitness needs of the elderly, who are susceptible to the joint and muscle stresses associated with dry-land exercise. In all, more than 42,000 New Yorkers use Asphalt Green's facilities each year.

This evening, Asphalt Green will hold its annual Big Swim benefit, which will raise funds for the organization's Waterproofing program, a joint venture with the New York City Public School District to teach underprivileged children how to swim. Swimming ability is strongly linked with both socio-economic status and race: only 14 percent of those with annual incomes under \$10,000 know how to swim, and the rate of drowning among African-Americans is significantly higher than that of other ethnic groups. The Waterproofing program is notable not only because it encourages a lifetime of fitness, but also because it helps to save lives.

The foregoing would not have been possible without Al and Barrie Zesiger's dedication to public service and financial support, and the leadership of Stewart B. Clifford, a member of Asphalt Green's Board for more than twenty years. All three of these great citizens of New York will be honored at this evening's benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this fine organization and its honorees, Al and Barrie Zesiger and Stewart B. Clifford.

TRIBUTE TO FREDDY FENDER

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American patriot, cultural icon, and leader in our South Texas community: Freddy Fender, an accomplished artist whose appeal is ageless. Freddy proved his everlasting influence in 2002 when he won the Grammy for Best Latin Pop Album and again this year, as the Texas Folklife Resources celebrated 50 years of Freddy's music with a concert as part of its Folk Masters series on Saturday, April 10, 2004, at the Paramount Theatre in Austin, Texas.

A San Benito, Texas, native and legendary performer, Freddy was born Baldemar Huerta. He began his career as teenager recording popular English language songs in Spanish that found an audience in Mexico and Latin America in the 1950s. In the 1960's his career took off in the United States with the hit, "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights."

Those wild, early days eventually put him on more disciplined path. He went back to school and worked as a mechanic, but he continued singing.

His number one hit, "Before the Next Tear-drop Falls," was his re-entry into popular culture. That album went multi-platinum, and Fender won best male artist of 1976. In the latter part of the century, he spread his wings, expanded upon his talent and worked with Robert Redford in the movie *The Milagro Beanfield War* and other non-traditional projects.

He found his stride, working in different parts of the entertainment industry. But he never strayed far from the bounds of music, working with *The Texas Tornados*.

Freddy and his family have been tested in the fires of a near-death experience. After a protracted illness, Freddy received a kidney from his daughter, cheating death, and still singing and writing his songs.

Freddy's Grammy Award-winning album in 2002 captured the yearning for a simple, romantic return to youth. The cover has a 4-year-old Baldemar Huerta dressed as a cowboy astride a painted pony. "La Musica de Baldemar Huerta" is 10 boleros with little accompaniment. Boleros are poignant ballads generally featuring sophisticated guitar picking and sensual rhythms.

The biggest thing for which Freddy is known in South Texas is his generosity of spirit in establishing a scholarship fund for average students. An average student himself, and an avowed troublemaker in his youth, he has a unique understanding of the challenges before a young person who has either made a mistake, made only average grades, or both.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me—and the Texas Folklife Resources—in honoring Freddy Fender, a great American treasure, a South Texan, a friend, and lifelong cultural icon in North American music.

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HONORING MISSISSIPPI STATE'S  
BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, it has been four decades since Mississippi State University stood atop the Southeastern Conference as the undisputed solitary men's basketball champion. The Bulldogs, under the leadership of Coach Rick Stansbury—the Associated Press SEC Coach of the Year—did so this year with a 25–2 regular season record and a 14–2 record in the SEC that propelled them into the top five ranking in the national AP poll.

It was the 1962–1963 season when MSU won a previous solitary SEC championship. Six head coaches and 41 years later, the Bulldogs did it again in a nail-biting come-from-behind victory over the Alabama Crimson Tide. The Bulldogs were down in the second half by 18 points against the University of Alabama, one of two teams to defeat MSU during the regular season. During the last second, under intense defensive pressure, senior All-SEC guard Timmy Bowers made a 14-foot jump shot to tie the game, sending it into overtime. Then again, in the final second of overtime, Bowers made another jumper to earn a Bulldog victory of 82–81.

MSU has had champion basketball teams in the past, some shared, all notable.

*Season, Record, SEC, Notable:*

1958–59, 24–1, 13–1, opened SEC play with only loss to Auburn.

1960–61, 19–8, 11–3, lost three games only by a combined 12 points.

1961–62, 24–1, 13–1, shared title with Kentucky, only loss to Vanderbilt.

1962–63, 22–5, 12–2, lost to Loyola (Chicago) in NCAA Mideast regional.

1990–91, 20–9, 13–5, shared title with LSU; lost to Eastern Michigan in NCAA East regional.

2003–04, 25–2, 14–2, became fourth SEC team to win all eight road league games; lost to Xavier in NCAA second round.

The future looks bold for the Maroon and White. Seniors Timmy Bowers and versatile Branden Vincent will be missed, and though the NBA is courting junior center Lawrence Roberts (the reigning SEC Player of the Year), MSU will field a solid team in 2005. Juniors Shane Power and Winsome Frazier, senior Marcus Campbell, and sophomore Gary Ervin all look to be explosive scorers next year on the court and across the conference. Added to these quality players are sophomore center Wesley Morgan and freshman guard Dietric Slater plus Ontario Harper, a medical red shirt, as well as three top signees: Charles Rhodes from Lanier High School in Jackson, Mississippi; Jerrell Houston from Memphis, Tennessee; and Jamall Edmondson from Meridian Community College.

This year, Mississippi State earned the second seed position in the NCAA Basketball Tournament Atlanta Regional. While they were eliminated by Xavier during the second round of play, the Bulldogs have played a terrific season. An SEC title, a final record of 26–4 and 14–2 in the SEC, undefeated during regular season on the road; these have stirred a fire among MSU fans that will continue to burn into next year.

The pride of the Bulldogs extends not just from Starkville, home of Mississippi State University, but across the state. I hope Congress will join me in congratulating this team and Coach Stansbury—wishing them all the best fortune in the future both personally, and as representatives of MSU.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, on March 31, 2004 during rollcall vote No. 104 on H. Res. 581, I was unavailable for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

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U.S.-CHINA MARITIME RELATIONS  
AND THE EMERGENCY OF COSCO

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Federal Maritime Commission for its actions on March 31 in granting the petitions of three Chinese maritime carriers to provide relief from the 30-day waiting requirement for reduction of tariff rates of the Con-

trolled Carrier Act. These carriers will now be able to make rate changes within 24 hours, which is the current market standard for all shippers.

These recent FMC actions, along with the formal signing of the U.S.-China Maritime Agreement in February, signal that the commitment made by both nations to develop closer maritime and commercial relations and to open markets is closer to becoming a reality. The increased economic cooperation between the United States and China is becoming more tangible, as evidenced by the fact that a business in my district made its first ever shipment to China this year.

Mr. Speaker, one of the Chinese carriers whose petition was recently granted by the FMC is the China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO), which played an important role in supporting the U.S.-China Maritime Agreement. COSCO will soon celebrate the 25th anniversary of the maiden voyage of its first ship in the United States in 1979, an event which marked the re-establishment of U.S.-China trade relations for the first time in 30 years. COSCO was a leader at that time and continues to lead today.

COSCO has transformed itself to become a leading global shipper that operates under market rules. Recently, COSCO's CEO, Captain Wei Jiafu, gave the keynote address at the Trans-Pacific Maritime Conference in Long Beach, California. Captain Wei and COSCO were profiled in a cover story by the *Journal of Commerce* that explained COSCO's goals to expand services and eventually to be publicly listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Speaker, in order to share more information with my colleagues about COSCO's role in supporting trade with the U.S. and globally, I would like to submit the March 22 *Journal of Commerce* cover story for the RECORD.

(From the *Journal of Commerce*, Mar. 22, 2004)

COSCO SETS ITS COURSE

(By Peter T. Leach)

Capt. Wei Jiafu is a man who knows where he's going. He should; he's a former deck officer who now is president and chief executive of China Ocean Shipping (Group), China's largest ocean carrier. Wei is what Gilbert and Sullivan might call the model of a modern capitalist, were it not for the fact that COSCO is owned by the avowedly communist state.

As chief executive since 1998, Wei is steering a capitalist course for COSCO that is designed to accomplish three long-term goals, which he discussed in an interview before *The Journal of Commerce's* 4th annual Trans-Pacific Maritime Conference this month in Long Beach, Calif. Wei said he aims to make COSCO one of the top five shipping companies in the world by doubling the size of its container fleet in the next four years; to expand COSCO's logistics business to provide more revenue balance; and to list the company's stock on the New York Stock Exchange.

Wei added a fourth goal last week that is raising questions in the industry. In his keynote address to the conference, he called for the establishment of "a long-term stable development mechanism" based on fair regulation, cooperation among carriers, and cooperation among carriers, shippers, terminal operators and service providers.

The fact that his remarks attracted questions from shippers and carriers such as, "What did he mean?" indicates the prominence that COSCO has attained in the six

years since Wei took over. COSCO's reputation has evolved from that of a rate-cutter trying to elbow its way into the trans-Pacific and Europe-Asia trades into a first-tier carrier whose rates have reached parity with its CYKH alliance partners, "K" Line, Yang Ming and Hanjin.

By contrast, China Shipping Group, COSCO's arch-competitor and one of China's other state-owned shipping companies, is now widely regarded in the industry as a company that is more prone to cut rates. Wei said COSCO currently ranks as the world's seventh, "or sometimes the sixth," largest container carrier, and that China Shipping ranks 10th. Wei predicted COSCO will be among the five largest lines by 2010.

Though China Shipping is growing faster than COSCO because its container business is emerging from a smaller base, COSCO is "expanding faster in all segments of shipping," including tankers, dry bulk carriers and specialized project cargo vessels, Wei said. He said he was especially proud of two new semi-submersible project cargo vessels delivered last year that were designed to carry and anchor offshore oil rigs, using new technology to pinpoint locations.

Wei said COSCO and China Shipping compete, but that he does not regard the competition as a "threat alone" to COSCO's business. "We have been trying to establish a new kind of cooperative relationship between carriers." COSCO and China Shipping began discussing some kind of "cooperative relationship" in 2000, but the relationship has not been defined.

Both companies are "100 percent state-owned, so it is very natural that we have the same language," Wei said. "COSCO is always making great efforts to upgrade and strengthen the good relationships between the two companies. We are not part of each other, maybe one day through the stock market." He defined this cooperation as vessel-sharing alliances and slot-sharing agreements, the kind of cooperation COSCO is conducting with its CYKH partners. "Cooperation can benefit COSCO and China Shipping," he said. "Each company has got its own operational competitiveness, but neither of us can cover every corner of the market, so there is the opportunity to cooperate."

Wei's polite words about his competitor mask the fierce rivalry that has developed between the companies and between Wei and China Shipping President Li Keilin, whom many in the industry believe has the access to the ears of China's leaders. China Shipping has been expanding its fleet rapidly and is atop the list of new ships on order. It will deploy 8,500-TEU container ships in the transPacific this summer.

Yet COSCO is not standing still. It added seven new ships, with total capacity of 20,000 TEUs, in 2003. It has ordered another eight vessels with a total capacity of 54,000 TEUs. Five of these, totaling 37,500 TEUs, will be delivered this year. Another eight vessels with capacity of 68,000 TEUs have been chartered. This will bring COSCO's total container capacity to 300,000 TEUs by year-end.

Wei said COSCO's fleet capacity will expand to 320,000 TEUs next year, to 420,000 TEUs by 2007 and to 600,000 TEUs by 2010, the year in which he predicts it will join the ranks of the world's top five container lines.

China Shipping plans to stay hot on COSCO's heels. Its China Shipping Container Lines subsidiary plans to expand its fleet to a total capacity of 500,000 to 600,000 TEUs by 2010. China Shipping's Li has been quoted in the Shanghai press as hoping its container fleet will attain a capacity topping 350,000 TEUs by the end of 2005.

Container shipping is only part of COSCO's business. Logistics is another part that is

"growing very rapidly," Wei said. Revenue from COSCO Logistics, established as a separate unit three years ago, increased by what he called a "surprising" 50 percent in 2003. "We are going to expand our logistics business (to) take advantage of the booming Chinese economy and further strengthen our competitiveness," Wei said.

COSCO faces competition in its logistics business from another state-owned company, Sinotrans, which also competes with its container business. The container competition now appears to be easing, because "Sinotrans has gradually transformed itself into an international logistics provider rather than a global liner operator," Wei said. Sinotrans ended its service in the Asia-Europe trade lane in 2002 to concentrate on the trans-Pacific and intra-Asia trades, "so based on the transformation of the business strategy, its liner business in major east-west trade lanes will not be further expanded in the future."

How does COSCO plan to finance all of this additional container capacity and logistics growth? "I believe getting listed on the stock market is certainly a good choice," Wei said. COSCO has listed seven of its subsidiaries in both domestic and overseas stock markets, he said. Two of them are what he called "blue chip" stocks. COSCO Pacific became a component of the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong last year, and COSCO Singapore became part of the Straits Times Index in Singapore this month. Both are the equivalent of the Dow Jones Industrial Index on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Big Board is also on Wei's radar screen. "We will list in the U.S. stock markets soon. We want to list our core business on the New York Stock Exchange," he said. "COSCO has a very good reputation, so its listing in New York will be very attractive."

China Shipping is planning to take a leaf from COSCO's book by listing the stock of China Shipping Container Lines in an initial public offering on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange as early as May. The IPO is supposed to raise up to \$2 billion, though Hong Kong analysts have expressed skepticism that it would reach that amount. The \$2 billion estimate appears high for a company that posted losses from its establishment in 1997 until it finally earned a profit last year.

This rapid expansion by Chinese shipping companies comes amid the boom in China's containerized trade. "China's rapid growth in economy and trade has become the main engine to drive the international shipping market," Wei said. China's containerized trade increased by 11 million TEUs to a total of 48 million in 2003, pushing China into first place globally, ahead of the U.S. with 40 million TEUs last year. COSCO forecasts that China's containerized trade will grow by another 5 million TEUs this year.

Wei is someone who has set and attained goals throughout his career. Born in 1949—the year the People's Republic of China was formed—into a peasant farming family in Jiansou Province, he served at sea from the late 1960s through the early 1980s. He was then named to a senior post at a COSCO subsidiary, Guangzhou Ocean Shipping Co., where he witnessed the initial steps taken by China's then-supreme leader Deng Xiaoping to open the region adjacent to Hong Kong to economic development. He earned a master's degree in shipping management.

As he rose through the ranks at COSCO, he managed a joint Chinese-Tanzanian government shipping company and subsequently ran COSCO's Tianjin-based bulk shipping division. As chief executive, he is confronting perhaps his biggest challenge: transforming COSCO from a traditional shipping concern into a logistics services provider, a central element of the company's long-term stra-

tegic plan. Container shipping, which accounts for more than half of the group's revenue, is affected by the unpredictable and wild gyrations of global freight rates, a reality that has forced COSCO and other companies to diversify into sectors more likely to yield stable and higher margin earnings.

Wei has a window of opportunity to accomplish this goal. He said he expects cargo demand will stay ahead of the increase in the supply of new ships. "Looking ahead, the ship order book remains at a moderate level, so the market over the next 12 months will be demand-driven," he said. "In the container shipping market, supply will rise by 7 percent this year, and demand will increase by 8 percent, which means freight rates will continue to rise." He said demand will stay ahead of supply for the "next two or three years."

But Wei is concerned that the long list of shipbuilding orders will catch up with demand after that and affect the shipping market. "Therefore, I am obliged to ask everybody in this industry to work together and slow down this unreasonable fleet expansion and keep the market stable."

That's what has the industry reading the tea leaves to try to figure out what he meant with his Long Beach speech's references to cooperation. "I think what he meant is that carriers and shippers have to get together to agree to even out supply," said Howard Finkel, senior vice president of trade at COSCO North America Inc. "We have anti-trust immunity; we need to use it better." He said one forum for this discussion might be the Transpacific Stabilization Agreement, where carriers and shippers can discuss rates and set voluntary rate guidelines. COSCO plans to accomplish this fourth goal of Wei's, Finkel said, because it is "determined not to be the wild man out."

#### FORTH WORTH IS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITIES

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Fort Worth on being named one of nine "America's Most Livable Cities" by the Partners for Livable Communities." In order to be recognized, Fort Worth was compared with other cities throughout our Nation and judged on creativity and the ability to prepare for the new economy.

America's Most Livable Communities is a project of Partners for Livable Communities, a national non-profit organization working to restore and renew America's communities. Founded in 1977, Partners was the first national group to raise the banner of livability as both a consumer goal and a standard of excellence for municipal performance. This new project recognizes the necessity for communities to increase the standards for quality of life in order to attract better businesses and promote economic growth.

As one of the nine cities recognized in the large cities category, Fort Worth is recognized as a place where the economy is strong, the community is handling challenges and it is able to respond quickly to difficult situations. Fort Worth has shown to have long term strategies that are driven by quality of life standards. As a city it ensures that the climate, setting, intelligence of the labor force, downtown amenities, partnerships, and leadership agendas are above the standards necessary to survive.

Fort Worth has been able to maintain the Nation's third largest cultural district to supplement the incorporation of modernization and community outreach. Partners are impressed with efforts to transform many of Fort Worth's older, central city commercial districts into vibrant urban communities. The City Council has worked with private developers, business groups and neighborhood associations to create 13 urban communities, all with unique qualities specific to the areas they serve. These urban communities help promote the inner city as an appealing alternative to the basic and usually overcrowded parks and subdivisions common to suburbs. Inner-city villages also serve as methods for public and private ventures to support and renew economic activity to downtown Fort Worth. Buildings are able to be connected with neighborhoods effectively without depriving citizens of the quality of life they were seeking in the suburbs.

In 2001, Fort Worth established the goal of being the most livable city in Texas. As the only Texas city recognized by Partners at the America's Most Livable Awards Program on April 20th, 2004, that goal has been achieved. I commend the city on setting its goals and standards high. It is my hope that we can continue to keep the bar high and continue to strive for excellence.

RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF  
LONG BRANCH'S CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I have the opportunity to recognize the city of Long Branch in honor of their centennial celebration of incorporation. In 1903, Long Branch was formally incorporated as a city, but its rich history predates this initial incorporation, and dates as far back as 1498, when Long Branch was first explored by John Cabot.

The land, which makes up current day Long Branch, was claimed by Henry Hudson in 1664, and then purchased from the Native American Leni Lenape tribe in 1668 by European settlers seeking religious freedom. The newcomers named the settlement "Long Branch" after the long branch of the Shrewsbury River that is located at the northern end of the city.

Much like their Native American neighbors, the first settlers created a self-sustaining community that relied on hunting, gathering, and fishing to survive. Those hardy people (as well as the town they resided in) existed in relative isolation until the 19th century, which is when Long Branch entered its "Golden Age." During that period, commerce in the American northeast grew, and the Long Branch area began to expand rapidly. Due to the town's proximity to the coast, and the natural beauty of the region, leaders in finance, theatre, politics, and the military flocked to Long Branch by the hundreds to enjoy the area's treasures. Individuals from New York, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. made Long Branch the premier vacation destination. At the height of its Golden Age, Long Branch became the most

glamorous summer resort location of the Northeast. Among the notable visitors were General Winfield Scott, actor "Buffalo" Bill Cody, and writers such as Bret Harte and Robert Louis Stevenson.

Most importantly, Long Branch became the nation's summer capital. Several United States Presidents summered in Long Branch. Among them were Chester A. Arthur, Rutherford B. Hayes, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, Woodrow Wilson and Ulysses S. Grant, who visited the area every summer during his Presidency and many summers thereafter. President James A. Garfield, after he was mortally wounded by an assassin's bullet, left Washington D.C. for Long Branch to recuperate from his wounds. Unfortunately he died shortly thereafter, in the Elberon section of the city.

Long Branch began experiencing major changes in the early 1920's, after gambling was outlawed and other cities began competing for tourism. It became a city of permanent residents with a business and manufacturing center. Long Branch continues to be a city of changes. The beachfront that had lured (and still lures) many tourists is being redeveloped. More small businesses are coming into town and expanding operations. Many of the homes of the Golden Age of Long Branch are being restored as a tribute to the beauty and history of the region. The city is more conscious of its historic sites, but also of the various ethnic groups, religious and cultural organizations that have created the melting pot that is today's Long Branch.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my fellow colleagues to acknowledge the City of Long Branch for its one-hundredth anniversary of incorporation, and join me in wishing the city many more years of rich history and prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 20 I was in my District in New Jersey attending services associated with the funeral of Lieutenant John Wroblewski (United States Marines) of Jefferson Township.

As a result, I was not in attendance in the House for several recorded votes.

On rollcall No. 118, designating the Richard Wilson Post Office, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 119, designating the John J. Pershing Post Office, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 120, designating the Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THREE GENERATIONS  
OF MITCHELL BRONZE MEDALS

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, the United States Army reserves the Bronze Star for sol-

diers who distinguish themselves through heroic or meritorious achievement or service. The Army has awarded this, its fourth highest honor for military personnel, to three generations of the Mitchell Family. I rise today to honor their service to this nation.

First Sergeant David Mitchell and his son Sergeant Brian Mitchell recently returned from active duty in Iraq. For their achievements and dedication to our nation's military, they have both been awarded the Bronze Star. They are the second and third generations of this family respectively to earn this medal, following in the steps of David's father R.L. Mitchell. David is a native of Calhoun City and Brian lives in Forest, in the heart of my district.

The Mitchells are part of the thirty-two members of the Mississippi National Guard recently decorated with the Bronze Star for their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom; all but one from the 223rd Combat Engineer Battalion based in West Point, Mississippi. The other, Raymond resident Lt. Col. Ellis Riser is of the 168th Engineer Group in Vicksburg.

While in Iraq under the constant threat of attack from Iraqi militants and foreign terrorists, the Mitchells conducted engineering projects, secured the operations of our military's computer operations and even helped Iraqi schools.

David Mitchell received the award on his birthday and said, "As a father, it makes me real proud to serve my country and have my son by my side." In addition to Brian, another of David's sons also serves in the Army. I am proud, as a Congressman, that we have patriotic and dedicated men in Mississippi serving our nation and that they instill these characteristics as part of a family tradition.

Brian Mitchell told his hometown newspaper, the Scott County Times, "I joined in part because of the G.I. Bill and the education benefits but there was also a family tradition. I also wanted to serve my country." Brian said family is important to him and his unit became a second family to him. His family back at home, his wife Stacy and his children Dusty, Katie, and Alex all missed him, and their grandfather David. Just as they are, I'm glad Brian and David are home after fulfilling their missions.

These men, and many men with them, are heroes and I'm proud not only they are recognized for their achievements as American military men, but also that they have shown the tradition of Mississippi values to their fellow servicemen, and across the world to the people of Iraq. Honor is earned; not given. Mr. Speaker, the Mitchells have earned this honor.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CONRAD  
KAPTUR

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege today to offer respectful words for history to pay tribute to John Conrad Kaptur on behalf of the entire Kaptur family—his wife Rita; children Stephen, Christopher, Renee, James/Christine, Kenneth, Regina/Jeff; sisters Virginia, Lillian, Christine; and the grandchildren Nicole, Michael, Cassandra, Ashley, Brittany, Jacob, and Lucas. Let us honor his beautiful life. Surely, he is loved.

His children observe: "Dad has a smile that would immediately tell all that he was happy to be in company with you. He enjoyed a good joke and always enjoyed a brewed cup of tea. 'Refreshing,' he would say. John was a gentleman, also a strong man, a man who exemplified the motto by which he lived: 'always faithful.' Our own father, his uncle, said of John, 'He knew how to be a man.'"

Born in 1925, John was a devoted son of Szepan and Mary. He was his parents' first and only born son and the eldest of 16 children, an American of Polish heritage. He grew up attending St. Stanislaus Church and Libbey High School in tough economic times. He knew struggle. He worked hard. He possessed the drive, inventiveness and skill for which Kaptur men are known. His kindness was rooted deeply in his early years when people survived by holding onto one another.

He valued family—to celebrate life and to weather the rough times. At 79, he was the patriarch of the Kaptur family.

John was a tot when Wall Street crashed in 1929 ushering in the Great Depression of the 1930s. No jobs were to be had. For people today, it is hard to describe how hard life was back then—before America had a minimum wage, before there was enough to eat for so many families, before there was Social Security and Medicare. That was the world into which John was born. He never forgot. But he always kept moving forward. He was so talented. He possessed the Kaptur man's physique—sturdy, square jawed, full of wanderlust, but steady, with a heart of gold so big his body could hardly contain it.

At 17, following in his father's footsteps, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps—the elite, special branch of the U.S. Armed Forces especially trained for amphibious assault. He served in the Pacific Theater during World War II—first training at Camp Le Jeune in New River, North Carolina. In September, 1942, he departed on a troopship out of San Diego as a member of the 3rd Marine Division for the Bouganville invasion of American Samoa. He contracted a mosquito borne illness in late 1943 after the Guadalcanal invasion. A natural leader, he rose in rank in the Corps and later in the Reserves from Private First Class, to Lance Corporal, to Corporal, to Sergeant, and Staff Sergeant. He served honorably 12 years in the Corps and Reserves. He was a patriot.

When I look at his beautiful family, I repeat the Marine Corps saying: "The marines have landed, and the situation is well in hand." John maintained a keen interest in world events and helped shape them. In his mid 30s, John married Rita Mominee. What a match this has been! Smiles, a house full of activity, travel, joy. Together, they raised a magnificent family: 4 boys—Stephen, Christopher, James, Kenneth—and finally a girl—Regina. What a blessing he was able to watch them grow up and flower into adulthood.

He enjoyed every minute. During his long life, he also experienced the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, Sputnik and the landing of the first man on the moon, the collapse of the Soviet Union, where his own father had served in Marine Corps in Vladivostok, and he ushered in the 21st century. All the while, John kept steady with his family and garden blooming, a man of quiet strength, a gentleman, good, and kind. To ease the sorrow, we should think about what

each of us can do in his name, as a living prayer. For he will come to us now in a new way, not on our time but on his time. His children, through Regina, say about him:

"Dad was proud to be Catholic and to have served in the United States Marine Corps. His talents were many." After working nearly four decades in industrial production planning at Dura Corp. and later, retiring from Chrysler-Jeep as a planner in the engineering division, he quickly went out to do plumbing. "The love of people and good conversation made me want to do it," he said. He always worked a hard day supporting his large family.

He most loved his family. He celebrated his 45th wedding anniversary not long ago with his wife, Rita, along with his family. What a strong and devoted spouse Rita has been. Jim and Christine shared their home for that event, just as they did for the wake after his Christian burial. Dad was very proud of Jim's accomplishments as a Paramedic/Toledo Firefighter and the perseverance he has to move up. He found great comfort in his knowledge. He would always take a nap in the afternoon so he could stay up to welcome Ken home from a hard day's work, and talk about the Lottery. When the day came to around 3 o'clock he would look for Chris to come by and have some good conversation. For Steve, he was very thankful for the skills it took to fix his car or use his trailer. As he was fathering all these boys, he became so very proud of their hard work and perseverance on a job. Regina knows her dad is proud of her accomplishments and the love, care, and comfort she had for him in his time of need. "Dad taught me respect, compassion, diplomacy, perseverance, and the ability to know people and to have the psychology of life. Most of all, he taught me to love a human being, no matter if they were challenged or not."

Then there are the grandchildren: He loved each and every one of them—Nicole, Michael, Cassandra, Ashley, Brittany, Jacob, Lucas. Whether John wanted to play hockey in the driveway, or bump the tree with the tire swing, or pick up sticks in the yard, or take a walk to the grapes, or even around the block. He may have just wanted a conversation with you, he loved you all. And I might add, our last conversation, just a few days ago, was about getting together with the grandchildren for dinner when he was feeling better.

And the grandchildren couldn't have come without the loving daughters-in-law and son-in-law he gained: Renee, Christine and Jeff.

Regina writes: "I was very glad to have spent the time with Dad these past few months and through all his surgeries. I would not have wanted it any other way. So much value was built in the quality time we had. He recalled everyone in the present and in the past. Never was a cross word said. His words were always very kind. Dad had the best doctors and they always took our phone calls without hesitation and went beyond to meet our needs. Dad was always open to their suggestions that would help him. He had told the doctors: 'Let's do it—I am a patient man.' With tears in my eyes, I watched as God wrapped his arms around Dad and said to him, 'My precious child, come with me. You surely were a treasure on this earth, but now I need you in Heaven.' So God reached out and showed him the bright light, and said, 'I will reunite you all again some day.' With tears in all of our eyes we will meet him again in heaven where

he will greet each one of us with a smile and say, 'It's great to see you.' 'Thank you for coming' 'Can I get you a cup of tea, or perhaps a Coop e'Kava and cookie?'"

POEM

Because you went first and I remain,  
To walk the road alone.  
I live in memories garden, Dear,  
With happy days we've known.  
In Spring I wait for roses red,  
When faded, the lilacs blue.  
In early Fall when brown leaves fall  
I'll catch a glimpse of you.  
Because you went first and I remain,  
For battles to be fought.  
Each thing you touched along the way  
Is now a hallowed spot.  
I hear your voice, I see your smile,  
Tho blindly I now grope.  
The memory of your helping hand  
Now buoys me on with hope.  
Because you went first and I remain,  
One thing I'll have to do:  
Walk slowly down that long long path.  
For soon I'll follow you,  
I want to know each step you took,  
So I may take the same,  
For some day down that lonely road,  
You'll hear me call your name.

CONGRATULATING THE CUB  
SCOUTS, BOY SCOUTS, AND GIRL  
SCOUTS OF DODGE ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL IN EAST AMHERST, NY

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts from Dodge Elementary School in East Amherst, New York, for having been chosen to receive the President's Environmental Youth Award.

In 2002, the Dodge Elementary Scouts began a wetland enhancement project in the Town of East Amherst. The project, now in its third year, has been a tremendous success, as is evidenced by the children being selected to receive the President's Environmental Youth Award. The project not only aids the environment and beautifies the Town, but also benefits the Scouts by teaching them the ideals of conservation and community service.

In the project's first year, the group planted four hundred tree seedlings around a one-acre pond in the town. Bird boxes were also placed around the pond for further wetland habitat enhancement. In 2003, these young men and women planted over eight hundred trees. The work was done as part of Amherst's Arbor Day celebrations. In that single day, the Scouts planted seven hundred and eighty seedlings, as well as fifty weeping willows, black willows, and green ash trees, varying from five to eight feet in height. It was a remarkable effort. This year, the Scouts have already placed several dozen bird boxes, bat boxes, and duck boxes, and have scheduled another tree-planting day for April 25th.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 22nd, members of the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts from Dodge Elementary School will be at the White House to be honored by President Bush as recipients of the President's Environmental Youth Award, and I ask that this House join me in congratulating them on this well-deserved award.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. JIM McCRERY**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States. Fortunately, 70 percent of P.I.D.D. patients are able to maintain their health through regular infusions of a plasma product known as intravenous immunoglobulin. IVIG helps bolster the immune system and provides critical protection against infection and disease.

I am familiar with primary immune deficiencies because one of my good friends and constituents, Gail Nelson, is a P.I.D.D. patient. Gail and her husband Syd Nelson are tireless advocates for the primary immune deficiency community as volunteers for the Immune Deficiency Foundation. IDF is the nation's leading organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for P.I.D.D. patients.

Several years ago, the Nelsons educated me about the IVIG treatments that Gail and other P.I.D.D. patients receive on a monthly basis. Thanks to Gail and Syd's advocacy, I learned that the optimal setting for many P.I.D.D. patients to receive their IVIG infusions is in the home. Not only is home infusion more convenient for patients, it eliminates the potential for individuals to be exposed to infectious agents in a doctor's office or hospital outpatient setting. Despite the clear benefits of home infusion, I was disappointed to learn that Medicare would only pay for the administration of IVIG in an outpatient setting or a doctor's office.

As Congress undertook its landmark effort last year to modernize the Medicare program, I was pleased to work with my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee to include a provision in the legislation to extend coverage for the home infusion of IVIG. This important provision provides coverage for home infusions if the Medicare beneficiary is (1) a diagnosed primary immune deficiency patient, and (2) has received clearance from his/her physician to receive treatment in the home. This important provision makes a new treatment option available for Medicare patients that has been the standard of care for many P.I.D.D. patients on private insurance.

Mr. Speaker, despite the important progress we have made in treating primary immune deficiencies, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms and a definitive diagnosis of P.I.D.D. is 9.2 years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer repeated and serious infections and possibly irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses within the general public and the health care community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership on behalf

of the P.I.D.D. community, and I am proud to join them in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to work with us to help improve the quality of life for P.I.D.D. patients and their families.

NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of National Minority Cancer Awareness Week.

This year marks the 18th annual National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, a national awareness campaign which focuses on the disproportionate cancer burden experienced by racial and ethnic minorities and other medically underserved communities.

Despite all the progress that has been made in the battle against cancer, there is still much work to be done to eradicate this horrible disease.

In California alone, 125,000 new cancer cases will be diagnosed this year; 52,200 people will die from cancer. Out of every 100,000 people living in California, 186 will eventually die of cancer.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that a disproportionate burden of cancer continues to fall on a number of populations. African Americans have the highest death rates for all cancers and cancer is the leading cause of death for Asian American women.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the average annual death rate per 100,000 people for all types of cancers was 257 for African Americans, 199 for whites, 138 for Hispanic-Americans, 138 for American Indians, and 125 for Asian/Pacific Islanders.

For every 100,000 people living in California, 65 African Americans in that group will die each year from lung cancer, 17 Hispanic women will die from breast cancer and 13 Asian Americans will die from prostate cancer.

Inadequate access to preventive services and early detection means that diseases like cancer are more often diagnosed at later stages when the severity is likely to be greater and options for treatment are decreased.

The future health of America as a whole will be influenced substantially by our success in improving the health of minority and other medically underserved populations.

I rise today to commend those working in my district and state who work tirelessly on this issue in the hopes of one day beating cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in Congress to come together and find a way to fund crucial research into cures for this disease. I hope we can reduce and ultimately eliminate the disproportionate burden cancer and other diseases pose on minority and medically underserved communities in our country.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY WEEK

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases (PIDD) are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States. Fortunately, 70 percent of PIDD patients are able to maintain their health through regular infusions of a plasma product known as intravenous immunoglobulin. IVIG helps bolster the immune system and provides critical protection against infection and disease.

I am familiar with primary immune deficiencies because of the work that is being done in my district by Dr. Rebecca Hatcher Buckley. Dr. Buckley is Chief of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at Duke University Medical Center, and she is the leading expert and pioneer in the diagnosis and treatment of Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID) also known as "bubble boy syndrome." Children diagnosed with SCID lack an immune system, which is essential to survival. Dr. Buckley has dedicated her life to helping to save the lives of babies born with SCID through early diagnosis and treatment.

Although newborn screening exists for SCID, states do not include the test among their required screenings. Additionally, despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis of PIDD is over 9 years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer repeated and serious infections and possibly irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses within the general public and the health care community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership in this area, and I am proud to join them in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to work with us to help improve the quality of life for PIDD patients and their families.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SR. MARGARET "PEG" DOLAN, R.S.H.M. ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER ORDINATION IN THE RELIGIOUS SACRED HEART OF MARY

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to one of my most distinguished constituents, Sr. Margaret "Peg" Dolan, R.S.H.M. I commend her to my colleagues and thank her for her service to Loyola Marymount University, to Los Angeles, and

to our Nation. Last Friday, April 16th, Sister Peg, who currently serves as the Alumni Chaplain at Loyola Marymount, celebrated her golden jubilee, the 50th anniversary of taking her vows in the order known as the Religious Sacred Heart of Mary. Sister Peg has been a unique link to Loyola Marymount's history, having been present on the campus since the historic merger of Marymount and Loyola. Her many years at LMU have been extraordinary.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Sr. Peg grew up in a diverse neighborhood of Irish Catholics, Jewish, Italian, and German families. Her parents had come to the United States from Ireland. Her father worked two jobs to put all five kids through Catholic school and died at the age of 54. Her mother lived a long life and spent many hours caring for sick neighbors along with her five children.

In 1952 when she graduated from high school, Sister Peg chose to enter the Religious Sacred Heart of Mary. She studied Scripture, theology, and philosophy at Marymount College in Tarrytown, NY for two years. After taking her vows in 1954, she moved to California to study History at Marymount College. In 1957, she earned a teaching credential and began teaching at a

boarding school also called Marymount in Santa Barbara.

In 1973, Sr. Peg enrolled at Loyola Marymount University to complete a Master's Degree in Counseling while serving as a Counselor in Training. She was such a big hit with the students that, at the end of that year, the residence hall advisors asked the administration to find her a job. She took a part-time position in Student Affairs at Loyola Marymount. In 1975, after she earned a Master's Degree in Applied Spirituality, Sister Peg joined the LMU Campus Ministry team as Chaplain where she did retreat work and counseling.

In 1985, she was promoted to Director and became the moderator of Gryphon Circle, one of five major service groups for students at LMU. In 1989, because of her interest in doing even more one-on-one counseling, Sr. Peg resigned her position as Director and returned to the Campus Ministry. In 1996, she accepted the invitation from the president of LMU to become Alumni Chaplain.

Reaching out to Loyola Marymount alumni and their families, Sr. Peg single-handedly launched the Alumni for Others program where students, alumni and friends spend a day working together on a community service project. Currently in its fifth year, the pro-

gram's projects have included the painting and repairing of inner city schools and fixing homes for low-income elderly residents in such areas as South Central Los Angeles Watts, East Los Angeles and the Hilo River Reservation in Arizona. Since the program's inception, more than a thousand people have volunteered.

In recent years, the Alumni for Others program has directed its focus toward assisting inner city schools in need. After St. Columbkille School in South Central Los Angeles had closed its seventh and eighth grades due to financial constraints, Sister Peg spearheaded a development committee to reopen the classes and build a new library, raising over \$800,000. Construction of the new library began last June.

Mr. Speaker, Sister "Peg" Dolan has generously offered support and wise counsel to students, alumni, fellow chaplains, fellow staff members, and all members of the Loyola Marymount community. She has dedicated her life to community service and counseling and has made a tremendous contribution to our community. I am pleased to commend and thank her for her outstanding work, and look forward to many more years of her service.

## 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, April 22, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## APRIL 27

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Tina Westby Jonas, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), Dionel M. Aviles, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of the Navy, and Jerald S. Paul, of Florida, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

SR-222

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine telecommunications policy, focusing on lessons learned from the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

SR-253

10 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine sustainable, low emission, electricity generation.

SD-366

## Finance

## International Trade Subcommittee

## Health Care Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine international trade and pharmaceuticals.

SD-215

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Brett M. Kavanaugh, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

SD-226

## Aging

To hold hearings to examine opportunities and challenges relating to assistive technologies for independent aging.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

## National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1064, to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, S. 1092, to authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans, S. 1748, to establish a program to award grants to improve and

maintain sites honoring Presidents of the United States, S. 2046, to authorize the exchange of certain land in Everglades National Park, S. 2052, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail, and S. 2319, to authorize and facilitate hydroelectric power licensing of the Tapoco Project.

SD-366

3:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine International Space Exploration Program.

SR-253

## APRIL 28

9:30 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine telecommunications policy.

SR-253

## Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration.

SD-406

## Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2172, to make technical amendments to the provisions of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act relating to contract support costs.

SR-485

10 a.m.

## Appropriations

## Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine medical programs in the armed services.

SD-192

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Francis Moriarty, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Nepal, Michele J. Sison, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, and Thomas Charles Krajewski, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Yemen.

SD-419

## Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the use and prevention of abuse of government purchase cards.

SD-342

11:30 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

2 p.m.

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

## Children and Families Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine how to promote a healthy marriage.

SD-430

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine safeguarding the future of American live theater relating to the Playwrights Licensing Antitrust Initiative Act.

SD-226

3 p.m.

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Constance Berry Newman, to be an Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Aubrey Hooks, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Thomas Neil Hull III, of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to Sierra Leone, and Roger A. Meece, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Congo.

SD-419

## APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To continue hearings to examine telecommunications policy, focusing on industry perspectives.

SR-253

## Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending nominations.

SD-419

10 a.m.

## Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2301, to improve the management of Indian fish and wildlife and gathering resources.

SR-485

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

SR-253

## MAY 4

2:30 p.m.

## Armed Services

## Airland Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-222

3:30 p.m.

## Armed Services

## SeaPower Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-232A

5 p.m.

## Armed Services

## Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-222

## MAY 5

9 a.m.

## Armed Services

## Personnel Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SR-232A

9:30 a.m.

## Appropriations

## Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for defense related programs.

SD-192

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| <p>10 a.m.<br/>Armed Services<br/>Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee<br/>Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.<br/>SR-222</p> | <p>9:30 a.m.<br/>Armed Services<br/>Closed business meeting to markup proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities for the Department of Defense.<br/>SR-222</p>                                    | <p>MAY 6<br/>cluding aerial fire fighting assets and crew, and overhead availability.<br/>SD-366</p>  |
| <p>11:30 a.m.<br/>Armed Services<br/>Strategic Forces Subcommittee<br/>Closed business meeting to markup those provisions, which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense.<br/>SR-232A</p>             | <p>9:30 a.m.<br/>Armed Services<br/>Closed business meeting to markup proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities for the Department of Defense.<br/>SR-222</p>                                    | <p>MAY 12<br/>Time to be announced<br/>Indian Affairs<br/>To hold hearings to examine S. 1715, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes.<br/>SR-485</p>  |
| <p>2:30 p.m.<br/>Armed Services<br/>Closed business meeting to markup proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities for the Department of Defense.<br/>SR-222</p>   | <p>10 a.m.<br/>Energy and Natural Resources<br/>To hold hearings to examine the impacts and costs of last year's fires, focusing on the problems faced last year and what problems agencies and the land they oversee may face next season, in-</p> | <p>10 a.m.<br/>Appropriations<br/>Defense Subcommittee<br/>To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Defense.<br/>SD-192</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 21<br/>10 a.m.<br/>Veterans' Affairs<br/>To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.<br/>345 CHOB</p> |