

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DR. SHAFFDEEN AMUWO, Ph.D. MPH ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend and congratulate Dr. Shaffdeen Amuwo on a very meaningful and successful career as he approaches retirement. Teaching to me has always been one of the noblest and most rewarding of all the professions. I take this position because to me, when you teach you give a part of yourself to others who are attempting to move from one level of being to another.

Dr. Shaffdeen Amuwo migrated to this country from his native Nigeria to attend school in an effort to improve his own life and to be in a position to make life better for others. Never one to shirk responsibility or to miss opportunities, he worked at a number of odd jobs while attending school and eventually earned both Ph.D. and MPH degrees.

Dr. Amuwo understood that education requires more than just activity with the classroom. He took his knowledge and skills out into the community sharing with common and ordinary people. He became a prolific proposal writer and raised substantial sums of money for programs and instructional activities. Through his efforts and as a result of his serious understanding of what public health should really do, Dr. Amuwo helped to open up new vistas of understanding and was indeed a bridge builder between the school and the community as well as between his native African brothers and sisters and the traditional African American community of Chicago.

Although you are retiring in a formal way, we expect to see you at all of the meetings and will continue to make use of your vast knowledge, skill, and commitment. And as you go, in the words of an Irish Proverb, "May the Road rise up to meet you, may the wind always be at your back, may the Sun shine warmly upon your face and until we meet again, may the good Lord hold you in the hollow of his hand."

CONGRATULATIONS CENTRAL CABARRUS HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker it is my honor to rise today to congratulate the Central Cabarrus High School Softball team on their victory at the 4A NCHSAA Softball Tour-

namment on June 6th. This is Cabarrus High School's fourth state championship win. The sensational Lady Vikings captured the state championship title in 1993, 2000, 2001 as 3A members and now in 2004 as 4A members.

Coached by Monte Sherrill, the team had an astounding season with an overall record of 32-1. The Lady Vikings claimed their title by beating Cape Fear with a final score of 1-0. The team is now ranked 7th nationally by USA Today and the National Fast-Pitch Coaches Association. Gina Allen was declared the Most Valuable Player in the tournament due to her outstanding job on the pitcher's mound. Allen tossed a five-hit shutout against Cape Fear to lead the team to the title.

The Lady Vikings have reached this level of success by extreme hard work and dedication. Most of the players stay in shape by continuing to play year-round on competitive traveling teams. Cabarrus County has done an excellent job of creating recreational opportunities beyond the high school seasons.

Participating in individual and team sports can offer tremendous social advantages while challenging a young person physically and fostering honest competition. There is also evidence that sports can increase a student's self-esteem and academic performance. Sports allow teenagers to take on leadership roles, handle adversity, and improve their time management skills.

The Lady Vikings of Cabarrus County have succeeded in pushing themselves to be outstanding athletes and have stood up to the challenges placed in front of them. They have come together as a team and shown their peers that commitment and self-sacrifice can lead to success. I congratulate them and wish them continued success next year. We are all proud of their accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LEWIS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Central Massachusetts' most devoted athletic directors and community members, Richard Lewis, who is retiring from his position as Athletic Director of Wachusetts Regional High School.

After graduating from the University of Massachusetts in 1966, Mr. Lewis went on to receive his Masters in Education from Worcester State College. He began his career in Western Massachusetts, followed by 10 years at the Marlboro Public Schools, before he graced Wachusetts High School with his services in 1978.

Throughout his years at WMS, Mr. Lewis has left an outstanding legacy, not only as the MIAA District E Athletic Chair, but also assisting on several committees such as the MIAA Baseball Committee. Furthermore, he served as the director of both the Softball Tournament

in Central Massachusetts as well as MIAA State Softball.

Along with the many committees Mr. Lewis has devoted his time to, his contributions to both the Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association as well as the community of Central Massachusetts have earned him well deserved recognition. He has received the National Interscholastic Award of Merit both statewide and nationally, as well as two John E. Young Awards.

Today I, along with the rest of my colleagues would like to pay tribute to this strong community leader and outstanding Athletic Director, Richard Lewis and we wish him and his family all the best in the years to come.

ADJUSTMENT IN NUMBER OF FREE ROAMING HORSES PERMITTED IN CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE

SPEECH OF

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the House Leadership for scheduling H.R. 205 for floor consideration. This bill would adjust the number of free roaming horses permitted on Shackleford Banks in the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Shackleford Banks is a barrier island off the coast of North Carolina that has been home to a herd of wild horses for over three centuries. In fact, experts believe the herd descended from Spanish stallions that were shipwrecked on the island during colonial times.

Over the years, the Shackleford horses have become an integral part of the natural and cultural fabric of Eastern North Carolina. They are treasured by the local community and adored by the many visitors who come from across the country to see them.

To protect these beautiful creatures, in 1997 I introduced the Shackleford Banks Wild Horses Protection Act which the President later signed into law. The Act directed the Department of the Interior to enter an agreement with a non-profit group—the Foundation for Shackleford Horses—to manage the herd. It also required the Department to allow a herd of 100 free-roaming horses in the Seashore, and it set out terms under which horses could be removed, including a prohibition on removal "unless the number of horses . . . exceeds 110."

As the National Park Service and the Foundation began to implement the Act, disagreement erupted over the law's requirements on the size of the herd. The Park Service interpreted the Act to mean that the herd's population should be kept between 100 and 110. However, as the author of the legislation, I can tell you this interpretation was inconsistent with Congressional intent—which was to allow the herd to hover above 110.

• 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.

The Park Service's interpretation also conflicted with the established scientific consensus on the size of the herd. Studies by world-renowned genetic scientists Dr. Daniel Rubenstein of Princeton University, and Dr. Gus Cothran of the University of Kentucky, confirm that in order to maintain the herd's long-term viability, its optimum size is around 120 animals. The experts also agree that the population should not dip below 110 and that it should be allowed to expand periodically to numbers at or above 130 in order to sustain the proper genetic diversity in the herd. It's important to note that these numbers are well within the island's carrying capacity.

After years of disagreement on the herd size issue, the Park Service met in the fall of 2002 with the Foundation for Shackleford Horses, Dr. Rubenstein, Dr. Cothran and other stakeholders. After two days of meetings, the parties emerged with an agreement that largely mirrors the scientific understanding of how the horses should be managed.

H.R. 2055 seeks to codify this scientific consensus into law. It would allow a herd of "not less than 110 free roaming horses, with a target population of between 120 and 130 free roaming horses." It would also clear up confusion on when horses can be removed from the island by mandating that removal can only occur if "carried out as part of a plan to maintain the viability of the herd."

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is supported by the Park Service, the scientific experts, and the local community. It is a legislative fix based on sound science, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

H.R. 1811—FAMILY OPPORTUNITY
ACT OF 2003

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of and as a cosponsor of H.R. 1811, the Family Opportunity Act. By passing this legislation we are giving the States the opportunity of allowing families of disabled children to purchase Medicaid coverage for them as well as providing treatment of inpatient psychiatric hospital services for individuals under age 21 under waivers allowing for payment of part or all of the cost of home or community-based services.

This is a great first step of fixing the bias of institutional care in Medicaid compared to home or community-based services. Parents will no longer have to drive hours to visit their child but instead opt to have them remain at home or live close by in a community setting and still receive their Medicaid dollars. Another great aspect in this legislation is establishing family-to-family health information centers. Sometimes just talking or listening to another person, another family that actually understands what one family is experiencing can settle nerves and make one feel more comfortable with the future challenges they may face. I commend my colleague from Texas, Mr. SESSIONS for sponsoring this legislation.

I hope we can continue to work together to enforce the Olmstead decision and develop more opportunities for individuals with disabilities over the age of 21 through more acces-

sible systems of cost-effective community-based services. I am proud to have introduced H.R. 2032, the Medicaid Attendant Services and Supports Act also known as MiCASSA with my friend from Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS. MiCASSA as the Family Opportunity Act would change the system of long-term care as we know it today. Nationally, approximately 70 percent of the Federal and State spending still goes to institutions instead of home or community settings. Our colleagues in the Senate held a hearing on MiCASSA, S. 1394, Money Follows the Person, and the President's New Freedom initiative earlier in the year. I urge my colleagues in the House to hold a similar hearing.

Mr. Speaker, as I have stated, I support H.R. 1811 and believe it is a great step towards Olmstead. But it is wrong to provide such great services to individuals with disabilities that only end once they become adults. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and support continuing services for individuals with disabilities beyond the age of 21.

CONCORD ALL-AMERICA CITY
AWARD

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the good folks of my hometown of Concord, North Carolina as we have been selected for the 2004 All-America City Award.

It has been my distinct honor to represent the people of Concord since I was first elected to represent the 8th Congressional District of North Carolina. This opportunity is especially dear to me because this is my home town and where much of my family still resides. In fact, my family has called Concord home for centuries, and we have had the privilege of watching our community grow. Concord personifies the term, "Southern Hospitality," and is home to some of the most engaging, welcoming, and civically responsible citizens in the state of North Carolina.

Through the close relationships I have forged with the citizens of Concord, and the pride I have in this community, it is truly an honor for me to highlight this great city today. Because of Concord's hard work, the rest of America is getting to see the positive spirit of accomplishment that I have been fortunate to witness my entire life.

The All-America City Award is a 55-year old program sponsored by the National Civic League that recognizes civic excellence. The Award is given annually to 10 communities that exemplify and display a positive spirit of grassroots involvement and collaborative problem solving in an effort to better their community.

Concord exhibits the American spirit of hard work and cooperation as we seek to identify and meet community-wide challenges. Concord is a community where citizens, businesses, volunteers, and government officials work together to address issues that are vitally important to all our citizens. Concord should take pride in the fact that we have been chosen by this national organization for our hard work and achievement. Truly, Concord is a great example for other communities to emulate.

To qualify for the All-America City Award, Concord representatives first had to submit a detailed application highlighting the city's three most pressing challenges. They are: addressing the medical needs of the uninsured and underinsured, eliminating substandard housing in the community, and extending the mentoring and civic responsibility of the Boys and Girls Club of Concord. Programs such as the Community Care Plan, Cabarrus Housing Partners, and the Boys and Girls Club of America have been designed and implemented to ensure these afore mentioned areas are addressed.

I am proud to represent such a fine community where the citizens come together to solve problems at a local level rather than waiting on someone else to fix things. A wise man once said that there are three types of people in this world: those who watch what happens, those who make things happen, and those who wonder what happened. Rest assured, the people of my home town, Concord, North Carolina are people who make good things happen. It is my honor and privilege to represent these good folks, and I am thrilled that the National Civic League recognized the City of Concord's success by awarding us the All-America City Award.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF LONG

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today it is my pleasure to honor one of Massachusetts' most outstanding and dedicated Athletic Directors, Jeff Long. After almost 40 years of coaching and directing, Mr. Lewis has certainly deserved his retirement years.

He began his commendable career in 1966, coaching football at Norwich University after having graduated from Norwich that same year. Serving as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army did not stop him, as he continued to coach football in Germany in 1967.

Mr. Lewis kept on coaching both track and football at Dedham High School until 1973 when he began his run at Marlboro High. Ten years later he was appointed as the School's Athletic Director, and took on an array of other leadership roles. Some of these roles included serving on the Executive Board of the Mass Secondary School Athletic Directors Association to which he was appointed president in 1997-98, as well as being appointed President of the MIAA in 2002.

All of his hard work has paid off over the years as he has been recognized with several awards and nominations—a few of which include Athletic Director of the Year in 1991, the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame Distinguished Service Award in 1994, and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association State Award of Merit.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize such an outstanding professional, so passionately committed to his work. With the retirement of Jeff Long Marlboro High says goodbye to one of its most effective and talented leaders, and I along with my colleagues wish him and his family all the best in the years to come.

PRECIOUS PATRIOTISM

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to share an essay with you today, it was written by a young man from the 3rd District of North Carolina which I proudly represent. James Waters, a 10th grade student at West Carteret High School in Morehead City, NC, submitted his essay in a contest held by the Fleet Reserve Association and was chosen as an overall winner. I feel his words embody the spirit of what it means to be an American.

PRECIOUS PATRIOTISM

(By James Waters)

On the morning of April 19, 1775, American colonists fought their first battle with the British redcoats, a prelude to the bloody American Revolution. What incited these average colonists with the heart to stand up to the entire British army? What possessed them to break away from the tyrannical country of Great Britain? The name of this ever-living phenomenon is patriotism.

As people develop a profound pride for their country, patriotism develops simultaneously as a side effect. Patriotism is the heart-willing urge to defend the pillars of justice, opportunity, and equality that our nation symbolizes. Although America is young, she has faced influential conflicts throughout the past centuries. America is continually facing global obstacles at this very moment. Patriotism can be defined as forever standing with America through turmoil and supporting all that is to be asked of America's citizens for the growth of our country. Citizens can illustrate patriotism by striving for individual success. Patriotism is a synonym for staying informed and participating in government as an active citizen. As a zealous patriot of our nation, I will voice my opinion of issues. I will go to the polls to vote, and I will preserve to be a productive citizen.

My patriotism comprises the values of respect. Our country has progressed as it has due to generations of others. Patriotism is vividly evident in our nation's veterans. I will support our veterans who have exemplified their own patriotism and those who have paid the ultimate price of freedom—life. Patriotism is leaving home to fight for just ideas, not knowing if you will return. It is enduring bullets in a battle. It is sleeping on the front lines with the uncertainty of waking up. All veterans deserve the maximum quantity of respect as we continue to live under their previous endeavors.

Patriotism is embedded within the citizens of America. Patriotism shapes the citizens and all-around morale of America. America is a block of ice. Patriotism is the chisel that shapes America into a beautiful sculpture that stands for liberty and justice for all.

THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals

Resources of the Committee on Resources, I rise, once again, in disappointed opposition to H.R. 4503/H.R. 6.

The bill before us today is nearly identical to the Conference Report on the Energy Policy Act of 2003—absent of any new ideas that would ensure a more secure energy future for America; but with all of the same fatal flaws that would force “mom-and-pop-taxpayer” to fatten the already sizeable bottom line of some of our Nation's largest oil companies and pay for the clean-up of MTBE contaminated groundwater. I won't spend more of Congress' precious time listing all of my objections to this bill, but will simply include the statements I made last year on H.R. 6 for the record.

But let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that there is no question our Nation needs a comprehensive and balanced energy plan—one that weens us off of our shaky strategic dependence of Middle Eastern oil toward more sustainable, cleaner, and renewable sources. Unfortunately, this bill—like last year's budget-busting behemoth—does not get us there.

There are, however, some worthy provisions in these bills that have wide, bipartisan support. So, instead of political grandstanding, I urge the House leadership to separate and pass these important measures.

One such example is the mandatory reliability standards, which would punish utilities who violate rules designed to limit how much electricity can be sold over the Nation's aging power grid. This measure could be perfected and passed by Congress today if it was allowed to be considered separately. The reliability of our Nation's interconnected power grid is critical to our economy and our security, but has been left at risk. In fact, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham was recently reported as saying “the U.S. power grid is in better shape than before last August's massive blackout but remains vulnerable this summer.”

Another widely supported proposal is the renewable fuels standard provision. This measure would increase the requirement that gasoline sold in the United States contain a specified volume of clean-burning ethanol or biodiesel. Under this measure, the annual average volume of renewable fuel additives would incrementally increase, starting at 3.1 billion gallons in 2005 and reaching 5 billion gallons in 2012—two and a half times the current requirement.

The American Farm Bureau has estimated the renewable fuels standard will have a significant economic stimulus tool for rural America by adding \$4.5 billion to net farm income; create the need for \$5.3 billion in rural capital investments; and create 216,000 new jobs. Ethanol and biodiesel are just two broad-based, diversified, environmentally friendly energy products American agriculture can produce. I have long stated that empowering U.S. farmers to assume a greater role in producing renewable fuels is a win-win situation deserving congressional support. Unfortunately, even though this provision has the consensus approval of Republicans and Democrats alike, House leadership has steadfastly refused to move it separately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to oppose this bill and immediately move to work bipartisanship to pass these widely supported, and much needed provisions.

HONORING ALICIA WALTER

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 1, 14-year-old Alicia Walter delivered the Valedictorian address for the graduating class at St. Damian's Elementary School in Oak Forest, Illinois. This young lady demonstrates wisdom well beyond her years and I am pleased to share it with my colleagues.

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS PRESENTED BY ALICIA WALTER TO THE ST. DAMIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS OF 2004

Father Meany, Father Scanlan, Father Stuglik, Miss Wesolowski, Mrs. Kane, Father McCarthy, Mrs. Nagle, Faculty, Parents, and Fellow Classmates: Welcome. Tonight, we find ourselves sitting in the midst of one of the most bittersweet moments we have yet to endure. Thoughts of worry, sorrow, stress and regret ricochet off the back of our eyelids, yet we are compelled to celebrate. Chaos is persisting its way through our veins, obliged only by our own perplexed hearts. We all have our own emotional struggles tonight, and I hope some of mine that I share relate to some of yours.

I believe that one of the most empowering factors behind our sadness lies in each and every one of our memories from St. Damian. Too many spectacular moments have passed without our realization, and now it is time to finally recognize some of them. Times of substantial happiness and real warmth have come out from within these doors. Picnics, school assemblies, field trips, club meetings, and the comfortable safety of general class time have generated stories we tell over and over, and jokes that never cease to be funny.

As we smile subconsciously about times that made us appreciate the vibrant life that was given to us, we remember the times that were not nearly as convenient as these. Times where day after day we had to pick each other up and carry us over to tomorrow. Times where the only way we could make it right again was to give out genuine hugs and a vacant shoulder. Each of us carries several chapters full of these moments, in our personal book of life. Those chapters have been written in stone, whether or not we would like it to be so, but it is the very same chapters that exemplify the person we are now. How we reacted to our troubles, how we grabbed the hand of a friend temporarily fallen behind, and how we left behind the charred remains of supposed impossibilities extended the extremes of just how much we can bear.

Our friends have provided a huge portion of backing throughout our lives, but we would never be able to live without the unseen but consistent encouragement from God. St. Damian School has instilled a solid belief on basic moralities, real love of humanity, and simply right and wrong in all of its students. Basic religion fundamentals, such as these, as well as faith in the Lord, have raised us up, especially when our friends did not have the strength to. The entire faculty here has demonstrated these Catholic qualities, as they have walked through their own lives practicing what they teach.

St. Damian School has noticeably impacted the mold of what we symbolize, so it is very apparent how much thanks we owe to the school. Behind the school, though, we walk into our homes, to find the other crucial components of our support system. Yes, there we see the family members that are constantly free to relieve us of whatever

problems we are facing. Most importantly, we see our parents. The producers. The creators. The people that selected St. Damian School, knowing the kind of education and religious teachings that would come our way here. They chose wisely, and for that we will be in eternal debt, but the first step we make in repayment is a heartfelt "Thank you." Sometimes it may seem like a clear-cut, simple thanks is not enough, but I think even a small compensation represents all of the aspects we do not know how to express, all of the thoughts we are afraid to admit.

In just a short while, we will be holding, in our own hands, the evidence of our completed years here at St. Damian. This evidence will be the trial winner to bring us to our next quest: high school. A valley of chances to recommit to previous promises and resolutions, high school will challenge us in ways we have never even faced before. We will be presented with opportunities we never realized we could have. Each of us will take up our own pick, and slowly begin to etch the rest of our lives into the caves of the Earth's past, present and future. Years from now, who knows how many humans will look back at those caves and be inspired to carry on their own lives in such a respectable manner? To the Class of 2004: As a small portion of every one of your support systems, I encourage you to accept the pandemonium of the present, and to thrust your pick into stone before more disarray throws itself upon us. I am incredibly proud of all of us for absolutely everything we have achieved together, and I am sure you are as well. I know the essential beliefs we all hold will guarantee us a prosperous future, both physically and spiritually. Finally, congratulations to one and all, the distinguished St. Damian Class of 2004!!

THE RONALD REAGAN ALZHEIMER'S BREAKTHROUGH ACT OF 2004

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be joining Senators BOND and MIKULSKI, and my House colleagues, Representatives CHRIS SMITH and ED MARKEY, in introducing the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2004. This legislation will significantly increase our government's investment in Alzheimer's disease research and patient and caregiver support initiatives.

As a son whose mother suffers from Alzheimer's, I know personally the sacrifice—both financially and emotionally—of families caring for a parent with this horrific disease. It is the story of so many Hispanics in this nation—a story of so many Americans. My family fled Cuba to come to find freedom in the United States. My mother worked her entire life as a seamstress in the factories of New Jersey. She spends half of her Social Security check on prescription drugs. If it was not for my sister and me, she would not live with the dignity she deserves.

Because of my personal experience with Alzheimer's, I have always admired Nancy and Ronald Reagan's strength and perseverance throughout the President's battle with this heart-wrenching and devastating illness. By having gone public, Ronald Reagan increased awareness of this debilitating disease, providing hope, comfort, and companionship

to 4.5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's today. We feel there is no more fitting tribute to honor President Reagan's memory than to join together in a bipartisan manner and support the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act.

Today, Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia in older people. One in ten people over 65 and nearly half those over 85, suffer from Alzheimer's disease. And with the aging of our population, we can expect those numbers to increase. In fact, unless scientific research finds a way to prevent or cure the disease, it is estimated that between 11.3 and 16 million people in the U.S. will have Alzheimer's disease by the middle of the 21st century.

Just a few weeks ago, I, along with the Alzheimer's Association, released a report that focuses on the impact of Alzheimer's on Hispanics. The report predicts that, because Hispanics are the fastest growing population in the country and have the greatest life expectancy of any ethnic group, the community will experience a six-fold increase in the disease by 2050. In numbers, this means that 1.3 million Hispanics will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050, compared to fewer than 200,000 currently living with the disease.

The legislation introduced today will increase National Institute of Health funding to \$1.4 billion a year so we can continue to advance our ability to one day prevent, treat, and ultimately cure this disease. This increase is necessary if we are going to be serious about reducing both the physical and economic costs of Alzheimer's. According to experts, delaying the onset and progression of Alzheimer's for even 5 years could save as much as \$50 billion in annual health care costs. Alzheimer's costs American businesses more than \$36.5 billion annually due to lost productivity of employees who are caregivers and the health care costs associated with the disease.

Alzheimer's is a far-reaching disease and a serious strain on families because it not only affects families' lives, jobs, and finances, but also their mental and physical well-being. In response, this legislation provides a tax credit of up to \$3,000 to help pay the expenses of families who care for loved ones with long-term care needs.

In addition, this bill increases authorization levels for a series of programs to help families care for their loved ones; increases funding levels for research initiatives focused on prevention and care; and authorizes funding for a public education campaign to inform the public about prevention techniques.

Congress needs to make wise investments on behalf of the American people. Alzheimer's research is one of those important and critical investments we must make now, so that future generations of Americans will have the medical resources and knowledge to cope with the challenge of caring for a parent, family member, or friend living with this disease. By making this investment today, it is my hope that one day soon a cure will be found so Alzheimer's will be a part of medical history instead of a family's reality.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND ENCOURAGING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is startling when one in three children are raised "fatherless", but it is part of our reality. Numerous studies have shown the devastating effects on children when fathers did not play an active role in their child's life. For these reasons, although, it is important to discuss the interactions of mother and child, we cannot forget the interactions of the whole family and the inclusion of fathers.

As the Committee on Education and the Workforce discussed the reauthorization of Head Start, I was able to have A Fatherhood Initiative amendment incorporated into the bill. The initiative is intended to strengthen the role of fathers in families, in their child's life, and allow them to play an interactive role in their child's development and education. By getting fathers involved during their child's early years, we hope it will set the precedent for a lifetime of bonding and positive interaction between the two. Within this initiative and after the general outreach to father, the fathers will be included in home visits and targeted for more participation.

Although we would hope that all fathers would take part in their child's life, it is not always the case. This is why my amendment extends the father initiative to father figures as well to make sure that the male role model is firm in a child's life, whether it is an older brother, uncle, grandfather or step-parent.

Madam Speaker, as we get ready to celebrate Father's Day on Sunday, we hope that more fathers will step up to their important role as a parent. Yet, it is also a day to give great praise, support and to celebrate the fathers in our Nation that never gave up, never backed down and have always been fathers and daddies to their children. Overall, our focus should be on the child—and to fully bring awareness of the best well-being of a child, we must put our efforts on strengthening the whole family.

FAIR OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LITTLE GUY UNDER EMINENT DOMAIN

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support of H.R. 4603, the Eminent Domain Relief for the Little Guy Act. I have introduced this bill to address a current law that makes the hardship of being forced to sell property to the government under eminent domain even more difficult.

The use of eminent domain is authorized in the Constitution and has been used throughout our Nation's history to acquire the property necessary to build roads, schools, military bases, and government buildings. However,

that these projects serve the greater good must seem little consolation to an owner whose property comes under threat of eminent domain. Eminent domain can derail a property owner's life plan, erasing years of hard work spent getting a business off of the ground or building a home.

The Constitution makes it clear that a property owner forced to sell under eminent domain is entitled to "just compensation." While it is debatable whether any compensation can be truly just, it seems that, at the very least, the government owes a seller a fair price for their property and the opportunity to rethink their plan and to move on with their life.

Current tax law related to gain on sale of property under eminent domain denies sellers the opportunity to decide how they would like to move on with their life. It mandates that sellers must pay taxes on income from sale under eminent domain unless they reinvest their money in real estate within 3 years. So not only is the government forcing property owners to sell their property, it is also telling them what to do with the money from that sale.

The Eminent Domain Relief for the Little Guy Act will remedy this by removing the current requirement that a seller must reinvest in real estate. This will make sale of all real property by an individual or a small business under eminent domain tax exempt, meaning that the seller can use their income to start a business, invest in the stock market, save for retirement, or, if they choose, reinvest in real estate. Many will indeed choose to buy a new home or to move their business to a new location. But fairness dictates that this should be their decision.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4603 and make sure the little guys and gals who are forced to sell under eminent domain are allowed the flexibility in spending their income that they need and deserve.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DOUG
HUGHES, USN.

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Naval Officer, Captain Doug Hughes, and to recognize his dedicated service to our Nation as he prepares to complete his service in the United States Navy. It is a great honor for me to take this opportunity to thank Captain Hughes and his family for his 24 years of distinguished service to our Nation for which he has proudly and selflessly served in the defense of freedom.

It was during his last assignment as director of the Secretary of the Navy's Appropriation's Liaison office, that I first came to know Captain Hughes. In this capacity, he has proved to be an invaluable link between the Secretary and the Chief of Naval Operations to me, my staff, and to the professional staff of the Appropriations Committee. Captain Hughes has escorted me and other Members of Congress on several occasions as we traveled both home and abroad to review military operations and confirm the health and welfare of our troops.

On every occasion, Captain Hughes performed his duties in an exacting and precise manner. But far more important to me and the members of the Appropriations Committee was the insight he shared with us concerning matters of national security and the Department of the Navy. He clearly understands the role of the Navy in providing for our Nation's security and stability, as well as serving as an ambassador for American values throughout the world.

We have always been able to count on Captain Hughes' candor, intelligence, and steadfast devotion to duty mixed in with a flair of humor. He was an invaluable asset to me in Congressional deliberations on all matters regarding our Armed Forces and his perspective on the needs of the Nation with respect to our sea services will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that behind every service member there stands a strong and supportive family so I also want to recognize the Hughes family: his lovely wife Nancy, and his children, Reggie and Lee. They have been stalwart partners in his service to the United States. We can ill afford to forget that it is the strength of family, and indeed their love and support, that make it possible to honorably serve in uniform. My wife Beverly and I have the highest respect for those families who support and enable their sons, daughters, husbands, and wives to serve in uniform. We appreciate and honor all the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in defense of freedom.

In closing, my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and I want to express our thanks and appreciation for the special contribution Captain Doug Hughes has made to the United States Navy. We wish Captain Hughes and his family continued success and the traditional naval wish of "fair winds and following seas" as he closes out his distinguished military career.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of one of the most brutal attacks in history, the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple, which is the center and seat of the Sikh religion. Attacking the Golden Temple is the equivalent of attacking the Vatican or Mecca.

The Golden Temple was under siege from June 3 to June 6, 1984, under a Congress Party government led by Indira Gandhi, whose daughter-in-law Sonia Gandhi is now the President of the Congress Party and its floor leader in Parliament.

As you know, the supposedly secular Congress Party was recently swept back into power in India's elections. But for minorities, it doesn't really matter whether the Congress Party or the just-ousted Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is in power. Either way, the repression continues. Although there is a Sikh Prime Minister in India, he has no real power. He is at the mercy of Mrs. Gandhi. India continues to hold 52,268 Sikh

political prisoners without charge, trial, or access to legal counsel, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since June 1984. Another 50,000 have "disappeared." These are not the tactics of a democracy, Mr. Speaker. They are the tactics of a police state. What is India afraid of? Are they scared of a little free speech?

125 other Sikh Gurdwaras were also attacked at the same time. In all, over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in this brutal attack, known as Operation Blue Star. These included major spokesmen for Sikh freedom such as Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, and others. The Sikh holy scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib, written in the time that the ten Sikh Gurus lived, was shot full of bullet holes by the Indian forces. Young Sikh boys, ages 8 to 13, were taken out in the courtyard and asked whether they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh state. When they answered with the Sikh religious incantation "Bole So Nihal," they were shot to death.

The Golden Temple attack made it clear that there is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular and democratic India. As Bhindranwale himself said, "If India attacks the Golden Temple, it will lay the foundation stone for Khalistan." On October 7, 1987, Khalistan formally declared itself independent from India. India claims that there is no support for Khalistan. Then let them test the issue democratically at the ballot box by holding a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the subject of independence.

The Sikh Nation had sovereignty before, from 1710 to 1716 and from 1765 to 1849. No Sikh representative has ever signed India's constitution. The Sikhs have a heritage of freedom from their Gurus and they will be free again. Iraq is becoming a free country and will soon have a representative government. In the 21st century, you cannot suppress people for long. The people must determine their own fate. Only a free Khalistan will enable the Sikhs to live in peace, freedom, dignity, and prosperity. This cannot happen as long as their homeland is under Indian control.

If the Sikhs were the only victims of Indian repression, that would be bad enough. They are not. India has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947. It has killed priests, raped nuns, attacked Christian schools, prayer halls, and festivals, expelled and killed missionaries, and carried out other atrocities against the Christian community. In short, it is not safe to be a Christian in India today. India has killed over 87,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988. Between 2,000 and 5,000 Muslims were massacred in Gujarat while the police were ordered to stand aside. Even India's own Human Rights Commission found evidence that the government pre-planned the Gujarat massacre. Amnesty International says that tens of thousands of minorities are being held as political prisoners.

This is unacceptable in any country, Mr. Speaker, especially a country that proclaims itself democratic. The Sikhs cannot forget or forgive the brutal Golden Temple attack. Neither can the other minorities forget the brutality that has been done to them. That is why America must act. Not one dollar of U.S. aid should be provided to India until basic human rights are respected. India can start by releasing all its political prisoners. We should also

demand that India hold a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of independence for Khalistan, for Kashmir, for Nagaland, and for all the nations seeking their freedom. Multi-national states like India are inherently unstable, as the examples of Austria-Hungary and the Soviet Union show. And the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. It is time for the United States to take a stand for democracy, freedom, and stability.

Mr. Speaker, on June 5, the Council of Khalistan sponsored a demonstration to commemorate the Golden Temple attack. I would like to have the text of the Council of Khalistan's Press Release regarding this event placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

[Press Release from the Council of Khalistan
June 5, 2004]

SIKHS COMMEMORATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sikhs from Philadelphia, Florida, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and elsewhere on the East Coast came to Washington, D.C. to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Indian government's brutal military attack on the Golden Temple, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered. They chanted slogans such as "India out of Khalistan", "Khalistan Zindabad", and others.

During the attack, young boys ages 8 to 13 were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh country. When they answered with the Sikh religious incantation "Bole So Nihal," they were shot. The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures, written in the time of the Sikh Gurus, were shot full of bullet holes and burned by the Indian forces.

The Golden Temple attack was a brutal chapter in India's repression of the Sikhs, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, which leads the struggle for Khalistan's independence. "This brutal attack clarified that there is no place in India for Sikhs," Dr. Aulakh said. On October 7, 1987, Khalistan declared its independence from India.

"Sant Bhindranwale said that attacking the Golden Temple would lay the foundation stone of Khalistan, and he was right," said Dr. Aulakh. "Instead of crushing the Sikh movement for Khalistan, as India intended, the attack strengthened it," he said. "Just last year, Sardar Atinder Pal Singh, a former Member of Parliament, held a seminar on Khalistan in Punjab. It was well attended and featured outstanding presentations, including one by Professor Gurtej Singh, IAS, Professor of Sikhism," said Dr. Aulakh. "The flame of freedom still burns bright in the hearts of Sikhs despite the deployment of over half a million Indian troops to crush it," he said. "Dal Khalsa, a Sikh political party, held marches through Punjab demanding the establishment of an independent Khalistan."

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not a single country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 87,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and

others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khaira.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! "These prisoners never committed any crime but peacefully speaking out for Sikh freedom," said Dr. Aulakh. "What is a democracy doing holding political prisoners?" he asked. "This alone shows that for Sikhs and other minorities, there is no democracy, no freedom of speech."

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

TRIBUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS
AND THEIR STATEMENT
ON IRAQI PRISONER ABUSE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place in our Nation's RECORD the statement issued by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious on May 7, 2004, regarding the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious joins its voice with other faith-based organizations and human rights groups in expressing our abhorrence and shame at the abuse perpetrated on Iraqi prisoners by some members of the U.S. military. These inexcusable atrocities violate our common humanity.

We do not accept the explanation of our government leaders that these acts were the behavior of a few individuals. Rather, we see these abusive actions as symptomatic of a deeper, pervasive sickness. All of us share the responsibility and the blame—the soldiers who performed these heinous acts, military officials who have oversight for the treatment of prisoners, U.S. government officials who ignored reports of these abuses, and all of us who have contributed in some way to our culture of violence.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious, an organization representing 73,000 Catholic women religious in the United States, urges that the following actions be taken to begin to address these serious violations of human dignity and human rights:

Now that President Bush has issued a late and limited apology for the abusive treat-

ment of Iraqi prisoners, that there be a thorough investigation, and that the results be made public

That this investigation include any personnel regardless of rank or office who had knowledge of these atrocities and allowed them to continue with impunity

That any military, intelligence, or privately contracted personnel found to have engaged in or encouraged acts of torture or inhumane treatment be prosecuted

That there be a complete and public Congressional oversight hearing and investigation into the treatment of all detainees held by the U.S. military anywhere in the world, an investigation which will allow Members of Congress to exercise their powers and rights to enable the balance of power to be restored

That all prisoners held by the United States be granted access to international monitoring groups such as the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, Amnesty International, and the United Nations

That U.S. government and military officials make a commitment to protect the human dignity and rights of the Iraqi people.

As leaders of religious congregations we reach out to our Muslim sisters and brothers. We grieve with you. We share your outrage. We will continue to pray and work for social justice, peace, and respect for human dignity and human rights of all people. As a nation we share in the shame. Together we must work to assure that these abuses never happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the words of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and all they represent as we work toward human rights for all individuals around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EARL
GILLIAM, A TRUE SAN DIEGO
HERO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to honor a truly great San Diego leader. Judge Earl B. Gilliam made a positive impact on San Diego as a judge, a teacher, and a community leader. I have introduced a bill (H.R. 4474) that will appropriately honor him by putting his name on a new post office in my district.

Earl Gilliam grew up in southeast San Diego. His parents owned a fish market on Imperial Avenue where he worked when he was not attending San Diego High School. He went on to complete his undergraduate education at San Diego State University before moving on to Hastings Law School.

Shortly after being admitted to the California Bar in 1957, he was appointed Deputy District Attorney in San Diego. He became the first African-American judge appointed to the San Diego bench 6 years later and was named Presiding Judge of the San Diego Municipal Court in 1971. Governor Jerry Brown named him to the California Superior Court in 1975 and President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of California in 1980. He served there for over 20 years, until his passing in 2001.

In his long, distinguished career Judge Gilliam presided over numerous noteworthy

trials of regional and national importance: Whether these cases dealt with drug trafficking, fraud, tax evasion, bribery, or civil matters, Judge Gilliam's fair and professional approach to the law laid the foundation for his solid reputation both within and outside the legal community.

In addition to his contributions in the courtroom, Judge Gilliam also made his mark in the classroom. The Thomas Jefferson School of Law recruited Judge Gilliam as an adjunct professor. With his background in business, economics, and civil, criminal, and trial law, he proved to be an inspirational and devoted instructor for the numerous courses he taught there over the next 24 years. So much so that the school's moot courtroom has been dedicated in his honor.

Judge Gilliam gave his time and effort to his community in countless ways. He served on the boards of numerous organizations ranging from the San Diego Urban League to the University of California, San Diego to the Y.M.C.A. The community, in turn, has honored Judge Gilliam repeatedly with an unbelievably long, diverse list of awards that attest to his unrelenting success in making a difference in San Diego.

In 1982, the San Diego African American Lawyer's Organization honored Judge Gilliam by changing its name to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. Today, they carry on his legacy by working within our community to defend the rights of African-Americans, combat racism and poverty, and foster integrity in the legal community.

Judge Gilliam truly was a hero who worked for all of San Diego. I am glad to have the privilege of introducing this legislation to name a post office in his honor and I hope my colleagues will support me in celebrating his many achievements.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, while I am voting against the Energy Policy Act of 2004, I believe its provisions regarding alternative vehicles and fuels introduce valuable incentives that would help protect our air quality, limit fuel consumption, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

These provisions would make the cleanest vehicles available today more affordable by providing a credit for the purchaser of new qualified fuel cell, hybrid, or other alternative fuel motor vehicle, as well as a new credit for qualified biodiesel fuel mixtures. With significant fuel economy and low tailpipe emissions, alternative-fuel and advanced-technology vehicles help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and cut fuel consumption.

What our country needs is a national energy policy that will promote conservation, and also improve our economy and reduce our growing dependence on foreign oil. We need a plan that safeguards our natural resources, and relies on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Encouraging Americans to drive environmentally friendly vehicles would benefit our economy and protect our environment.

INTRODUCTION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RAISE AWARENESS OF SUICIDE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution which recognizes the importance of suicide prevention and raising awareness of suicide within the nation.

Suicide occurs in our nation at a rate of 30,000 suicides annually and kills youth six nine times more often than homicide. It is also the second fastest growing cause of death among college-age students. However, studies have shown that 95 percent of suicides are preventable. It is a silent epidemic that is preventable and awareness is the key to that prevention.

There are several programs throughout the country which put in hundred of hours, most from volunteers, to provide support services to prevent suicide as well as support to the families and friends who have lost loved ones to suicide. I would like to highlight one of these organizations which is based in my district in Colorado, but works throughout the country and internationally. The Yellow Ribbon International Suicide Prevention Program® provides resources to teachers, parents, and those at the most risk of suicide. They go into schools to raise the level of discussion about suicide and ways to seek help. The more suicide is talked about, the more likely those thinking about suicide will take action and ask for assistance.

Many who are considering suicide do not know where to turn for help, or even how to ask for help. Under the Yellow Ribbon International Suicide Prevention Program, Yellow Ribbon Ask 4 Help cards are made available to schools, teachers, counselors, and parents. These cards provide a simple way for individuals to ask for help, especially for those who cannot utter the words "I need help."

It is also important to remember that suicide does not only affect our youth, but people throughout the phases of life. In fact, the largest number of suicide deaths occurs among men between the ages of 35–44. The National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, within the Department of Health and Human Services recommends and encourages organizations to expand their service to focus on elementary ages as well as the elderly.

My concurrent resolution recognizes the importance of suicide prevention and awareness, as well as reaffirms the commitment to the priorities expressed in H. Res. 212 and S. Res. 84 which were both passed in the 105th Congress. Lastly this bill states that the week of September 19, 2004 should be recognized as Yellow Ribbon Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation to help prevent suicide and to wear a yellow ribbon the week of September 19, 2004 to raise awareness of this global epidemic.

CONGRATULATING ZARA MARSELIAN

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zara Marselian, founder of La Maestra Community Health Centers. Besides providing multicultural health care and social services to immigrants and refugees in inner city San Diego, La Maestra is unique in developing services, and programs in response to demonstrated needs presented by its patient base.

Ms. Marselian is one of ten outstanding individuals from across the country selected this year to receive a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award.

The child of immigrant and refugee parents, Marselian saw an unmet need in her native San Diego for medical care for uninsured immigrants with little or no English speaking skills. Although she had no medical background, she started a clinic in her home in 1991, one evening a week with one physician.

Since its modest beginning, La Maestra Community Health Centers has expanded to include adult and pediatric medical services, two dental clinics, a pharmacy, behavioral health services and health education. Marselian has also established a task force to increase access to health care for the uninsured, working poor.

La Maestra's additional services range from job training, placement and referrals to childcare, insurance eligibility assistance, and housing and community development. Staff members, who come from diverse backgrounds and speak 19 languages, provide translation services and culturally sensitive care.

One clinic patient called Marselian "the mother of refugees and immigrants" for her work in providing multicultural health care and social services to San Diego residents who have nowhere else to turn for help.

I wish to congratulate Zara Marselian for her impressive accomplishments at La Maestra Community Health Centers and for her efforts in achieving a 2004 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN HONORS PRESIDENT REAGAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, all over America, people are honoring the memory of President Ronald Reagan, who passed away on June 5th. Among those who have paid homage to President Reagan's legacy is the Council of Khalistan, led by my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh. Dr. Aulakh wrote an excellent letter to President Bush offering condolences to the American people on President Reagan's passing. He took special note of President Reagan's vision and his efforts to extend freedom all over the world.

President Reagan referred to America as "the shining city on a hill," the bright hope for

the entire world. It is our job to pick up that torch and continue to promote freedom wherever it is denied. A good start would be to work to extend freedom to all peoples and nations of South Asia. In India, there are 18 official languages. Over 300,000 Christians have been murdered in Nagaland, as well as more than a quarter of a million Sikhs, almost 88,000 Kashmiri Muslims, thousands of Muslims in other parts of the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Over 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners, some as long as 20 years, without charge of trial. According to Amnesty International, tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. A Sikh named Gurnihal Singh Pirzada was recently arrested for attending a meeting of "dissidents," a meeting he says he didn't attend, while noting that it would not have been illegal for him to have done so. This does not sound like freedom or democracy to me.

Mr. Speaker, we should give serious thought to reconsidering our aid to India until basic human rights are freely exercised by all, and we should support the very basic principle of democracy through a free and fair plebiscite on independence for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, for predominantly Christian Nagaland, for Kashmir, and for every nation seeking to free itself from the yoke of Indian oppression. That is the way to bring freedom, security, stability, dignity, and prosperity to one of the world's most troubled regions. Perhaps the best memorial we can give to President Reagan is to help the people of South Asia achieve their freedom, just as we did in so many other countries during his Administration.

I would like to have the text of Council of Khalistan's letter to President Bush placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN
Washington, DC, June 15, 2004.

The Honorable GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: On behalf of over 500,000 Sikh Americans and the 25 million strong Sikh Nation, I would like to send our condolences to the people of the United States on the passing of President Ronald Reagan. Although his illness had already taken him from us in many ways, the finality of his death is still a cause for grief.

We appreciated your very classy remarks at President Reagan's state funeral, as well as those of your father, Lady Thatcher, and former Prime Minister Mulroney. All of you gave moving tributes to President Reagan that helped to inspire and uplift a grieving nation.

President Reagan was a great American leader. His rise from humble beginnings in Dixon, Illinois to becoming a sportscaster, a movie star, governor, and President inspires us all to continue trying to achieve the very highest and best that we can.

His Words, "Whatever else history may say about me when I'm gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears; to your confidence rather than your doubts. My dream is that you will travel the road ahead with liberty's lamp guiding your steps and opportunity's arm steadying your way" serve as an inspiration to Americans of all backgrounds today. That is exactly how he will be remembered.

President Reagan believed in the greatness of America and its people and in extending

freedom throughout the world. His work in defeating the Soviet Union and in restoring the American economy marked the greatness of President Reagan and of the people of the country he so loved. We must continue to extend freedom in his memory.

One place where freedom needs to be extended is the Indian subcontinent. Today in India, the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, almost 88,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens of thousands of other minorities. More than 52,000 Sikhs as well as tens of thousands of other minorities are held as political prisoners without charge or trial, some since 1984. I hope that you will press India to support human rights and self-determination for these oppressed minorities. I am convinced that this would be a great follow-through to President Reagan's vision.

Once again, our condolences to the American people on the loss of President Reagan. Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan

HONORING ONE HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS OF THE HUMBOLDT MASONIC LODGE NO. 79

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the formation of Masonic Lodge No. 79 in Humboldt County, California.

On April 25, 1854 the known Masons of Humboldt Bay held a meeting for the purpose of organizing a lodge. Present at the meeting were Elias Harold Howard, James R. Malony, A.H. Shafer, Jacob DeHaven, Robert M. Stokes and A.J. Huestis. These founders were Master Masons from different jurisdictions who took the necessary steps to establish a lodge in Humboldt County and to raise funds to construct a Masonic Hall. Work began on July 15, 1854 in the town of Bucksport and was completed in September of the same year. The lumber used was all first growth redwood from the forests of the surrounding area.

On September 6, 1855, acting Master James R. Malony announced that the Charter had arrived from San Francisco and that the first order of business would be the election of officers. The Charter was dated July 1, 1855 and Humboldt Lodge thereafter progressed and prospered. By 1857 the city of Eureka had become the leading settlement on Humboldt Bay. Eureka was the County Seat of Humboldt County, the center of the lumber industry and home to many members of the Lodge. It was decided that the Masonic Lodge should relocate to Eureka and in 1858 the first meeting in Eureka took place in leased rooms on First Street. In June 1870 Humboldt Lodge purchased a lot on the southwest corner of Second and G Streets where a building was constructed which still stands in that historic part of Eureka.

Membership grew rapidly and other lodges were formed. A new Masonic Temple was needed and the cornerstone for a new building was laid on April 22, 1922 at Fifth and G streets in Eureka.

The Lodge is very proud of its outstanding membership whose devotion to community

and country has been a worthy contribution to the betterment of our Nation. Over 1,800 members have been raised to the degree of Master Mason. The Lodge is also very proud of its past Masters who rose to the high office of Grand Master of California.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Humboldt Masonic Lodge No. 79 on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE ARTHRITIS PREVENTION, CONTROL AND CURE ACT OF 2004

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act of 2004.

The prevalence of chronic diseases in the U.S. has become the most significant public health problem of our current day. It is estimated that by the year 2020, 157 million Americans will suffer from some chronic illness. Whether it is asthma, diabetes, heart disease or arthritis, these conditions are costly to our health care system and erode quality of life.

With more than 100 different forms, arthritis is one of the most widespread and devastating conditions in the United States. Nearly 70 million, or one in every three, American adults suffers from arthritis or chronic joint symptoms, and nearly 300,000 children live with the pain, disability and emotional trauma caused by juvenile arthritis. In some cases, the disease causes deformity, blindness and even death. As the number one cause of disability in the United States, arthritis is a painful and debilitating chronic disease affecting men, women and children alike—arthritis has no boundaries. Simple, daily tasks like brushing teeth, pouring a cup of coffee and even just getting out of bed become excruciating obstacles for millions of people with the disease.

The costs associated with arthritis are immense. The disease results in 750,000 hospitalizations, 44 million outpatient visits and 4 million days of hospital care every year. The estimated total costs of arthritis in the U.S., including lost productivity exceeds \$86 billion.

Arthritis is an overwhelming and debilitating hardship for countless families. While the current impact of the disease is quite astounding, there is much that can be done to prevent and control arthritis. Despite myths that inaccurately portray this illness as an old persons' disease, some forms of arthritis, such as osteoarthritis, can be prevented with weight control and other precautions. More broadly, the pain and disability accompanying all types of arthritis can be minimized through early diagnosis and appropriate disease management.

The goal of this legislation is to lessen the burden of arthritis and other rheumatic diseases on citizens across our Nation, like my constituent, Alfred Price of Brandon, Mississippi. Mr. Price has suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for more than 49 years and has shown me over the years the damaging effects of the disease to his body.

In recent years, increasing effective research into the prevention and treatment of arthritis has led to measures that successfully

reduce pain and improve the quality of life for millions who suffer with this disease. Cooperative efforts at every level have led to the development of a National Arthritis Action Plan, with emphasis on public health strategies to make timely information and medical care much more widely available across the country. This legislation would develop a National Arthritis Education and Outreach Campaign to educate health-care professionals and the public on successful self-management strategies for controlling arthritis.

To ensure greater coordination and intensification of federal research efforts, this legislation would create a National Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases Summit to look at challenges and opportunities related to arthritis research within all the agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services.

For the 300,000 children who are affected by this disease, this legislation expands and intensifies research for juvenile arthritis at the National Institutes of Health through the creation of planning grants for innovative research. It also creates incentives to encourage health professionals to enter the field of pediatric rheumatology through the establishment of education loan repayment and career development award programs. These incentives would help to address the severe shortage of these specialists in our country, so that all children will have greater access to physicians trained in state-of-the-art care for arthritis.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make the necessary investments in the fight against arthritis—our nation's number one cause of disability. This legislation will improve the quality of life for large numbers of adults and children and avoid thousands of dollars in medical costs for each patient. I urge all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this legislation and enact it in a timely manner so millions of Americans, like Mr. Price, can live life with more hope and less pain.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND ENCOURAGING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in the week following the celebration of President Reagan's life and the mourning of his death, I am reminded of the impact his legacy has left on our country and on my job as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. It also makes me think about my role as a father and the legacy I will leave for my family. What will my children say about me when I die? Will I have left a legacy to them worthy of praise and fond memories and strong self-confidence? Will they be better parents themselves because of the father I was to them? This is the legacy that will matter the most—the one I leave my children and future grandchildren.

The National Center for Fathering is based in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, and I am proud of the efforts of Founder and President Dr. Ken Canfield and his vision to equip and sup-

port fathers across the country. Thirty-nine percent of all children live in a home without their father. That's 27 million children without a stable male role model in their home. According to Focus on the Family, "Children with married parents consistently do better in every measure of well-being than their peers who have single, cohabiting, divorced or step-parents, and this is a stronger indicator than parental race, economic or educational status, or neighborhood. The literature on this is broad and strong."

The liberal Center for Law and Social Policy, a child advocacy organization, and Child Trends agree that "children do best when raised by their two married biological parents. Young men without married parents are 1.5 times more likely than those with married parents to be out of school and out of work. Young girls without married parents are twice as likely to be idle. A major study published in the Journal of Marriage and the Family found that boys and girls who lived with both biological parents had the lowest risk of becoming sexually active. Teens living with only one biological parent, including those in stepfamilies, were particularly at risk for becoming sexually active at younger ages.

White and black girls growing up in single-parent homes are 111 percent more likely to bear children as teenagers, 164 percent more likely to have a child out of marriage, and—if they do marry—their marriages are 92 percent more likely to dissolve compared to their counterparts with married parents. Where are the fathers? Single mothers have the hardest job in America, and it is past due time when fathers need to take responsibility and be a father to their children.

We celebrate Father's Day June 20th and I applaud my father-in-law and my father for the legacy they left my wife and me. I pray that my legacy to my children will be strong, loving, and proud. May God continue to bless America.

ARTHRITIS PREVENTION,
CONTROL AND CURE ACT OF 2004

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mrs. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to join my colleague Representative PICKERING in introducing the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2004, which authorizes programs and funding that will allow the Federal Government to better coordinate and increase our investment in efforts to prevent, treat, and care for persons with arthritis and related diseases. The bill represents the most significant Federal effort to address arthritis in a generation. The Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2004 addresses this important issue by:

Enhancing the National Arthritis Action Plan by providing additional support to federal, state, and private efforts to prevent and manage arthritis;

Developing a National Arthritis Education and Outreach Campaign to educate the healthcare profession and the public on successful self-management strategies for controlling arthritis;

Ensuring greater coordination and intensification of federal research efforts by orga-

nizing a National Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases Summit to look at challenges and opportunities related to basic, clinical and translational research and development efforts;

Providing greater attention to the area of juvenile arthritis research through the creation of planning grants for innovative research specific to juvenile arthritis, as well as the prioritization of epidemiological activities focused on better understanding the prevalence, incidence, and outcomes associated with juvenile arthritis; and

Creating incentives to encourage health professionals to enter the field of pediatric rheumatology through the establishment of an education loan repayment and career development award programs.

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the U.S. with 70 million Americans living with a form of the disease. With the aging of the baby boomers, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts the number of people over 65 with arthritis or chronic joint symptoms will double by 2030. Nearly 300,000 children in the United States are living with a form of juvenile arthritis. Arthritis is a painful and debilitating chronic disease affecting men, women and children alike.

Currently, the Federal investment in juvenile arthritis research is only \$23 per affected child. The CDC estimates that the annual cost of medical care for arthritis is \$51 billion, and the annual total costs, including lost productivity, exceed \$86 billion. Early diagnosis, treatment, and appropriate management of arthritis are critical in controlling symptoms and improving quality of life.

In 1975, nearly 30 years ago, Senator Alan Cranston of California introduced the last major piece of arthritis legislation. It was signed into law by President Gerald Ford. The bill, the National Arthritis Act, set our Nation on an important path in the fight against arthritis. It led to the creation of an institute at NIH focused on arthritis, and laid the foundation for a national arthritis public health strategy.

However, arthritis is still claiming the lives of millions of Americans and we must reinvigorate our research and education efforts to offer individuals with arthritis a better chance at life and eventually a cure. I believe the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2004 will do just that.

HONOR THE MEMORY OF U.S.
ARMY 2ND LIEUTENANT DONALD
AMES O'BRIAN

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late U.S. Army 2nd Lieutenant Donald Ames O'Brian, who served proudly as an Infantry platoon leader with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

O'Brian was killed in action on June 17, 1945, by an exploding Japanese artillery shell, near Calinan, Mindanao, Philippine Islands.

O'Brian was born on March 20, 1923, in Berwyn, Illinois. He was the son of Harold and Florence O'Brian, and graduated from my alma mater, Cleveland Heights High School, in June 1941. He attended Fenn College (later to become Cleveland State University), and

worked at Thompson Products Company (later to become TRW Corporation).

After enlisting in the U.S. Army and completing basic training, O'Brian volunteered for Officer Candidate School. Upon Graduation, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Anti-Aircraft Artillery branch. O'Brian soon requested a transfer to the Infantry branch so that he could engage in active combat as an Infantry platoon leader in the Pacific theater of operations under the command of General Douglas MacArthur.

O'Brian participated in the liberation of the Philippine Islands with the 21st Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division, which invaded Mindanao Island, about 600 miles south of Manila. He dedicated himself to leading the men in his platoon, and earned their respect as he led them in combat. The 21st Infantry Regiment was engaged in 63 continuous days of combat against stiff Japanese resistance during the liberation of Mindanao Island.

Sadly, O'Brian was killed on June 17, 1945, a day before final victory was achieved by the 21st Regiment.

Lt. Col. Roy W. Marcy, commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, wrote a letter to O'Brian's mother that said: "Donald displayed superior courage and bravery as leader of his platoon. The aggressiveness and leadership, which Donald exhibited, gives those of us who remain a wonderful example to follow in future operations against the enemy. Donald was the traditional hard fighting American soldier and he is grievously missed by all his fellow officers and soldiers."

As a tangible expression of the esteem held for O'Brian, the officers and men of the 2nd Battalion named an encampment area "Camp D. A. O'Brian" in his honor. O'Brian's mother received his posthumous Purple Heart medal, and letters of condolence from General MacArthur and Secretary of War Henry Stimson.

Recently, Mrs. Lorraine Sutliff of Aurora, OH, contacted my office to determine if there were any additional medals her brother was entitled to that were authorized by the War Department after the end of World War II.

We determined that O'Brian was entitled to the following awards: the Combat Infantryman's Badge for being an Infantry platoon leader in combat; Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious service in combat; American Campaign Medal for his service in the United States; Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal for service in the Pacific Theater; and the World War II Victory Medal. He was also eligible for the Philippine Liberation Medal authorized by the Philippine government.

Lawrence Binyon was a British poet who wrote "For the Fallen" to honor all of the soldiers who died defending liberty and freedom during World War I. His words of comfort are timeless to express the precious memories of all those brave soldiers who died to keep this great country free.

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

Mr. Speaker, a grateful nation honors Lt. O'Brian's heroism and the ultimate sacrifice he paid to achieve victory in the Philippines.

CALIFORNIA ENRON REFUNDS

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the recent order for my home state of California to repay over \$270 million to Enron and other energy corporations amidst growing evidence of Enron and other energy companies market manipulation.

The recent release of Enron tapes where traders openly discuss the manipulation of California power markets to the tune of one to two million dollars a day is unfair to all residents of California. Providing refunds to a company that used deceptive business practices is just plain backwards.

The United States has fallen victim to gas prices that are at a 23 year high. It has had a drastic effect on all consumers whether they are automobile drivers or not. Despite this, the Administration continues to give billions of dollars in tax breaks to special interest oil, gas, and coal companies that are doing nothing to help lower fuel prices.

Mr. Speaker, I am appalled and disgusted with the Administration's coddling of special interests while leaving taxpayers the task of having to foot the bill for years of wrongdoing by Enron and other corporate scoff laws. The refunds my home state are forced to pay reward market manipulators for predatory pricing activities. As legislators we should punish, not reward, companies who have deceived our citizens.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI ELIMELECH DAVID GOLDBERG

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Elimelech David Goldberg, the founder and National Director of Kids Kicking Cancer. Rabbi Goldberg is one of 10 outstanding individuals from across the country selected this year to receive a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award.

Over a decade ago, Rabbi Goldberg experienced the painful loss of his 2-year-old child during a bone marrow transplant for lymphocytic leukemia. Later, when he was approached to run a camp for children with cancer, he at first refused, fearing it would be too painful. On further reflection, he saw the opportunity to help other children in pain as a way to give meaning to the life of his daughter, and he embraced the challenge. Rabbi Goldberg's training as a black belt convinced him that karate could be a powerful aid to pain management and empowerment for young patients, enabling them to heal physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

When Rabbi Goldberg incorporated martial arts therapy into the program of the oncology camp in 1996, the results were dramatic. Children were encouraged to envision themselves not as cancer victims, but as healthy kids with tumors. They learned to control their fear and pain within a community of peer support that

mitigated the isolation of illness. Following this success, with the aid of a small grant, he created a pilot program at Children's Hospital of Detroit in March 1998.

When he incorporated the Kids Kicking Cancer organization in 1999, Rabbi Goldberg gave up his rabbinic congregation, active counseling practice, and directorship of the oncology camp. Today, ten social workers and child life specialists who are also martial arts teachers give weekly classes, accompany children to painful clinic visits, and visit them at home. There is also a hospice program for patients whose cancers are not responding to treatment. Kids Kicking Cancer has been working with over 400 children in Michigan, and is now starting Kids Kicking Sickle Cell in Michigan and Brooklyn, NY.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rabbi Elimelech David Goldberg for his accomplishments as founder of Kids Kicking Cancer and for his efforts put forth in achieving a 2004 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award.

TRIBUTE TO BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 35, TRAVERSE CITY, MI

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Boy Scout Troop 35 in celebration of its 75th Anniversary.

On this day, we look back at the prestigious history of Troop 35. The Troop's dedication to its community is obvious in their planting of trees, in their assisting with snow removal, and in their volunteering to serve refreshments at area events. Even the commitment of the Troop leaders to the Scouts is evident in the Troop's high rate of advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout. For 75 years, Troop 35 has worked tirelessly to positively impact the lives of our youth and better our community.

I am honored today to recognize Boy Scout Troop 35 for its many accomplishments, and to thank the many volunteers, scouts, families, and scoutmasters who have endeavored to make Boy Scout Troop 35 the success it is today.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO MRS. REBECCA BROWN

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and pleasure to wish a very happy birthday to Mrs. Rebecca Brown of Media, Pennsylvania on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Mrs. Brown will reach the century mark on June 30 of this year, an incredible milestone.

Mrs. Brown was born in Media/Upper Providence, Pennsylvania and has lived in Delaware County, Pennsylvania all her life. She fell in love and married Theodore Mitchell Brown and they were blessed with one son, Theodore Earl Brown. Her husband passed away in

1957 and she never remarried. Now Mrs. Brown lives with her son and daughter-in-law, Joanne McHugh Brown, in Upper Providence and she enjoys the company of two grandchildren—Kevin Brown and Karen (Brown) Ranieri and six great-grandchildren: Matthew, Daniel and Timothy Brown and Ryan, Tyler and Becca Ranieri. Mrs. Brown is blessed by many years, and all who spend time with her are blessed by her company. Her friends know her to be kind, generous and an inspiration to all.

I know all of Delaware County, Pennsylvania joins me in wishing Rebecca Brown a happy, happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE WAWONA HOTEL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wawona Hotel on the occasion of their 125th anniversary. The Wawona Hotel in Yosemite National Park is acclaimed for its nostalgic charm, historic authenticity and picturesque setting.

In 1855, Galen Clark, a miner who worked in the area Gold Camps, passed through the Wawona Valley area with tourists bound for Yosemite. Entranced by the beauty of the place, Clark constructed lodging near the main trail into Yosemite Valley, making it inevitable that travelers would stop along the way. In 1878, a kitchen fire destroyed all of Clark's buildings and the entire establishment was rebuilt in 1879.

Today, The Wawona Hotel is operated by Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts at Yosemite and remains one of the most respected mountain resorts. Its historic wooden buildings, verandas overlooking sprawling green lawns and Victorian interiors continue to provide visitors with a perfect setting for a relaxing vacation.

The Wawona Hotel is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, and this year became a member of the National Trust Historic Hotels of America, a collection of hotels selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation for historic integrity, architectural quality, outstanding preservation efforts, and stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Wawona Hotel on the occasion of their 125th anniversary celebration. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Wawona Hotel and wishing DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite many more years of continued success.

DR. DOROTHY LAVINIA BROWN

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Dr. Dorothy Lavinia Brown, of Nashville, Tennessee. A pioneering force in both medicine and politics, Dr. Brown rose from humble beginnings to become one of our nation's most inspiring figures. Our country lost a great leader when Dr.

Brown passed away on Sunday, June 13, at the age of 90.

Dr. Brown led a life of setting "firsts" and was not only the first African-American woman surgeon in the South but the first African-American woman to serve in the Tennessee State legislature. She was also the first woman to head a surgical unit of a major hospital, and the first African-American woman to be made a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Her courage, perseverance and vision are what made her so admirable. Soon after her birth, her mother placed her in an orphanage, where she lived until her mother reclaimed her at the age of 13. By then, she was already determined to become a surgeon, and she pursued that dream despite the difficult circumstances in which she was raised. She was abused by her mother, and at age 14 was pulled out of school to work as a domestic.

Describing her perseverance, Dr. Brown said, "I tried to be not hard, but durable." And indeed she did not give up. She eventually won a 4-year scholarship to Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina, from which she graduated in 1941, ranked second in her class. Thereafter, she enrolled at Meharry Medical College, where she also served a 5-year residency in surgery and overcame the doubts of those who said that a woman could not withstand the rigors of surgery. She went on to pursue a brilliant career, and from 1957 to 1983, Dr. Brown served as chief of surgery at Nashville's Riverside Hospital, clinical professor of surgery at Meharry and educational director for the Riverside-Meharry Clinical Rotation Program.

Dr. Brown was not only a brilliant surgeon but a compassionate one. When a young unmarried patient implored Dr. Brown to adopt her newborn daughter, she agreed. And in 1956, Dr. Brown became the first single adoptive parent in Tennessee.

Dr. Dorothy Brown stands as a remarkable visionary and role model, not only for women in medicine, but for all Americans. Her relentless perseverance and indomitable spirit opened doors for her and others to follow. She once said that she wanted to be remembered "not because I have done so much, but to say to young people that it can be done."

On behalf of the fifth district of Tennessee as well as my colleagues in Congress, I send my deepest condolences to Dr. Brown's family and loved ones.

REMEMBERING SGT SHERWOOD BAKER

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Sgt. Sherwood Baker, a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard who was killed in Iraq on April 26, 2004. I would like to share with the American people the words of Dante Zappala, Sgt. Baker's younger brother, who spoke at a peace rally in Los Angeles on June 5:

The tragedy that touches so many people in so many corners of the world; the tragedy of war, the tragedy of violent and sudden death, touched me on April 26th when my

brother, Sergeant Sherwood Baker was killed in an explosion in Baghdad. I speak today with my voice, and with the voice of the countless others who have suffered personal loss as a result of this war, those many people with no microphone in front of them, those many people with no one to listen to their pain. As big brothers do, Sherwood protected me, he carried me and he taught me.

With his heart and with his decisions, he taught me about commitment and about determination. When I would get bitter about the injustice brought to this world by the causes of the United States, he taught me that you can love this country and yet not love what people do in its name. He showed me that we can heal, we can learn and we can grow. He taught me, in the end, to be a patriot.

With his silent exit into the desert night, he showed me the difference between empty language and quiet understanding, the difference between baseless political grandstanding and true patriotism. Sherwood had a great intellect and a life commitment to forge responsibility in an irresponsible world. He was a foster kid who knew he could have had a much different life. And it made him strong. As hardships inevitably found him.

Sherwood never had the time or the desire to be angry about his circumstances. Not when he was a young father working three jobs, living in a housing project, trying to make a better life than he had known, and not when the call came to serve in Iraq. And when that call came, he took the most simple path—he went.

He went with the hope of doing the impossible—make something positive happen in the grips of war. To no surprise, he lifted his head and went to work.

Like most of us, he didn't like his boss but it became immaterial when it was time to do his job. He spent his life trying to be kind to people and he saw people in Iraq, and he thought that he could be kind to them. He left behind a son, a wife and a family that adored him for his beliefs.

I feel pride, a pride knowing that my brother had honor even though the person who sent my brother marching to Iraq has no honor. George Bush is wholly un-American because he pimps the one value my brother held so true—devotion. He has sold out the core of America, the people who are this country—the truck drivers, field workers, the day laborers, the dishwashers, the waitresses, the teachers, the country workers, the mechanics, the janitors, the street pavers, the house painters and the housewives, and yes, the soldiers.

All of us had hoped to live simple lives with our simple aspirations. George Bush has sold our futures to pay for his power lust, his greed, and his selfish world plans. He sold away my brother's future to pay for the privilege and favor of his friends. We, the people of this country, all of us, are not his friends. We are not in his circle of favor. We do not benefit from the deaths of our soldiers nor do we benefit from the deaths of the Iraqi people. To honor Sherwood, I have vowed to follow his path—to lift my head and go to work. Our duty is to spread truth, our duty is to combat the lies, the misrepresentations, the fear, the mongering and the people who mean to ruin our belief in this country. I have made a promise to my brother, and that is to do as he would do—to not be angry about my circumstances, to not let bitterness overcome my heart, but to proceed with hope. Today, and in the days ahead, do not let your anger carry you, allow your desire to make change carry you. Allow the compassion towards humanity to carry you. Ride your commitment to peace. Share your soul with your country, share your values with the world. Make it your job.

HONORING MIKE COUCH FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SANTA BARBARA SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE ENTIRE SANTA BARBARA COMMUNITY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a very special person in the Santa Barbara community, Mike Couch, as he retires from the Santa Barbara School District after thirty-seven years. Mike Couch is more than a teacher, an advisor, a Principal or an Assistant Superintendent. He is a pillar of the Santa Barbara education community, a colleague and a friend.

Mike Couch began with the Santa Barbara School District as a social studies teacher at Santa Barbara High School, moving to Assistant Principal in 1989. In fact, while he was at Santa Barbara High, he was my daughter Laura's student government advisor. In talking to her about his retirement, she mentioned how she remembers fondly how "he monitored our elections, taught us parliamentary procedure and allowed us to be involved in the policies which governed the student life and Santa Barbara High School. Most importantly, he took us seriously; he fostered a commitment within me to be an active participant in the way our school was run which resulted in a longstanding engagement in political life beyond high school." Due in part to this mentoring, Laura has served in the White House, worked for a University and now is working on a Presidential campaign.

Mike Couch later moved on to be Principal of Dos Pueblos High School and then to serve as Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education for the Santa Barbara High School District. He taught for 22 years, first as an economics teacher when 30 students signed up for the newly offered class and there was nobody to teach it. His willingness to step into this assignment as a new teacher is indicative of the type of person that Mike Couch is. He is willing and able to step in and serve the school community and indeed the Santa Barbara community as a whole, in any role that is asked of him.

I am honored to have worked with Mike Couch over the years, and am so pleased by the positive affect that he has had not only on my daughter Laura, but also on so many students whose lives he has touched. I commend Mike Couch for his years and service and wish him well in his much-deserved retirement.

DARFUR: THE CRISIS CONTINUES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD three recent articles regarding the ongoing crisis in Darfur, Sudan. I will continue to submit these accounts until the world takes notice. I will not let the world say "we did not know."

[From the BBC News]

SUDANESE CHILDREN DYING OF HUNGER

Hundreds of children have started to starve to death in Sudan's war-torn western province of Darfur

The BBC's Hilary Andersson saw the burial of two-year-old Ikram and says 400 other children in the same camp in Kalma were unable to keep food down.

Their families have fled attacks by pro-government Arab militias, accused of forcing black Africans off the land.

Last week, a senior aid worker said 300,000 people would starve in Darfur, even if help is sent immediately.

Some 10,000 have died in Darfur, since a rebellion broke out last year and one million have fled their homes.

The rains have already begun to fall, which will soon make Darfur, an area the size of France, virtually impassable, our correspondent says.

'Too little'

Speaking after his return from the area, UK Secretary for International Development Hilary Benn said Darfur was undoubtedly the largest humanitarian crisis in the world and more aid agencies were needed there.

"We are in a race against time in Darfur," he told MPs.

He admitted that the international response to the crisis had been too little, too late but said the UK was committed to doing all that it could.

"I have also been concerned about the adequacy and speed of the UN's response, although this should now change."

Our reporter in Darfur says that while Ikram died, another boy on the same mat, Joseph, could not be coaxed to eat.

His mother could do nothing but watch.

The mother of nine-month-old Adam says that she walked without food for 10 days to reach the camp. "The militias burnt our village . . . They were burning the children," she said.

Our correspondent says village after village in Darfur has been burnt, while food is running out in all the camps, where people have sought refuge.

Air-strikes

"If we get relief in, we could lose a third of a million. If we do not, it could be a million," Andrew Natsios, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development told a UN donor conference last week.

The figures were based on mortality and malnutrition rates, he said.

The government and two rebel groups have signed a ceasefire but the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has accused the army and its militia allies of attacking them near the border with Chad earlier this week.

Jem official Abu Bakr Hamid al-Nur told Reuters news agency that the government had used an Antonov aircraft and helicopters to bomb the rebel positions.

[From the BBC NEWS]

SUDANESE TELL OF MASS RAPE

(By Alexis Masciarelli and Ilona Eveleens Darfur)

The pro-government Janjaweed Arab militia has been accused of using systematic rape, as well as killing and destroying the villages of black Africans, in the conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region.

Behind the closed door of a classroom, in the school compound where she has been living for the last two months, 35 year-old rape-victim Khadija, spoke of her ordeal.

"The Janjaweed arrived one evening in February in our village near Kaileck, they had guns," she says in a quiet voice.

"They followed us when we tried to escape. The group of people I was with was forced

back to Kaileck. They had surrounded the whole town."

"They separated men and women. Then the Janjaweed selected the prettiest women."

"Four men raped me for 10 days."

"Every day, women were picked up, taken to the bush where they were raped and brought back to Kaileck. The next day it would start again."

Hostage population

Khadija is one of some 40,000 people to have found shelter in the town of Kass, in the south of Darfur.

In the past 16 months, the conflict opposing the Sudan government and its militia allies to the rebels of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), has killed at least 10,000 people and displaced more than one million across the large western Sudanese region.

"Rape appears to be a feature of most attacks in Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa areas of Darfur," says the latest Human Rights Watch report on the Darfur conflict.

"The extent of the rape is difficult to determine since women are reluctant to talk about it and men, although willing to report it, speak only in generalities."

Many witnesses say the population of Kaileck was held hostage by the Janjaweed for two months, despite repeated appeals to the commissioner of Kass.

Men were also picked up daily and killed.

The accounts are difficult to verify, but accord with the findings of human rights workers in recent months.

Kaileck is now an empty desolated town, with every single house and hut burnt or destroyed.

Ethnic choice

"It is very difficult for me as I am a Fur woman and these are Arab men", says Khadija, covering herself with an orange scarf.

"These are my only clothes. My sister gave them to me, because the Janjaweed abandoned me naked."

"Now I am three-months pregnant. It will be a child from the Janjaweed. But I won't reject this baby. He will be my baby."

"When he grows up, he will decide whether he wants to be a Fur or an Arab. If he chooses to be an Arab, he could go with them. If he decides to be a Fur, he will be welcome to stay with us."

In the same classroom, a much younger woman listens.

Fifteen-year-old Aziza says she was also raped by the Janjaweed back in February.

"When Kaileck was attacked, I fled towards the mountains, but five horsemen caught me and took me far away in a field," she says.

"All five of them raped me twice. They kept me for 10 days. They whipped me."

"I could not say anything because they were armed. All I could do was to cry."

"They tied up my arms and my legs and would only release me when they raped me. They called me Abeid (slave in Arabic)."

"Eventually they abandoned me. Someone told my mother where I was and she came to take me back. I could not walk by myself."

Pain

But the ordeal did not stop then.

"When I arrived in Kaileck, I learnt that the Janjaweed had killed my father."

"I am still in pain and I can't really control myself. But I have not seen any doctor."

In Kass, like many other towns and camps in Darfur, women are still at the risk of being raped when they go out to gather firewood or fetch water.

Their best protection, they say, does not come from the army or local police force, but by going in large groups which are more able to defend themselves.

[From the Washington Post, Jun. 13, 2004]

U.N.: SUDAN FORCES, MILITIAS EXECUTE
CIVILIANS
(Nima Elbagir)

KHARTOUM, JUNE 13—A senior U.N. official said on Sunday she had “credible information” that Sudanese forces and government-backed militias had carried out summary executions of civilians in west Sudan.

Asma Jahangir, the U.N. special rapporteur on executions, also said after visiting conflict-stricken Darfur that members of the militia, which locals accuse of looting and killing villagers, were being integrated into the armed forces.

Independent rights groups have already accused the government and militia, known as janjaweed, of carrying out mass executions in the region where rebels launched an armed uprising in February 2003.

Fighting in the remote area has affected two million people and driven 158,000 people across the border into Chad, creating what the United Nations has said is one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises.

“I received numerous accounts of the extrajudicial and summary executions carried out by government-backed militias and by the security forces themselves,” Jahangir told reporters.

“According to credible information, members of the armed forces, the Popular Defense Forces and various groups of government-sponsored militias attacked villagers and summarily executed civilians,” she said in Khartoum.

Rights groups have accused the government of arming the Arab janjaweed to drive out African villagers from their homes, in what U.N. officials have said is a campaign of ethnic cleansing. The government calls the janjaweed outlaws and denies any link.

“According to the information I collected, many of the militias are being integrated into the regular armed or the Popular Defence Forces. There is no ambiguity that there is a link between some of the militias and government forces,” Jahangir said.

But she said some criminal elements had taken advantage of the conflict.

Jahangir also travelled around other areas of Sudan, including Malakal in the south. The Sudanese government is close to reaching a final peace deal with southern rebels to end a separate 21-year-old conflict in that region.

“In my report, I will forcefully stress the question of accountability as a fundamental principle in addressing violations of human rights . . . The government of the Sudan must make every effort to end the culture of impunity,” she said.

**PAUL A. THEIS DIES: COMBAT
PILOT, AIDE TO PRESIDENT
FORD, GOP STALWART, AUTHOR,
JOURNALIST AND PATRIOT**

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise my colleagues of the death of Paul A. Theis. He was one of our stalwarts, having served for many years as Director of Public Relations for the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee. President Ford held him in such high regard that he tapped him to become his Executive Editor, heading up the highly important speechwriting operation in the White House. In addition, Paul served in the

Agriculture Department as Deputy Undersecretary for Congressional and Public Affairs.

Paul Theis was many things, but above all a patriot and a gentleman as his legion of friends can attest. I count myself among them as we grieve the passing of this man of many parts. He was a novelist and completed “Devil in the House,” a story based on the House of Representatives, just a few months before he died. He also coauthored “All About Politics,” a non-fiction book published in 1972. Before that he served in the House as Administrative Assistant to the Hon. Oliver Bolton, Republican of Ohio. Earlier he had been a reporter for Newsweek magazine, covering the McCarthy hearings, and Army Times. During World War II he flew combat missions out of Italy as a B-17 bomber pilot earning the Air Medal and six battle stars. As a member of the Air Force Reserve after the war, he ultimately attained the rank of Major. For his military service, Paul was interred with full honors on April 20, 2003 at Arlington National Cemetery.

My condolences have been extended to his wife, Nancy, and his son, Mitchell, as they were by telephone by President Gerald R. Ford and President George W. Bush. He was a wonderful man and I was proud to have known him and to have been associated with him. I and countless others who knew him and loved him will sorely miss him. May he rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I enclose herewith the text of the eulogy given by Paul’s son, Mitchell, at his funeral mass, and the text of the obituaries from the Washington Times and the Washington Post.

EULOGY FOR PAUL A. THEIS

(BY MITCHELL A. THEIS)

Reverend Fathers, thank you for celebrating this beautiful Mass of Christian Burial for my father, Paul Theis. Thank you for being such good priests and for being such an important part of our family’s life.

I thank all of you here who came to honor my dad by your presence. My mother and I are deeply touched by your outpouring of sympathy and words of love for my father.

A couple of nights ago, mom and I were in the kitchen remembering some of our happiest times together with my father and some of his wonderful mannerisms and beliefs. We couldn’t stop laughing as we recalled how he believed that three scoops of ice cream was “healthy” if you sprinkled wheat germ over it. Or how he always managed to wear one of his tattered old trench coats from his journalism days even though mom bought him a cashmere coat from Neiman Marcus and I got him one from Saks Fifth Avenue.

We recalled, too, his old Rolodex that he started over 60 years ago. Here it is! It looks like an organizational system used by a small business. It’s so filled with cards that you can barely turn it. Believe me, my dad has a card on you or can locate a card that will help him find you within minutes.

He started writing cards on his friends that he grew up with back in the farming community of Carey, Ohio. His mom and dad ran a melon and wheat farm. And after the Depression they bought a furniture store.

His next set of cards was of his friends, like George Barsa, Frank Keenan and Bob Walsh; he had met them at Notre Dame University. Dad always was a Notre Dame Man and has stayed in touch with all of his college buddies. He just attended his 55th alumni reunion.

The next group of names that Dad wrote out for the Rolodex were those of his B-17

crew from World War II. The members of the crew were all barely 20 and they called Jerry Moran, the crew chief, “Pops” because he was 26 years old. If you heard Forrest Tolson tell their war stories, he’d have you believe that it was their crew alone that won the war. Believe me, Paul Theis, the old combat bomber pilot will be watching the WWII Monument dedication on the Mall this coming Memorial Day from a great vantage point! I salute the crew!

After the War, dad finished his BA at Notre Dame and his BS in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He got a job as a journalist at the Army Times and then at Newsweek covering the McCarthy hearings. These writing skills helped him get a job on Capitol Hill working as an Administrative Assistant for Congressman Oliver Bolton. Gene Cowen was the AA for Ollie’s mother, Francis Bolton. They were the only mother-son Congressional team.

This was in the early 50’s and many of you here recall the simpler days of handshakes and civility. This was the time that Sid Yudain started Roll Call and dad helped start the Inner Circle, a group of Administrative Assistants that met for background briefings with VIP’s of the day. Unfortunately/fortunately, dad’s boss had a heart attack and did not run for re-election, so he became the Public Relations Director for the National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, writing speeches for congressmen and women. This is where he added hundreds of cards to his Rolodex. It was a perfect job for him and he stayed there for 16 years.

It was during this time where he met the woman who would sweet him off his feet. It was the end of him. His bachelor days were over.

It was following that blessed event that President Nixon resigned and President Ford asked him to be his Executive Editor—handling: Speechwriting, Messages, Correspondence and Research. There dad worked closely with Bob Hartman, Bob Orben, Milt Friedman, Jack Calkins and all the members of President Ford’s team. On Monday, former President Ford called mom and me. We told him that we were certain a number of his old friends and supporters would be here at the funeral. He wanted everyone to know that he was here in spirit. Dad was always honored to work for such a fine man.

From the White House dad was appointed the Director of Congressional Relations for the Secretary of Agriculture, Jack Knebel. Dad and mom were to travel with Jack and his wife, Zee, to a number of foreign countries for the USDA.

Dad then moved on to the House Agriculture Committee where he and Tom Adams wrote the Ag Bad Newsletter.

In 1981, dad started Headliner Editorial Services and worked for clients from his home office. Mom left school teaching and was working at the White House so I grew up coming home from school and being greeted by my father.

He was always a master listener—calm, cool, collected and funny. One of my favorite examples of his type of humor occurred on the day that we had to put our dog, Badger, to sleep. On the way back home from the vets, dad turned to mom and me and said, “What are we going to tell the cat?”

Over the years, Mom and Dad, AKA “The Cheerleader” and “The Sage,” created an extended family that supports and sustains our world. Together, we affirm what is sacred, laugh at life’s absurdities and discuss and debate the hot topics of our times. We are blessed beyond belief by such dear, dear family friends.

If you are a member of the Golden Owls, the select group in the National Press Club

who have been members for over 50 years, dad has a card on you in his Rolodex.

If you are a member of the old Capitol Hill Club or are "a regular" there then dad has an address card on you.

If you're a writer or staffer on the Bulletin for the Cosmos Club, dad knows how to get in touch with you. The Cosmos Club was a great joy to dad in these past few years. He certainly enjoyed working with the club's members and management.

If you were a member of the Knights of Columbus from St. Thomas Apostle, Dad knew where to find you. By the way, I want to thank the brother Knights for coming today to be part of Dad's funeral.

If you belong to the Hill Investment Club, thanks for making Dad think that he was a Big Investor.

Dad was an active and involved member of the District of Columbia Republican Committee for 25 years plus. He was always eager to see the two party system work here in our hometown.

Dad knew all of his neighbors and was the first to help out on any local project.

To our parish, he was a steady presence.

Simply put—Dad had your number! And I would guess that you had his.

He was a caring and loving husband, a real father in every sense of the word, a quiet, fun-loving friend and neighbor, a dedicated, loyal employee, a constant worker—he even finished his novel, despite the fact that it took him years, a devoted member of his Church and a true renaissance man!

Mom and I will continue to use this clunky Rolodex, to call you and to cherish your friendship.

Today, there is a new card written in God's Heavenly Rolodex. It can be found under the letter T. The name on it is Paul A. Theis.

The peace of Christ be with you Dad.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 29, 2004]

PAUL A. THEIS; WHITE HOUSE AIDE

Paul A. Theis, 81, an author and former journalist who worked in President Gerald R. Ford's administration as a senior speechwriter and head of the White House editorial department, died March 24 at Washington Hospital Center of complications after heart valve surgery.

Mr. Theis joined the White House staff as executive editor shortly after Ford was sworn into office August 9, 1974. As head of the editorial department, he oversaw speechwriting, presidential messages, research and correspondence.

In 1976, Ford named him deputy undersecretary of agriculture for congressional and public affairs. Mr. Theis left that job after Ford's defeat later that year and worked about four years as a staff consultant to the House Committee on Agriculture and on President-elect Ronald Reagan's Agriculture Department transition team in 1980 and 1981.

In 1981, he started Headliner Editorial Service, a Washington-based firm offering editorial and speechwriting services for business, government and political clients. He headed the firm until his death.

Mr. Theis, a Washington resident, was born in Fort Wayne, Ind. He was a journalism graduate of the University of Notre Dame and received a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

During World War II, he served in the Army Air Forces as a B-17 Flying Fortress combat pilot in Italy. His military decorations included the Air Medal.

He also served in the Air Force Reserve, attaining the rank of major.

Mr. Theis worked for Newsweek and Army Times as a Washington correspondent before serving as an executive assistant to Rep. Oli-

ver P. Bolton (R-Ohio) from 1955 to 1957. He served on the inaugural committees of Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard M. Nixon.

He was a member of the D.C. Republican Committee for more than 20 years.

He was co-editor of "Who's Who in American Politics" in the late 1960s, co-wrote "All About Politics" (1972) and wrote the novel "Devil in the House" (2004).

His memberships included St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Church in Washington, the Knights of Columbus, National Press Club, the Capitol Hill Club, the Cosmos Club and the Notre Dame and Georgetown alumni associations.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Nancy Theis, and their son, Mitchell Theis, both of Washington.

[From the Washington Times, Apr. 8, 2004]

PAUL A. THEIS, 81, JOURNALIST, GOP OFFICIAL

Paul A. Theis, a former journalist and Republican Party official who served in the Ford administration, died of complications from heart surgery March 24 at the Washington Hospital Center. He was 81.

Born in Fort Wayne, Ind., Mr. Theis graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1948 and received a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Services in 1949.

He also attended American University's Graduate School of Communication from 1949 to 1952.

As a B-17 combat pilot in World War II, he served with the 15th Air Force in Italy, receiving the Air Medal and the European Theater Ribbon with six battle stars. He held the rank of major in the Air Force Reserve.

A former Washington correspondent for Newsweek and other publications, Mr. Theis served as public relations director of the National Republican Congressional Committee from 1960 to 1974.

He joined the White House staff in August 1974, shortly after Gerald Ford was sworn in as president. Mr. Theis led four divisions: speechwriting, presidential messages, research and correspondence. He also was a member of the D.C. Republican Committee for more than 20 years and a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1984, 1988 and 1992.

His book "Devil in the House," was published in January. He also co-authored the 1972 book "All About Politics" with William Steponkus.

In January 1976, Mr. Theis was named by Mr. Ford as deputy undersecretary of agriculture for congressional and public affairs and served in that capacity during the remainder of the Ford administration. He then joined the House Agriculture Committee, where he served as a staff consultant from 1977 to 1981, and on President Reagan's Agriculture Department transition team from 1980 to 1981.

Mr. Theis in 1981 founded Headliner Editorial Service, a District-based firm offering editorial and speechwriting services for business, government and political clients. He led the firm until his death.

Mr. Theis was a member of the National Press Club for more than 50 years, the Capitol Hill Club, the Cosmos Club, and Notre Dame and Georgetown's alumni associations. He was a member of Our Lady of Victory Council No. 11487 Knights of Columbus and an active member of St. Thomas Apostle parish in the District.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Nancy; and a son, Mitchell Theis of the District.

THE HEMOPHILIA ASSOCIATION OF CAPITOL AREA'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area on their 40th anniversary. The Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area or HACA is a nonprofit organization that provides many needed services to persons with bleeding disorders such as Hemophilia and Von Willebrand's Disease and their families. HACA serves Northern Virginia, Washington, DC, and the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges. HACA is a chapter of the Hemophilia Federation of America and the National Hemophilia Foundation, the two leading hemophilia patient organizations. HACA's mission is to improve the quality of life for persons with Hemophilia and Von Willebrand's disease and their families, to act as an advocate; to educate, to improve services to its members; to promote research and to raise necessary resources in financial and volunteer terms to fulfill this purpose.

Hemophilia is a blood clotting disorder where certain proteins are missing in the blood plasma, which prevents the body's blood from clotting properly. This can lead to prolonged bleeding episodes, which can result in severe joint damage and in some cases death. However, it is a myth that those with hemophilia can bleed to death from minor injuries or from bleeding out.

Recently, HACA has been under the stewardship of Executive Director Sandi Qualley. Sandi has worked tirelessly to improve services for those with bleeding disorders both nationally and in Virginia. HACA has an integral part of the successful grass roots movement to pass the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act during the 1990s. Recently HACA has worked with other community members to launch a campaign to educate Congress on women and bleeding disorders.

HACA currently serves over 250 families through the metropolitan Washington, DC area. The organization provides an array of educational programs and services for its members. HACA provides financial assistance to deserving families. HACA also assists other nonprofit organizations that work with the hemophilia community with resources.

The HACA Blood Buddies Program works to match up young boys with hemophilia with older hemophiliacs who serve as mentors. Blood Buddies was established in 1998 to help facilitate an environment where individuals and families affected by bleeding disorders can gather to discuss issues, learn procedures, and build a community of support. The program's focus is to learn about current trends, community events, discuss social issues while building friendships, and mentoring young individuals through support.

I would like to take this opportunity to salute the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area on their 40 years of service to the hemophilia community throughout the Nation and in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. I wish them many more years of superior work.

COMMEMORATING THE FORTY-YEAR CAREER OF DONALD MASSEY OF NEW MEXICO

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this august body to commemorate the distinguished career of my constituent, Donald Massey, of Portales, New Mexico. It is an honor not only to represent Mr. Massey, but also to have the opportunity to commend his virtues. Through four decades of service and dedication to the people of New Mexico, Donald Massey brought telephone and wireless communication services to thousands of rural New Mexicans, as well as volunteering his time and energy to the community of Portales. Today, Mr. Massey is the CEO and Executive Vice-President of the Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (RCRTC), which offers telephone service to rural communities throughout Eastern New Mexico. He has also been the coordinator and spokesman for the State of New Mexico at the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association legislative conferences from the 1980s to the present.

In 1949, President Truman and this body recognized the need to bring telephone service to rural areas of our country, a need that is sometimes a matter of life and death. When Congress saw the need, men like Mr. Massey did the work. Beginning in 1964, he installed and maintained telephone lines in Eastern New Mexico as a lineman for the RCRTC. For the next 40 years, he successfully rose through company ranks to the very top management position. Far from being solely dedicated to his profession, however, Mr. Massey has continually served as a devoted member of his community, setting an example for his fellow citizens.

One instance of his service to his community was in October, 1998. In that year, the local hospital closed, and the residents were left without a medical facility. Donald Massey stepped in, and by helping obtain a grant of \$836,000 for the hospital, a new facility was quickly built. He ensured that fiber optic and wireless communications systems were installed in the new facility and even donated his office to the CEO of the hospital until the new building was completed.

In 2003, Donald Massey received the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association Management Life Achievement Award. This award was given to honor his 40 years of high standards and commitment in the rural telecommunications industry.

It is with great honor and pleasure that I present to this body the legacy of a man revered for his accomplishments. Amidst the many troubles and challenges our Nation faces, it is imperative that we are continually reminded of the good in our country and of those citizens who lead productive, honorable lives. Donald Massey is one of those citizens. I respectfully request that my colleagues join me in expressing sincere appreciation to him for his contributions to a better America and for his many years of service to the State of New Mexico. I also wish him the very best in his retirement and for continued success and fulfillment in the next stage of his life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOMAS H. ACKERMAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas H. Ackerman, a native of East Lansing, MI and member of the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Ackerman boasts a proud history of service in the field of law enforcement. Since 1980 he has served as a Federal Agent, Police Officer, and Training Academy Instructor. He has also published numerous books related to the field and spoken nationally and internationally at law enforcement training facilities and conferences, including the FBI National Academy and the Swedish National Police College.

This month, Mr. Ackerman is being recognized at the Department of Agriculture's Annual Awards Ceremony. His acknowledgments include: interrupting a robbery, protecting the victim from serious injury, participating in the arrest of the suspect, and contributing to the safety of the community. This is the second time that he has been honored by the Department; in 2002 he was acknowledged for his work as part of the Bil Mar Foods, Incorporated, Investigation and Prosecution Team for promoting health by providing access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas H. Ackerman has been a hard-working, committed member of the community. He has dedicated his life to the protection of others, and has used his wealth of experience to help people eager to begin their careers in law enforcement. I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ackerman for his heroism and thanking him for his service to America.

ASSISTANCE FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Assistance for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act. I want to thank the author, Ms. LEE, for her hard work and leadership in advocating for orphans for vulnerable children affected by the AIDS crisis.

Today, there are more than 110 million orphans throughout the world. Communities heavily affected by AIDS are being robbed of a generation of adults in their most productive years, leaving behind children to be raised by relatives, left on their own in households headed by children, or even worse—living in the streets.

The scope and complexity of the challenges facing children affected by HIV/AIDS cannot be overstated. Children often must take over adult work responsibilities and provide care for sick parents or family members, forcing them

to drop out of school and social activities. Children are forced to find any work necessary to support themselves and often their younger siblings.

We have a responsibility today to make a firm commitment to ensure that the funding we promised last year, in the Global HIV/AIDS bill, goes to improve the safety, health, and survival of these children. This important legislation will establish a new office of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children within USAID to adopt a comprehensive approach for assistance and coordinate that assistance provided to orphans and vulnerable children. By passing this legislation today and maintaining our promise for HIV/AIDS funding in the appropriations bill we are preparing to consider this year, we can provide hope and opportunity to the villages and communities where these AIDS orphans live, we can play an important role in educating and investing in future generations to fight this dangerous and deadly disease, and we can preserve the history of their culture for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FREDERICK S. CONLIN, JR.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor today to pay tribute to Dr. Frederick S. Conlin, Jr., DDS. Dr. Frederick S. Conlin, Jr., DDS will retire this June from both politics and his practice in dentistry after more than 30 years. Dr. Conlin has had a general practice in dentistry for 38 years in West Springfield, MA, and has been a model citizen in our city. He held many honors in both of these fields, including being elected to the Valley District Dental Society as Vice President for 2 years.

Dr. Conlin graduated from the College of Holy Cross with an A.B. degree in 1953. He later attended the American International College for Post Graduate studies from 1958 to 1959. Frederick Conlin received his DDS from the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry in 1963.

Conlin has also served in the armed forces for his country. From 1954 until 1956 Dr. Conlin proudly served as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. However, Lieutenant Conlin has also given to his country through his participation in local politics, having held many elected positions in his local community.

Dr. Conlin was elected as a Town Meeting Member for 25 years. He was also elected to the Park and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectman both for 6 years respectively. He was also chosen to be on the Board of Health for 5 years. Dr. Conlin served as Vice President of the City Council for 3 years.

In addition to being elected to numerous organizations by his peers, Dr. Conlin also has volunteered to donate his time and talents to a plethora of other boards and organizations; including, the Town Government Study committee for 15 years, the American Legion Post 207 for 15 years, the Ramapogue Historical Society for 6 years, and served on the Board

of Directors of the Friends of Seniors for 4 years. He also was a co-founder and member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for 10 years, and served on the West Springfield Veterans Council for 2 years. Always staying involved in politics, Dr. Conlin served 30 years on the Republican Town Committee.

Dr. Conlin is a citizen of Springfield that we are extremely proud of and we wish him nothing but the best in his retirement. Dr. Conlin has been a member of St. Thomas Church for 50 years. He has been blessed with his wife the former Barbara Crowley for 26 years, and has one son, Rick, who currently attends Temple University School of Medicine. We wish you the best of luck and good health Dr. Conlin.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CONSTANCE
SCOTT SOLOMON IN HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate and commemorate the career of my good friend and Chief of Staff of 11 years, Constance Scott Solomon, who has recently retired from 20 years of selfless public service to the people of Colorado.

Originally from Kansas, Ms. Solomon earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Arts degree in Special Education from the University of Kansas where she was a proud member of the University of Kansas Chapter of Pi Beta Phi Sorority. After moving to Colorado Springs, Colorado, she began working for U.S. Senator William Armstrong. While serving as his Area Director, she so greatly endeared herself to Coloradans by her dedication, that 20 years later, Senator Armstrong is still thanked for and reminded of Ms. Solomon's help and assistance by those she aided in their time of need.

Following Senator Armstrong's retirement, Ms. Solomon continued to stay active in Colorado politics and joined the staff of newly elected Senator Hank Brown. She rose in the ranks and assumed the position of Area Director for southern Colorado. Again her patience and hard work are remembered years later.

In 1993, I was pleased to have Ms. Solomon join my staff and assume the duties of Chief of Staff. She has worked tirelessly for so many years to assist the people of Colorado's 5th Congressional District through both legislation and case work.

Aside from public service, Ms. Solomon has served as Director of Pre-School for Downs Syndrome Children in Teller County, Colorado; Director and Coordinator for Homebound-Hospital Program in Wyandotte County, Kansas; Director of the University of Kansas Medical Center Hospital's Teenage Parents School; and taught first-grade in Kansas City, Missouri.

Ms. Solomon has dedicated her life and professional careers to assisting and improving the lives of others. Her perseverance and commitment to her fellow man is certainly uncommon and I, as well as the people of southern Colorado will surely miss a truly unique and compassionate friend. I wish Ms. Solomon the best in her retirement and thank her for all her years of service.

SOLILOQUY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents has written a poem that showcases our Nation's flag in a glorifying manner. Mr. Victor Miller of Madisonville, Tennessee, is the author of a poem titled "Soliloquy." Mr. Miller is the son of Jeanette Miller, who passed this poem along to me. Our country's morale and heritage is strong today because of patriots like Victor Miller. I would like to call "Soliloquy" and its interpretation to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

INTERPRETATION OF SOLILOQUY

I pray this poetic edification enhances your respect for the flag from Memorial Day through Veterans Day, but more significantly, enamors your appreciations for the risen Son of God. If revered as Old Glory, "God Bless America" will enrich all our personal, domestic & international pursuits exceedingly beyond our imaginations in continual abundance if, "In God We Trust." The Lord in the USA is a bipartisan, consuming Spirit of Holiness & Power! In Christ, "Thanks be unto God who always causes us to triumph" (2 Cor. 2:14).

"Imagine as a flag (Christ) on all folks (souls) passing by with edifying waves (love) influencing (redeeming) their lives."

The essence of duty to God & country He epitomized when his ascension secured for all, Independence! In Christ are "opportunities, honor, recognition, patriotism & liberated freedoms." We're told to "stand fast in the liberty in which Christ has made us free" (Gal. 5:1). With Jesus, we're more than winners, we're "conquerors" (Rom. 8:37). The USA thrives prestigiously, powerfully & prosperously because of our humility in embracing the risen Intercessor for all humanity. His triumphant valor extends to whosoever will. "The Glory in your stripes" belongs exclusively to Jesus Christ. May we forever abstain from worshipping entombed doctrines because if we forsake his sovereignty he will abandon his favor upon the USA. He tells us in his word, "No greater sacrifice exists than to give ones' life for a friend" (John 15:13). Emulating this virtue honors our Savior & rewards us blessings. Our allegiance he is worthy of, as too our "tribute" & service. Let's pray America "valiantly" & steadfastly adheres to his "esteemed" righteousness so our liberties are preserved. "The Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Cor. 3:17). The colonists were wise in understanding & adopting our Constitution upon biblical integrity. Indigenous to our country it is not but we have progressively strengthened since its inception as a nation because of their keen & humble foresight in acknowledging & incorporating in our executive, legislative & judicial structures his pre-eminence. Soliloquy was penned in Luray, Virginia in April 1999. I worked for the Shenandoah National Park. On this particular morning while walking to the car I heard the vigorous, insistent "waving" of Old Glory in the blustery air. The owners of the Cardinal Inn always flew a large flag from their rock garden. As I turned to "observe" the Holy Spirit spoke:

I am your Leader, your Warrior, your Friend & Victor. You are adopted into the Almighty Army of God."

America owns patriotism as a majority but is loyalty void of Christ efficacious or self-promoting? Most citizens defend the sanctity of their flag tenaciously when affronted by another. Almost universally, it flies proudly from homes, schools, parks, libraries, cemeteries, vehicles, courts, businesses & even dons our clothing. It is a rallying, focal point of inspiration in times of crisis, mourning & festivities: Higher than all other flags, it "reigns!" Holidays confirm our gratitude for the military dives spent & lost defending its cause of unanimous liberation around the globe against oppression & persecution. Membership in our armed forces always begins at conscription with a sworn vow of allegiance. Patriotism isn't predicated on military service but whenever iniquitous aggression asserts itself against integrity. "When our cause is just... 'In God is our trust!'" is how Francis Scott Key so zealously in 1814 proclaimed. Honest defense of righteous liberties is not immune to costs but "abiding in the shadow of the Almighty" (Ps.91) secures for all patriots ultimate victory. Jesus is not envious or jealous of anything, except his glory. He is however, deserving & desirous of greater, adulation & duty. May Soliloquy serve all of God's children with victorious knowledge & hope from his Holy Spirit so we continue shining in the world as a beacon of his omnipotent Love, just as a "rushing mighty wind" beautifies Old Glory!

SOLILOQUY

Imagine as a flag
on all folks passing by
with edifying waves
influencing their lives!

A patriotic stance
of opportunities
advocating freedoms
by land, the air & sea.

Esteemed a lofty reign
& honored to belong
all would offer tribules
in oaths, salute or songs!

Recognition could abound
for victories secured
defending liberties
despite many injured.

In each of fifty stars
& elsewhere when observed
the glory in your stripes
would valiantly be served!

IN MEMORY OF BORDER PATROL
AGENTS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of two Border Patrol Agents, Theodore L. Newton, Jr. and George P. Azrak, who were killed in the line of duty.

Theodore Newton and George Azrak were Border Patrol Agents stationed at the interior checkpoint in Temecula, California. On the evening of June 17, 1967, Agents Newton and Azrak were operating a rural checkpoint on Highway 79, approximately 30 miles south of Temecula. Agent Newton, 26 years old and married with two children, had been with the Border Patrol for a little over a year, while Agent Azrak, 21 years old, who was shadowing Agent Newton, hadn't even begun training at the academy. During their shift, they stopped an old military ambulance carrying two men when they discovered a shipment of more than 800 pounds of marijuana. As they

were about to arrest the two men, two more men pulled up from behind and held the agents at gunpoint. They were kidnapped and subsequently murdered by these drug-traffickers in an abandoned shack near the checkpoint.

Upon hearing about the kidnapping, nearly 400 law enforcement officers participated in the search for the missing agents in one of the largest manhunts in Southern California. Eventually, the bodies were found, and all four of the men involved in the crime were later arrested. Two of the men convicted of murder were sentenced to life in prison.

In honor of these two agents, the Commissioner of the Border Patrol presents annually the Newton-Azrak Award to the agent that provides services or accomplishments reflecting unusual courage or bravery in the line of duty. This is the highest award for valor and bravery in the Border Patrol.

This country lost two dedicated law enforcement officers 37 years ago. The deaths of Agent Newton and Agent Azrak are a lasting reminder of the perils our law enforcement officers face each and every day while protecting our nation. I am grateful for their service and dedication to this great nation.

I thank the Speaker for the opportunity to honor the anniversary of the passing of Agents Theodore Newton and George Azrak and recognize the loss suffered by their families. I would also like to recognize all the brave men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol and their family members who, like our military families, have loved ones putting their lives at risk for our security.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MYRON DUKES, LAUREN DUKES, CHRISTOPHER DUKES, AND JAUNTRICE DEADMON

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sorrow and sadness to mourn the loss of Myron Dukes, Lauren Dukes, Christopher Dukes and Jauntrice Deadmon, who died yesterday at the Fort Worth Water Gardens while attending the National Baptist Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. This is a profound loss for the Chicago community.

Mr. Myron Dukes, his 8-yr. old daughter Lauren, his 13-yr. old son Christopher, and 11 yr. old Jauntrice, were all members of the Antioch Baptist Church, located in the Englewood community that I represent, the First Congressional District of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dukes did what any father would have done: try and save his children from drowning in a deep swirling pool. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his heroic efforts with his life. As we approach Fathers Day, I ask that this Congress and the entire nation join the members of the Antioch Baptist Church in mourning the passing of this loving family. The City of Chicago and the world pray that God will give all the family members strength to endure this horrific tragedy in the coming days, and to know that they lived their lives in the service of our God.

CLEARWATER NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES TURNS BROWNSFIELDS SITE INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to my attention a creative project by the Clearwater, Florida Neighborhood Housing Services which was turned an abandoned and polluted junkyard into an affordable housing site.

This is the type of innovative program that can solve two problems for a local community. First, it cleans up an environmentally dangerous brownfields site and second it provides a source of much needed affordable housing. Through a combined effort between Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, the city of Clearwater, and the city's Economic Development Department, an 11-year-old junkyard is now the site of two single-family homes.

Mr. Speaker, following my remarks, I will include a story from the June 15, 2004 edition of The Petersburg Times which provides more details about this project with the hope that other cities around the country will use it as a model to clean up abandoned properties and fulfill the dream of homeownership for some fortunate families.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, June 15, 2004]

VISION, TOIL TURN 'JUNKYARD' INTO NEW HOMES

(By Lorri Helfand)

CLEARWATER.—A rusted bus was parked on the lot. Scrap wood, tires, auto parts and metal drums were heaped all around. Pesticides, waste oil and hazardous chemicals were stockpiled there, too.

It was a far cry from the American dream. But, over the course of a decade, Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, the city and environmental protection agencies cleaned up the junkyard and transformed it into a couple of cozy stucco homes with manicured lawns.

The houses in the North Greenwood neighborhood are the first single-family homes built on a brownfields site in the city of Clearwater. Brownfields sites are basically abandoned properties where environmental contamination or potential contamination complicate redevelopment efforts.

"It was a junkyard. I'm happy we're seeing contamination going out and families coming in," said Isay Gulley, president and chief executive of Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, as she prepared to tour one of the new homes for the first time.

Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services is a nonprofit organization that provides housing and economic development services in Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties. North and South Greenwood are its two target communities.

One house has been sold already to a 38-year-old single mother. The woman, who works as a nursing assistant, asked that she not be identified. But she said that it's a blessing to be able to progress this far and have a home.

A prospective buyer is interested in the other, which will sell for about \$139,000, though nothing has been completed, said Jennifer Smethers, home ownership center manager for Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services.

The buyer will be eligible for up to \$30,000 in down payment assistance from the city, which will not require repayment as long as the owner resides in the home, Smethers said. The buyer also will be eligible for an \$8,000 low-interest loan from Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services.

The three-bedroom, two-bath house is about 1,300 square feet and has a two-car garage. Beige tile lines the foyer and deep sand-colored carpet covers the floors throughout the home. Like all of the projects Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services develops, both houses have refrigerators, dishwashers and stoves.

Neighbor Rhonda Cole, 55, came by to check out the homes, which were showcased as part of National NeighborWorks Week, an event that mobilizes community awareness of the need for affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization efforts. "I think this is wonderful. I think our neighborhood is finally turning around. It's going to be a place where anybody would want to live," she said.

Problems on the site date back to 1993, when it became a junkyard. The city eventually declared a house and a two-story storage building on the lot as unsafe. The home was demolished in 1996. But when demolition began on the storage facility, workers found a mysterious liquid leaking from beneath the garage door. Petroleum, metals, contaminated soils and an underground storage tank with waste oil had to be removed so demolition could continue.

The city forgave about \$38,000 in liens that accumulated with the demolition and efforts to rid the property of hazardous waste on the condition that the owner, Larry Bunting, donate the property to Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services.

The city's Economic Development Department, through the City Brownfield program, provided about \$150,000 in state brownfields monies for environmental assessment and cleanup of the site.

Ground was broken on one of the homes last fall. Construction on the second began a few months later. Both were completed by spring.

Gulley said her nonprofit organization has three goals: housing assistance, economic development and educational opportunities.

The organization has built about 200 affordable houses for low- and moderate-income families within the city since 1991.

"Please know we have accomplished many things but we have a long way to go," Gulley told government officials, business leaders and community members at an event last week to showcase the homes.

Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services is currently planning a small residential subdivision on Tangerine St. and plans to transform a neighborhood bar into a Head Start day care center, ice cream parlor and professional offices, Gulley said.

SUPPORT OF PASSAGE OF H.R. 4323 AND H. CON. RES. 260

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of two bills enacted by the House that will go a long way to helping our troops and providing some comfort and peace of mind to their families.

I was pleased to vote for H.R. 4323, which helps the Department of Defense speed up the delivery of critically important equipment

like bulletproof vests and armored vehicles to our troops in the field. Our brave men and women in uniform depend on these resources to carry out their mission and minimize loss of life.

I have heard from many deeply concerned families in my district about equipment deficiencies. One of my constituents, Dr. Donald W. Walsh, is the father of a soldier in the 933rd MP Company. Like so many parents, Dr. Walsh is very proud of his son but he is also worried about his son's safety due to the shortage of body armor and armored Humvees.

Given all the strains on the troops and their families as a result of overextended tours and uncertainty, the last thing they need is to worry about their loved ones engaging in hostilities with outdated vehicles and insufficient body armor. I am glad that Dr. Walsh came to me with his concerns. I promised him that I would do all I can to help his son. Supporting this legislation is a step in that direction.

Also, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 260, which recognizes and honors the service of non-active duty personnel who participate in funeral honor guards for deceased veterans. In times of war, there are not always enough active duty honor guards available to perform funeral services for our distinguished military personnel. These services are very important to the families of the deceased, and we should honor those who volunteer their time to provide these patriotic services.

In recognition of their contributions, the House recently passed this bill with unanimous support. Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to these dedicated men and women who bring comfort and honor to our deceased veterans and their families.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT SITING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to legislation that would significantly weaken the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

The bill on the floor today exempts any federal agency from considering alternatives when assessing the environmental impact of renewable energy projects. It eliminates input from local communities, states and the public.

I strongly support wind, solar and other clean, renewable energy projects. They are critical to our clean energy future.

I have cosponsored legislation that permanently extends the wind energy tax credit. This tax credit will spur additional windmill development in Minnesota.

I have cosponsored legislation that increases the use of biodiesel and ethanol. Minnesota is a national leader in producing these renewable fuels.

The Republican leadership, however, isn't allowing these bills to be considered today.

Renewable energy projects can adversely impact our environment and public health if not designed and operated properly. We have rules that ensure that all energy projects on public lands are subject to a full environmental and public health review required by NEPA.

Congress must recognize the renewable energy development is key to our energy future. We must not pass legislation that fails to ensure that environmentally important renewable energy development occurs in a timely manner, in the right locations, is subject to the terms that fully protect the public interest and that there is ample public input.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill today.

HONORING ARC-DIVERSIFIED AS THE USDA'S JWOD CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arc-Diversified for being named the Department of Agriculture's Javits Wagner O'Day Contractor of the Year. Arc Diversified is located in Cookeville, Tennessee, which I have the pleasure of representing in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Arc-Diversified is a truly remarkable organization that specializes in the employment and training of people with disabilities. Currently, Arc-Diversified employs 183 such people. These workers provide a valuable service to the community as they manufacture foods for military feeding programs, the USDA and commercial and prime vendors.

Not only does Arc-Diversified manufacture quality products, but it also provides quality training to its employees. The workers learn valuable industrial skills and have access to a wealth of vocational services such as on the job training, job coaching and supported employment.

The USDA award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the employees and the administration of Arc-Diversified. They are the sort of people who make Middle Tennessee such a fine place to call home.

SIKHS REMEMBER 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATTACK ON GOLDEN TEMPLE—FREEDOM FOR KHALISTAN WILL END THE BRUTALITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Sikhs observe the twentieth anniversary of India's brutal attack on the Golden Temple, the seat of their religion, this month. From June 3 to 6, 1984, the Indian military brutally attacked the Golden Temple and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras all over Punjab. This brutal and devastating attack, carried out by the Indira Gandhi government, which was always proudly proclaiming its commitment to secularism, killed over 20,000 Sikhs.

This attack made it clear that even when the secular parties are in power, the minorities in India are not safe and they have no real rights, despite what is written in India's constitution. Whether the Hindu nationalist BJP is in power or the secularist Congress Party is in

power, the policy of killing the Sikhs and other minorities in the futile effort to preserve what India considers its territorial integrity marches brutally on.

Among those killed in the Golden Temple attack were major Sikh leaders like Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, Bhai Arrikk Singh, General Shabeg Singh, and many others. The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures, were shot full of bullets from the guns of the Indian military. Sikh boys were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan. Then they were shot to death. Khalistan, of course, is the name of the independent Sikh homeland.

There is no place for Sikhs or other minorities such as Christians and Muslims in India despite its claims of secularism. On October 7, 1987, Khalistan formally declared its independence. If India is the democratic country it claims to be, why not simply decide the issue in a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the subject of independence? Isn't that the democratic way? I was under the impression that in democracies, things were decided by votes. The United States allows the people of Puerto Rico to vote on independence every few years. Canada has held democratic plebiscites on the status of Quebec. In 1947, India promised to settle the Kashmir issue by plebiscite, but it has never allowed that vote to be held. Why not simply put the question to a democratic vote? That is self-determination and self-determination is the essence of democracy.

The Sikh Nation was independent from 1765 to 1849. The Sikhs were supposed to receive sovereignty when India became independent. Although the Indian constitution was adopted in 1950, more than half a century ago, to this day no Sikh representative has ever signed it. How can India claim that it holds sovereignty over the Sikh Nation?

Unfortunately, the Sikhs are not the only victims of India's repressive tyranny. More than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been killed by the Indian government since 1947. They have seen priests murdered, nuns raped, schools, prayer halls, and festivals attacked—the government even shut down one festival with gunfire—missionaries murdered, beaten, and thrown out of the country, and so many other atrocities carried out against them. Almost 88,000 Kashmiri Muslims have fallen victim to India's brutal tyranny since 1988. Another 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were massacred in Gujarat with the connivance of the government. And these are just a few of the atrocities committed against minorities by the Indian forces.

Mr. Speaker, we must do something to stop these atrocities. If real democracy and real freedom is going to come to all the people of South Asia, the United States must take a stand. It is good that a Sikh is now Prime Minister. He must know the feeling of India's brutality against his people. Therefore, I call on him to use his office to release all of India's political prisoners and bring the persons who carried out these atrocities to justice. We must stop our aid to India until it shows that it is willing to act like a democracy and protect human rights. We are setting up a democratic government in Iraq with a new President and a new Prime Minister. Isn't it time that real democracy finally came to India?

In addition, it is vital for the Congress to declare its support for a free and fair plebiscite

on the issue of independence for Khalistan. There should also be similar plebiscites for Kashmir, Nagaland, and every other nation that seeks its freedom from Indian rule. India says there is no support for these freedom movements. Well, it is time for India to prove its point by holding a free vote on the matter. This is the only way for the people of South Asia to live in freedom, peace, democracy, and stability.

Mr. Speaker, there will be demonstrations around the world this weekend to commemorate the Golden Temple attack. The one in Washington will be led by the Council of Khalistan. I would like to insert their very informative flyer into the RECORD at this time.

TRIBUTE TO ENNIS JAMES
McCORVEY, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deacon Ennis James (E.J.) McCorvey, Jr., a noted family man and community servant. A native of Tunnel Springs, Alabama, Deacon McCorvey was also a member of the prestigious Tuskegee Airmen crew.

Deacon McCorvey entered into eternal rest earlier this year, but his memory will remain with us because of his substantial commitment to his faith and contributions to his fellow citizens.

Deacon McCorvey attended Tuskegee Institute, leaving when he was drafted into the armed forces. He served his country as a mechanic for the famed Tuskegee Airmen. He subsequently worked as an aircraft mechanic and power collator operator at both Maxwell and Gunter Air Force Bases. After leaving active duty he became a successful entrepreneur in Montgomery, Alabama along with his three brothers. Throughout his business career, he continued to serve the public interest by helping numerous Alabama State College students acquire off campus housing while encouraging them to continue their academic studies.

A leader in all respects, Deacon McCorvey stood out the most while communing among the people of Beulah Baptist Church, where he was a member of the Deacon Board. He developed initiatives that included purchasing junior choir robes and chairs for the Sunday School classes. His selflessness became legendary in his church and throughout his community.

Deacon McCorvey is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mavis Davis McCorvey, his devoted son Ennis and daughter-in-law, Pamela, a loving daughter, Amanda Bowers and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Deacon Ennis James McCorvey, Jr., for a lifetime of family commitments and community fellowships. The people of his native Alabama, his family in South Carolina and all those who knew him will always remember him for his passion, integrity, and dedication to God and Country.

CONGRATULATING JOHN H. BRYAN
OF CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend John H. Bryan of Chicago on being presented the Restore America Hero Award by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Save America's Treasures, and Home & Garden Television at their Second Annual Preservation Gala.

Mr. Bryan epitomizes the principles on which this award is bestowed. His meaningful involvement to maintain America's historic and cultural treasures provides future generations the opportunity to experience American history. Mr. Bryan continues to distinguish himself through his relentless commitment and leadership to the preservation of historic American landmarks.

While Mr. Bryan is a Mississippi native, he has spent much of his time in Chicago, serving as the Chairman and CEO of the Sara Lee Corporation. It was in these positions that he helped instill the value of community involvement into the corporate world. Mr. Bryan, changed the paradigm of Sara Lee, creating the notion that it was in the best interest of the company and society at large for a business to involve itself in the community. The result at Sara Lee is a community of people that enjoy volunteering with civic and social organizations. Sara Lee additionally donates five percent of its net income to charities.

Mr. Bryan also sits on the board of Goldman Sachs, Bank One Corporation, British Petroleum, and General Motors where his vision and leadership are recognized as essential assets to company and community growth.

Mr. Bryan has also donated tremendous amount of time and energy to the arts. He is affiliated with many non-profit organizations and has had the opportunity to serve as a trustee of the University of Chicago and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Because of his appreciation and love of Chicago, Mr. Bryan was appointed to the Board of Directors of Millennium Park by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. In this role Mr. Bryan has worked to change the urban landscape of Chicago, by dedicating his time to developing this uniquely Chicago treasure. Under his guidance, \$200 million, or one half of the funding needed to erect the park, was raised from Chicago's business community. Mr. Bryan was able to communicate to these two groups that the opportunity to create a lasting legacy in Chicago was in their hands.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and indeed all of Chicago, I am privileged to congratulate John H. Bryan, one of Chicago's great benefactors, on receiving the Restore America Hero Award and recognize the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Save America's Treasures, and Home & Garden Television for bestowing this award on such an admirable recipient. I wish him, his wife, and their four children continued happiness and success in the future.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the House today is considering legislation that continues to ignore the real needs of our families.

Today's energy bill won't create jobs, won't lower gas prices and weakens our strong environmental standards that protect our nation's health.

America needs a comprehensive energy plan that strengthens our national security, grows our economy and protects our environment.

We need to pass legislation that invests in energy-efficient technologies of the 21st century, expands conservation efforts and builds an infrastructure based on renewable, home-grown fuels.

Democrats have a plan that would appropriate sufficient funds for the development of domestic energy sources. This includes measures to increase the use of renewable energy resources and the use of emerging technologies that could increase energy efficiency and reduce overall energy consumption.

Unfortunately, Republicans won't allow this plan to be considered.

Once again the House is considering pork-laden energy legislation that adds \$140 billion to our deficit, benefits the Republicans special interest friends and fails to create twenty-first century jobs without providing energy independence.

The Republican energy plan on the floor today is the same one the House passed last year. Their plan still tilts too far towards oil and natural gas production. I support domestic production of oil and natural gas. It must be done sensibly, however, to not harm our nation's environment.

I also strongly support investing in energy efficient technology and renewable fuels. Minnesota leads the nation in wind power, ethanol and biodiesel. The energy bill we are passing yet again fails to adequately recognize these homegrown fuels.

Instead of passing the balanced energy plan Minnesotans demand, the Republicans have loaded this bill up with giveaways to corporations making record profits.

I will not vote for a pork-filled energy bill that doesn't meet our nation's energy needs for the first century.

I urge my colleagues to vote no today.

HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 35th year of existence of the Bible Baptist Church of Hendersonville, Tennessee. The congregation will celebrate the church's 35th anniversary on July 24–25, 2004.

Bible Baptist Church has grown from its original 60 members to more than 500 members today. The church has served the community and its congregation well for the past

35 years, and it continues to benefit the Hendersonville area in innumerable ways.

Over the past 35 years of dedicated service, the church has seen great changes. Beginning with the Phillips Robinson Chapel in 1969, the church constructed a 300-seat auditorium in 1972. It built the fellowship hall in 1989 and a church office complex in 1993. The church plans to move to a 36-acre property on New Shackle Island Road in the near future. Over the years, the dynamic nature of the church's facilities has served as a mirror for its ever-increasing role in the community.

Hendersonville is a better place because of the work of the Bible Baptist Church and its congregation. I am sure the church will continue to make a positive difference in the community for the next 35 years, and I congratulate the congregation and pastor Jim Crockett for all the good work they have done.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
RILEY P. PORTER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Arkansan and an outstanding citizen with a long history of service to his country. I am proud to recognize Riley P. Porter and congratulate him on his recent promotion from Colonel to Brigadier General.

Born and raised in Arkansas, Gen. Porter is a native of West Helena, and a 1974 graduate of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Upon completion of his degree in business administration and marketing, Gen. Porter committed to the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

After completing a rigorous pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma, Gen. Porter's commitment to service continued by attending the Strategic Air Command Combat Crew Training in the KC-135 at Castle Air Force Base in California. In 1981, Gen. Porter joined the Arkansas Air National Guard at the Little Rock Air Force Base and is now an accomplished command pilot with more than 5,700 flying hours in training, tanker and airlift aircraft.

Gen. Porter's abilities and leadership are exemplified in the many awards and decorations he has earned, including the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Excellence Award with one oak leaf cluster, and the National Defense Service Medal with service star.

Gen. Porter continues to serve his country with distinction as the Chief of Staff for the Arkansas Air National Guard and Joint Force Component Commander. Throughout his career, Brigadier General Riley P. Porter has served his country with honor and dignity. On behalf of the Congress, I would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for his service and commitment to our great Nation.

HONORING BECCA KERN

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a young individual from my district who recently won the honor of "Mayor For The Day" of Elmhurst, Illinois. Miss Becca Kern, who is in Sixth Grade at Visitation Catholic School, won this honor by composing the following essay in 50 words or less:

"Good citizenship is important in Elmhurst because. . . ."

Citizenship means contributing to the community. In Elmhurst, our town relies on each other. People taking the time to make it a fun, safe, and successful community. I am proud to be a citizen of this town because everyone in Elmhurst makes a contribution to its greatness."

RECOGNIZING FOUNDING FATHERS
OF CITY OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Founding Festival of the City of Jackson, Michigan. This celebration commemorates the 175th anniversary of the founding of the City of Jackson, Michigan, and the 150th anniversary of the meeting "Under the Oaks," the first convention of the Republican Party.

New Yorker Horace Blackman arrived at what is now Jackson on July 3rd, 1829. On July 4th, he staked out his 160-acre claim along the banks of the Grand River. Named for President Andrew Jackson, the village also known as Jacksonburgh and Jacksonopolis grew quickly, and became a hub of commerce and transportation in southern Michigan. It became the terminus of the Michigan Central Railroad, which helped to spur economic growth in the region, and served as a starting point for pioneers heading west.

Jackson has played an important role in defending our country. It was the first city in Michigan to muster troops for the Civil War, and made significant contributions to the war effort during WW II, manufacturing materiel and supplies.

Jackson was a leader in the automotive industry, with 23 different cars manufactured in the City, including the "Jackson" automobile. Both Buick automobiles and Ritz Crackers were originally manufactured in Jackson. Gilbert's Chocolates, Sparton Electronics, and the All-Star Dairy also call Jackson home.

July 6, 2004 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Under the Oaks meeting in Jackson, MI. On this day in 1854, the name "Republican" was used in affiliation with a political party for the first time in the history of the United States of America. With its seeds sown at meetings in Ripon, Wisconsin; Friendship, NY; and Bangor, Maine, the movement took root at the meeting in Jackson, adopting a platform, nominating candidates, and formally adopting the name "Republican."

Called to the City of Jackson by Charles V. DeLand, editor of the Jackson American Cit-

izen newspaper, thousands of former Whigs, FreeSoilers, disgruntled Democrats, and others assembled in Jackson to consider further anti-slavery actions. The call was taken up by newspapers throughout the state to meet on the 6th of July 1854. The crowd of more than 3,000 quickly filled Bronson Hall to overflowing, and the meeting adjourned to the oak grove on Morgan's Forty, at what is now the corner of Franklin and Second streets. At this meeting "Under the Oaks," the first Republican platform was passed, the first Republican candidates were nominated, and the name "Republican" was formally adopted. It is only fitting that this city, that also played an important role in the Underground Railroad, is where the first political platform calling for the abolition of slavery would be adopted. Thus was born the Grand Old Party.

At the time of year that we celebrate the founding of the United States of America, it is my great honor to recognize the founding of Jackson, Michigan, a truly American city born on the fourth of July, and of that Grand Old Party, the Republicans.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHNNY RAY
YOUNGBLOOD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood in recognition of his spiritual leadership and contributions to the community.

Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood is without a doubt, one of the leading theologians of his time. His commitment to the call of spiritual healing, racial parity, social justice and economic equity for all people has garnered him national recognition as a preacher, national leader, public advocate, motivator, writer and teacher. Now in his 30th year serving as senior pastor of St. Paul Community Baptist church and 3rd year as senior pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, both located in Brooklyn, New York, he has completed more than a quarter of a century pastoring to God's people.

In May of 1990, Youngblood received his Doctorate of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, where he studied with an elite group of preachers from across the country as a Samuel D. Proctor Fellow. Dr. Youngblood earned his Masters of Divinity degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity in Rochester, New York and his bachelor's degree from Dillard University in New Orleans. Dr. Youngblood is now single and a father of three sons, Joel Ray, Jason Royce and Johnny Jenell, and the grandfather of Donny Lynn, Joshua, Jalen and Jordyn.

Dr. Youngblood has earned national recognition because of his work with East Brooklyn Congregations (EBC), an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation. He is credited through EBC with spearheading the Nehemiah Housing project, which to date has constructed approximately 2,850 owner-occupied single family homes in some of the most devastated communities in Brooklyn. He has served as national spokesman for the group and in 1990, was recognized in the Congressional Record for his trailblazing work with the project. Dr. Youngblood is a subject of the

Harper Collins book, "Upon This Rock: The Miracles of a Black Church," written by Samuel G. Freedman. In 1996, Youngblood and the ministry of St. Paul community were featured in an article titled "Crossing Border" in the premiere of Common Quest magazine. In December of 1995, Dr. Youngblood was also listed in The New Yorker magazine as one of the "ten most influential" New Yorkers. He has been profiled on ABC's 20/20, NBC Nightly News, CBS Sunday Morning News, FOX 5's McCreary Live Report, and the Charlie Rose Show.

In September 1995, Dr. Youngblood launched what has become one of the premier projects on the Church's annual calendar, now known as the commemoration of the Maafa. Dr. Youngblood is spearheading a national effort to promote the Maafa as a spiritual movement aimed at healing this nation around the scars of slavery. Since 1998, the St. Paul Community has toured "The Maafa Suite" production to venues including Dallas, Mississippi, Seattle, Atlanta, Chicago and Connecticut.

In June of 1998, Dr. Youngblood released his own book of poetry titled, "I Honor My Father"; a collection of poems inspired by the illness and loss of his father in the same year.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Youngblood has dedicated his life to helping people through his spiritual leadership, public advocacy and civic participation. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

CELEBRATING OLDER AMERICANS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, communities around the country and in my district celebrated Older Americans Month this May. The theme for 2004 was "Aging Well, Living Well", a goal I'm sure we all hope to achieve as we enter into our golden years. Every day in our country, some 6,000 people turn age 65 and become eligible for Social Security, Medicare and other age-based entitlements. In less than 7 years, the daily tally of Americans celebrating their 65th birthday will increase by more than 50 percent to 10,000 a day.

It is in the spirit of Older Americans Month and our support for these individuals that I bring to my colleagues' attention the work of the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine. For more than 75 years, The Jackson Lab has worked tirelessly for the benefit of older Americans and has been at the forefront of discovering cures for human diseases. Their research into the specific diseases of old age as well as the overall mechanisms of aging have helped pave the way to important discoveries that serve to improve quality of life for all older Americans. As we take a moment to honor Older Americans, we should recognize those individuals and institutions that do all they can to enhance the human condition as we grow older.

The good news is that many older Americans see retirement as a time to enjoy the fruits of their earlier labors. A 2002 survey by Peter D. Hart Research Associates found that

more than 59 percent of individuals aged 50 and over see retirement as "a time to be active and involved, to start new activities, and to set new goals." Recent studies, such as the MacArthur Foundation's "Study of Aging in America" demonstrate that engaging in life is a key component of successful aging. Americans are pleased and proud that in our country, most people are enjoying the blessings of longer and healthier lives. Meanwhile, we know that scientists searching for answers to the diseases of aging such as cancer and Alzheimer's are likely to succeed in adding even more healthy and vital years to the average life span.

However, for many Americans, the concept of "growing old gracefully" is now, and will always be, unattainable. The combination of reduced income, increased health care needs, and decreased quality of life create more problems than opportunities for too many in our aging population. Over 5 million older Americans live at or near the poverty level. The median level of income is around \$19,000 per year. At the same time, most older Americans have at least one chronic condition (such as hypertension or diabetes). These conditions contribute to increased health care costs at precisely the time when their incomes are reduced.

Policymakers have a responsibility to better understand the challenging issues facing our country as we press the boundaries of human aging and health. What level of funding should Congress invest to further extend human longevity? What impact will longer and healthier lives have on the economy and on the costs of health care? It is part of our responsibility as legislators and representatives to stay informed at the crossroads of science and human aging. Sooner than we may expect, Congress may be called upon to render judgments in public policy on these issues. That is why I was so pleased to learn of The Jackson Laboratory's participation in a powerful new on-line forum called SAGE (for "Science of Aging") Crossroads (www.SAGECrossroads.net).

Launched in March, 2003, [www.SAGECrossroads](http://www.SAGECrossroads.net) combines the high journalistic standards of SCIENCE magazine, with the immediacy and interactivity of the Internet. A particularly exciting centerpiece of the project is a monthly debate that is webcast live to viewers who participate in these timely discussions as they are happening. Through this series of innovative and thought-provoking discussions, SAGE Crossroads invites researchers, policymakers and concerned citizens to interact with respected thought leaders. For example, Dr. David Harrison of the Jackson Lab recently participated in a debate entitled "Are Biomarkers the Key to the Fountain of Youth?" This particular debate considered the issue of whether resources are better spent on seeking to cure the specific causes of various diseases, or whether to work to identify the key biomarkers of aging that might lead us to a better understanding of aging in its entirety. Other debate topics have ranged in recent months from contrasting views of life extending and life enhancing technologies to appropriate uses of information about individual genetic risks to disease. Through this forum, leaders in the aging research community address questions such as whether a person's age should count in rationing limited health care resources or whether public policy

considerations impact the scope of scientific research.

The people in my district, as well as people across the country, are very interested in what it will take to maintain health and enjoy a high quality of life as they age. As policymakers, we know that the forward march of the life sciences will raise as many questions as it settles. I urge my colleagues to draw upon the wisdom of some of our most provocative and learned thought leaders by signing on to www.SAGECrossroads.net and registering to participate in future debates.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT G. WANNAMAKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of South Carolina's leading executives, Robert G. Wannamaker, General Manager of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Mr. Wannamaker, who will be retiring at the end of this month, has spent his entire career insuring that rural areas in South Carolina's Sixth Congressional District have access to reliable, affordable electricity.

Throughout his 23 years with the Cooperative, Mr. Wannamaker has led his team to many profound successes, especially in times of crisis. This past January he impressively managed the effects of a natural disaster when one of the most violent ice storms in South Carolina's history tore through the state's Midlands leaving roughly 15,000 Co-op customers without power. Mr. Wannamaker directed a recovery process that had total restoration of power within a week despite extensive damage to more than 250 poles and 200 cross arms.

Mr. Wannamaker began his career with McCall-Thomas Engineering Company of Orangeburg as an Engineering Assistant. He was hired at Tri-County in January of 1972 by the late Dewey Kemmerlin, Jr. as a field designer and staking engineer. He was later promoted to the position of manager of member services, which he held until he left Tri-County Co-op to become the district manager of the Johns Island District of Berkeley Electric Co-op near Charleston. He is a graduate of Spartanburg Methodist College and the University of South Carolina and serves as a member of community development committees and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Wannamaker on a distinguished career of insuring a better quality of life for rural citizens of South Carolina. His work has given thousands of customers the reliability and convenience of having efficient energy services through even the most challenging conditions. And he will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL 201'S ECON BOWL TEAM

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the students of Intermediate School 201 of the South Bronx. IS 201's Econ Bowl team took top prize at the 2004 Econ Bowl.

The Econ Bowl is a citywide contest sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Daily News to encourage middle school students to learn about economic policy. This year's competition had students consider the possible negative impact of revolutionary technologies. The students of Intermediate School 201 examined the possible effects that fuel cells would have once they come into widespread use.

Led by their teacher, Mr. Finkelstein, IS 201's seventh grade team worked diligently for four months to develop their award-winning presentation; researching and talking with experts such as Undersecretary of Energy David Gordon to get a greater understanding of the subject matter. Their hard work paid off as they were more than prepared to answer tough questions asked by the judges.

These impressive young people explained how fuel cells would help cut back on automobile pollution by generating electricity from hydrogen and having only water as an emission. They also examined the downsides of a fuel cell revolution such as the disruption it would cause in the shipping and auto industry by rendering crude oil obsolete and how it would negatively impact oil producing countries. However, in the end they concluded that the benefits of fuel cell technology far outweigh the negatives.

Mr. Speaker, one student told a Daily News reporter that he learned that fuel cell cars could reduce the pollution that causes his asthma. My congressional district has one of the highest childhood asthma rates in the country. Throughout my career I have worked to fight the environmental injustices in the realm of air quality that have caused this disease to be so prevalent in the South Bronx. To hear the youth of my district discuss ideas for eradicating this disease makes me proud and reassures me that the South Bronx will be left in good hands.

For earning first place in the 2004 Econ Bowl, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Intermediate School 201.

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LEADERSHIP
IN THE WAR ON DRUGS

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask to enter the following tribute recognizing President and Mrs. Reagan's involvement in the war on drugs into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A TRIBUTE: PRESIDENT & MRS. RONALD
REAGAN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE WAR ON DRUGS

We, representing countless parents, community volunteers, civic leaders, business

leaders, physicians, teachers, church leaders, policy makers, law enforcement officers, media representatives, and youth from across America, want to express our deepest gratitude to President and Mrs. Reagan for their extraordinary leadership in the battle against drugs and for saving the lives of so many children through drug prevention. Together they encouraged and supported a nationwide effort to reduce the demand for drugs by increasing Americans' knowledge and changing the attitudes and behavior. They inspired us with hope, knowledge, and conviction. The result was a dramatic turn around in illicit drug use in America, and thus lives were saved, health care costs were reduced, crime was reduced, and innovative strategies and scientific research were developed to enhance drug abuse treatment, prevent AIDS, and other drug-related social problems. Our nation and the world owe them a tremendous debt. We recommit ourselves to continuing in this noble fight to protect our children from the nightmare of drugs and to carry forward the message of prevention with hope and optimism.

Milestones of the Reagan legacy include: Raising the drinking age throughout the country from 18 to 21. The workplace drug prevention program including federal drug testing and standards. Nancy Reagan's Just Say No campaign that ratified and promoted the Parents' Movement. These programs brought about a dramatic fall in illegal drug abuse throughout the nation after two decades of rising levels with the peak coming in 1978 and the bottom in 1991. President Reagan's leadership was a key in this element in this historic progress.

Robert L. DuPont MD, First Director of National Institute on Drug Abuse, President of the Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc., Maryland.

Joyce Nalepka, Drug Free Kids: America's Challenge, former President of Nancy Reagan's National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, Silver Springs, Maryland.

Edward Jacobs, MD, FAAP, Everett Clinic, Everett, Washington.

Theresa Costello, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Daniel Bent, Fair Mediation, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Sue Rusche, National Families in Action, Atlanta, Georgia.

Eric Voth, M.D. FACP, Chairman, Institute on Global Drug Policy, Topeka, Kansas. Michelle Voth, Kansas Family Partnership, Topeka, Kansas.

David Evans, Esq., Drug Free Schools Coalition, Flemington, New Jersey.

Calvina Fay, Executive Director, Drug Free America Foundation, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida.

Peggy Sapp, National Family Partnership, Miami, Florida.

Steven Steiner, DAMMAD, Tioga Center, New York.

Steven Steiner, Barton, New York.

Rebecca Hobson, Richton, Mississippi.

Brenda Truelove, Gainesville, Georgia.

Karen Dewease, Petal, Mississippi.

Julie Steiner, Barton, New York.

Mikki Howard, Austin, Indiana.

Martha McWhirter, Lawrence, Mississippi.

Susie Dugan, PRIDE Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska.

Judy Dinerstein, Naperville, Illinois.

Betty Sembler, Chairman, S.O.S.—Save Our Society From Drugs, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Grainne Kenny, International President, EURAD (Europe Against Drugs).

John English, Springfield, Oregon.

Susan Baum, Loyahanna, Pennsylvania.

Frank Richardson, Binghamton, New York.

Patsy Parker, Moss Point, Mississippi.

Sharon L. Smith, President—MOMSTELL, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Connie Moulton, Committees of Correspondence, Danvers, Massachusetts.

Robert Peterson, Esq., Vice President of International Affairs, PRIDE Youth Programs, Fremont, Michigan.

Jay DeWispleare, Executive Director, PRIDE Youth Programs, Fremont, Michigan.

Lea Cox, Concerned Citizens for Drug Prevention, Norwell, Massachusetts.

Jack Gilligan, Global Drug Prevention Network, Peoria, Illinois.

Malcolm K. Beyer, Jr., Student Drug-Testing Coalition, Jupiter, Florida.

Peter Stoker, Director, National Drug Prevention Alliance, Great Britain.

Carla Lowe, Legal Foundation Against Drugs, Sacramento, California.

Jim Kester, Austin, Texas.

Beverly Barron, Former Executive Director of Texans War on Drugs, Odessa, Texas.

Peggy Goble, Great Meadows, New Jersey. Karin Kyles, New Canaan, Connecticut.

DeForest Rathbone, Chairman, National Institute of Citizen Anti-drug Policy, Great Falls, Virginia.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dey (DEA Retired), Georgetown, Texas.

Ginger Katz, President of the Courage to Speak Foundation, Connecticut.

State Representative Toni Boucher, Assistant Minority Leader District 143, Connecticut.

Geraldine Silverman, New Jersey Federation for Drug Free Communities, Short Hills, New Jersey.

Wewley William Shea, Anchorage, Alaska.

Beverly J. Kinard, President, Christian Drug Education Center, Canon City, Colorado.

Judy Kreamer, Educating Voices, Inc., Naperville, Illinois.

Becky Vance, Executive Director, Drug Free Business Houston—A division of the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Houston, Texas.

Cathey Brown, Rainbow Days, Inc., Dallas, Texas.

Lynda Adams, Alaskans For Drug Free Youth, Ketchikan, Alaska.

June M. Milam, Former CEO DREAM, Inc., Madison, Mississippi.

Joyce Tobias, Parents' Association to Neutralize Drug & Alcohol Abuse (PANDAA), Annandale, Virginia.

Judy Cushing, President/C.E.O., Oregon Partnership, Portland, Oregon.

Judy Arendsee, Rancho Sante Fe, California.

Stephanie Hayes, Former Board Chairman, Texans War on Drugs, Alpine, Texas.

CONGRATULATING MILTON I.
SHADUR OF CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable Milton I. Shadur of Chicago on his career accomplishments as a Senior Federal Judge on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Judge Shadur's commitment to the judicial process has earned him a tremendous amount of admiration from his colleagues, and I am proud to congratulate him on his continuing commitment to the law, and his service in pursuit of justice.

Judge Shadur graduated from the University of Chicago with both a bachelors of science in

mathematics and a graduate degree in law. In between his undergraduate and graduate studies, Judge Shadur served his country with distinction during World War II as a Lieutenant in the Navy as a radar officer stationed on aircraft carriers.

During law school, he served as editor-in-chief of the law review and was elected to the Order of the Coif. This excellence in education was acknowledged as Judge Shadur graduated, ranked first in his class with the highest scholastic average ever obtained at the University of Chicago Law School.

Even while attending Law School, Judge Shadur's legal skills were recognized by the finest legal minds in the country. Two of his law review notes were cited and quoted by the United States Supreme Court. Additionally, by special leave of the court, Judge Shadur argued his first case before the United States Court of Appeals before being admitted to the bar. One day after his admission to the bar, Judge Shadur argued his first case before the Illinois Supreme Court.

Judge Shadur practiced law in the private sector for 31 years, first joining the law firm headed by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg. During his career in private practice, Judge Shadur established himself as a highly skilled and even-minded lawyer. His dedication to the law extended beyond his law firm as he served terms as director of both the Chicago Bar Foundation and the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago. He additionally held many important positions with the Chicago Bar Association.

On May 23, 1980 President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Shadur to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, where he still currently serves. In this position, Judge Shadur has ruled on both civil and criminal cases, authoring over 8,000 opinions. In 1992, Judge Shadur was named a Senior Judge, where he maintains a full civil and criminal calendar, as well as sitting by invitation with several Courts of Appeals around the country each year.

Judge Shadur has also been very active as a community leader, serving as a trustee of the village of Glencoe and as vice president of the American Jewish Congress, where he has pledged to defend the rights of minorities in the United States. He has also been very active with the Ravinia music festival, spending many years serving on its Board of Trustees.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and indeed all of Chicago, I am privileged to congratulate Milton I. Shadur, on the occasion of his 80th birthday, for his impressive career accomplishments in the law. I join his wife Eleanor, their three children, three grandchildren, and two great-grandsons in wishing him continued happiness and success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND
FIGUEROA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the achievements of Ray-

mond Figueroa, an inspiration, and the executive director of Turning Point/Discipleship Outreach Ministries located in Brooklyn, New York.

Raymond has been instrumental in the success of this organization, which provides housing, educational opportunity, substance abuse treatment and AIDS programs to some of Brooklyn's most underprivileged neighborhoods. The program reaches over 2,000 residents a year and reaches 20,000 more through outreach initiatives.

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Figueroa's dedication and work has been recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership program, as they have chosen him as one of their 10 annual recipients. Raymond has overcome many challenges to get where he is today—he was born into poverty, and grew up with a troubled childhood. Yet, his commitment to bettering our community is unwavering, and although he did not graduate from high school or receive a formal education, Mr. Figueroa is living proof that one can rise above the circumstances to achieve their goals.

Over the course of his life, Raymond has lost friends and family to violence, addiction, and AIDS. He watched his sister as she endured the stigma of living with AIDS and was victimized by a hospital staff that refused to touch her, despite her absence of tuberculosis or skin abrasions. The reality of his sister's dehumanization strengthened his drive to work in social justice.

Starting as a volunteer at the Turning Point/Discipleship Outreach Ministries in 1990, Raymond moved to a leadership position 12 years later as the only second executive director. He is truly an inspiration to his community, and reminds us that we can overcome barriers.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Raymond Figueroa, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize his extraordinary work in the Brooklyn community.

PRAISE FOR THE PLANNING AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF RONALD
REAGAN TRIBUTE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise the City of Simi Valley, California, for its role in paying tribute last week to the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

Many county, State and Federal agencies, Nancy Reagan and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library joined in planning and implementing the tribute to and national mourning for President Reagan.

But as the host city, the burden of limiting the impact on the surrounding community, accommodating mourners from throughout the Nation, and ensuring a respectful good-bye to one of America's greatest presidents largely fell on the City of Simi Valley. As a resident of the city for more than 35 years, its former mayor, and a neighbor of the presidential library, I applaud the city for a job well done.

I arrived at the presidential library within 2 hours of the announcement of President Rea-

gan's death. Simi Valley police and Ventura County Sheriff's deputies were already on hand to provide crowd control. A place for people to leave flowers and tributes was already established. At the library, 50 to 60 people were already working in crews to ready the place for the arrival of President Reagan's casket and the more than 100,000 mourners who would file past it in the coming days.

Simi Valley dedicated nearly half its police force specifically to duties associated with the viewing and internment. Volunteers were brought in to answer telephones. Other volunteers were dispatched to the Wood Ranch development with fliers to inform residents on what they could expect and why.

The top-notch planning and execution ensured that the tribute to President Reagan was dignified, secure and smooth from beginning to end. Visitors from across the country and television viewers throughout the world marveled at the peaceful and orderly scenes.

Working closely with Duke Blackwood, director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, Mayor Bill Davis and the entire City Council, City Manager Mike Sedell and Police Chief Mark Layhew displayed to the world the heart and spirit of Reagan country.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in expressing to Simi Valley's officials that they have the thanks of a grateful Nation.

CONGRATULATING DR. WESLEY E.
PITTMAN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I want to express my most sincere congratulations to Dr. Wesley E. Pittman who will soon be installed as the President of the American Optometric Association.

A lifelong resident of Mexia, Texas, Dr. Pittman and is a fourth generation optometrist, who has practiced optometry there since 1984. Dr. Pittman has been a leader in his community and in his profession at the state, regional and national levels.

Like his father, the late William D. Pittman, O.D., and grandfather, the late W. Duke Pittman, O.D., he has been a member of the Texas Optometry Board, where he served as Chairman. He has served on the board of the Foundation for Education and Research in Vision, the Southwest Council of Optometry, and is the past president of the Heart of Texas Optometric Association.

Dr. Pittman has also received many prestigious awards including Texas Young Optometrist of the Year, the Texas Optometric Association's President's Award for outstanding contributions to the profession and Texas Optometrist of the Year. In March 2003, he received the University of Houston College of Optometry's William D. "Bill" Pittman Leadership award, named for his father.

An active member of his community, Dr. Pittman has served as a director of the Mexia Industrial Foundation. He is a past president of the Mexia Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club. Dr. Pittman has served on the Bricks and Mortar Board of the Parkview Regional Hospital and is a consultant to the Mexia State School, a mental health facility.

Later this month, Dr. Pittman will become the 83rd President of the American Optometric Association, a professional association of specialized doctors with more 34,000 members nationwide. I join with Dr. Pittman's friends and neighbors in Mexia in congratulating him on this prestigious achievement and wishing him the very best in all his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACT

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Representative EHLERS, in introducing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act at the request of this Administration. Our Subcommittees in the Science and House Resources Committees share jurisdiction over authorization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, programs and I'm proud to say we work well together. Our joint introduction of a NOAA organic act is just one step in our commitment to work together to solidify and better support NOAA agency functions.

NOAA performs a number of vital services to the nation, including the monitoring and management of our oceans, monitoring meteorological trends, and making life-saving storm predictions. Its job is to bring together many pieces of complex oceanic and atmospheric systems so that we can best understand and utilize them as good stewards. Our very lives, particularly along the coasts, depend upon many of NOAA's functions and our future, especially as we observe the impacts of atmospheric, surface and ocean warming trends, rests on how well we support this work. NOAA's work emphasizes an ecosystem approach and enables the U.S. to best manage our place in the global environment as well as the impacts of global changes on us. This effort, given its many and diverse pieces and constituents, needs strong and central leadership and coordination, just as steering a ship requires a captain and a plan.

Because NOAA does not have a single organic act that requires the agency budget, as a whole, to be authorized on an annual basis and because many NOAA programs are authorized under different public laws and committees of jurisdiction, NOAA programs may be authorized at different times. NOAA's functions, in the contexts of many laws with varying purposes, are difficult to oversee and for the agency to fulfill under these circumstances. In light of these challenges, NOAA has done well, and by crafting an organic act for the agency, the Administration has taken the first important step toward the leadership we need to strengthen NOAA's role.

As one of the key recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, this effort is a necessary component to improving our ocean management. I look forward to working with Representative EHLERS and my colleagues on both the Resources and Science Committees and the Administration with this important legislation and on continuing to pursue and create greater central coordination of ocean policy issues.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased, along with my colleague from Maryland, Mr. GILCHREST, to introduce the President's bill to establish the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As Chairmen of the House subcommittees with jurisdiction over NOAA, we are introducing this bill as a courtesy to the President.

NOAA was created by Executive Order in 1970. Since that time Congress has not passed a comprehensive law describing the mission of the agency. On April 20, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released its long awaited Preliminary Report with recommendations for a coordinated national ocean policy. One of its key recommendations is that Congress should pass an organic act for NOAA. I have already introduced my bill creating such an organic act (H.R. 4546). This bill Mr. GILCHREST and I are introducing today is the Administration's response to the recommendation.

I look forward to working with Mr. GILCHREST and the Members of the Science Committee and the Resources Committee as we consider comprehensive legislation for NOAA.

HONORING MAYOR LUIS E. MELENDEZ CANO OF VEGA BAJA, PUERTO RICO

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an exemplary public servant from Puerto Rico, the Honorable Luis Melendez Cano, mayor of the City of Vega Baja.

Luisito, as he is popularly known, has been Mayor of the City of Vega Baja since January 1973. Luisito, who also is a pharmacist, earned the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army National Guard and became Mayor at age 33.

Luisito has served the citizens of his fast-growing city with enthusiasm, a strong sense of patriotism and total devotion to the highest ideals of public service. He is known and respected for his honesty and dedication to the best interest of the people he serves.

Mr. Speaker, public service is one of the highest callings an individual can embark on. Please join me in recognizing the stellar record of this dedicated public servant. A man who committed himself to the improvement of the City of Vega Baja and its people.

Luisito, I congratulate you for your many years of selfless public service, and I wish you and the people of your city much success in your future endeavors.

COMMEMORATION OF DELTA AIRLINE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Delta Airlines on the 75th anniversary of the airline's first passenger flight, June 17th, 1929.

Delta has a long and storied history in aviation development in America. Starting as a small crop-dusting business in Monroe, Louisiana under the name of Huff Daland Dusters in 1923, C.E. Woolman and his associates acquired it in 1928. A company secretary came up with the name Delta after the airline's location near the Mississippi River's outlet to the Gulf of Mexico. By 1929 the company had its first passenger plane. Seventy-five years ago today, a Delta Airlines plane carried passengers for the first time from Monroe to Dallas, Texas.

While competitors faltered during the Great Depression, Delta survived by teaching flying as well as providing maintenance and hangar rentals to other airlines at its Monroe base. Delta won a bid for a federal postal contract in 1934, giving the airline a route from Charleston, South Carolina to Fort Worth, Texas. As the airline grew Delta split the route into two parts—eastbound to Charleston and westbound to Dallas and Fort Worth, later linking them up in Atlanta. With this route and passenger service as reliable sources of income, Delta grasped the opportunity to evolve into one of the most successful airline companies in the United States. Today Delta serves 209 domestic cities in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as 48 international cities in 32 countries. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation, I am pleased to recognize Delta's great contribution to the transportation industry.

TRIBUTE TO DRURY SHOEMAKER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, as we have just recently reflected on the loss of President Reagan and have also recently remembered those who have given their lives in defense of this great Nation on Memorial Day, I wanted to also pay tribute to the late Drury Shoemaker of my District in Tennessee.

Drury's beloved widow, Hazel, sent me a nice note in remembrance of her late husband, who served in the United States Marine Corps. Drury Shoemaker was a fine Marine, part of the C-1-28-5th Division that participated in the battle of Iwo Jima. He survived the War, but later took ill as a result of exposure to radiation from the Hiroshima nuclear explosion. Drury went to be with the Lord on December 11, 2001.

Known as Papaw to his special grandson Darrian, Drury often spoke of taking his wife and grandson back to Iwo Jima to share with them such an important place in his life. Unfortunately, his health did not allow for that special trip.

During the many services I attended on Memorial Day, I especially remembered the service of Drury W. Shoemaker to our Country and the love he showed for his family and fellow Marines.

Mr. Speaker, this Nation would be a much better place if there were more people here like Drury Shoemaker. His loving widow, Hazel, composed a wonderful prayer, especially timely as we remember those who have paid the ultimate price and at a time when we dedicate a wonderful new memorial to those who served in World War II. I would like to call this special prayer to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

Dear Lord and Creator: As America is preparing to dedicate the World War II Memorial in Washington, at a time our Nation is again involved in a war, Lord, my plea to you this day is that through your wisdom and power you will help the people of America truly understand what freedom has cost us.

From Flanders Field to Arlington, from Iwo Jima to Hiroshima, all across Europe (the world really), our loved ones have paid the price in full, Dear Lord, either with their living until death takes them in conditions almost unbearable for them and the ones caring for them. Our veterans are dying by the thousands every day Lord, and the pain and loneliness only you know and understand. Tears, Lord, that seem to have no end. Long days and worse nights, torment that never goes away. Lord, please stand by the widows and the little ones who cannot understand where their Papaw has gone, they just cry themselves to sleep and ask why. God, please help us to endure, because that's all we can do, just endure until we are again with the ones we love.

In your mercy and love please protect my President and the men and women who are truly trying to bring this war to an end. Give them wisdom and courage and strength.

The Memorial is beautiful Lord, but only you can know that the heartbreak the ones left behind endure is not pretty, it's awful and never ending.

God, please, I pray again, stay close by our little ones who just can't understand loss.

Help us, Lord, as a Nation to stand firm and faithful and every day thank you for your Love and Protection.

Thank you Lord for listening. Amen.

MRS. DRURY W. SHOEMAKER.

TRIBUTE TO ERICA BATTLE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to South Carolina's golfing "phenom" Erica Battle, a young lady who seems to be poised to make a big splash in the golf world in the not-to-distant future.

Just last week, this 19-year-old Irmo, South Carolina native, won the Sonic Women's City of Columbia Championship held at the Forrest Lake Country Club. She stayed focused through a rainy second day at the tournament to break the course record with a score of 4-under par 68. After the 3 day tournament, she emerged with a 2-over-par 218, and bested the second place finisher by five strokes.

Attaining such an accomplishment as a college junior is not unusual for this golf standout. As a high school player, Erica was named

South Carolina's Female Athlete of the Year by The State newspaper and won the Beth Daniel Player of the Year award from the South Carolina Junior Golf Association. She qualified for the United States Amateur in 2002, won the 4A State Girl individual title in 2000, and led her Irmo High School golf team to three state championships.

She is also dedicated to help with charitable causes. Last August, Erica participated in the 13th annual Rudolph Canzater Memorial Classic that I host annually in Santee, South Carolina. Last year's tournament contributed \$21,000 in college scholarships for 22 needy students, and \$25,000 to an Endowment I have established at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. I played in the foursome with Erica on the first day of that two-day event, and got to see first hand the poise and maturity she has developed in the few years since she was my primary source for Girl Scout cookies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and your colleagues to join me in celebrating the most recent success of Erica Battle, and in encouraging her to continue setting goals and records. Her success is a shining example to those who will follow in her footsteps.

IN MEMORY OF DR. LAWRENCE A. DAVIS, SR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a devoted and well-respected Arkansan, Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Sr. Known as Prexy to close family and friends, Dr. Davis passed away on Saturday, June 5, at the age of 89. His deep devotion to higher education and to the well-being of everyone around him, particularly his students, leaves a legacy that will live on for generations in the lives he touched.

A native of McCroy, Arkansas, Dr. Davis graduated magna cum laude in 1937 from Arkansas AM&N in Pine Bluff. He went on to receive a master's degree in English from the University of Kansas and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Davis spent most of his career at Arkansas AM&N, where he served as an English professor, registrar, dean, and assistant to the president. In 1943, at age 29, Dr. Davis became president of AM&N, making him the youngest college president in the Nation. Thirty years later, he oversaw the merger of Arkansas AM&N with the University of Arkansas education system, creating the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and became the school's first chancellor. His son, Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Jr., has followed in his father's footsteps and serves as the current UAPB chancellor.

Under Dr. Davis' leadership, the institution experienced substantial growth in enrollment, academic programs, faculty, and expansion of the physical campus. Believing that every person has the right to receive a college education, Dr. Davis inspired and helped countless students who had limited resources to complete their degrees and go on to accomplish great things.

Serving his community and improving the lives of others were life-long commitments of this compassionate and diligent leader. Dr. Davis was a member of numerous community and university committees.

My thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Davis' family, friends, and colleagues, to whom I extend my deepest and sincere sympathies. May his legacy endure in the many lives that he touched and inspired.

THE FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, the Forest Legacy Program preserves working forests and protects critical forest resources. Since its inception, the Forest Legacy program has protected 360,000 acres of forested land, while helping to preserve the working forest economies of many States, including Maine.

The FY05 Interior Appropriations bill before the House today drastically cuts this program. The \$43 million in the bill for forest conservation projects is \$26 million (38 percent) less than last year's level; \$57 million less than the President requested in his budget; \$107 million (71 percent) less than sought by 92 House Members in a letter to the Interior appropriations committee that I led with Representatives BASS and MARSHALL; and a whopping \$193 million below the level of projects proposed by States.

The bill eliminates 10 projects recommended by the President, cuts funding—by as much as 75 percent—for 37 projects in 30 States and territories, and eliminates funds for 6 new States to join the program.

The Forest Legacy Program has strong support from the Administration, which proposed more than a 40-percent increase in this year's budget.

The Forest Legacy Program provides multiple public benefits. The program enables landowners to retain ownership of their land and continue to earn income from it; conserves open space, scenic lands, wildlife habitat, and clean water; and ensures continued opportunities for outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking.

Given its record of assisting private landowners, leveraging non-federal funds and ensuring long-term conservation benefits, the Forest Legacy Program is a successful example of a public-private, non-regulatory partnership approach to land conservation. For limited dollars, the program brings multiple public benefits.

We should not be cutting this program.

ENERGY POLICY

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that we develop a clear plan to lower our fuel prices and reduce our dangerous dependence on foreign oil, which decreases our security and weakens our economy.

This summer, Americans are facing record high prices for gasoline. There are some who think we can lower prices by diverting oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This is shortsighted and wrong. Not only would releasing the oil have a short-term, negligible impact on prices, but also it would wipe out our reserves, leaving us vulnerable to terrorist attacks targeting pipelines and oil transportation.

This could raise oil prices beyond anything we want to imagine.

Further, in 1973, America was 30 percent dependent on foreign oil. Today, that number has doubled to an all-time high of nearly 60 percent. If we continue down this path without new supplies and conservation, we will only increase our vulnerability to foreign manipulation of oil prices. Our only response must be to reduce, not increase, our foreign dependency.

We must develop a three-point plan to reduce this dependence on lower fuel prices—a plan that includes conservation, diversification of energy sources and further exploration of domestic energy.

We can start with conservation—fuel efficient vehicles, decreasing energy use in federal buildings by 20 percent, and improved incentives for conservation products will help to reduce energy demands.

We must diversify our energy sources. Our own coal resources can provide hundreds of years of energy. Clean coal power plants can alleviate environmental concerns with older plants.

And we can make better use of nuclear energy, which currently provides only 20 percent of the Nation's electricity. We must explore more domestic energy sources.

The resources are here, along with environmentally sound ways to tap into them. There are 16 million acres in ANWR and proposals to drill there would include only an area equivalent to the size of a hand on a football field.

High fuel prices and a dangerous dependence on foreign oil are a problem for all Americans.

It adds costs to fuel and goods. We cannot afford to let this become a partisan issue, nor should we engage in shortsighted solutions that in the end are not solutions at all.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH P. AND CAROL A. GIALI ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a recent achievement of two Californians who, in celebrating their 50th year of marriage, have provided an inspiring example to all Americans. On May 8, 1954, in Westwood, California, Joseph Peter Giali, first generation American (both his parents were born in Italy), married Carol Amy Johnson (one of her parents was born in Sweden, the other parent was a first generation American from Sweden). With not much more at the beginning to call their own except their marriage, their faith in God and the vast opportunities afforded by this great country, Joe and Carol have come a long way in their 50 years of marriage. Their

first child was born a year and a day after their marriage and five more children followed quickly thereafter. All six children are married and productive citizens and Joe and Carol have 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild (with surely more to follow).

Joe served his country in the Marines. After getting married and starting the family, Joe attended Loyola University in Los Angeles on the G.I. Bill and graduated with honors. He worked in the furniture industry for almost 40 years. Carol ran the household and tirelessly provided a loving and nurturing home environment for her husband and kids. Throughout their incredible life together, Joe and Carol have dedicated their lives, their children's lives and their home to God, country and the Golden Rule.

Wherever they have lived, Joe and Carol have been strong and active supporters of their church. They have also strongly supported their country, and so have their kids. And of course this support has been longstanding, as Joe and Carol's marriage has lasted through 10 Presidential administrations from Eisenhower to George W. Bush. Joe and Carol and their family have been truly blessed by the first 50 years of this magical marriage, and here's hoping that the best is yet to come. On behalf of my colleagues, let me join the many friends and admirers in wishing Joe and Carol and their family all good fortune during the next 50 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER'S DAY

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, June 20, is Father's Day in America. In honor of this nationally recognized day I take special privilege to salute Fathers and more importantly fatherhood.

I appreciate the millions of fathers that are active parents and advocates for their children's well-being. When fathers value their children, for their true selves, they give their children the confidence to use their talents in the world.

A father can be one of the two most important people in a child's life. For example, when advertisers spend billions to convince daughters that they must look a certain size and dress a certain way, it is the father who reminds her that she is a whole and unique person that warrants respect, beauty and dignity in her own right.

When society tells our males that success is measured by the car, house and clothes you have, it is the Father's role model that impact the values and integrity of their sons.

Sociologists and psychologists now proclaim what we as human beings already knew—Fatherhood is not always easy.

"Father Knows Best", a popular TV show of the 50s, promoted the image of an intuitive male parent who always knew just the right thing to say and just the right lesson to teach but parenting is not easy.

The benefits of a steady income and the things money buy pale in comparison to the love and emotional support that all children need and deserve to help them develop as whole adults.

Our institutions and government entities at every level should promote public policies that remove barriers to responsible fatherhood.

However, I suspect that we fall short, particularly, in the area of incarcerated fathers, unemployed fathers and fathers outside of the home.

We must encourage fathers in real responsibility, not blame them for who and what they are and enable fathers to lead healthy and productive lives and create positive bonds with their children.

Our laws, institutions and public policies should do much to:

Promote public education concerning the financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood;

Assist men in preparation for the legal, financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood;

Promote the establishment of paternity at childbirth;

Encourage fathers, regardless of marital status, to foster their emotional connection to and financial support of their children;

Establish support mechanisms for fathers in their relations with their children, regardless of their marital and financial status; and,

Integrate federal, state and local services available for families.

Fathers need the building blocks of community, employment, and parenting skills to be the best Father they can be—because Father doesn't always know best.

Happy Father's Day.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN GILBERT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mr. John Gilbert, a very special young man who exemplifies the finest qualities of citizenship and sportsmanship.

John competed against athletes from across the Nation for a position on the American junior basketball team. He will join his teammates in representing the United States of America at the Australian junior basketball championship in Sydney, Australia.

John's accomplishments are particularly exceptional, given that he is a member of the Nebraska Red Dawgs wheelchair basketball team. His passion for the game is exhibited by weekend travels and many trips around the country. This sort of dedication has earned him the respect both of his community and me. I would like to wish him the best of luck.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Mr. John Gilbert for his accomplishments and inspiration to the 6th District of Missouri. His stellar leadership qualities, faith, and stamina provide the city of Fairfax, Missouri, with an outstanding role model. We are fortunate to have a young man representing this nation in competition who sets such high standards for character and integrity.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM KERR OF
PITTSBURGH, PA

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize the founding of Flag Day, I would also like to pay tribute to William Kerr. William Kerr, of Pittsburgh, PA, worked continuously for over 50 years to establish a national Flag Day. Kerr believed that the American flag had symbolized love for country since its adoption on June 14, 1777. He felt it of great importance that this date be celebrated along with Independence Day on July 4.

Kerr was born in 1868 and began his quest to establish a national holiday at the young age of 14. He was a deeply patriotic young man with a talent for speaking in public. After delivering a speech in Chicago in 1882, he started to think about the important symbolism the flag had for the American people. This love of country and flag was especially fitting when one considers that he was born and lived in a state where the American flag was first adopted.

Kerr's belief in the importance of the flag led him to organize the American Flag Association of Western Pennsylvania in 1888. He went on to speak all over the state on behalf of the organization, building momentum by urging other Pennsylvanians to join the charge. Kerr also began his efforts to lobby the United States Government to officially name June 14th a federal holiday.

In 1898, during the Spanish American War, he expanded this scope of his organization to a national level as head of the new American Flag Association. He began to visit the President of the United States on an annual basis, using his powers of persuasion at the highest possible level. At the same time, his association waged an intensive letter writing campaign to elected officials and other persons of influence.

Kerr's efforts and intensity proved successful. In 1916, Woodrow Wilson urged Americans to celebrate Flag Day, effectively making June 14th a holiday, if still an unofficial one. In 1937, Pennsylvania, his home and the birthplace of his efforts, became the first to make June 14th an official state holiday. And finally, in 1949, William Kerr was asked by President Harry Truman to witness the signing of the Bill that marked June 14th as an official federal holiday. He was 81 years old, and had worked almost his entire life for the day in which he stood by and watched as the Flag Day Act was signed into law.

William Kerr worked tirelessly to ensure that "Old Glory" has a special day to commemorate its importance to the American people. His efforts were rewarded then, and they are to be admired and noted today.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPT. JIM
FOURNIER FOR 50 YEARS OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding official of the U.S.

Congress, Capt. James M. Fournier of Fountain Valley, California, who has dedicated almost 50 years of his life in public service to his country.

Twelve years ago, I stood on this same floor to thank Capt. James M. Fournier, upon his retirement as my California Chief of Staff, for his many decades of service to our country. It was the good fortune of the people of southern California that, a few years later, Jim returned to work for the citizens of the 48th Congressional District. Just as Michael Jordan had difficulty staying away from the game that he loved, Jim Fournier has trouble walking away from his personal dedication to public service. In fact, if you ask the people of Orange County, they might say that Jim is the Michael Jordan of public and constituent service: He is a true professional, and has devoted his life to serving his country and his fellow man.

Today, Capt. Jim Fournier is retiring as my California Chief of Staff so that he might spend more time with his family and his beloved wife, Lucille. As he departs, I offer heartfelt thanks for his almost 50 years of service to his country. Jim Fournier has excelled in many fields: As a military officer, a sea captain, an engineer, and a public servant. He is, I am proud to say, a good and loyal friend who has worked with me throughout my congressional career.

As my District Representative and the Chief of Staff in my California office, Jim Fournier has become a beloved figure to the people who work for him and, more importantly, to the thousands of southern Californians whom he has personally helped.

Although it would have been equally well-deserved, Jim did not earn the title of "Captain" by navigating the political waters of Washington, DC, or California. Rather, it was his long and outstanding service in the U.S. Coast Guard that earned him this designation. He began serving our Nation in 1954, when he was commissioned an ensign following graduation from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. The next 30 years found Jim on Coast Guard cutters sailing to all four corners of the Earth, as well as on the vast network of waterways throughout the United States. Among his varied assignments, Jim captained icebreakers in the Antarctic and in the Arctic Circle; he commanded the Coast Guard's 8th District Field Office in New Orleans; and he managed the Coast Guard's Congressional Liaison Office in Washington, DC.

Jim Fournier's rapid advancement and stellar performance sailing under the flag of the United States earned him several national honors, including one of our Nation's top military service awards, the Legion of Merit. Although he would not be one to mention it, a listing of the other honors awarded to Captain Fournier is nothing short of amazing: two Meritorious Service Medals; two Coast Guard Commendation Medals; two Letters of Commendation; the National Defense Medal, twice; three Antarctic Service Medals; four Arctic Service Medals; and 11 other awards. In between his seagoing assignments, Jim found time to study engineering at the prestigious Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and to do postgraduate work at John Carroll University.

Jim has often mentioned that the best import ever to sail to the United States from Canada is Lucille, his wife of 40 years. I have had the pleasure of knowing Lucille since 1988, and I agree with Jim completely. Jim

and Lucille have three grown children, and now Captain Jim is Grandpa Jim to his beautiful grandkids, Renee and Ryan.

Following his retirement from the Coast Guard and from private business in the field of engineering, Jim came on board with me after my first election in 1988. He set up my Orange County office from scratch, finding office space, hiring the staff, and organizing the workload. He has served Orange County as the first line of assistance for thousands of constituents who have had problems with Federal agencies—from the IRS to the INS, from Orange County to our most distant and far-flung embassies around the world.

I well remember one especially poignant success that Jim achieved. Two years ago, my office was contacted by two California youths who were on the verge of being forcibly resettled to Zimbabwe—a country torn by violence and lawlessness—as the result of an international custody dispute. Despite the fact that the youths were U.S. citizens, the U.S. State Department was on the verge of honoring an unjust ruling by a Zimbabwean court that would have required the youths to return to this violent land. That's when they turned to my office for help. Jim Fournier worked on their problem with passion—spending countless hours over a matter of months to guarantee the safety of these two young Americans. The creative energy that led to this success was typical of Jim Fournier.

Mr. Speaker, as my top California aide and advisor, Jim Fournier has established an enviable record of caring service to the people of Orange County. His stewardship in that role will long be remembered, and should serve as a model for all of us in congressional service for years to come. As he sets his course for new challenges, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Jim Fournier, and thanking him for a job well done—for Orange County, for California, and for America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed in the District and missed recorded votes on Monday, June 14 and Tuesday, June 15. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes Nos. 232, 233, and 235. I would have voted "no" on rollcall Nos. 234, 236, 237, 238, 239, 241 and 242. I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 240.

Should you or your staff need further clarification, please feel free to contact me or my legislative director, Marti Thomas, at 225-4011 or marti.thomas@mail.house.gov.

RECOGNIZING DUANE AND
ROWENA JONES BROERMANN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Duane and Rowena Broermann,

natives and life-long residents of my hometown, Tarkio, Missouri. They will be celebrating their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, June 20, 2004.

Duane and Rowena were married in 1954 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Westboro, Missouri. They both graduated from Tarkio High School, Rowena in 1949 and Duane in 1948. Duane served two years in the United States Army during the Korean War and returned to Tarkio to farm for forty-seven years. He retired from farming in 1997. Rowena worked at the local Hy-Vee Food Store and the Flesher Pharmacy in Tarkio. They are both active in the county 4-H organization, the Atchison County Fair, and the St. John's Lutheran Church.

Duane and Rowena have one son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Mitzi Broermann. They have two grandchildren, Eric and Tyler. Rowena is a housewife and a member of the Red Hat Society. Duane is a member of the St. John's Church Choir and enjoys playing ping-pong and golfing with his friends. Both will tell you their main hobby is their grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending this exemplary couple for their dedication to community, family, and church. Duane and Rowena are exceptionally fine assets to the Sixth District of Missouri. I am proud of them and wish them well on their Fiftieth Anniversary.

UNITED STATES REFINERY
REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to join me in opposing a bill that fails to protect human health, our environment and our economy. In the name of reducing gas prices, the House today is debating legislation that will allow the Secretary of Energy to overturn the environmental and health concerns of our federal, state and local leaders.

We need to increase our Nation's refinery capacity. Refineries are running full speed to meet gasoline demand. There are many reasons, however, why the number of domestic refineries has declined since the early 1980s. Congress should examine how consolidation in this industry affects gas prices.

There have been no hearings on today's bill. No record has been established that fully describes the impact of this legislation on gasoline prices, refining capacity, our environment and especially our public health. Instead of finding ways to ensure that our refineries protect the public's health, House Republican leaders want to allow the Secretary of Energy to override clean air, clean water and hazardous waste laws. There was recently a discharge from a local refinery in Newport, Minnesota. My constituents were concerned that their homes and yards were covered with a fine white dust when they woke up a few weeks ago. They didn't know the dust wasn't toxic and dangerous to their health. This bill doesn't protect their public health from future threats.

The Environmental Council of the States, the National Conference of State Legislatures

and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials oppose this bill. The House should heed their warnings and reject this bill today.

A TRIBUTE TO AL BURCH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Al Burch, who has served northern Virginia as an educator for 42 years. Mr. Burch spent 32 years as the principal of Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Virginia. After over four decades of dedicated service to our youths, Mr. Burch announced his retirement earlier this month.

I am proud to call attention to the achievements and dedication of Mr. Burch as he ends his career as an educator and principal. I would also like to share a recent article from The Arlington Catholic Herald which honors Mr. Burch and describes his many accomplishments.

[From the Arlington Catholic Herald, May 20, 2004]

FORTY-TWO-YEAR RUN COMES TO AN END FOR
O'CONNELL'S BURCH

(By Mary Frances McCarthy)

In 2001, at the beginning of his 40th year at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Principal Al Burch told the Herald, "In about two or three years I'll be ready to retire."

Three years later, the O'Connell family is saying goodbye to Burch, a much-loved and respected coach and administrator who has worked at the school for all but four years of its existence. A farewell Mass and party will be held at the school on June 5 at 5 p.m.

When his career began, Burch never imagined he would spend 32 years as an administrator.

After graduating from the University of Corpus Christi in Texas with a bachelor's degree in education, Burch thought that "Everyone would hire me because I was so good at sports." Burch attended the university on a football scholarship.

When coaching jobs didn't fall at his feet as he thought they would, he took a job at Surrattsville Junior High in Clinton, Md., teaching history, science and English.

In 1961, Burch learned of an opening in physical education at O'Connell through Bob Rusevlyan, athletic director. Burch took the job, teaching health and physical education and coaching football, baseball and basketball. Under his leadership, the O'Connell 1963-65 baseball teams were Catholic League champions and gained nationwide recognition in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, for winning 42 consecutive games.

Coinciding with the beginning of co-education at Bishop O'Connell, Burch was named assistant principal under Msgr. McMurtrie in 1972.

"I owe a lot to Msgr. McMurtrie," Burch said. "He saw it was my dream to keep coaching, but he saw something in me that maybe I didn't see."

While Burch was assistant principal, coaching three sports and raising three kids, he went back to school to get a master's degree in education at American University. "And I still haven't slept well since then," Burch said.

His coaching career ended in 1977, when he was named principal of O'Connell by former Arlington Bishop Thomas J. Welsh.

In the first 10 years Burch was at O'Connell, the school grew from 1,000 students to 1,600 students, with a wait list 200 students long. In 1982, Bishop Welsh opened Paul VI Catholic High School to ease the strain on O'Connell.

Now, in a diocese with three diocesan high schools and three private Catholic high schools, Burch said, "The chemistry of O'Connell is what makes it different." With more than 110 teachers, 12 are Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 18 are retired military personnel and 28 are O'Connell graduates. Burch said he has prided himself by being able to "put talent where they belong."

"Surrounding myself with great people has been the key to my success," he said. "Sitting back and watching them work has been a joy."

To Burch, O'Connell's teachers are all first draft teachers. He has organized his school much like he would a baseball or football team. Only the best are good enough for him.

"That chemistry, and people who want to be here, I'm proud of that," Burch said. "We've been able to maintain that we are a Catholic school." Burch said O'Connell has had more than 65 alumni who have pursued religious vocations.

Dr. Timothy McNiff, diocesan superintendent of schools, said that Burch's leadership "epitomizes the uniqueness required of those individuals who have been given the task of ensuring our Catholic schools are institutions of both academic success and Christian values."

O'Connell was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in 1993 as a Blue Ribbon School and Burch was honored by The Washington Post in 1997 when he was named a "Principal of Excellence."

In his retirement, Burch said, he will miss the students above all else. "I enjoy seeing them," he said. "I think O'Connell comes closer to that term, family. People return to O'Connell. They're very happy here."

Burch looks forward to continuing his relationship with Bishop O'Connell High School and working with the alumni. In ongoing renovations at O'Connell, he still hopes to see an Alumni of Distinction hall. "There are people out there doing great things." O'Connell has over 15,000 graduates. "They're really making a positive impact on society. I hear good stuff."

All three of Burch's children—Kenny, Karen and Kristy—are among those graduates. Burch hopes that one day, his five grandchildren, "if they study and work hard," will go to O'Connell too, and become members of the O'Connell family.

"I consider myself blessed and fortunate," Burch said. "It's been a great job. I didn't have to work to make O'Connell classy. It's always been a class act."

TRIBUTE TO DR. FREDERICK S.
CONLIN, JR., DDS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor today to pay tribute to Dr. Frederick S. Conlin, Jr., DDS. Dr. Frederick S. Conlin, Jr., DDS will retire this June from both politics and his practice in dentistry after more than 30 years. Dr. Conlin has had a general practice in dentistry for 38 years in West Springfield, MA, and has been a model citizen in our city. He held many honors in both of these fields, including being

elected to the Valley District Dental Society as Vice President for 2 years.

Dr. Conlin graduated from the College of Holy Cross with an A.B. degree in 1953. He later attended the American International College for Post Graduate studies from 1958 to 1959. Frederick Conlin received his DDS from the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry in 1963.

Conlin has also served in the Armed Forces for his country. From 1954 until 1956 Dr. Conlin proudly served as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. However, Lieutenant Conlin has also given to his country through his participation in local politics, having held many elected positions in his local community.

Dr. Conlin was elected as a Town Meeting Member for 25 years. He was also elected to the Park and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectman both for 6 years respectively. He was also chosen to be on the Board of Health for 5 years. Dr. Conlin served as Vice President of the City Council for 3 years.

In addition to being elected to numerous organizations by his peers, Dr. Conlin also has volunteered to donate his time and talents to a plethora of other boards and organizations; including, the Town Government Study committee for 15 years, the American Legion Post 207 for 15 years, the Ramapogue Historical Society for 6 years, and served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Seniors for 4 years. He also was a co-founder and member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for 10 years, and served on the West Springfield Veterans Council for 2 years. Always staying involved in politics, Dr. Conlin served 30 years on the Republican Town Committee.

Dr. Conlin is a citizen of Springfield that we are extremely proud of and we wish him nothing but the best in his retirement. Dr. Conlin has been a member of St. Thomas Church for 50 years. He has been blessed with his wife the former Barbara Crowley for 26 years, and has one son, Rick, who currently attends Temple University School of Medicine. We wish you the best of luck and good health, Dr. Conlin.

TRIBUTE TO MCKINLEY LANGFORD BURNETT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, our nation recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine, holding that segregated public schools violated the equal protection provisions of our Constitution.

As we honor the many intrepid Americans who fought for racial equality for many years in order to make the *Brown* decision a reality, I want to bring to your attention the important contribution to this effort made by McKinley Langford Burnett of Topeka, Kansas. The *Brown* decision was the fulfillment of a long fight over several years to assure equal education for children. McKinley Burnett began the Topeka, Kansas-based arm of this campaign in earnest in 1948, when he became president of the Topeka chapter of the Na-

tional Association of Colored People [NAACP]. While earlier attempts had been made to challenge segregation in Topeka, by 1948 only Topeka High School was integrated, and that school had separate sports teams for white and black students. As an observer of the situation said of Burnett after the fact: "He faced a school board and superintendent who believed that schools should remain segregated, black teachers afraid of losing their jobs, and many who just didn't want to rock the boat. They all faced McKinley Burnett, a man whose drive and determination kept him working for the day when schools would be open to all."

Born in Oskaloosa, Kansas, in 1897, McKinley Burnett faced discrimination throughout his early life: offered only parts as dancers or butlers in school plays; relegated to working as a supply clerk at the Veterans Administration; and turned down for a job as a route driver with a local bakery because of his race. In 1948, however, he became president of the Topeka chapter of the NAACP, in a community where separate schools for the races had been established in 1927. For 2 years, Burnett held meetings and wrote letters seeking support for school desegregation, without success. According to Charles Baston, a member of the Topeka NAACP chapter, the school board would often extend its meetings by sitting and joking, hoping the NAACP members at the meeting would leave without speaking: "We never left."

In 1950, the NAACP, under Burnett's leadership, recruited 13 black families to challenge segregation by sending their children to enroll in white-only schools. The 20 children, including 7-year-old Linda Brown of Topeka, were denied enrollment, and in February 1951 the NAACP filed suit. Three years later, the Supreme Court issued their landmark decision, in a case that also included suits from South Carolina, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Burnett continued to serve as president of the Topeka NAACP chapter until 1963, dying in 1968. As Roy Wilkins of the NAACP said upon his death, in a telegram to Burnett's widow, Lea: "Throughout the years he was in the vanguard of our fight for full citizenship rights. For more than a quarter century he served as President of the Topeka branch of the NAACP. During that period against seemingly insurmountable odds he was instrumental in initiating the school desegregation case of Linda Brown in Topeka which culminated in the historic *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision. He could have no better monument than this decision which changed the course of public education in our country."

Mr. Speaker, proclamations honoring the life of McKinley Langford Burnett were issued by the Topeka Board of Education, the Shawnee County, Kansas, Board of Commissioners, and the Governor of the State of Kansas. I include them in the RECORD, along with an Associated Press article summarizing Mr. Burnett's life and good works, and an editorial from the Topeka Capital Journal commending his life.

RESOLUTION 01-06

Whereas, McKinley Langford Burnett was a behind-the-scenes force in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court *Brown vs. Board of Education* of Topeka case that dismantled the "separate but equal" provisions for the education of African American students in America's public schools; and

Whereas, Mr. Burnett was the Topeka chapter president of the NAACP from 1948-1963, concentrating his efforts on the integration of Topeka Public Schools and with determination, conviction and persistence challenged the Board of Education to end segregated schools; and

Whereas, Mr. Burnett was responsible for recruiting a group of 13 black families to challenge segregation by sending their children to enroll in all-white schools in the fall of 1950 and upon the denial of their enrollment, Mr. Burnett, along with other NAACP officials and attorneys, developed a strategy for a court case and filed suit against the School Board through the local NAACP chapter, on behalf of the families; and

Whereas, three years later the U.S. Supreme Court reviewed the case, which had been joined with four other school desegregation lawsuits from South Carolina, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia, and on May 17, 1954 issued their landmark ruling that said "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" and that the separate but equal doctrine had "no place" in public education; and

Whereas, 40 years later, the Topeka Public Schools' Board of Education entered into a school desegregation remedy plan in the reopened *Brown* case, successfully implemented the remedy plan, and four years later, July 27, 1999, District Court Judge Richard Rogers approved the district's motion for unitary status and directed the case be closed; and

Whereas, a committee appointed by the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to Board Policy 2200 has recommended that the unnamed Administrative Center of the Topeka Public Schools be named in honor of Mr. Burnett.

Now therefore, in recognition that Mr. Burnett's vision and passion for educational justice for all children resulted in *Brown vs. The Board of Education*, and has been felt in Topeka and across the land,

Be it resolved, on this 7th day of June, 2001 that the Topeka Public Schools' Board of Education, to commemorate the progress of educational equity initiated by Mr. Burnett in the 1940's, immortalized by the 1954 Supreme Court, and sustained in recent years by the courts and Topeka Public Schools' Board of Education; and to honor this unsung hero for his untiring efforts until his death in 1968, does hereby name the Topeka Public Schools' Administrative Center, the: "McKinley L. Burnett Administrative Center."

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the late McKinley L. Burnett would have been 100 years old this year on January 31, 1997; and,

Whereas, the original 1942 charter for the Topeka Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be on display at the Topeka-Shawnee County library between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on May 17, 1997; and

Whereas, on February 28, 1951 the NAACP led by McKinley Burnett filed a lawsuit which resulted in the Historic Supreme Court decision on May 17, 1954, *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education*; and,

Whereas, on Saturday, May 17, 1997, the Kansas Committee to Commemorate *Brown v. Education* and Bias Busters of Kansas will observe the 43rd anniversary of the Historic Supreme Court Decision at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library at 4:00 p.m.; and,

Whereas, at the Committee's annual observance, a special ceremony on this day, tribute will be paid to McKinley L. Burnett, president of the Topeka Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of

Colored people with a Pictorial Stamp Cancellation; and,

Whereas, *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* is recognized as the Civil Rights Case of the Century by overturning *Plessy v. Ferguson*, and deciding that "Separate is not necessarily equal"; and,

Whereas, this Nation has become a great Nation because of the contributions of many people of different races and nationalities, all giving their best to make our Country what it is today; and,

Whereas, frequently we become so involved in our daily tasks that we neglect to say "Thank You" to those who give their time and energy to benefit others.

Now, therefore, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Shawnee, Kansas, meeting in regular session on this 15th day of May, 1997, does hereby proclaim May 17, 1997 as McKinley L. Burnett Day in Shawnee County and invite the participation of every section of the population regardless of race, color, creed, or religion.

STATE OF KANSAS

Whereas, The late McKinley L. Burnett would have been 100 years old on January 31, 1997; and

Whereas, On May 17, the Kansas Committee to Commemorate *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education and Bias Busters of Kansas* will observe the 43rd anniversary of the Historic Supreme Court Decision. At the Committee's annual observance, a special tribute will be paid to McKinley L. Burnett with a Pictorial Stamp Cancellation; and

Whereas, The original 1942 charter for the Topeka Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be on display at the Topeka-Shawnee County Library on May 17, 1997; and

Whereas, *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* is recognized as the Civil Rights Case of the Century by overturning *Plessy v. Ferguson*, and deciding that "separate is not necessarily equal"; and

Whereas, This Nation has become a great nation because of the contributions of many people of different races and nationalities, all giving their best to make our country what it is today;

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Kansas, I would like to recognize McKinley L. Burnett and invite the participation of all citizens, regardless of race, color, creed, or religion.

BILL GRAVES,
Governor.

MCKINLEY BURNETT IS FORGOTTEN BUT PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN BROWN CASE

(By John Hanna)

TOPEKA.—Most folks know about Linda Brown, the young black girl who was barred from attending a school near her home because of her race. Many also have heard of her father, Oliver Brown.

His name appeared first on one of the U.S. Supreme Court's most famous cases. The May 17, 1954 ruling in *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* declared school segregation unconstitutional.

But few people have heard of McKinley Burnett. People who do know about him think his anonymity is a shame, because he played a key role in the Brown case.

Burnett served as president of the Topeka chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1948 to 1963.

And his anger at the local school board's refusal to end segregation in elementary schools helped fuel a small but persistent movement that led to the Brown case in February 1951.

"Quite frankly, McKinley Burnett was one of the primary catalysts," said Cheryl Brown

Henderson, a daughter of Oliver Brown, who is now president of the Brown Foundation. "It's very important that people have their rightful place in history."

Local activists scheduled a ceremony for Saturday at Topeka's public library to honor Burnett, marking the 100th year since his birth and the 43rd anniversary of the Brown decision. On display will be family memorabilia, pictures and letters.

Burnett was born in Oskaloosa in January 1897. He became an activist early in life, said a son, Marquis Burnett.

"When they had school plays, the only parts he could get were being a dancer or a butler," Marquis Burnett said.

McKinley Burnett worked in the Santa Fe railroad shops, as well as at the Veterans' Administration hospital as a stock clerk, one of the better jobs available for blacks in those days. People understood that some jobs simply were closed to blacks.

Letters the family displays from its collection show the harshness of discrimination. Some are from McKinley Burnett to various Kansas officials, complaining about the refusal of companies to hire blacks.

In November 1950, he wrote about his conversation with the sales manager of a Topeka bakery, which had an opening for a route man.

"He told me that he could not hire a Negro for such a job and that such had never even been considered, neither had they ever had such a request before," Burnett wrote.

In 1948, Burnett and other NAACP officials began pushing for integration of Topeka's elementary schools. State law allowed segregation in cities as large as Topeka but did not mandate it.

Topeka High School was integrated but had separate sports teams and clubs for whites and blacks.

At the time, the city had 18 all-white elementary schools and four for blacks. The district's superintendent believed in segregation; the school board agreed.

One board member challenged McKinley Burnett to a fight. Charles Baston, another local NAACP member, remembered in a 1992 interview for the Kansas State Historical Society that the board was rude. It forced NAACP members to wait until the early hours of the morning to voice their concerns.

"It was rather disgusting, because a lot of times, a board member would go through their agenda, and then they would sit and laugh or joke about something to try to extend the time," Baston said. "We never left."

By 1950, McKinley Burnett had enough. He and a small group met at the home of Lucinda Todd, the local chapter's secretary, to plot strategy.

"Going to court was their last recourse," said Henderson, the Brown Foundation president.

NAACP officials recruited parents with schoolchildren to be plaintiffs. Legend has it that Oliver Brown's name was listed first because it was first alphabetically, but in fact his daughter suspects it was because he was the only male parent.

In her interview for the state historical society, Mrs. Todd remembered how concerned some blacks were. Black teachers had been told by one school official that integration would end their jobs.

"A lot of people had jobs—they worked for the city—and didn't want to cause trouble," Marquis Burnett said. "It wasn't really popular."

In the fall of 1950, 13 black families tried to enroll their children in white schools across the city. All were turned away. The NAACP had counseled them to have a witness and to document what had happened.

The lawsuit was filed in February 1951. The U.S. Supreme Court consolidated it with four other cases before issuing its historic ruling.

"At that time, he never thought, 'I'm going to do something to make history,'" Marquis Burnett said of his father. "He was just doing what he had to do."

McKinley Burnett greeted the ruling with jubilation, telling reporters in Topeka: "I say, thank God for the Supreme Court."

Burnett battled leukemia throughout his life and retired as NAACP president in 1963. He died five years later, at the age of 71.

May 17 remained a special day for him.

"That became McKinley Burnett's personal holiday, and he would not work for anyone on that day," said Baston, the NAACP board member.

MCKINLEY BURNETT—A CIVIL RIGHTS HERO

In any worthy struggle, there are those who doggedly go about the task at hand without fanfare. McKinley Burnett was just such a man.

The Topekan got his due, albeit late, recognition Saturday at a ceremony and special pictorial postal cancellation at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

Although Brown and often Scott are the names most often mentioned in the landmark 1954 school desegregation ruling, Burnett had built the foundation on which it was based. His effort started back in the 1930s and focused not just on schools, but also other forms of segregation, including movie theaters, restaurants, court-houses and other facilities.

But Burnett saw the schools as the best place to initiate the changes, and he worked diligently for that cause. When years of effort failed to move the Topeka Board of Education, Burnett in 1950 finally threatened to sue. The march toward *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education* began.

Brown refers, of course, to the family that alphabetically headed the list of plaintiffs. Scott is the name of the family of lawyers who argued the case. But make no mistake, Burnett is also an important part of the suit.

Saturday's special cancellation attests to that. Done in recognition of the 43rd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the cancellation cites the suit filed by the NAACP on Feb. 18, 1951, that led to the ruling. Burnett, who is pictured on the cancellation, was president of the local NAACP at the time and this is the 100th anniversary of his birth. He died in 1968.

It's unfortunate his contributions weren't more highly recognized during his lifetime. By all accounts, however, Burnett valued results more than personal glory. A true hero.

CONGRATULATING MS. GWENDOLYN MASTIN

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Gwendolyn Mastin, founder and CEO/President of the New Phoenix Assistance Center located in the Second Congressional District of Illinois, which I proudly represent. I would like to congratulate Ms. Mastin on being chosen for the 2004 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award. She is one of just ten outstanding individuals who have been honored this year by the foundation for innovatively bringing health care to communities whose needs have been ignored and unmet.

Gwendolyn Mastin founded Chicago's first scattered-site housing program for homeless

women infected with HIV or AIDS and their children. Her program also provides housing for homeless pregnant teens and those with children. In addition, Ms. Mastin also developed a pregnancy prevention program that embraces cultural traditions and encourages creation of family support networks. Since its founding in 1991, the program has served more than 5,700 people in the Metropolitan Chicago region.

Presently, Ms. Mastin sits on the Illinois State Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Prevention. On this committee she continues her service to the community by effectively advocating on behalf of much-needed housing programs and supportive services, as well as family reunification programs for homeless minors.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Gwendolyn Mastin for her tremendous contribution to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA
BOSCH

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, America's future is contingent upon the leadership, vision, and commitment of teachers, and a life dedicated to the education of our children is one that should be both acknowledged and praised. Thus, I would like to recognize Ms. Barbara Bosch, an educator in the East Rutherford school district in New Jersey and a member of the New Jersey Education Association, who will be retiring this June after 41 years of teaching.

Ms. Bosch's devotion, creativity, and resourcefulness as an educator helped her to meet the diverse needs of her students in the continually evolving field of education over the past several decades. Her dedication to her students was displayed in part by the many hours spent with them both inside and outside the classroom. Ms. Bosch's dedication and strong character allowed her to fulfill her professional responsibilities at the highest level, and serve as a role model for her students and colleagues. Such achievements in the field of education were so admired and respected by her colleagues, that the East Rutherford Educational Community has proclaimed June 2004 as "Barbara Bosch Month."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Barbara Bosch as a person who served our Nation as a distinguished educator of our children for 41 years. We are all deeply indebted to Ms. Bosch and teachers like her for their service to our Nation's schoolchildren. Along with all those students, parents, and other educators in East Rutherford who have come to know Ms. Bosch, I wish Ms. Bosch much happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

PORT OF ENTRY NEEDS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, aviation security is a top national security priority. This

critical sector of interstate commerce must continue for our entire national economy to function.

As the representative of one of our Nation's largest hub airports, Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, I can say that the ability of commercial aviation to function properly is at risk due to the inconsistent performance of security functions by the federal government.

First, I have been pushing for increased Bureau of Customs and Immigration Enforcement personnel coverage for Houston Intercontinental for several years now.

The situation has been improving unevenly, with wait times still reaching 90 minutes during peak times of the year. Why is the wait so bad? Because we only have 59 out of 86 authorized inspectors for Houston, according to the last workforce report.

That in itself is unacceptable, but with a new international terminal set to open in January 2005, we must make sure that the federal government is living up to its responsibility to safely and securely process incoming passengers.

This new facility is going to require a doubling of our international arrival screening capacity, and we will have to resort to legislation if the Bureau cannot do its job properly.

In addition, with Transportation Security Agency cutbacks forced by our budget deficits, Houston Intercontinental is at serious risk of losing its ability to properly process passengers boarding commercial airline flights.

This is not a mere matter of inconvenience to air travelers. These delays have a serious economic impact on the aviation industry which has to extend the times planes sit on the ground, reducing operating margins.

As numerous press and financial reports demonstrate, aviation operating margins are already under a tremendous amount of stress from \$40 per barrel oil, international turmoil, and continuing glut of capacity resulting from post-September 11th aviation bankruptcies.

Put simply, hundreds, perhaps thousands of employees are at risk of being laid off, furloughed, or facing salary and benefit freezes and cuts if the federal government does not properly perform its responsibility to provide security for interstate commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you ensure smooth operation of the Bureau of Customs and Immigration Enforcement at Houston Intercontinental.

RECOGNIZING GARY LEE DICK FOR
HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND
DEDICATION TO LAKE COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA AT THE TIME OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Lee Dick, who is retiring as Police Captain of Clearlake, California. Gary's outstanding contributions and dedication to our community are truly appreciated.

Gary began his career in law enforcement in Calistoga, California in September 1975. He then went on to work in the Petaluma Police

Department until 1981, before moving to the Clearlake Police Department.

Gary not only has an AA degree but also has graduated from the FBI National Academy and has earned several professional certificates. He spent 4 years serving our country as a member of the U.S. Army. Gary and his wife Patty are blessed with three daughters and two sons.

Gary has made many contributions to the community outside his official duties in the police department. He served as President of the Rotary Club of Clearlake between 1999-2000. He also served as Chair and Co-chair of many projects that were completed by the Rotary Club of Clearlake. As a volunteer coach for little league baseball teams, Gary has been able to share his love of baseball with countless others. In his retirement he hopes to visit every major league baseball stadium.

Mr. Speaker, Gary Lee Dick is the standard of dependability, bravery and hard work in our community. His commitment to our community has been shown time and time again. For these reasons and countless others, it is most appropriate that we honor him at the time of his retirement today.

INTRODUCTION FOR A BILL TO
AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF
THE INTERIOR TO PROVIDE FI-
NANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE
EASTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL
WATER AUTHORITY FOR THE
PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CON-
STRUCTION OF THE EASTERN
NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER
SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PUR-
POSES

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I am very pleased to introduce a bill that will authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to help communities in eastern New Mexico develop the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System (ENMRWS). A companion to this bill, S. 2513, was introduced in the Senate by my colleague Senator BINGAMAN on June 9, 2004. There has long been a recognized need for a reliable and safe supply of potable water for this region. After years of drought and ever increasing population growth, this water supply project is now absolutely critical for the continued economic well-being of Curry, Roosevelt and Quay counties in eastern New Mexico.

The Entrada and the Southern High Plains, or Ogallala, Aquifers currently provide 100 percent of the municipal and industrial water supplies and the vast majority of agricultural water for communities in these east central New Mexico counties. However, both the quantity and quality of these groundwater reserves have declined severely in recent decades. Despite voluntary conservation efforts and improvements in agricultural water-use efficiencies, these groundwater supplies will not sustain current use levels in as little as 12 years and may be functionally depleted within 25 years.

The water supply project that would be authorized by this legislation builds upon more than 40 years of research, planning, and design. In 1959, after recognizing the water supply problems in eastern New Mexico, the New

Mexico Legislature and Interstate Stream passed an Act authorizing the State Engineer to construct a dam on the Canadian River, thus establishing the Ute Reservoir. Since 1966, numerous Congressionally-authorized studies addressed the feasibility of a project that would utilize the Ute Reservoir as a reliable water supply for communities in eastern New Mexico. Finally, in the late 1990s, several communities, concerned about the increasingly urgent need, came together to begin planning for the development of a regional water system.

The Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Supply Authority, consisting of nine communities in the Curry, Roosevelt and Quay counties of eastern New Mexico, was formed in 2001 to oversee the development of the ENMRWS. This Authority has expeditiously and effectively finalized the studies and planning necessary to move forward with this project.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see from this brief history, the citizens of eastern New Mexico have both proven the critical need and completed the necessary steps that must form the basis for a project of this magnitude. This project is not new and the need for water is becoming increasingly more urgent. Without this project, it is clear that this important region will suffer economically. I believe that none of us in this House wants to stand by and watch vibrant communities dissolve into western ghost towns especially when a well-studied, adequate solution exists. I sincerely hope my colleagues will support this legislation and help provide a positive, long-term solution to a pressing water need in the rural West. This legislation represents the important next step toward addressing this issue, and I look forward to working with the entire New Mexico Congressional delegation.

Thank you very much.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHANEY, GOODMAN, AND SCHWERNER KILLINGS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, forty years ago this Sunday, members of the Ku Klux Klan committed a terrible crime against three young men in Neshoba County. It was a crime against them, a crime against equality, and a crime against freedom. As we remember the killings of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner during the 1964 Freedom Summer in Mississippi, I'd like to take the opportunity to share with you the statements of that community today in 2004. These statements represent a call by community leaders; a tri-racial commission of blacks, whites, and Choctaws; and city and county elected officials to seek justice and forgiveness for these crimes of the past. Like the rest of the country, Mississippi still has much work to do concerning racial reconciliation, but I believe we have come further and are more committed to racial harmony than many other states. But I will let this Neshoba County community speak for itself:

First is the Philadelphia Coalition's Resolution for Justice. This tri-racial coalition led by

Leroy Clemons and James E. Prince III is leading the call for justice in this community, and organizing the events affiliated with the 40th Anniversary Memorial this weekend.

THE PHILADELPHIA COALITION'S RESOLUTION FOR JUSTICE: STATEMENT ASKING FOR JUSTICE IN THE JUNE 21, 1964 MURDERS OF JAMES CHANEY, ANDREW GOODMAN AND MICHAEL SCHWERNER

Forty years ago, on June 21, 1964, three young men, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, were murdered in Neshoba County by members of the Ku Klux Klan.

The state of Mississippi has never brought criminal indictments against anyone for these murders—an act of omission of historic significance. There is, for good and obvious reasons, no statute of limitations on murder. This principle of law holds that anyone who takes the life of another person for any reason not provided by law is never immune from prosecution, no matter how remote in time.

With firm resolve and strong belief in the rule of law, we call on the Neshoba County District Attorney, the state Attorney General and the U.S. Department of Justice to make every effort to seek justice in this case. We deplore the possibility that history will record that the state of Mississippi, and this community in particular, did not make a good faith effort to do its duty.

We state candidly and with deep regret that some of our own citizens, including local and state law enforcement officers, were involved in the planning and execution of these murders. We are also cognizant of the shameful involvement and interference of state government, including actions of the State Sovereignty Commission, in thwarting justice in this case.

Finally, we wish to say to the families of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, that we are profoundly sorry for what was done in this community to your loved ones. And we are mindful of our responsibility as citizens to call on the authorities to make an effort to work for justice in this case. Continued failure to do so will only further compound the wrong.

We, the undersigned, call on those in authority to use every available resource and do all things necessary to bring about a just resolution to this case.

The Philadelphia Coalition.

Next comes the resolution by the Neshoba County Board of Supervisors, the elected leadership of this community on the county level.

NESHOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' RESOLUTION

Forty years ago, on June 21, 1964, three young men, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, were murdered in Neshoba County.

The State of Mississippi has never brought criminal indictments against anybody for these murders. There is for good and obvious reason, no statute of limitations on murder.

This principal of law holds that anyone who takes the life of another person for any reason not provided by law is never immune from prosecution, no matter how remote the time.

With firm resolve and strong belief in the rule of law, we call on the appropriate authorities to make every effort to seek justice in this case.

We regret that history will record that the authorities did not make a good faith effort to do its duty and we call on the people in authority to make an effort to seek justice in this case.

Finally, we wish to say to the families of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Mi-

chael Schwerner that we regret what was done in this community to your loved ones.

We, the undersigned, call on those in authority to use every available resource and do all things necessary to bring about a just resolution to this case.

By: James Young, President, Neshoba County Board of Supervisors.

The leadership of the City of Philadelphia, the county seat and population center of Neshoba County, has also passed a resolution in support of this seeking of justice.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA'S RESOLUTION: RESOLUTION ASKING FOR JUSTICE IN THE JUNE 21, 1964 MURDERS OF JAMES CHANEY, ANDREW GOODMAN AND MICHAEL SCHWERNER

Forty years ago, on June 21, 1964, three young men, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, were murdered in Neshoba County.

The State of Mississippi has never brought criminal indictments against anybody for these murders. There is for good and obvious reasons, no statute of limitations on murder. This principal of law holds that anyone who takes the life of another person for any reason not provided by law is never immune from prosecution, no matter how remote the time.

With firm resolve and strong belief in the rule of law, we call on the appropriate authorities to make every effort to seek justice in this case. We regret that history will record that the authorities did not make a good faith effort to do its duty and we call on the people in authority to make an effort to seek justice in this case.

Finally, we wish to say to the families of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner that we regret what was done in this community to your loved ones.

We, the undersigned, call on those in authority to use every available resource and do all things necessary to bring about a just resolution to this case.

By: Rayburn Waddell, Mayor; Janice Payne, Alderwoman at Large; Joe Tullos, Alderman, Ward I; Roy White, Alderman, Ward 2; Ronnie Jenkins, Alderman, Ward 3; and, Bobbie Jackson, Alderwoman, Ward 4.

The Community Development Partnership is Neshoba County and Philadelphia's chief economic development organization and represents the interests of many businesses, financial institutions and companies in the region.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP'S RESOLUTION

Resolution Asking for Justice in the June 21, 1964 Murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner.

Forty years ago, on June 21, 1964, three young men, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, were murdered in Neshoba County.

The State of Mississippi has never brought criminal indictments against anybody for these murders. There is, for good and obvious reasons, no statute of limitations on murder. This principle of law holds that anyone who takes the life of another person for any reason not provided by law is never immune from prosecution, no matter how remote the time.

With firm resolve and strong belief in the rule of law, we call on the appropriate authorities to make every effort to seek justice in this case. We regret that history will record that the authorities did not make a good faith effort to do their duty and we call on the people in authority to make an effort to see justice in this case.

Finally, we wish to say to the families of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner that we regret what was

done in this community to your loved ones. We the undersigned, call on those in authority to use every available resource and do all things necessary to bring about a just resolution to this case.

By: Brenda Mills, Chairwoman of the Board; and David Vowell, President.

This Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians have long represented an integral part of this community and has created a model of economic and community revitalization and development. Today they have moved from poverty to prosperity and are an integrated part of both the community and this call for justice.

LETTER FROM THE TRIBE OF MISSISSIPPI
CHOCTAW INDIANS

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS: Forty years ago, three communities, white, black, and Choctaw, lived in Neshoba County separated by fear, ignorance, and bigotry.

Although all of us were Neshoba Countians, Mississippians, and Americans, living together in a relatively small geographic region, we lived apart in our separate communities seeking protection and self-preservation among our own kind. Mainly what we knew of one another was to be wary. Being a small community many of us did interact and often positively, but mutual respect, honor, and acceptance were indeed not commonalities shared between us.

Being forced apart, we were often denied the opportunity to learn from one another's differences and to gain from each other's strengths. Forty years ago, three young men who ignored the walls of separation between our communities were sacrificed to the fears and hatreds that long simmered throughout our country. Forever since, Neshoba County has been associated with an act of infamy. However, those three that we lost, live among us today.

While it is right to mourn them, we honor them more when we celebrate their lives for the positive changes they provided to all of us.

Today white, black, and Choctaw still live together in Neshoba County. We also work together, transact business together, learn together, worship together and play together.

While we have not eliminated fear, ignorance, or bigotry, we have surpassed those constraints and are prospering together.

While we continue to maintain our separate communities, we do so now not to, but because we choose to in order to preserve our unique cultural identities.

Now, forty years later, we come together with ease, and as equals not just to remember the trauma of the past, but more importantly, to admire our present, and plan our future together. All of our communities have changed for the better, we have an economy that is flourishing, our people are working and prospering, with the Tribe alone providing more than 9,000 jobs. When we work together and support one another, good things happen.

On behalf of The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, I commend Philadelphia Coalition for its efforts to celebrate our unity.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP MARTIN,
Tribal Chief.

Mr. Speaker, today at the request of this community, federal and state law enforcement officials are actively studying the potential of reopening this case to bring any remaining murderers to justice. The purpose is not to reopen old wounds, but to bring closure and healing to those wounds by providing the remedy of justice.

This weekend, I will participate in events in Neshoba County memorializing the deaths of

three men who sought equality, justice and civil rights. We will remember the past, take stock of the present, and work for the future. We are a better Mississippi today, we will be still better tomorrow. I commend this community for showing leadership and embracing justice and look forward to working with all the citizens of Neshoba County as we continue to move forward both socially and economically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL TIME OUT DAY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a House resolution supporting the goals and ideas of the National Time Out Day, which the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) and over 50 other health care organizations are celebrating on June 23, 2004 to promote the adoption of a new protocol for preventing medical errors in the operating room.

The number of individuals who are affected by medical errors is astounding. In 2000, the Institute of Medicine released a report entitled "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System." The report revealed that between 44,000 and 98,000 hospitalized people in the U.S. die each year due to medical errors, and thousands of others suffer injury or illness as a result of preventable errors.

To address this problem, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations has developed a universal protocol which calls for surgical teams to call a "time out" before surgeries begin in order to verify the patient's identity, the procedure to be performed, and the site of the procedure. The Joint Commission is requiring nurses, surgeons and hospitals throughout the country to adopt this protocol beginning July 1, 2004, in order to curb the alarming number of deaths and injuries due to medical errors.

AORN has created an Internet website and distributed 55,000 tool kits to healthcare professionals to help them implement the universal protocol, and they are celebrating National Time Out Day on June 23 to promote the protocol and its adoption.

National Time Out Day has been endorsed by a distinguished group of healthcare organizations, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Hospital Association, and the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management.

Mr. Speaker, ultimately, this issue is about health care access and patient safety. Fewer medical errors will result in better outcomes for patients, fewer medical malpractice suits, which in turn will help keep malpractice insurance rates and health care premiums down.

I think it is important for Congress to recognize and congratulate perioperative nurses and representatives of surgical teams for working together to reduce medical errors and to ensure the improved health and safety of surgical patients—and that is the purpose of this resolution.

THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, today the United States needs true friends like the Republic of Kazakhstan as never before and we should encourage and welcome their achievements for the simple reason that by strengthening themselves they strengthen us.

I have followed the development of a young Kazakhstan with great interest and I should note that since gaining its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, this country has undergone tremendous political and economic transformation. Reforming a former totalitarian society is not an easy task. Of course, there were some mistakes and drawbacks. However, one should acknowledge the fact that Kazakhstan is dynamically moving forward and is moving in the right direction.

We should keep in mind that we are talking about a country which achieved democracy and personal freedoms through tremendous suffering. A great deal of credit for Kazakhstan's coming of age should go to its leader, President Nursultan Nazarbayev. I fully share the position of the leadership of Kazakhstan that any reforms make sense only if they serve the people.

Many have criticized Kazakhstan for initially choosing a course of economic liberalization while putting deep political reforms on the backburner. However, the time has proven this course right. I praise the political foresight of President Nazarbayev, an architect of Kazakhstan's success, who, in spite of criticism, has managed to bring his country into the fold of economically strong nations and has now embarked on an even bolder set of political reforms.

Recently, Kazakhstan's leader has called for a massive transformation of the country's political life and the strengthening of Kazakhstan's leadership by building a democracy. The major step in this direction will be a significant strengthening of the role of the national Parliament. President Nazarbayev has proposed to increase the numbers of deputies in both houses of Parliament and to develop a new system of forming the Government through the mechanism of a Parliamentary majority.

I believe decisions to decentralize state management and pursue aggressive fights against corruption are also crucial. Moreover, according to the President, the judiciary system will undergo serious reforms. Jury trials will be introduced, more power will be given to defense attorneys in criminal litigation.

All this, to me, is a true sign of Kazakhstan's maturity. I agree with President Nazarbayev, that "You can't just declare democracy. You can only build it through hard work." As a nation that has been building its democracy for more than 200 years, we should value the words of a leader of a young democracy.

I would like to wish the people and government of Kazakhstan success in their efforts. Future successes of a democratic and free Republic of Kazakhstan directly benefit the United States, as it will help ensure stability and prosperity of Central Asia, a region extremely important in our fight against international terrorism.

I have no doubt that the United States and Kazakhstan will continue to closely cooperate in ensuring stability and security in the world, and our cooperation, which has tremendous potential, will deepen and bring about fruitful interaction in an international situation that is increasingly complex. The U.S. Congress should play a key role in this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are at an important juncture in the relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan. We have an opportunity to remain engaged in the region. I strongly believe that we should acknowledge Kazakhstan's achievements and support them in their efforts to continue with reforms.

FREEDOM FOR CARMELO AGUSTÍN
DÍAZ FERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Carmelo Agustín Díaz Fernández, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Díaz Fernández is a pro-democracy activist currently imprisoned in the tyrant's gulag. He is the president of the Independent Union Press Agency, editor of the Cuban Independent Trade Union Press Agency, and a member of the Christian Cuban Workers Union. He is also the correspondent for the Venezuelan magazine *Desafíos* and his articles have appeared on the CubaNet website.

As a leading independent journalist, Christian activist, and prominent member of the independent trade union movement, Mr. Díaz Fernández has been a constant target of the totalitarian regime. According to Amnesty International, he has been harassed and threatened with imprisonment for his pro-democracy activities. Simply because Mr. Díaz Fernández wants freedom for the people of Cuba, he has been persecuted by the dictator's machinery of repression.

On March 19, 2003, as part of the dictator's brutal March 2003 crackdown against peaceful Cuban pro-democracy activists, Mr. Díaz Fernández was arrested because of his work to bring freedom to the people of Cuba. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 16 years in the wretched, infernal, totalitarian gulag.

According to Reporters Without Borders, while he has been incarcerated in the inhuman gulag simply for his belief in freedom, Mr. Díaz Fernández has developed cardiovascular problems, lymphangitis and high blood pressure. The intolerably grotesque conditions of the deplorable gulag are threatening his life.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Díaz Fernández is languishing in a totalitarian gulag because he believes in freedom. He believes in freedom of religion, freedom for workers, and human rights for every Cuban citizen currently suffering under the nightmare called the Castro regime. My Colleagues, it is intolerable that heroes like Mr. Díaz Fernández are locked in gulags because they believe in the most fundamental human right, freedom. We must demand the immediate release of Carmelo Agustín Díaz Fernández and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, I, along with many other Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have been pushing for congressional action to fix the international trade dispute over the extraterritorial income (ETI) and Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) programs. We have a bipartisan, fully paid-for remedy that would reform these tax provisions, put the United States tax code in compliance with the World Trade Organization (WTO), and reduce the tax burden on American manufacturers and farmers. Unfortunately, the Majority leadership ignored this bipartisan approach in favor of a budget-busting, controversial bill that does little for small manufacturers in Wisconsin and includes multiple provisions completely unrelated to the trade problem we need to fix immediately.

Because of the House majority's previous inaction on reforming the FSC-ETI trade dispute, the European Union (EU) continues to ratchet up tariffs on nearly 100 categories of U.S.-produced exports. This costs American businesses and workers by making our products less competitive in the major European market. Unless we reform the FSC-ETI tax provisions, EU tariffs on American products will continue to climb, potentially costing American exporters over \$4 billion.

With over 2 million American manufacturing jobs lost since 2001, it is critical that we act to reverse this trend by eliminating incentives for American jobs to be sent overseas and working to end trade barriers that hurt American exports. Anticipating the EU tariffs, Congressmen CRANE, RANGEL, MANZULLO, and LEVIN introduced bipartisan legislation last year to address the FSC-ETI trade dispute. H.R. 1769, the Jobs Protection Act, would have eliminated the American tax breaks found in violation of WTO rules, and reinvested the savings back into American manufacturers by reducing their tax rates. I, along with 175 other Members of Congress, cosponsored this legislation and have pushed for the House to consider this legislation.

Despite this bipartisan compromise, the Majority leadership has brought to the Floor today a piecemeal, fiscally irresponsible bill that is filled with special interest breaks and will increase already record budget deficits. Further, the major provisions of H.R. 4520 provide over \$30 billion in tax incentives for large multinational corporations while providing little to no tax relief to small and medium-sized manufacturers, farmers, and unincorporated businesses. The Republican chairman of the House Small Business Committee has expressed his opposition to this legislation because it fails to include smaller non-Chapter C corporations in its manufacturing benefit.

Because of strong bipartisan opposition to H.R. 4520, the majority has attached 400 pages of additional tax reforms, complications, and unrelated add-ons that dilute from our important mission to fix the FSC-ETI trade dispute, add tens of billions of dollars to the budget deficit, and curb potential investment in our manufacturing sector.

Some of the additional provisions included in H.R. 4520 are items that I have consistently supported including a temporary incentive to repatriate overseas profits in the United States, and extensions of important tax benefits such as the research and development tax credit, wind and biomass electricity production credit, Work Opportunity tax credit, and small business expensing rates. I am hopeful that these items can be acted on by the House separately from this unacceptable legislation.

The substitute authored by Congressman RANGEL was based on the bipartisan FSC-ETI reform bill, H.R. 1769, and would have included extensions of the R&D tax credit, renewable energy production credits, increased small business expensing provisions, tax deductions for teachers, and other important tax provisions. Further, the substitute would provide better treatment of small businesses, farming cooperatives, and domestic manufacturers, while not adding to the federal budget deficit. Unfortunately, the Majority leadership did not even allow debate on the Rangel substitute fearing it would gain wide bipartisan support and displace the unrelated provisions included in H.R. 4520.

Mr. Speaker, with 2.7 million American manufacturing jobs lost over the past years, including over 80,000 in my home state of Wisconsin, we should not be playing partisan games on the House floor. We should be considering legislation that will end European tariffs on American exports, helps domestic farmers and manufacturers be more competitive, closes abused corporate tax loopholes, and does not burden our children with huge amounts of debt that they will have to pay off in the future. The Rangel substitute would do all these things. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4520 in its current form so that Congress can move forward on responsible ETI-FSC legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS
ADJUSTABLE RATE HOME LOAN
EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Veterans Adjustable Rate Home Loan Extension Act because I am committed to strengthening the home loan program that gives thousands of America's veterans the opportunity to achieve home ownership.

When most Americans purchase a home, they have a wide array of home loan options available to them. Through the home loan program administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), however, our veterans have limited options. It is my strong belief we should give our veterans the opportunity to select a loan that will meet their needs and make them more competitive—especially in expensive real estate markets.

My legislation would extend a VA pilot program allowing veterans to select adjustable rate mortgages (ARM). Veterans can purchase a home at lower interest rates saving them money. ARM home loans are particularly beneficial for veterans who do not intend to stay

in the home over the life of the mortgage. Extending this program will give us an opportunity to determine whether ARM loans are a good choice for veterans and sound policy.

Again, I am committed to giving our veterans the opportunity to own a home and to improve the VA's home loan program. I am honored to introduce legislation today that helps our veterans achieve the American Dream they fought to preserve.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN
EMANCIPATION DAY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of the oldest and most celebrated holidays in African-American history, June 19th, African-American Emancipation Day.

On tomorrow's date 139 years ago, at the end of the Civil War, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and ensure that all slaves across the South were set free.

General Granger's order declared that "an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer." Upon hearing this news, the celebration began in the streets of Galveston and has spread through the years into a worldwide celebration commemorating African-American freedom.

In 1865, African-Americans began a long struggle to gain equal rights with other citizens. More than 100 years later, courageous men and women were still fighting for the civil rights of African Americans. The celebration of Juneteenth acknowledges the price, history, culture and freedom of part of our American society and helps to unify the Nation as a whole. African-Americans have played an important role throughout America's history, and we should all be grateful for their many contributions to our society.

The celebration of Juneteenth that has spread throughout this nation in these 139 years observes the momentous occasions in African-American history and the history of the United States. Each year, the Juneteenth celebration grows bigger and spreads farther than the year before, and I hope these events continue to broaden in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as African-Americans gather with family, friends, and neighbors in marking the tradition of Juneteenth, I extend my warmest wishes for a memorable celebration, and I ask all citizens to renew our commitment to a nation of equality and opportunity for all people.

HONORING BENT COUNTY WWII
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bent County World War II Memo-

rial Committee. Bent County was home to at least 1,200 men and women who served in WWII.

To commemorate their homegrown heroes, several citizens made the decision to gather as much information as possible about Bent County residents who served in the war. The 10 members of the WWII Memorial Committee have created a book to preserve the veterans' stories. On May 29, 2004 the book was displayed at the WWII Recognition Program at the old Bent County High School. The book not only contains personal stories and experiences of these veterans, but it also contains two pictures of each veteran, and information on where each veteran was stationed during the war. Other information that was entered included medals and honors veterans received during their time of service.

The committee has found approximately 400 of the 1,200 veterans, and they have received responses from at least 300. Aside from desperately seeking the information needed from the remainder of the veterans they are also collecting memorabilia including uniforms, military records, and cookbooks. The committee knows that this is an ongoing project, and the book and collection will eventually be displayed in the future John W. Rawlings Museum.

I am proud to serve a constituency that is willing to go to such great lengths to honor "America's Greatest Generation." Thank you to the following members of the Bent County WWII Memorial Committee: Fontella Gardner, Donna Dodson, Bill Lutz, Diane Baublits, Betty Pennington, Tom Pointon, Ron Kiniston, C.P. (Jerry) Bryant, Jr., Vivian Pitts, H.E. (Ed) Blackburn, Jr.

I would also like to extend a debt of gratitude to the individuals and businesses that offered special assistance to make this book and event a success: Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 2411, Kitty Ann Long, VFW Post 2411, Jace Ratzlaff, Constituent Advocate (Congresswoman MARILYN MUSGRAVE), Walmart, Safeway, Mark MacDonnell.

The Las Animas/Bent County Community is fortunate to have had such brave men and women to serve in WWII, and they are fortunate to have so many citizens that recognize the importance of their service to the United States of America.

SUPREME COURT STAYS OUT OF
COLORADO REDISTRICTING

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I submit to the RECORD the editorial from the New York Times, June 11, to which I referred to in my speech to the House this morning.

[From the New York Times, June 11, 2004]

A TROUBLING DISSENT

The Supreme Court did the right thing this week by staying out of a Colorado redistricting dispute. It properly deferred to the Colorado Supreme Court's ruling resolving the matter. What is troubling, however, is a dissent by Chief Justice William Rehnquist and two of his colleagues that argues for diving into the conflict. Given these justices' eagerness to defer to the states in other matters, the dissent smacks of partisan politics

and raises new concerns about the court's neutrality.

After the 2000 census, Colorado redrew its Congressional lines in a way that produced some real contests. One district was divided so evenly that Bob Beauprez, a Republican, won by only 121 votes. But when Republicans won the State Senate last year, they drew new lines that were more favorable to their party. The state's attorney general, a Democrat, challenged them in court.

The Colorado Supreme Court, in a well-reasoned decision, held that the redistricting violated the Colorado Constitution. It said the constitution required that redistricting be done every 10 years, after the census, but no more. The United States Supreme Court has long held that when a state supreme court resolves a case based on the state's constitution, respect for the state's judiciary requires the federal courts to stay out of the matter. A majority did just that this week, when it let the Colorado Supreme Court's ruling stand.

But Chief Justice Rehnquist's dissent, joined by Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, is bluntly dismissive of the Colorado Supreme Court. In the dissenters' view, the court was merely "purporting" to decide the case exclusively according to state law. They would have accepted the case so the United States Supreme Court could have considered reversing the Colorado Supreme Court and reinstating the pro-Republican redistricting plan.

The dissent attracted little notice because it fell one vote short of the four votes needed to review a case. But it is disturbingly reminiscent of the court's ruling in *Bush v. Gore*, in which five justices who had long been extremely deferential to state power suddenly overruled the Florida Supreme Court's interpretation of Florida election law.

Cases like these quite naturally invite skepticism. As the court learned in 2000, it does grave harm to its reputation if it appears to be deciding election-law cases for partisan advantage. In cases of this sort, the court must make a special effort to show that it is acting on the basis of legal principle, the only basis for a court to act. By departing from his deeply held belief in state autonomy to side with the Republican Party in a redistricting case, Chief Justice Rehnquist has once again invited the public to question this court's motives.

TO COMMEMORATE JUNETEENTH

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the annual celebration of African American Emancipation Day, also known as Juneteenth, had its origins in my congressional district. This Juneteenth celebration, a 130 year tradition beginning in Galveston, Texas in 1865, has grown into the nation's oldest and most widely celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery.

Today, Juneteenth celebrations are hosted in cities across America and beyond. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month-long celebration marked with music, festivals, and family gatherings.

Mr. Speaker, the growing popularity of Juneteenth celebrations signifies a level of growth and dignity in America that has been long overdue. People of all races, religions and backgrounds come together in celebration of Juneteenth to acknowledge a dark period of

our nation's history that continues to influence our society, and to try and make a significant change for the better.

The festivities in my district include the annual Juneteenth Jubilee Parade and Picnic, as well as the Gospel Explosion in the Park and Gospel by the Sea. In addition to the annual events, the African American Heritage organization will present the exhibit "The Making of an Underground Railroad: From Slavery to Freedom." Let us all take a moment to recognize this important holiday, and to continue moving forward in the spirit of freedom and understanding.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND AL
JACKSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the Reverend Al Jackson, pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church in Auburn, Alabama, celebrates his 25th year in service to the congregation this year. In May, the congregation held a special celebration to commemorate this milestone, and honor a man who has given so much back to our community.

Born on October 26, 1948 in Florala, Alabama, Samuel Alto Jackson, Jr., has lived a long and prolific life in the ministry. In 1971 he graduated from Samford University and went on to earn his Masters of Divinity at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and his Doctorate of Divinity from the Fuller Theological Seminary in 1985.

Reverend Jackson has served many congregations during his lengthy career, including First Baptist Church in Florala; First Baptist Church in Selma; Carolina Baptist Church in Andalusia; Bethel Heights Baptist Church in Gatesville, Texas; and since 1979, Lakeview Baptist Church in Auburn as its Pastor.

Reverend Jackson has also helped train ministerial students, and has served on the board of Samford University. In addition, he has traveled around the world on mission trips, and is widely recognized in the Southern Baptist Convention for his teachings and his accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Reverend Al Jackson on this important occasion, and I thank the House for its attention in honoring a man who has lived his life as a shining example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTH JERSEY
PHILHARMONIC GLEE CLUB

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a cultural treasure in my district, the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club, as they celebrate their long and distinguished history on Saturday, June 19, 2004, with their 65th Anniversary Concert, "The Sounds of Broadway."

The North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club remains dedicated to the preservation of male

choral singing in America. Its members are unpaid, drawn to participation through their love of choral music alone.

Formed in 1939, the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club is one of the oldest all male singing groups in the Mid-Atlantic States. The group performs a wide variety of music, but maintains a focus on African American and European Classical music for the majority of its repertoire.

The group's performances reach audiences throughout New Jersey in schools, colleges and universities, churches, nursing homes, hospitals, health centers, community centers, and countless other venues where people gather to enjoy the rich culture of our State.

During the Post-World War II era, the Glee Club regularly performed on WNJR radio, and in one of its more memorable performances of that period, the chorus shared the stage with the great Paul Robeson. During the 70s and 80s, the Glee Club's performances paying tribute to African American composers were regularly featured on Suburban Cable (now Comcast) and the New Jersey Network (NJN).

Most recently, the Glee Club has appeared in programs that included Harry Belafonte, Smokey Robinson, Ben Vereen, Savion Glover, and gospel legend Shirley Caesar. They have performed at the White House, Lincoln Center, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), the Smithsonian Institution, the National Cathedral, Riverside Church, the Schomburg Center in New York City, and the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in my home town of Newark.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending thanks to the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club for their contributions to the cultural life of our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulations as they celebrate 65 years of musical excellence.

KASHMIR

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about India and to respond to recent remarks made on this Floor by Congressman Towns concerning the situation in Kashmir.

First, I would like to praise India, a vast country of over 1,000,000,000 people, for its recent successful exercise in democracy. The elections in India that concluded last month yet again demonstrated the strength and endurance of that country's democratic system and culture. India has been for 57 years the world's largest democracy, with a multiparty system in which all political views are freely expressed and respected. India's example of free and fair democratic elections, and respect for the rule of law, is truly an inspiration and model for the region and the world.

India and the United States share a special relationship as the world's two largest democracies. Our countries are natural allies, and we share the fundamental goal of building a peaceful and democratic world free from the scourge of terrorism. I am confident this relationship will continue to grow stronger because of the shared interests between our countries. Next, I would like to respond briefly to remarks made recently by Congressman

Towns about Kashmir. I believe his remarks demand a response given his inaccurate and misleading portrayal of the situation.

In his recent remarks, the Congressman referred to a "successful" hearing held recently on Kashmir by the Subcommittee on Wellness and Human Rights of the Committee on Government Reform. On the contrary, that hearing included the testimony of a number of witnesses whose views on Kashmir were so lopsided that I, along with a handful of other Members not serving on the Subcommittee, felt it imperative to be present and lend some balance to the proceedings. It is unfortunate that this hearing was used as a vehicle for propaganda—one witness even described the hearing as an exercise in India-bashing. It is especially disappointing because it compromises and undermines efforts by India and Pakistan to resolve bilaterally all issues between them. I would like to add here that eligible citizens of India, including in Jammu & Kashmir, freely exercised their right to vote in India's recent elections. Despite terrorist attacks that resulted in the killings of and injuries to government ministers, candidates as well as voters, the people of Jammu & Kashmir came out and voted, much as they did in late 2002 while electing representatives to their own State Assembly. This is much more than can be said of some other countries, where the military continues to dominate the political process.

The situation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir is primarily one of cross-border terrorism, sponsored from across the Line of Control and the International Border in the state by Pakistan. Starting in the early 1980s in the state of Punjab and then since 1988 in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan has consistently sought to use terrorism as an instrument of state policy in its dealings with India. The involvement of the Pakistani state in recruiting, training, indoctrinating, financing, arming and infiltrating terrorists into Indian territory is a matter of international and public record. In addition to this, the active Pakistani military, political and diplomatic support to the criminal Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which provided refuge to Osama bin Laden, is also well known.

Despite this record, the Government of India has sought reconciliation and repeatedly extended a hand of friendship to Pakistan. The previous Government in India had initiated this process and the new Government that has just taken office has reiterated its desire to build upon it. Indeed, the new Foreign Minister of India has just announced the rescheduled dates for talks on bilateral issues with Pakistan. These include talks on June 19 and 20 on Confidence Building Measures and on June 27 and 28 between the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries. India's approach is one of friendship and cooperation. The Government of Pakistan should respect the seriousness with which India is committed to engaging in this bilateral dialogue and play its part by living up to the commitments it has made to India and the international community, including the United States, most notably to create an atmosphere free from the menace of terrorism and violence in which the dialogue can be advanced.

India is the world's largest democracy and has stuck to its tenets for over half a century. It has institutions and processes in place that

afford strong constitutional protections for freedom of speech, expression, religion and assembly. There is no doubt that there have been instances of human rights violations, especially in areas affected by terrorist activity. Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir and some Indian states in the North-East of the country are primarily involved in combating the depredations of terrorists, who have been recorded as having been involved in grave violations of human rights. Wherever there have been allegations of violations by security forces, they have, on all occasions, been thoroughly investigated and, wherever deemed necessary, have resulted in the severest punishments possible. India has a free press and other media, an independent judiciary and vigilant non-governmental organizations, which are watchful of administrative and legislative actions and exercise the required oversight. In addition, it has a statutory National Human Rights Commission, which has proved vigilant at calling attention to the need to redress grievances, wherever they might occur, including where security forces are involved.

I would like to make one final point. Congressman Towns' remarks appear to be based on material supplied by an organization calling itself the "Council of Khalistan". This organization supports a separatist agenda for the Indian state of Punjab. This organization has no standing in India, not even in Punjab. Even overseas, it is considered a fringe organization and its calls for secession for the Sikhs of India finds no resonance. The recent elections have demonstrated, more than anything else, that minorities in India have faith in the country's pluralistic, democratic system. Indeed, this organization has a questionable reputation on the Hill as well. In early 2002, a representative of this organization misled staffers in some offices to obtain signatures on a letter to the President.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BO"
MATTHEWS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Huntsville, Alabama native, William "Bo" Matthews, for his work helping children in our area build a stronger academic foundation.

Bo was an All-State football player at Butler High School. He went on to earn a football scholarship to play for the University of Colorado, and in 1974, after a successful collegiate career, the San Diego Chargers selected Bo as the overall number two pick in the NFL draft. In 1985, after playing with the Chargers, New York Giants, Miami Dolphins, and the Denver Gold of the USFL, Bo retired from professional football and currently resides in Denver, Colorado.

In October of 2001, Bo formed the Bo Matthews Center for Excellence. The Center, which is located in Huntsville, is dedicated to providing academic instruction and support for students from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Their unique approach brings together some of the best practices in effective teaching and student learning.

Mr. Speaker, the Bo Matthews Center is making a difference in the lives of numerous

school children, helping them discover the necessary confidence to be successful in the classroom. In addition, the center is encouraging its students to become lifelong learners and active participants in the community.

On Saturday, June 19th, Bo Matthews will return to North Alabama and will be recognized at the inaugural Community Service Awards Banquet hosted by Conley Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to welcome Bo back to Huntsville and to thank him for his dedication to our area's children.

TRIBUTE TO SIMON AVARA

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Simon Avara has dedicated many years of his life to the betterment of the Baltimore community. He is an accomplished businessman and friend, as well as my own long-time barber.

In cities and towns across America, barber shops have come to be recognized as familiar gathering places that help create a sense of community. Following in his father's footsteps as a master barber, at the age of 16, Mr. Avara obtained his master license and opened his own shop.

While still a young man, he put his life's dream on hold to serve our Nation during the Korean War. When he returned to Baltimore, he began opening doors for others seeking to pursue a tonsorial profession. He has founded two schools, training a whole new generation of Baltimore barbers.

Today, I am placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an April 2004 article from *RazorsEdge Magazine* tracing Mr. Avara's career. I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Simon Avara, a true pillar of our community.

SIMON AVARA: A CUT ABOVE

(By Rebecca Mein)

"I see a man in a \$600 or \$700 suit dressed real well and he has a bad haircut," says Simon Avara. He pauses and then packs a punch. "It spoils everything!"

After all, that "everything" only costs a man about a six bucks if he visits one of Avara's two Baltimore barber schools for a cut.

This 70-year-old master barber has spent nearly a lifetime communicating that message to clients and customers alike.

He runs the International Academy of Hair Design on Pratt Street in downtown Baltimore and Avara's Academy of Hair Design in Dundalk.

You could say Avara was born into the business. In fact, as a young boy, he never even had to leave his own house to get a sense of what his father did for a living.

Back in the 1930's, he remembers seeing his father's clients show up at he family's front door for a last minute cut.

"The judges would knock on our door on Sunday mornings," he says. They wanted a fresh haircut before heading back to the courtroom on Monday.

Avara's father had his own idea of a barber uniform—a suit, a dress shirt, and a tie.

But back then, Avara had no idea that he would one day follow in his father's footsteps.

Sadly, his father would never live to see his son pick up a pair of shears. The older Avara died tragically in a car accident.

Avara was just 14 years old at the time. Little did he know, that summer, people would start coming to him for a haircut.

It all started when a friend of a friend asked for a trim. Within one year, he went from having no experience and no interest to starting a barber school and landing his first apprenticeship.

Only, his first apprenticeship was not quite the same learning experience that he offers his students today. "In those days, you ran errands," he explains. "They'd let you shave behind the ears. I was persistent. I hung in there."

That persistence paid off after a West Baltimore barber gave him his first break. This is where Avara's story takes an extraordinary turn.

"By the time I was 16, I passed the board and got my master license. I was probably one of the youngest barbers in the state."

At just 16 years old, with one year of high school under his belt and some used equipment in his possession, Avara opened his own shop in a former funeral parlor.

He charged 60 cents for a man's cut and 40 cents for a child. "I was very young when this happened," Avara says. "In everything I've done, I've been blessed."

But then, came another twist of events. During the Korean Conflict, Avara was drafted and had to leave his shop for the service. While in Korea, Avara says he had time to think about what he wanted to do when he returned to Baltimore.

He saw his options as either opening a first class salon or opening a school. "I had trained some people before I went. I felt that then, and I still feel, that if you train them right, a part of you will always live."

When Avara returned to civilian life, he wound up making a third choice. He attended cosmetology school in order to improve his skills when it came to cutting women's hair.

Then, he decided it was time to open his own school. Soon after, came another achievement. He became a member of the Maryland State Board of Barber Examiners at age 26.

While in his early 30's he was elected to be president of the National Barber Examiners. He also served as secretary treasurer of all union-affiliated barber schools in America. He is currently president and founder of the Maryland Hair Designer's Association.

Avara sees his profession as a way to open doors for people from all walks of life. He believes that with some basic reading and writing skills and people skills, anyone can have a solid future in his field.

"You gotta like people," he says. "If you don't like people, don't even enroll in my school."

Students in his school quickly gain hands-on learning experience. He says by the end of the first week, every student has gotten over the fear of cutting that first head of hair.

As for his students' future job security, Avara has no worries, even as technology continues to take over and take away jobs in other industries.

"We never have to worry that there's a machine that could take our place. You're never going to put your head in a machine and dial the cut."

Today, three of Avara's four adult children are trained in the trade. His youngest son runs his Dundalk School.

Avara makes it a point to tell his students that the leading hair stylists out there are all former barbers. "We really teach them how to cut hair, layer hair, and to do it free-hand. If you want to see a good man's haircut, look at Cary Grant," says Avara.

Retirement is nowhere in this barber's immediate plans. He plans to continue to pass on his profession to aspiring barbers. Perhaps that is because Avara's job is not just his profession; it is his life's passion.

It's what he does for recreation and relaxation. "I love it," he says. "I have no hobbies. I have a set of golf clubs in the garage. I'm not saying that I'll work every day like I do now, but I can't sit around and visualize working the boob tube. To be healthy, you have to be active and think young."

For Avara, that translates to continuing to hold a pair of shears in hand. He estimates so far, he's cut a hundred thousand heads of hair or more, and he's not planning to stop anytime soon.

THE VICTORY JUNCTION GANG CAMP

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I would like to bring to your attention the opening of a wonderful new children's camp in Level Cross, NC.

After years of planning, Kyle Petty, CEO of Petty Enterprises, and his wife Pattie have opened The Victory Junction Gang Camp. This camp is the seventh of the Hole in the Wall Gang Camps network founded by actor Paul Newman. The camp was created to serve as a retreat for critically ill children who deserve the chance to enjoy themselves in a medically safe environment, free of charge.

The Pettys, a family synonymous with generosity, decided to create the camp after the untimely death of their son, Adam, in a tragic race car accident in 2000. After visiting one of the Hole in the Wall Gang Camps in Florida and seeing the joy it brought to the campers, the Pettys felt the children of North Carolina and surrounding states needed such a place of their own. All their hard work—and the hard work of the NASCAR family—paid off this summer. The camp's grand opening was Tuesday, June 15.

Victory Junction is an independent, not-for-profit organization that relies upon the generosity of individuals and corporations. Over the past 2 years, NASCAR has graciously lent its support to Victory Junction through an extensive media campaign and the assistance of NASCAR drivers who have volunteered their time and energy. This summer, the camp will provide much-needed distractions to children afflicted with cancer, asthma, HIV, heart disease, and other diseases.

Much goes into establishing and maintaining a special needs camp. Those that have helped in the planning and building process, and those that are already freely giving their time as medical volunteers, deserve our respect and gratitude. There could be no better tribute to Adam Petty. I commend the Petty family for their dedication to children and public service.

I am so pleased that there is now a local place for some very special children to have an exciting camping experience and well-deserved vacation.

Today, I ask my colleagues and fellow North Carolinians to join me in extending congratulations and support to the Victory Junction Gang Camp. May it enrich the lives of many children in the years to come.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday June 18, 2004

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Leadership Training Institute of America and their inspiring mission of faith for America's youth.

LTIA originated in my home district of northwest Arkansas and has successfully spread throughout the country and even to places as far away as Russia. Their purpose is to provide America's future leaders with a strong Christian foundation of faith in today's secular society.

The program challenges students to develop a Christian worldview and apply that perspective to global conflicts. The students may attend a weeklong seminar once a year—here in our Nation's Capitol—where they meet with their congressional representatives as well as renowned Christian leaders. At the same, the students are encouraged to pursue careers in influential sectors of society.

I believe this training is vital in preparing our future leaders to take their place in society. All too often, our youth are placed in negative, even hostile, environments where they never develop a moral compass or kind spirit. LTIA trains young people to live the Christian faith in an age when such action is not encouraged, and the program gives young people the confidence they need to face a materialistic society.

As the former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." I believe the students involved in the Leadership Training Institute of America are part of our brave future and I applaud their efforts to make America an even greater nation than she is today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), which was established by the passage of the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984. I am proud to have been an original cosponsor of this legislation. It was my honor to act on behalf of my constituents, John and Revé Walsh, who became effective advocates on behalf of missing children's issues after the abduction and murder of their son, Adam, in 1981. John and Revé's hard work and determination helped to create NCMEC, which now serves as the national clearinghouse for information on missing children and the prevention of child victimization.

It was under the strong and distinguished leadership of the late President Ronald Reagan that the NCMEC was established. On

June 13, 1984, President Reagan officially opened the NCMEC in a ceremony at the White House. The President challenged the NCMEC to wake up America and attack the crisis of child abduction. At the time, there was little coordination between the 50 states and the 18,000 law-enforcement agencies. President Reagan encouraged the development of the NCMEC as an institution that could combine the benefits of both the public and private sectors to achieve its goals.

The NCMEC has significantly improved and advanced the coordination of investigation efforts to recover abducted children on the national level in a manner that could not have been accomplished in its absence. The clear effectiveness of this program is evidenced by the remarkable recovery rate of children under this program. In 2004, the NCMEC reported that more than 94 percent of the children reported missing in that year were recovered. Furthermore, the highly publicized AMBER alert program serves as a national tool to create public awareness of abductions and possible threats. Such determined efforts serve an invaluable service to our country in staving off some of the most serious and concerning threats to our Nation's children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere belief that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children cultivates a culture in this country that appreciates the safety of its children and establishes direct means at recovering children who fall victim to the threats of the people who disregard the laws of basic humanity. It was my honor in supporting the creation of this institution, just as it's my honor to continue to support this program that has had such a positive affect on our Nation. As a member of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I will continue working to provide and sustain high levels of support for our law-enforcement agencies in their quest to safely retrieve victims of child abduction.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN NOREEN CONSIDINE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, CA, and the U.S. Navy Reserve are exceptional. On June 21, Captain Noreen Considine will retire from the Naval Reserves after 27 years of active and reserve military service. We are fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated military and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities and nation a better place to live and work. Captain Considine is one of these individuals.

Over the past 27 years Captain Considine has contributed to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Department of Defense in the areas of medical surveillance, hazardous materials management, preventative medicine, and occupational safety and health matters. She has also trained Navy Hospital Corpsmen in managing hazardous materials and workplace hazards.

Since 1997, Captain Considine has served with the Chief of Naval Operations' Occupational Safety and Health Branch, working with

full-time safety experts on pinpointing the causes of mishaps and targeting remedial actions that maximize force protection. She led the establishment of the Navy's 1,001 Safety Success Stories Project, which now serves as a web based showcase of the U.S. Navy's safety accomplishments. Additionally, Captain Considine developed a multimedia presentation of the Navy's occupational safety and health program for safety professionals and Navy Public Affairs. In fact, in March 2003, she was selected to speak on a panel before the Royal Australian Navy regarding military safety. Over the years, Captain Considine has been called up to active duty over a dozen times when her country needed her, including during Desert Storm.

Captain Considine's awards include two U.S. Navy Commendations and the Alaska Humanitarian Services Medal, earned in 1995 as an Officer in charge of a medical detachment to the Northwest Arctic.

Outside of her military accomplishments, Captain Considine is actively involved as an adult literacy program volunteer, a pro-bono technical book reviewer for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a community advocate for school board accountability and public safety, and much more. As a recent example of her care and service to others, she purchased and shipped several hundred pounds of supplies and personal care items to our military members serving in the War on Terrorism out of her own pocketbook.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Noreen Considine is a woman dedicated to her community and country. Her tireless dedication to the U.S. Navy Reserve and Riverside, CA, has contributed immensely to the betterment of those with whom she comes into contact. For all that Captain Considine has done and given over the years, I am privileged to recognize her accomplishments as she retires from a profession that she gave her heart and soul too, the U.S. Navy Reserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday June 18, 2004

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday June 17, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 260, approving the Journal; "no" on rollcall vote No. 261, agreeing to the Hinchey amendment to H.R. 4568; "no" on rollcall vote No. 262, agreeing to the Sanders amendment to H.R. 4568; "no" on rollcall vote No. 263, agreeing to the Holt amendment to H.R. 4568; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 264, on passage of H.R. 4568, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005; "no" on rollcall vote No. 265, on agreeing to the DeFazio amendment to H.R. 4567; and "no" on rollcall vote No. 266, on agreeing to the Sweeney amendment to H.R. 4567.

HONORING MR. VANCE VAN
TASSELL

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor an outstanding citizen and a great friend, Mr. Vance Van Tassell, of Granite Bay, California.

Vance was born and raised in Illinois to the son of an auctioneer and pig farmer. Following in his father's footsteps, he also became an auctioneer at a young age. In fact, throughout his college career he worked as an insurance sales auctioneer and wildcat oil man. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois where he also earned a juris doctorate degree.

In the early 1960s, Vance moved to Sacramento to take the California Bar Examination. Since founding the firm of Van Tassell, Fornasero & Wagstaffe in 1963, he has practiced law for over 40 years while maintaining a thriving auction practice as well. As a testament to both the quality of the man and his business, Vance's legal staff averages 18 years of service. One staff member has even been with the firm for 35 years. This loyalty and longevity is easy to understand as Vance has always been generous to a fault with his clients, colleagues, political causes, and many charitable organizations.

Mr. Speaker, more important than his professional success is the fact that Vance is the proud father of five children: Denise, Jeff, Valerie, Victoria and Courtney.

As a devoted Christian, Vance has worshipped at the Capital Christian Center for years, being of service as a volunteer and reaching out to many with the word of the Lord. Recently, the church named him Volunteer of the Year. However, due to his great humility, he was very reluctant to accept any type of acknowledgment for his many efforts.

Vance owns his dream ranch in Point Arena, along California's North Coast, where he has a small herd of longhorn cows with a bull named after his idol, Patton. He loves nothing more than entertaining people there or at his Granite Bay home. All who know him find him to be humble, caring, and giving—in short, remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of good, decent, hard-working citizens like Vance Van Tassell, that America remains a good, decent, hard-working country. Therefore, it is appropriate now to express thanks and appreciation to my good friend, Vance, for his lifetime of bettering the world around him. May our land always be blessed with more men like him.

AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT OF 2004

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, one of my top priorities in Congress is to help ease the overwhelming tax burden on families and small businesses.

I am also a firm believer in fighting for less government and more freedom, and one of

the underlying tenets of this philosophy is promoting free trade. Free trade policies provide consumers—not government—the opportunity to make their own decisions about how to spend their money.

Americans benefit from free trade and open markets every day. Free trade undeniably delivers a greater choice of goods and services at lower prices to Americans. Free trade also boosts local economies and jobs for our trading partners, which in turn, creates jobs, improves wages and the standard of living for American workers and their families here at home.

When trade grows, income flows. Reducing and eliminating barriers to trade both at home and abroad is vital to a robust U.S. economy. Nearly one in ten jobs in the United States is directly related to the export of American goods and services. I believe it is vitally important to the future of our Nation that we continue to expand trade in an effort to promote economic growth, peace and prosperity at home and abroad.

Because of my commitment to promoting unfettered trade and untying the hands of American workers and businesses I voted for the American Jobs Creation Act. This legislation will end the damaging tariffs that the European Union has imposed on a host of American goods that have hampered free trade and hurt American businesses since they were imposed in March of this year. In addition, it will decrease the tax rate for small businesses, farmers, and manufacturers and increase America's competitiveness with our global trade partners.

The United States has the second higher corporate tax burden in the world. The American Jobs Creation Act is a step in the right direction to making American companies more competitive in the world marketplace.

The American Jobs Creation Act will also help Texans and taxpayers in eight other states achieve equity under our tax code by allowing them to deduct state sales taxes from their federal income tax returns. The current system is clearly unjust, as it allows a federal tax deduction for state and local income and property taxes. Millions of people from those states that rely on sales taxes are clearly disadvantaged and overlooked by the current system and this jobs bill removes this inequity. It is estimated that the lack of this deduction robs Texans of over \$700 million and 16,000 jobs. However, the House passed version only provides this relief for two years. I strongly support a permanent state sales tax deduction, and am hopeful that Congress will make this provision permanent in the future.

Of course, I would ultimately prefer a simpler, more equitable tax-code that treats taxpayers fairly and stops trying to pick winners and losers. All Americans would be better off if Congress repealed both deductions for state and local income tax and the new state sales tax deduction, and put in their place new lower tax rates for both individuals and corporations—and made them permanent. Many of my colleagues keep forgetting that it is not our money; it's the people's money. I am committed to letting Americans keep more of what they earn, without the government stepping in and creating carve-outs, loop-holes and special interest niches.

While this legislation accomplishes several very important goals such as the elimination of tariffs and providing for state sales tax deductibility, it was not all that I had hoped for. I

have serious concerns about several of its provisions, particularly the inclusion of a tobacco bailout. This bill ended a decades old government quota and price support system for tobacco—and that alone is a very good thing. The federal government should not purposefully manipulate markets to try to fix prices. However, I find it highly objectionable that the American taxpayer is asked to foot the bill for buying out tobacco quota owners and tobacco growers. As a former board member of the American Cancer Society in Dallas, I am well aware of the harmful and often fatal affects of tobacco use. While the government has absolutely no business setting up quotas for any product and affecting the market price, I find it abhorrent that Congress would force taxpayers to cough up billions in order to subsidize tobacco. This quota system can and should be ended without the use of taxpayer money.

Unfortunately, rather than decreasing corporate tax rates across the board, this bill also included numerous corporate pork provisions through special tax shelters. Special breaks and exclusions for certain industries, companies and products should not be a policy of the U.S. Congress. This bill includes special treatment for the cruise ship industry, former car dealers, makers of bows and arrows, and others industries. I have nothing against any of these industries, but Congress should not be promoting one product, company or industry over another. All American companies, taxpayers and consumers deserve lower taxes, not a chosen few.

TRIBUTE TO TRI-COUNTY CO-OP
WORKERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of South Carolina workers who are dedicated to serving all of their customers, even in times of crisis. The 67 employees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative serve 17,000 customers in six counties in rural South Carolina, most of which are in the Sixth Congressional District which I am proud to serve in this body. These committed workers were the true heroes of a crushing ice storm that devastated a number of rural areas in January of this year.

The worst ice storm to hit South Carolina in three decades swept through the Midlands area January 26–30, causing enough destruction for the President to declare 17 counties a major disaster area. At the heart of this devastation were an estimated 15,000 Tri-County Co-op customers, who lost power in the midst of freezing temperatures and impassible roads. Within a few days the co-op, under the leadership of Robert G. Wannamaker, had mobilized a massive team effort to repair 250 broken poles and 200 cross arms restoring power to all but ten houses in their service area. They diligently worked in those remote areas to have full service restored to all their customers within a week.

This achievement of the Tri-County Co-op employees is indicative of their willingness to go beyond the call of duty to provide and maintain a better quality of life for rural communities in South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me in thanking the brave and dedicated employees of Tri-County Co-op who jeopardized their own safety to insure their customers made it safely through the terrors of this year's winter storm. Their perseverance and dedication are greatly appreciated.

BOUNTIFUL BIRTHDAY BOX AT
BEVERLY FARMS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday June 18, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize my constituents at Beverly Farms Elementary School in Potomac, Maryland.

For two years, teachers and students at Beverly Farms have been participating in the Birthday Box Program which allows children to donate duplicate toys and gifts to homeless shelters and other community schools and organizations in Montgomery County. I am proud to note that another school in my congressional district, DuFief Elementary School in Gaithersburg, initiated the concept of the Birthday Box.

Students, parents, and teachers at Beverly Farms also participate in numerous service projects which include walks for the homeless and volunteering at the Stepping Stones Shelter.

Mr. Speaker, Beverly Farms Elementary School is putting smiles on children's faces and lifting spirits throughout our community. It is my honor to submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article published in *The Gazette* by Amy Reardon on the inspirational work done by the students at Beverly Farms and the great goodwill they are achieving.

GIFT BOX ENSURES THAT MORE CHILDREN
HAVE A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

(By Amy Reardon)

Ten-year-old Christine Antonsen has so many toys she hasn't had the chance to play with all of them.

Last year when her mother asked her to clean her room, Antonsen found birthday and holiday gifts, still wrapped in plastic, crammed in her closet and under her bed. She had never opened the stained glass art kit, flower printing kit or sand art kit stashed beneath her clothes and toys, so she decided to donate them to Beverly Farms Elementary School's Bountiful Birthday Box.

Antonsen is one of more than 50 students who have contributed to the birthday box program, which has students deliver duplicate gifts for donation to county shelters, community organizations and Beverly Farms' sister school Maryvale Elementary School in Rockville.

Antonsen's mother, Tracy Toppings, the PTA's community service committee chair, was inspired to start the program by the number of toys her daughter had but did not use. It is a concept the school borrowed from DuFief Elementary School in Gaithersburg.

For the past two years, students at Beverly Farms have chosen to donate duplicate birthday, holiday and bar/bat mitzvah gifts to the school's Bountiful Birthday Box instead of returning the items for more loot.

"If you get a present that you already have on your birthday, Christmas, Hanukkah or any of those holidays, you can return it,"

said 7-year-old Nicholas Muscarella. "But if you put it in the birthday box, it goes to families that don't have enough money to buy presents."

Each month students are reminded to bring in duplicate gifts instead of returning them. Big presents, such as board games and dolls, go to Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville and the National Center for Children and Families in Bethesda. Small donations, such as decks of cards, go to Beverly Farms' sister-school Maryvale for its school store.

"If kids don't get any birthday presents they won't feel very happy, so we're donating to them," said 7-year-old Rachel Rabinovitz.

The birthday box allows Stepping Stones Shelter—a 90-day homeless shelter for families in need—to throw birthday parties for children living there, said Tina McKendree, executive director.

"The children in the shelter often don't get new things," McKendree said. "If they can open something that is brand new, it makes it that much more special."

"They also know there are other children out there, who care about them. It helps keep their spirits up during a difficult time."

Toppings said the box is only a small part of the school's community service program. Beverly Farms PTA formed its community service committee three years ago after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and directs most of its service projects to Stepping Stones Shelter and Maryvale Elementary.

The committee's biggest annual event is the Fannie Mae Foundation's Help the Homeless walk, which raises money for Stepping Stones Shelter.

Tying itself to two organizations has made the program easy to maintain and allows the group to address needs as they arise, according to Toppings.

The partnership with Stepping Stones Shelter began when the school first hosted a homeless walk in 2000.

Over the years, the school's service to the shelter has spawned independent volunteerism from the Beverly Farms community. Students have donated their allowances while families and scouting troops have gone to the shelter to volunteer: cooking dinner, reading to children or throwing holiday parties, McKendree said.

"Through the partnership the kids learn more about the homeless and how they can get involved," McKendree said.

The sister-school concept, which links schools through resources and activities, is not unique to Maryvale and Beverly Farms. Compared to the 3 percent of students who receive free and reduced-price meals at Beverly Farms, 40 percent of students at Maryvale participate in the program.

"The idea behind the program is to be aware of differences in the community both ethnically and economically," Toppings said.

Laura Marantz, school guidance counselor at Beverly Farms who collects donations to the birthday box, said the emphasis on community service and donations teaches the children empathy and generosity at a young age.

"[The birthday box program] helps them have perspective and realize how fortunate they are," Marantz said.

SHAN THÉVER

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, a person greatly deserving of recognition from my community is Shane K.

Théver, an inspiring leader in the South Asian Community and a real advocate for political change among the Asian population. He is not one to stand idly by and let others be the ones to speak out. He has and continues to be a pioneer in his proactive involvement for the improvement of the practice of law, minority business development, and the furtherance of social causes. He was recently recognized by the California State Assembly for his outstanding achievements in community leadership, and the lasting impression he has made on those with whom he has been associated.

Among his achievements, he has an outstanding academic record from UCLA, and his first contribution to his community upon receiving his law degree was in providing Legal Aid Services to those most in need throughout the Los Angeles area. He has since established a distinguished private practice in health care and employment law.

In recognition of his strong leadership, President Bill Clinton nominated Shan to serve as the Assistant Director of the Minority Business Development Agency under Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown.

In addition to his Federal service, Mr. Théver has been an activist at the State level as well, serving on California's medical board and adjudicating disciplinary cases against physicians, as well as chairing the legislative advisory committee for workers' compensation in 1986.

At the local level, Shan Théver served as the Mayor's appointee to the Los Angeles Airport Advisory Committee, which was charged with advising the Airport Commission and the Los Angeles City Council. He was Treasurer of the Municipal Improvement Corporation for Los Angeles, which was responsible for floating the City of Los Angeles bonds and, in 1989, he served on California Attorney General John Van de Kamp's Asian Advisory Council to recommend hate crime legislation.

Among his many other achievements, Shan Théver has served as a member of the UCLA

Law Alumni Board of Directors, Steering Committee of the California Minority Counsel Program, Ethnic Advisory Group of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, California State Bar Board of Governors, and Minority Relations Committee, appointed by the State Bar Board of Governors, as well as the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles.

With great respect I commend Shan Théver for showing extraordinary leadership and inspiring others in the South Asian community to become proactive in their neighborhoods, churches, local organizations, the legal field and in government. He encourages everyone to get involved and make a difference. For his outstanding work, I would also like to congratulate Mr. Théver on his selection by the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California as the recipient of the Trailblazer Award. His fine example will lead many others to follow and become an instrumental force for change for the South Asian community.

AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, 2003, I was in my congressional district on official business and unable to vote on H.R. 4520. Had I been here I would have cast a "yes" vote on the motion to recommit, and a "no" vote on final passage. My opposition to H.R. 4520 was based on a number of factors.

First, the majority opted to employ a closed-rule which precluded consideration of the Rangel alternative that would have removed the provisions that provide incentives to move jobs overseas. The Rangel alternative included all

the extenders that Representative THOMAS added to his bill, such as small business expensing, R&D tax credit, and renewable energy—wind, solar—credits. The Rangel alternative would have provided the same temporary foreign income repatriation provision contained in the Senate Grassley/Baucus bill. The Rangel alternative provided a permanent solution on deductibility of State and local sales taxes, as opposed to the 2-year, limited provision under the Thomas bill. The Rangel alternative did not add to the deficit, and it dropped controversial revenue raisers from H.R. 4520—such as outsourcing tax collections to private debt collectors—and strengthened tax shelter provisions and rules that crack down on corporate expatriates.

In essence Chairman THOMAS cobbled together a variety of corporate tax breaks, extenders, and other sweeteners that have nothing to do with reforming international tax law. Fundamentally, H.R. 4520 pushed tax breaks for overseas investment and jobs abroad. During a time of historic job loss in America, H.R. 4520 retained as its core, \$35 billion in incentives to U.S. firms to invest overseas. In my district, there is a need for domestic jobs, not out-sourced jobs. My constituents want American jobs and companies to remain here. Finally, H.R. 4520 will add to the deficit. At a time of historic deficits and without a realistic budget plan, instead of simply solving a \$4 billion problem, H.R. 4520 includes nearly \$150 billion in gross tax cuts with a net cost of \$34 billion over the 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4520 will generate tremendous economic misery on Americans who can least afford it, and will benefit corporations that have shipped desperately needed jobs in America overseas. Had I been here, my "no" vote would have symbolized my conviction that perpetual tax cuts and deficit spending have to stop.