

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MARY McClymont  
OF INTERACTION

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Ms. Mary E. McClymont, the current President and CEO of InterAction, the largest alliance of U.S.-based, international development and humanitarian nongovernmental organizations. InterAction's members range from large organizations like CARE, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, and World Vision, to smaller organizations such as the International Medical Corps which is based in my own home state of California.

After four years of tireless service to the humanitarian community, Mary is relinquishing the helm of InterAction. She will be deeply missed not only by the many NGOs that InterAction serves but also by many of us in Congress who have come to rely on her and InterAction as advocates of humanitarian, human rights, and development concerns. Her knowledge, commitment, and professionalism have established InterAction as a leading resource of information and expertise on a myriad of issues ranging from Iraq and Afghanistan to the Millennium Challenge Account.

InterAction also has grown tremendously under Mary's leadership, nearly doubling its operating budget and expanding its membership. Additionally, Mary launched the Global Partnership for Effective Assistance—a multiyear advocacy campaign to help save lives and build self-sufficiency in poor countries by increasing the amount of development and humanitarian assistance, improving the effectiveness of foreign aid, and fostering international partnerships.

Leading an organization as large and diverse as InterAction during these tumultuous times requires an individual of tremendous fortitude, integrity, and dedication. Mary undoubtedly has excelled in meeting that challenge.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a great pleasure for me and the Democratic staff of the International Relations Committee to work closely on a wide range of issues with InterAction and with Mary. I want to commend her for her outstanding service and commitment to improving the effectiveness of our nation's humanitarian and development assistance. And I want to extend our best wishes to her as she leaves the presidency of InterAction.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF HORACE H. HEYMANN

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Horace H. Heymann.

Horace was born a citizen of Germany in 1915, and grew up beneath the rising specter of Nazism. Fearing that they would become victims of the Holocaust, he and his family separated in 1932 and fled from their native country. Horace made the journey to the United States, where he found his family safe in their adopted nation.

Horace served his new homeland with fierce loyalty, enlisting in the Navy upon the United States' entry into World War II. After serving honorably in the Sea Bees Battalion, he returned to his Hollis Hills, Queens County, New York home and began his most significant work, that of raising a family.

At the age of 90, Horace is a proud father, grandfather, and United States veteran. His life is a shining example of the emblematic vision of hope that America inspires in the persecuted, and of the powerful influence a loving father has on his children and his children's children.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of three generations of Americans, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring Horace H. Heymann as he celebrates his 90th birthday.

IN HONOR OF GRACIA MOLINA DE PICK ON HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate Gracia Molina de Pick. Gracia celebrates her 75th birthday on March 28, 2005. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to an exceptional community leader. Gracia is a mother, a daughter, a leader, and most of all, a beloved friend.

San Diegans will honor Gracia at the Centro Cultural de la Raza's International Women's Day. Her friends, family, and supporters will join together to salute her for her selfless and steady dedication to advancing women's causes and improving our community.

Her life story is a great adventure where she fought historic socio-political battles. She battled for obtaining women's suffrage in Mexico. In the United States, she fought for women's equality and acceptance in the workplace. She worked to promote the participation of women and people of color in the democratic process.

Gracia is the people's activist. She has dedicated countless hours to improving the quality of life for women and people of color. Many leaders in San Diego will tell you that she leads by example and is quick to take people under her wing. Gracia is a proud founder of the first Chicano and Chicana studies program at Mesa Community College. In 2002, she was inducted into the San Diego Women's Hall of Fame. She is a mentor, advocate, grassroots activist, and teacher.

I have always appreciated the kind advice she has provided me over the years.

I wish to congratulate Gracia Molina de Pick for her untiring work on behalf of women, minorities, and our community at-large.

HONORING THE WORDS OF JOHN JACKSON

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor the words of John Jackson, a steelworker from Warren, Ohio. I am proud to claim him as my constituent.

I AM AN AMERICAN STEEL MILL

I was born over 100 years ago.  
I am a true American.  
I survived the depression.  
I have lived through wars.  
I sweated.  
I poured ton after ton out for you.  
When called upon I answered.  
At wartime I served my country.  
I served it true.  
I worked 24 hours a day 7 days a week for you.

Never stopping, never slowing down.  
Never asking for anything in return.  
I have supplied you with the materials to build  
Planes, trains, ships, cars, and whatever you asked of me.  
I have helped make you the super power that you are.

I have made you feel proud, safe, secure, and superior to other nations.  
I have given people their way of life.  
I have taken away life from people.  
Do You Know Who I Am?  
I Am An American Steel Mill  
I have helped you when called upon,  
I have supported you through good times  
And bad times.  
Now I am asking you this great country of ours

Think what life would be like if I die  
Think how safe, proud, secure you would feel if I die.

The cries for help are all across the country.  
The same country I helped build.  
The same country I helped become strong.  
Please don't let me die.  
Serve me as I have served you.

IN HONOR OF PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Providence High School for 50 years of outstanding dedication to education and the community.

Providence High School opened as an all girls Catholic High School in Burbank, California, in September 1955. Principal, Sister

• 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.

Maria Theresa, Sister Isabella, and Sister Esther administrated at the new school which then had its first class of 81 students. The first school building was completed on November 2, 1955. The first class of students graduated in 1959. By 1960, the number of students swelled to 495. The staff continued to grow and formed a young, enthusiastic group who worked tirelessly to attain the highest standards, not only in the academic field, but also in athletics, music and other extracurricular activities. Identifying the need for values-based education for all young people, Providence began welcoming young men, as well as women, to the school in 1974.

Sr. Lucille Dean became the school's principal in 1986. Providence continued in the next few years to build on the tradition of excellence. Providence High School has received recognition throughout its history for its academic achievement. It was designated a Blue Ribbon School in 1997 and received accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 1996. In 2001, the school opened the Fritz B. Burns Student Activity Center featuring a state-of-the-art gymnasium, weight room, exercise room, boys and girls locker rooms, and conference center. Providence has a proud history of carrying out its unique mission of education. The school continually strives for academic excellence and the total development of the individual.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Providence High School for 50 years of exemplary public service, and for its immense commitment to educating young people of all cultural and economic backgrounds for academic achievement, compassionate service, ethical standards, Christian leadership, global awareness, and life-long learning.

TOM AND MARY ELLEN CODY  
HONORED BY JUVENILE DIABETES  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION AS  
2005 CINCIANNATIANS OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom and Mary Ellen Cody, friends and constituents who on April 30, 2005 will be named 2005 Cincinnatians of the Year by the Cincinnati Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International is the central resource for information about type 1 juvenile diabetes, and raises funds to support research to find a cure for diabetes.

Tom and Mary Ellen are being honored for their extraordinary service to the Cincinnati community. They have been active members since they moved to our area in 1982, when Tom joined Federated Department Stores, Inc. Currently, Tom is vice chair of Federated with responsibility for legal and human resources, internal audit, external affairs, and the company's philanthropic activities. Prior to joining Federated, Tom was with Pan American World Airways, Inc. He serves on the Boards of Trustees of Xavier University, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Life Center, and the National Conference

for Community and Justice. In addition, he is a past chair of United Way of Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees. A native of New York City, Tom received a B.A. from Maryknoll College and a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.

Mary Ellen is a member of the boards of Dominican Community Services, 4Cs (Community Coordinated Child Care), Dress for Success Cincinnati, and Friends of the University of Cincinnati College—Conservatory of Music (CCM). She attended the College of Mount Saint Joseph.

The Codys have 4 children: Thomas, Jr., Mark, Anne, and Amy, and 7 grandchildren.

All of us in the greater Cincinnati area congratulate the Codys on their extraordinary community service, and on receiving this prestigious honor.

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ DANIEL  
FERRER GARCÍA

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Daniel Ferrer García, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ferrer García is the regional coordinator for the Christian Liberation Movement in the province of Santiago. He is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who believes in the cause of freedom for the men and women of Cuba. Because of his steadfast belief in human liberty, and his constant work to bring freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime, Mr. Ferrer García has been a constant target of the dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Ferrer García has been harassed and detained numerous times for his pro-democracy activism. In January 2002, he was forced from a bus and beaten by the tyrant's thugs because of his activities and ideals. In March 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Ferrer García was arrested. Subsequently, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

While confined in the inhuman horror of Castro's gulag, Mr. Ferrer García has been the constant target of abuse. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004:

On January 1, José Daniel Ferrer García reported serving 45 days in a punishment cell for protesting the suspension of correspondence and the delivery of food and medical supplies from his family. He did not receive food or water during the first 3 days of his confinement and slept on a cement floor. Authorities confiscated his Bible and prohibited any contact with other prisoners.

The same Country Report describes the true horrors of a punishment cell: "Prisoners sometimes were held in 'punishment cells,' which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi dark conditions, no available water, and a hole for a toilet." This is in addition to the grotesque depravity of the gulag that also includes beatings, isolation, denial of medical treatment to detainees and sexual abuse.

Mr. Ferrer García is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation. Thousands languish in the gulag because, like Mr. Ferrer García, they refuse to accept the tyrannical dictatorship in Cuba today.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of José Daniel Ferrer García and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY  
OF WEST BRANCH

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a city. Tomorrow, the residents of West Branch, Michigan celebrate this great milestone.

The land that is now West Branch began as a timber town in 1875, blessed with a mixture of soft and hardwoods. As many timber towns dissolved with the depleting timber supply, the early community leaders of West Branch had the foresight to replenish the forests through a conservation plan funded through a timely oil boom that contributed greatly to the economy.

Located on the Michigan's largest railroad line, West Branch is roughly halfway between the southern State line and the Mackinac Bridge. Three old Native American Chippewa Trails that convened in West Branch transformed into what is now known as highways, M-76, M-30 and M-55 making that area a major hub for the increasing transportation.

It was in 1905 that the State of Michigan recognized West Branch for 30 years of solid growth by granting them incorporation as a City. The State further noted that the area's escalating commerce in the farm industry also attributed to the cause for incorporation. Agriculture, still today, remains the area's largest economic resource.

Through the years, the community has dramatically evolved. In the 1930s and 40s West Branch grew its recreational attractions by establishing Trout Festivals and Alpine Ski facilities as well as promoting its suitability for hunting, fishing and agriculture. In the 1950s and 60s the City focused on highway and land development that brought the most famous highway in the state, I-75, directly through their emerging community. During the 70s, 80s and 90s the city experienced an economic boom and acquired two industrial parks. One of the parks was bestowed a "smiley-face" water tower, which is now the trademark of the City. The other, eventually became home to Tolfree Memorial Hospital, West Branch Regional Medical Center and the state-of-the art Seaton Cancer Center.

The West Branch of today, with a population of 1,924, serves as the County seat for Ogemaw County. This fast growing community's expanding commerce, with its own Community Airport and bustling outdoor shopping

mall contrasts the Victorian downtown that embraced its rich history during their recent streetscape enhancement.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the broadly shared opinion that West Branch is a warm and welcoming community. When the city was added to my new district after the 2000 census I held an open house for my district office there in order to get to know my new constituents. I was impressed by the thoughtful questions of the people who attended and was touched by their welcome to me as their new Representative.

Since then, I've held a healthcare forum in West Branch, visited with the West Branch Area Business and Professional Women's Club and even had the honor of throwing the first pitch at the West Branch Little League games. I continue to be very proud to represent the fine community of West Branch in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the City of West Branch and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 3, 2005, I missed the vote on final passage of H.R. 841, the Continuity in Representation Act, rollcall 52. Because it was announced earlier that this vote would be conducted as a voice vote, I immediately left the House floor following the vote on the motion to recommit, so that I could make a flight to my District. Later in the day, I learned Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD demanded a recorded vote on the question of passage of the bill.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the final passage of H.R. 841.

#### EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-SECESSION LAW

### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about reports of China's intention to pass an anti-secession law, which appears to permit China to punish Taiwan for what it perceives to be movements toward independence or separatist sentiments. At a time when we should be encouraging greater cross-strait cooperation, this effort by the Chinese could further heighten tensions and possibly move the region toward armed conflict.

When I traveled to Taiwan last year, I saw a vibrant democracy, a strong economy, and citizens appreciative of their high standard of living and ability to enjoy basic human rights. Most importantly, I met people who want to engage in the world community. Yet, the anti-secession law would permit China to decide for itself what constitutes an independence movement in Taiwan. Such carte blanche au-

thority would be chilling in Taiwan, which has supported civil liberties and free speech rights.

I hope that Chinese leaders will use their better judgment and abandon this ill-conceived plan. We, as Americans, must do what we can to promote peace and cooperation across the Taiwan Strait. Despite our commitments in Iraq and elsewhere, we must remain engaged in this matter. Our silence could be interpreted as tacit permission for China to escalate its rhetoric and possibly initiate action against Taiwan, with whom the U.S. has a strong relationship. We must encourage our friends in Beijing to build on their history of cooperative efforts with Taiwan, economically and culturally, to enhance their relationship. I know the people of Taiwan look forward to greater engagement with the mainland and a peaceful coexistence with their Chinese brothers and sisters.

#### CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the Peace Corps and to celebrate National Peace Corps Week, which ran from February 28 to March 6, 2005.

Last week, we honored Peace Corps Volunteers for their dedicated work in promoting world peace and friendship across the globe. In an era where global interdependence and camaraderie has become increasingly important, the Peace Corps plays an integral role in connecting individuals from different countries, races, and creeds.

Since the inception of the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, over 178,000 volunteers have served in 138 countries. Currently, there are more than 7,700 Peace Corps volunteers serving in 72 countries around the world—the highest number of volunteers in the field in the past 29 years. Peace Corps volunteers are quite a diverse group, serving as teachers, information technology consultants, youth and agriculture workers, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and business advisors.

I am proud to say that the 5th Congressional District of New York currently has 12 of its own as Peace Corps volunteers. They are, in alphabetical order and followed by the countries in which they serve: Kimberly A. Beers, Dominican Republic; Ling-Yun Chen, Turkmenistan; Michael E. Garris, Armenia; Seth B. Gazes, El Salvador; Melissa Gonzalez, Costa Rica; Orlando Gonzalez, Costa Rica; Amy Y. Han, Uzbekistan; Grace E. Lee, Madagascar; Pei-Zei Lin, Burkina Faso; Erin C. McNally, Turkmenistan; Richard Z. Mo, Paraguay; Debbie Nip, Moldova.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring all of the past and present Peace Corps volunteers who selflessly serve abroad, empowering individuals in developing countries and spreading their message of world peace and friendship. These fine men and women have committed years of their lives to helping total strangers and to making our world a better and friendlier place. We salute your unselfish acts.

#### RECOGNITION OF DR. DONALD F. AVERILL FOR THE HARRY BUTTIMER DISTINGUISHED ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give recognition to Dr. Donald F. Averill, Chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District for receiving the Harry Buttmer Distinguished Administrative Award. It is my honor to recognize Dr. Averill's leadership, dedication, extensive educational background, and his academic and administrative merits to the faculty and students of the State of California.

Dr. Averill earned his doctoral degree in Educational Management from the University of La Verne. He has contributed great efforts to vocational education and educational development through teaching and administration. In addition to his 40 years of experience as professor and administrator, Dr. Averill has also served his tenure of service as Superintendent and President of Palo Verde College, President of the California Association of Occupational Administrators, Chair of the Occupational Education Coalition, Chair of a Legislative Oversight Committee on Contract Education, Chair of the Southern 30's Human Resources Exchange, and Chair of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) Human Resources Commission.

Dr. Averill carries a strong commitment to public service, clearly demonstrated by his active involvement with the people and organizations of his community. He is currently involved with over 20 regional, state, and national organizations. Due to his broad knowledge in education and understanding of legislative and educational issues, Dr. Averill is frequently asked to take the lead in areas of higher education, economic development, and community college finances.

Furthermore, Dr. Averill has compiled an impressive list of community outreach, which includes his service as Co-Founder of the Orange County Technology Exchange Center, Chair of the local American Heart Association branch, Lt. Governor of Division Three for Kiwanis International, Chairman of the Board for Mary's Home, Director and Board Member of the Blythe Area Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Palo Verde Valley Economic Partnership, Member of the Board of Directors of the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce and the Rialto Chamber of Commerce. He serves on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of California, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, and the Work Incentive Board of San Bernardino County.

Dr. Averill is an outstanding awardee to receive the Harry Buttmer Distinguished Administrator Award. His leadership, commitment, loyalty, integrity, and merits all made him a perfect candidate deserving of such a great honor. The people of San Bernardino County and of the State of California thank him for his continued service.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
JAMES J. FLANNERY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of James J. Flannery, devoted family man, community leader, public servant, and friend and mentor to many.

As a former member of the Ohio House of Representatives from 1967 through 1972, Mr. Flannery served his constituents of Cleveland's Near West Side with commitment, integrity and energy. As a certified public accountant, he was instrumental in garnering statewide approval for the graduated income tax, implemented in 1971.

Mr. Flannery's life-long commitment of service to others, and dedication to the Democratic Party was handed down to him from his parents and grandparents. His father served on the Council for the City of Cleveland. For many years, Mr. Flannery's grandfather served as a Precinct Committeeman. And in 1947, Mr. Flannery's grandmother was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. They also instilled within him an unwavering work ethic. He was raised in Cleveland, graduated from St. Ed's, then enrolled at the University of Notre Dame, where he graduated in 1960. He volunteered his time and efforts on behalf of numerous causes and organizations, including St. Ed's High School and the Notre Dame Club of Cleveland, where he served as past president and trustee. In 1991, the Club honored him as their Man of the Year.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of James J. Flannery, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. I offer my deepest condolences to Mr. Flannery's wife of 45 years, Judith; his children, Jim, Dan, Kelly, Mary Lou, Michele, Bryan, Judi Lynn and Eric; his sons and daughters in law, Maureen, Caroline, Rolly, Attila, Brian, Renee, Dan and Lori; his granddaughters and grandsons, and his extended family and many friends. Mr. Flannery will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him well, yet his legacy of concern for others, generous spirit, and kind heart uplifted the lives of countless individuals and families, including my own—and his life and his legacy, framed by love of family and community, will be remembered always.

PETER GILES HONORED FOR HIS  
ESTEEMED SERVICE TO THE  
CORPORATE, NONPROFIT AND  
HIGH-TECHNOLOGY COMMU-  
NITIES IN SILICON VALLEY

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Peter Giles, the retiring President and CEO of The Tech Museum of Innovation headquartered in San Jose, California.

Among Mr. Giles impressive accomplishments is his strong commitment to education

and provocative methods that garner greater levels of understanding to those who do not have a collegiate engineering degree.

Under his leadership, The Tech has empowered 1 million educators and youth through teacher training institutes, web-based resources, field trips and various community partnerships with area schools and youth groups. His museum can also boast of the development of a signature learning approach called, "Design in Mind Learning," which provides professional development to educators and enhances curricula throughout the United States.

Mr. Giles has also committed himself to the sustainability of The Tech and the community it serves. The opening of the Tech Museum was funded by \$113 million, including an unprecedented \$32 million of in-kind contributions from the industry; in addition, his endowment fundraising totals \$14 million currently.

The Tech is one of the top tourist attractions for anyone visiting Silicon Valley. It has earned this reputation because of the unique mix of art, culture, education, and of course, technology. In addition, The Tech has subtly, but firmly espoused its core belief that science, engineering and technology are fun—and must remain to be fun in order for our country to thrive.

The tremendous success of this jewel is due in great part to Mr. Giles' visionary leadership. During Mr. Giles' 18 years of service at The Tech, he fostered a spirit of collaboration and innovation that is the keystone of what makes Silicon Valley a truly unique locale.

Peter Giles is an amazing person. The former President of the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group he had other, possibly more financially rewarding, career paths than the Tech. But Peter, who is a techie, a father and a visionary, has never been interested in his own aggrandizement so much as he is interested in the public good. Not only did he develop the Tech from a mere idea, he made sure that idea included our entire community. Let me give you just one example: To protect her privacy I'll just refer to "Az". This young woman started working for the Tech while in high school. Neither of her parents were college or high school grads, but Peter understood that reaching out to a community that had not been steeped in education was the Tech's most important mission. From Peter's own life, he understands how families reinforce each other.

Now "Az" has completed college and is embarked on teaching. Understanding the reach of families, her little brother is a math major at MIT.

Although Peter Giles is retiring, his legacy and contributions to Silicon Valley will remain in the hearts and minds of The Tech's supporters, contributors and patrons for many years to come; and even more importantly, in the living rooms of the homes of ordinary families, things have changed for the better.

IN MEMORY OF ROSEMARY  
KENNEDY

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words about the remarkable life of Rosemary

Kennedy, who passed away at age 86 on January 7.

She was not the most famous member of her family. Hers was a more private life than those of her siblings. But it was not a life without public consequences and enormous benefit to those around her.

The example of her perseverance and her dignity helped to raise awareness about people living with mental disabilities—not just about their problems, but about their potential. That example inspired her sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, to establish the Special Olympics. It has been going strong now for 37 years. Last year, it was my honor to co-author an historic Congressional authorization for Special Olympics with my good friend STENY HOYER. It is our hope that the authorization will help this successful program to grow even more.

I am pleased that the United States Congress is now counted among those who enthusiastically support Special Olympics and recognize its unique importance in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. Through the Special Olympics, Rosemary Kennedy has brought hope to millions of people around the world who either have disabilities or love someone who does.

In her eulogy for her sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver said, "Today, in villages and cities all over the world, Rosemary's name may be little known, but her love is making a huge difference—to a mother of a special child, she is a success story. To a person struggling against misunderstanding and prejudice, she is a model of courage. To a family wondering how to stay hopeful, she is a symbol of the ultimate gift that sustains us all: love itself."

Timothy Shriver, Rosemary Kennedy's nephew and the chairman of Special Olympics, said, "All of the Shriver's and all of the Special Olympics family around the world will miss Rosemary's love and her influence on the world. Her life and her example will continue to be our daily inspiration."

That's a sentiment that I believe all of us can second.

CHINESE ANTI-SECESSION LAW

**HON. CONNIE MACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to China's proposed anti-secession law—a highly provocative measure which will further increase tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

Earlier this week, Premier Wen Jiabao spoke to the about 3000 delegates from all across China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. In Premier Wen's speech, he said the law reflects the "strong determination of the Chinese people to . . . never allow secessionist forces working for Taiwan independence to separate from China." The proposed law ignores reality and assumes that China and Taiwan are now unified.

The law authorizes an attack if Taiwan moves toward formal independence. Simply put, it would give China the legal authority that China has been seeking to push for reunification of Taiwan by force, if necessary. The majority of the 23 million people of Taiwan view

this proposed law as hostile and unnecessary. China already has hundreds of missiles pointed at Taiwan. Passage of this law will only further already tense relations across the Strait.

The people of Taiwan live in a vibrant democracy and enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. Taiwan is a beacon of freedom and an engine of prosperity in eastern Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the right of the Taiwanese people to live in a free and democratic society. This proposed law threatens Taiwan's freedom, its security, and its prosperity. During President George W. Bush's address earlier this year, he said "when you stand for liberty, we will stand with you." I urge my colleagues to stand for freedom and liberty and to stand with the people of Taiwan in its opposition to the Chinese anti-secession law.

HONORING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to honor the 44th anniversary of the Peace Corps, as we concluded the celebration of National Peace Corps Week on Sunday. The Peace Corps has made great contributions over the past 44 years with 178,000 volunteers that have served in 138 countries.

I would like to thank all those who have served and recognize their service and contributions they have given to the world.

I would also like to honor those colleagues who have served in the Peace Corps. Among them are former Ohio Congressman Tony Hall, who is now U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture agencies in Rome and who served in the Peace Corps in Thailand from 1966–67. Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD from Connecticut also served as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1966–68 in the Dominican Republic.

I hope all Americans will join me in recognizing the valuable service of those who have served in the Peace Corps and their hard work in helping to portray a positive image of the United States throughout the world.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAY MILLIKIN

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Comal County Commissioner Jay Millikin.

His patriotism stems from a lifetime of service to both town and country. Jay Millikin served for 24 years in the United States Air Force before becoming a City Councilman, and the eventual Mayor, of the City of Garden Ridge.

Commissioner Jay Millikin's commitment to the community is exemplified through his membership and involvement with countless

environmental, transportation, and development councils and committees. His diligent efforts have served the citizens of Comal County with distinction since 1999.

Commissioner Millikin is a man that understands community needs and the value of hard work and dedication. It is important to recognize the accomplishments of Comal County Commissioners such as Jay Millikin, because they are an inspiration to many others in the community. They are the backbone of positive action in our local counties and communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of Comal County Commissioner Jay Millikin.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, March 2 marks a historic day for my home state of Texas and specifically for the people of my district living in Washington and Austin Counties. Today, Mr. Speaker we celebrate the birth of Texas and the place where our great state was born because right along the banks of the Brazos River, Texas declared its independence.

Texas Independence day marks a time when Texans and Americans of today honor and celebrate the work and sacrifices of Texans generations ago, people who valiantly claimed their freedom from Mexico and sought out their own destiny governed by the laws of a true democracy, a constitution written by the people and the colors of their flag waving over what would become the free and independent nation of Texas. And I am proud to say this historic story of freedom, independence and democracy took place in two important places in the Tenth Congressional District of Texas, the district I am proud to say I represent.

It's a history that started long before that early March day in 1836.

Between 1820 and 1836 the Mexican Government offered Americans the opportunity to live and work in what was then the land of Texas under Mexican Rule. But these Americans, living under Mexico's government quickly found the spirit of freedom lacking. Mexican leaders, at that time, presumed they could dictate economic, social, even religious life for those living in Texas. They allowed the military to interfere in civil issues, trade even legal proceedings.

The inspiring story of how the battle against this, then, anti-democratic government began in what was then, the Stephen F. Austin Colony, the first colony of Texas, now known as Austin County, Texas. It was there that the first sparks of freedom flew from the spirits of men, tired of living under an intrusive and burdensome Mexican government. It was in the Austin Colony in 1835 that Texans first established a provisional government, with the intention of writing a declaration of independence soon after. With the Mexican Army intent on destroying any move towards Texas independence, the Consultation of 1835, as it was known, adjourned without the organization needed to continue the cause for freedom.

But the want for independence from Mexico did not die in that colony. Less than a year

later, many of the same delegates present at the Consultation of 1835 arrived along the Brazos River, in the Village of Washington, just north of the Austin Colony.

By the spring of 1836 the encroachments on basic freedoms had reached a point of action for many living in Mexico controlled Texas.

They were simply fed up with such unnecessary and uncontrolled interference from a greedy government. The time for action was upon them.

On March 1, 1836, 59 delegates hailing from all corners of Texas arrived at the then relatively unknown village of Washington right alongside the Brazos River.

They met inside an unfinished frame building to decide the principals they would invoke in claiming their freedom from Mexico. And as these brave men began to construct the language which would declare their independence from Mexico, they were in fact constructing a document which very well may have served as their death warrants. For while their declaration of independence shouted freedom for the Texans, it also declared Mexico unfit to govern and the Mexican Army immediately began seeking retribution for this act of defiance.

But like so many brave heroes before and after them, these 59 delegates were willing to pay the ultimate price for freedom.

It was a bloody and dramatic time for Texas. While the men along the Brazos River fought for the right words and ideals with which to claim Texas' independence, their fellow statesmen and warriors fought for their lives and freedom. For as the delegates along the Brazos River put pen to paper in writing Texas' declaration of independence men like Davey Crockett, James Bowie and William Travis fought to their deaths in fighting for Texas freedom at the Alamo.

Despite the defeat at the Alamo, the revolution continued. In 1842 Texas president, Sam Houston moved the nation's capital from Austin to the birthplace of Texas, Washington on the Brazos River.

Three years later, by an act of Congress, the United States made Texas part of the American Union, and Texas became the 28th state of the United States of America.

There can be no argument about the Lone Star State's contribution to American history, nor can there be any debate about that history's importance.

We must always remember where that history began for Texas. Just like so many Americans travel to Philadelphia to witness the buildings and symbols involved in America's Declaration of Independence, thousands of people every year make the journey to Washington on the Brazos to understand the depth of history and events involved in Texas' Independence.

For many Americans, this place has become a phrase acknowledging an event in Texas history long forgotten. But tonight we must remember Washington on the Brazos and Austin County as the places where the proud nation of Texas found life with a want for freedom and spirit for democracy.

Texas will always have a long and storied history, which we can never forget. We must continue to remember the commitment of those men who started a new book in Texas history as they wrote the nation of Texas into independence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR  
AREAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVEL-  
OPMENT ACT

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would provide greater access to an important tool for the development and growth of small businesses in Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). My legislation would expand the areas currently designated by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones) to cover the insular areas in their entirety. Not only would this legislation provide an important tool for small business growth in these economically disadvantaged areas, it would correct issues of implementation related to the current one-size-fits all criteria for designating HUBZones. This criteria disadvantages small businesses in the insular areas.

Currently, only those zones in the insular areas designated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as "qualified census tracts," are recognized by the SBA as HUBZones. Many additional zones in the insular areas would also be designated HUBZones under the program's "qualified 'non-metropolitan county'" criteria, as is the case in the 50 States, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, if not for technical issues of implementation. A principal factor of eligibility under the "qualified 'non-metropolitan county'" criteria is a high level of unemployment in a given county. The insular areas do not subdivide into counties, nor does the Bureau of Labor Statistics collect Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Guam. Therefore, firms located in a number of financially distressed areas in these jurisdictions are deprived of the opportunity to participate in the HUBZone program, as no alternative formula is used for the "qualified 'non-metropolitan county'" criteria in the insular areas.

The purpose of this legislation is to support economic self-sufficiency in Guam and the insular areas by helping small businesses located in these jurisdictions to effectively compete for federal contract work. Over the past several years, the SBA's HUBZone program has been one of the most successful vehicles for directing federal contracts and subcontracting dollars to locally-owned small businesses. I am confident that the expertise exists among small businesses in the insular areas to successfully meet federal contracting needs, particularly for local projects. Universal HUBZone designation throughout the insular areas would provide incentives for federal agencies to utilize local firms. Considering the relative geographic isolation and unique economic challenges encountered in these areas, and the problems associated with implementing all provisions of the law in the insular areas, it makes sense to designate the entirety of these jurisdictions as HUBZones.

I look forward to working with Mr. MANZULLO and Ms. Velázquez on this legislation.

DENTON'S LINK BUS SYSTEM  
NAMED OUTSTANDING

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Denton's Link bus system, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its recognition as an "Outstanding Metropolitan Transit System" for 2004 by the Texas Transportation Association.

Denton's Link won the award for increasing its ridership by more than fourfold from 2003 to 2004. With better routes and an influx of new riders from the local universities—Texas Woman's University and University of North Texas—Link has helped limit congestion on our streets. The "Outstanding Metropolitan Transit Award" is given for designing and implementing programs that demonstrate innovative concepts or effect problem-solving techniques. But a company must not only initiate these programs but also successfully implement the techniques. The Texas Transportation Association also awards transit systems that enhance safety measures, make their operating systems more efficient and improve customer service.

Denton's Link sets a wonderful model for other Texas public transit systems looking to make improvements. I am proud of the Denton public transportation system and citizens of Denton who continued to better their community through the use of Denton's Link.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF GUADALUPE COUNTY COM-  
MISSIONER JUDY COPE

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication of Guadalupe County Commissioner Judy Cope for her civic service.

Judy Cope graduated from MacArthur High in San Antonio, and went on to attend the College of the Mainland, receiving a degree in criminal justice. She has put her training to work as a special investigator, compliance officer, gang issues coordinator, and concealed handgun instructor.

Commissioner Cope's experience has not been limited to law enforcement; she has held positions in various different fields. Early in her career she worked as an accountant, owned a feed and tack store, assisted with operations at her husband's construction company, and held a state real estate license for 21 years.

She now puts this tremendous diversity of experience to work for the citizens of Guadalupe County. She is a strong believer in government transparency and accountability, and she has worked hard to help the public be more involved in county government.

Mr. Speaker, Guadalupe County Commissioner Judy Cope's efforts to enforce the law, forge community ties, and open government to the public are worthy of praise, and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize her work publicly.

RECOGNITION OF ARMY  
SPECIALIST JACOB PALMATIER

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Army Specialist Jacob Palmatier who was recently killed in action fighting for freedom in Iraq.

Palmatier was a 29-year-old from Springfield, Illinois who served as an Army Specialist assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division based at Fort Benning, GA. Palmatier went to Springfield's Lutheran High School and later entered Illinois College, where he graduated magna cum laude with a degree in English. He excelled in languages, learning to speak fluent Japanese as well as some Norwegian, Russian and French. He had been in Iraq for less than a month when he was killed outside of Baghdad by a roadside bomb.

Palmatier is survived by his wife Bridget of Rochester whom he married in 2003 and his parents David and Margaret Palmatier of Springfield. I am proud of the service this young man gave to our country and the service his fellow troops perform every day. Not enough can be said about Army Spc Palmatier. It is troops like him that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JOHN  
KAUFFMAN ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mr. John Kauffman, upon his retirement as the Managing Editor of the Advertiser-Tribune Newspaper in Tiffin, Ohio.

John Kauffman, like many young Americans, entered his adulthood by proudly serving his country as a member of the United States Navy. After John's enlistment, he attended and graduated from The Ohio State University where he was an integral part of the student newspaper, The Lantern.

Upon graduation, John embarked on his journalistic career at the Ypsilanti Press in Michigan and later served as Editor of the Kenton Times. Then in 1981, John accepted his current position as Managing Editor of the Advertiser-Tribune where he has provided constant leadership.

Drawing upon his past experiences, John has brought stability and journalistic integrity to a newspaper which has seen tremendous changes. As Managing Editor, John remained cognizant of the Advertiser-Tribune's rich history which can be traced to 1832 with the beginnings of the Seneca Advertiser and its predecessor, the Seneca Patriot. With this rich

history in mind, John has displayed great leadership by effectively communicating the mission at hand and adapting to the ever changing world around him.

Through John's drive and leadership, the Advertiser-Tribune instituted a Sunday edition in 1989, daily publishing in 1990 and converted to a morning publishing cycle in 1992. After 23 years of distinguished service to the residents of Tiffin and Seneca County, John leaves behind the legacy of a paper inspired by dedication and compassion.

In addition to John Kauffman's commitment to the Advertiser-Tribune, he has shown an unwavering desire to be an active participant in his community. Whether it is his activity in his local church, or his participation in the League of Women Voters' candidates' night, John has continued to lead by example.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mr. John Kauffman. Our communities are well served by having such honorable and giving citizens, like John, who care about their well being and stability. We wish John and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
GUADALUPE COUNTY JUDGE  
DONALD SCHRAUB

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor County Judge Donald L. Schraub for his years of contribution to the Guadalupe County community as an educator, business professional and county judge.

Born in LaVernia, Texas, Judge Schraub graduated from LaVernia High School. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and earned a Bachelors Degree in Zoology and a Teaching Certificate.

Before becoming an elected official, Schraub committed years in education and business. Judge Schraub started as a biology teacher in Midland, Texas before returning to the Seguin Independent School District to teach Earth Science. After getting a Master's degree in Education, Schraub continued to serve the school district by becoming a school counselor.

Schraub then worked 12 years for the Wholesale Beverage Distribution Company. Following his retirement from business, Schraub returned to be a school counselor in the Nixon Independent School District.

As the current Guadalupe County Judge, Schraub has aimed to provide a stable, well balanced fiscal base for the county while insuring the needs of the taxpayer are met. In the Alamo Area Council of Governments, Judge Schraub serves on the Housing Finance, Planning and Program Development, and Rural Area Judges Committees.

In his spare time, Judge Schraub likes to hunt, fish, and go camping. Married to his wife Gloria for 16 years, Schraub and his family also enjoy attending the local Christ Lutheran Church. His family has attended the same Christ Lutheran Church for four generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize Judge Donald L. Schraub, and to thank him for his years of

public service and positive influence on both the young and old of our community.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA POPE'S APPOINTMENT TO THE DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATIONAL CLUBS OF AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL TEAM

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jessica Pope of Little Elm High School, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for her win of the Distributive Education Clubs of America's (DECA) state competition. Winning this competition puts her on DECA's International Team competing in Anaheim, California later this spring.

I congratulate Jessica Pope for this outstanding achievement. Jessica first had to qualify for the state competition through a series of tests and district competitions. At the state competition, Jessica excelled past the 100-question test plus a role-playing event, which Jessica completed in front of a panel of judges. Out of about 150 contestants in Jessica's event, she was named one of the top nine.

Jessica's teacher, Diana Reynolds, also deserves recognition because she urged Jessica to compete at the Distributive Education Clubs of America events. Teachers, like Ms. Reynolds, encourage our youth to perform at their highest potential helping to build a better America.

I am proud of the education system in Texas, especially our involved parents and teachers at Little Elm High School, who commit their lives and time to fostering growth in their students. Jessica is a stellar example of how our combined efforts are paying off. Congratulations to Jessica, her parents, Diana Reynolds and Little Elm High School.

INTRODUCING THE AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY RESTORATION ACT OF 2005

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the American Sovereignty Restoration Act. I submitted this bill, which would end United States membership in the United Nations, in the 106th, 107th, and 108th Congresses and if anything, conditions have made its relevance and importance more evident now than ever. The United Nations assault on the sovereignty of the United States proceeds apace; it shows no signs of slowing. Mr. Speaker, since I last introduced this measure, the United Nations has been embroiled in scandal after scandal, from the Oil for Food Scandal to several recent particularly appalling sex scandals.

The United States has wasted more than 30 billion taxpayer dollars on the United Nations and has received in return only contempt from an organization that scoffs at traditional notions of limited government and sovereignty.

Indeed, even though the United States pays the lion's share of the UN budget, UN bureaucrats are still not satisfied. They want direct access to U.S. taxpayer money with out the U.S. government middleman. A current example of this determination to tax American citizens is the Law of the Sea Treaty. The "International Seabed Authority" created by the Law of the Sea Treaty would have the authority to—for the first time in history—impose taxes on American businesses and citizens. This treaty may be ratified at any time by the U.S. Senate and UN taxation of Americans will become a reality.

This legislation would represent a comprehensive and complete U.S. withdrawal from the United Nations. It repeals the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 and other related laws. It directs the President to terminate U.S. participation in the United Nations, including any organ, specialized agency, commission, or other affiliated body. It requires closure of the U.S. Mission to the UN.

The legislation also prohibits the authorization of funds for the U.S. assessed or voluntary contribution to the UN; the authorization of funds for any U.S. contribution to any UN military operation; and the expenditure of funds to support the participation of U.S. armed forces as part of any UN military or peacekeeping operation. Finally, this legislation bars U.S. armed forces from serving under UN command.

The U.S. Congress, by passing H.R. 1146, and the U.S. President, by signing H.R. 1146, will heed the wise counsel of our first President, George Washington, when he advised his countrymen to "steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world," lest the nation's security and liberties be compromised by endless and overriding international commitments. I urge my colleagues to support this measure and I hope for its quick consideration.

In considering the recent United Nations meetings and the United States' relation to that organization and its affront to U.S. sovereignty, we would all do well to again read carefully Professor Herbert W. Titus' paper on the United Nations from which I have provided this excerpt:

It is commonly assumed that the Charter of the United Nations is a treaty. It is not. Instead, the Charter of the United Nations is a constitution. As such, it is illegitimate, having created a supranational government, deriving its powers not from the consent of the governed (the people of the United States of America and peoples of other member nations) but from the consent of the peoples' government officials who have no authority to bind either the American people nor any other nation's people to any terms of the Charter of the United Nations.

By definition, a treaty is a contract between or among independent and sovereign nations, obligatory on the signatories only when made by competent governing authorities in accordance with the powers constitutionally conferred upon them. I Kent, Commentaries on American Law 163 (1826); Burdick, The Law of the American Constitution section 34 (1922). Even the United Nations Treaty Collection states that a treaty is (1) a binding instrument creating legal rights and duties; (2) concluded by states or international organizations with treaty-making power; (3) governed by international law.

By contrast, a charter is a constitution creating a civil government for a unified nation or nations and establishing the authority of that government. Although the United

Nations Treaty Collection defines a "charter" as a "constituent treaty," leading international political authorities state that— "[t]he use of the word 'Charter' [in reference to the founding document of the United Nations] . . . emphasizes the constitutional nature of this instrument." Thus, the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations declares "that the Peoples of the United Nations have resolved to combine their efforts to accomplish certain aims by certain means." The Charter of the United Nations: A Commentary 46 (B. Simma, ed.) (Oxford Univ. Press, NY: 1995) (Hereinafter U.N. Charter Commentary). Consistent with this view, leading international legal authorities declare that the law of the Charter of the United Nations which governs the authority of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council is "similar . . . to national constitutional law," proclaiming that "because of its status as a constitution for the world community," the Charter of the United Nations must be construed broadly, making way for "implied powers" to carry out the United Nations' "comprehensive scope of duties, especially the maintenance of international peace and security and its orientation towards international public welfare." *Id.* at 27

The United Nations Treaty Collection confirms the appropriateness of this "constitutional interpretive" approach to the Charter of the United Nations with its statement that the charter may be traced "back to the Magna Carta (the Great Charter) of 1215," a national constitutional document. As a constitutional document, the Magna Carta not only bound the original signatories, the English barons and the king, but all subsequent English rulers, including Parliament, conferring upon all Englishmen certain rights that five hundred years later were claimed and exercised by the English people who had colonized America.

A charter, then, is a covenant of the people and the civil rulers of a nation in perpetuity. Sources of Our Liberties 1-10 (R. Perry, ed.) (American Bar Foundation: 1978). As Article 1 of Magna Carta, puts it:

We have granted moreover to all free men of our kingdom for us and our heirs forever all liberties written below, to be had and holden by themselves and their heirs from us and our heirs.

In like manner, the Charter of the United Nations is considered to be a permanent "constitution for the universal society," and consequently, to be construed in accordance with its broad and unchanging ends but in such a way as to meet changing times and changing relations among the nations and peoples of the world. U.N. Charter Commentary at 28-44.

According to the American political and legal tradition and the universal principles of constitution making, a perpetual civil covenant or constitution, obligatory on the people "and their rulers throughout the generations, must, first, be proposed in the name of the people and, thereafter, ratified by the people's representatives elected and assembled for the sole purpose of passing on the terms of a proposed covenant. See 4 The Founders' Constitution 647-58 (P. Kurland and R. Lerner, eds.) (Univ. Chicago Press: 1985). Thus, the preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America begins with "We the People of the United States" and Article VII provides for ratification by state conventions composed of representatives of the people elected solely for that purpose. Sources of Our Liberties 408, 416, 418-21 (R. Perry, ed.) (ABA Foundation, Chicago: 1978).

Taking advantage of the universal appeal of the American constitutional tradition, the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations opens with "We the peoples of the

United Nations." But, unlike the Constitution of the United States of America, the Charter of the United Nations does not call for ratification by conventions of the elected representatives of the people of the signatory nations. Rather, Article 110 of the Charter of the United Nations provides for ratification "by the signatory states in accordance with their respective constitutional processes." Such a ratification process would have been politically and legally appropriate if the charter were a mere treaty. But the Charter of the United Nations is not a treaty; it is a constitution.

First of all, Charter of the United Nations, executed as an agreement in the name of the people, legally and politically displaced previously binding agreements upon the signatory nations. Article 103 provides that "[i]n the event of a conflict between the obligations of the Members of the United Nations under the present Charter and their obligations under any other international agreement, their obligations under the present Charter shall prevail." Because the 1787 Constitution of the United States of America would displace the previously adopted Articles of Confederation under which the United States was being governed, the drafters recognized that only if the elected representatives of the people at a constitutional convention ratified the proposed constitution, could it be lawfully adopted as a constitution. Otherwise, the Constitution of the United States of America would be, legally and politically, a treaty which could be altered by any state's legislature as it saw fit. The Founders' Constitution, supra, at 648-52.

Second, an agreement made in the name of the people creates a perpetual union, subject to dissolution only upon proof of breach of covenant by the governing authorities whereupon the people are entitled to reconstitute a new government on such terms and for such duration as the people see fit. By contrast, an agreement made in the name of nations creates only a contractual obligation, subject to change when any signatory nation decides that the obligation is no longer advantageous or suitable. Thus, a treaty may be altered by valid statute enacted by a signatory nation, but a constitution may be altered only by a special amendatory process provided for in that document. *Id.* at 652.

Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America spells out that amendatory process, providing two methods for adopting constitutional changes, neither of which requires unanimous consent of the states of the Union. Had the Constitution of the United States of America been a treaty, such unanimous consent would have been required. Similarly, the Charter of the United Nations may be amended without the unanimous consent of its member states. According to Article 108 of the Charter of the United Nations, amendments may be proposed by a vote of two-thirds of the United Nations General Assembly and may become effective upon ratification by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. According to Article 109 of the Charter of the United Nations, a special conference of members of the United Nations may be called "for the purpose of reviewing the present Charter" and any changes proposed by the conference may "take effect when ratified by two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations including all the permanent members of the Security Council." Once an amendment to the Charter of the United Nations is adopted then that amendment "shall come into force for all Members of the United Nations," even those nations who did not ratify the amendment, just as an amendment to the Constitu-

tion of the United States of America is effective in all of the states, even though the legislature of a state or a convention of a state refused to ratify. Such an amendment process is totally foreign to a treaty. See *Id.*, at 575-84.

Third, the authority to enter into an agreement made in the name of the people cannot be politically or legally limited by any preexisting constitution, treaty, alliance, or instructions. An agreement made in the name of a nation, however, may not contradict the authority granted to the governing powers and, thus, is so limited. For example, the people ratified the Constitution of the United States of America notwithstanding the fact that the constitutional proposal had been made in disregard to specific instructions to amend the Articles of Confederation, not to displace them. See Sources of Our Liberties 399-403 (R. Perry ed.) (American Bar Foundation: 1972). As George Mason observed at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, "Legislatures have no power to ratify" a plan changing the form of government, only "the people" have such power. 4 The Founders' Constitution, supra, at 651.

As a direct consequence of this original power of the people to constitute a new government, the Congress under the new constitution was authorized to admit new states to join the original 13 states without submitting the admission of each state to the 13 original states. In like manner, the Charter of the United Nations, forged in the name of the "peoples" of those nations, established a new international government with independent powers to admit to membership whichever nations the United Nations governing authorities chose without submitting such admissions to each individual member nation for ratification. See Charter of the United Nations, Article 4, Section 2. No treaty could legitimately confer upon the United Nations General Assembly such powers and remain within the legal and political definition of a treaty.

By invoking the name of the "peoples of the United Nations," then, the Charter of the United Nations envisioned a new constitution creating a new civil order capable of not only imposing obligations upon the subscribing nations, but also imposing obligations directly upon the peoples of those nations. In his special contribution to the United Nations Human Development Report 2000, United Nations Secretary-General Annan made this claim crystal clear:

Even though we are an organization of Member States, the rights and ideals the United Nations exists to protect are those of the peoples. No government has the right to hide behind national sovereignty in order to violate the human rights or fundamental freedoms of its peoples. Human Development Report 2000 31 (July 2000) [Emphasis added.]

While no previous United Nations' secretary general has been so bold, Annan's proclamation of universal jurisdiction over "human rights and fundamental freedoms" simply reflects the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations which contemplated a future in which the United Nations operates in perpetuity "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war . . . to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights . . . to establish conditions under which justice . . . can be maintained, and to promote social progress and between standards of life in larger freedom." Such lofty goals and objectives are comparable to those found in the preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America: "to . . . establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the Blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity . . ."

There is, however, one difference that must not be overlooked. The Constitution of the United States of America is a legitimate constitution, having been submitted directly to the people for ratification by their representatives elected and assembled solely for the purpose of passing on the terms of that document. The Charter of the United Nations, on the other hand, is an illegitimate constitution, having only been submitted to the United States Senate for ratification as a treaty. Thus, the Charter of the United Nations, not being a treaty, cannot be made the supreme law of our land by compliance with Article II, Section 2 of Constitution of the United States of America. Therefore, the Charter of the United Nations is neither politically nor legally binding upon the United States of America or upon its people.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
JAN KENNADY

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jan Kennady for a lifetime of dedicated public service.

Jan Kennady served on the New Braunfels City Council from 1993–1996, and as Mayor of New Braunfels from 1996–1999. Her energy and organizational skill were a tremendous boon to New Braunfels, and she was honored by the Texas State Legislature with a resolution expressing the State's appreciation.

She has also worked for years as a volunteer leader and organizer, and has been honored with multiple awards, including 1995 Citizen of the Year, the Chamber of Commerce President's Award, the Women of Distinction Award, and the 10 Outstanding Republican Women Award. In 1998, Governor Bush appointed her to a three-year term on the Texas Commission on Volunteer and Community Service. Her work on education, senior health, and other issues has earned her the thanks of a grateful community.

Jan Kennady is a model of initiative, commitment, and talent. She has made her city, her State, and her party stronger by her service. Today, she continues to serve her fellow Texans as Comal County Commissioner. I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize Jan Kennady, and to thank her for all she has done for those people whose lives she has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Comal County Commissioner Jan Kennady.

THE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN  
CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, no child should be left to fend for herself in a complex immigration system that even you and I would fear. This is why today I am again introducing the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act.

It is true that in 2002 Congress transferred the care, custody, and placement of unaccompanied alien children from the Department of Justice to the Department of Health and Human Services to improve the treatment children receive when encountered at our borders. This is certainly a big step in the right direction and I commend the Department of Health and Human Services for taking important steps to improve the care and custody of these vulnerable children. But these positive actions did not end the plethora of problems unaccompanied children experience when they come into contact with our immigration authorities.

Health and Human Services inherited a system that relied upon a variety of detention facilities to house children and was given little legislative direction to implement their new responsibilities. As a result, some children from repressive regimes or abusive families continue to fend for themselves in a complex legal and sometimes punitive system, without knowledge of the English language, with no adult guidance, and with no legal counsel. Some unaccompanied children are treated in a manner that our country usually reserves for criminals, not helpless victims.

The Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act would not change the ultimate decision on what happens to the quest by children for permanent safe haven in America. It would ensure that while the decision-making process is underway, children are housed in a humane and civil way and that those deciding are accurately informed about the facts of each case and the law.

Consider the compelling story of Esther, a nine-year-old victim of abuse, neglect and abandonment by her parents. She escaped to the U.S. with relatives who later turned her over to immigration authorities at the age of fourteen. Esther was detained for over six months in a juvenile jail and represented by an unscrupulous attorney who failed to appear at her immigration hearing, leaving her defenseless. The immigration judge ordered Esther to leave the United States.

Well after the Homeland Security Act transferred the care and custody of unaccompanied alien children to Health and Human Services, the Associated Press reported on a ten-year-old boy from Ghana who "immigration officials, unsure of where the boy's parents were or how he boarded the plane without travel documents, sent him to a detention center . . . while they figured out what to do with him. Three years later, he [was] still in custody."

Another child, Malik Jarno, was detained in various adult and juvenile detention facilities for almost three years. It took several letters from over 50 members of Congress before Malik was released to a home for refugees as he continued proceedings to determine his immigration status.

It is the time to complete the positive steps we have already taken to more fully protect children who arrive in the U.S. with no parents or guardians to watch over them. The Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act will ensure minimum standards for the care and custody of unaccompanied children and require a smooth transfer of minors from the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Health and Human Services. It will also ensure that children receive adult and legal guidance as they navigate through our complex immigration system. I urge this body to swiftly

consider and pass the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act.

IN MEMORY OF DR. DONALD  
ARTHUR BROOKS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Dr. Donald Arthur Brooks, from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his lifelong contributions to his community and to his fellow citizens. Dr. Brooks was the first African-American general surgeon in Ft. Worth and the first to be a board-certified surgeon in Texas. Dr. Brooks died on March 4th at the age of 83.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Dr. Brooks' life today. Dr. Brooks set high standard by which all American citizens should strive. Born into a financially disadvantaged family, Dr. Brooks proved himself as an exceptional student graduating near the top of his class. After receiving his Bachelor of Science at Prairie View A&M in 1941, he then served two years in the United States Army. Upon returning from active duty, Dr. Brooks saved his money and went back to school to receive his Medical Degree at Howard College of Medicine.

Dr. Brooks returned to Ft. Worth in 1957 to become the first African-American to practice general surgery. He and his brother worked side-by-side and quickly became among the best-known health care providers for the African-American community. Later, Dr. Brooks would be named Chief of Surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital. He continued to practice and was distinguished as a pioneer of his community.

When he retired from surgery in 1993, Dr. Brooks continued to provide medical service to the community by becoming a staff physician at Tarrant County Jail. Dr. Brooks became the patriarch of medical dynasty which resulted in a family tree of six doctors.

It was my honor to represent Dr. Brooks. My extend sympathies to his family and friends. May the example of this "Southern Gentleman" be a lesson to us all, that our deeds should represent us well.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF GUADALUPE COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
ROGER BAENZIGER

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Guadalupe County Commissioner Roger Baenziger.

Roger Baenziger is one of Guadalupe County's most loyal and accomplished native sons. He was born and raised in Seguin, attended Seguin High School and received an accounting degree from Texas Lutheran University. He returned to the community to join his father's business, Model Market, which he helped his father run for the last 30 years.

As a lifelong small businessman, Roger is uniquely aware of the importance of small

business to the health of his community. He works to promote enterprise and innovation as a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Farm Bureau, and continues to operate his own small ranch.

Roger is committed to using his position as Guadalupe County Commissioner to promote orderly growth and fiscal responsibility. As a public servant and a volunteer, he has given an enormous amount back to the community in which he was born and raised. I am proud to have this opportunity to honor his service, and to thank him for all he has done for the people of Guadalupe County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Guadalupe County Commissioner Roger Baenziger.

JOINT STATEMENT BY LEADERS  
OF PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, Budgets are moral documents, which reflect the values and priorities of our nation. Drawing from my own faith, the Catholic Bishops have stated, "The obligation to provide justice for all means that the poor have the single most urgent economic claim on the conscience of the nation." The more I hear this Administration's justification for the harsh decisions within their budget, the more I believe that there is no justification. This budget simply reflects the wrong values and priorities. That is why I would like to enter for today's RECORD a joint statement by the leaders of five mainline Protestant denominations representing over 20 million followers in the United States. These religious leaders today called President Bush's 2006 federal budget "unjust."

The statement is signed by: the Most Reverend Frank Griswold, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church USA, the Right Reverend Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Reverend Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ General Minister and President John H. Thomas, and James Winkler, General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church.

JOINT STATEMENT

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 8, 2005.—We are preachers, and so, in explaining our opposition to the 2006 Federal Budget that President Bush has sent to Congress, it seems only fitting that we should begin with Scripture.

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames"

The passage comes from 16th chapter of the Gospel according to Luke, and it contains a warning that should deeply trouble those of us who live in a wealthy nation. As the story continues, the rich man implores Abraham to raise Lazarus from the dead and send him to the house of his brothers so that they may be spared his torment.

"They have Moses and the prophets," Abraham replies. "They should listen to them." The rich man says, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." And Abraham answers, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

In telling this story, Jesus makes clear that perpetrating economic injustice is among the gravest of sins. Yet self-interest is so deeply ingrained in each one of us, he says, that we will not renounce it, even should someone rise from the dead. Jesus was right about that. It was he who rose from the dead to save us from greed and myriad other sins. Yet those who have much continue feasting, even as those who have little remain at their gates.

Like many Americans, we read our daily newspaper through the lens of faith, and when we see injustice, it is our duty to say so. The 2006 Federal Budget that President Bush has sent to Capitol Hill is unjust. It has much for the rich man and little for Lazarus. According to the White House's own numbers, this budget would move 300,000 people off food stamps in the next five years. It would cut the funds that allow 300,000 children to receive day care. It would reduce funding for Medicaid by \$45 billion over the next ten years, and this at a time when 45 million Americans—the highest level on record—are already without health insurance.

These cuts would be alarming in any circumstances, but in the context of the 2006 budget, they are especially troubling. For even as it reduces aid to those in poverty, this budget showers presents on the rich. If passed in its current form, it would make permanent tax cuts that have bestowed nearly three quarters of the "relief" on one-fifth of the country. If passed in its current form, it would include whopping new cuts that would benefit, almost exclusively, those with household incomes of more than \$200,000 per year. If passed in its current form, it would take Jesus' teaching on economic justice and stand it on its head.

Some contend that these cuts will stimulate the economy and improve life for all Americans, but we believe that stocking the rich man's larder is a peculiar strategy for getting Lazarus more food. Not only does this policy rest on dubious economic assumptions, but it asks the poor to pay the cost for a prosperity in which they may never share.

Some contend that works of mercy are not the business of the government but of private citizens. But in what other area of our national life do we formulate policies uninformed by our deepest values?

Some contend that with the proper support faith-based charities will step forward to fill the gap created by the government's retreat. But this flies in the face of the lessons that we, as religious leaders, have learned first hand. Our churches operate thousands of charities from the parochial to the international. Believe us when we tell you that neither we, nor our Evangelical brothers and sisters, nor our friends of other faiths have anywhere near the resources to turn back the rising tide of poverty in this country. We know that programs, whether governmental or non-profit, can change people's lives for the better. New situations challenge us to respond to new conditions and to support those who are in transition out of poverty. Sadly,

the 2006 budget will send more people searching for food in cupboards that, quite frequently, are bare.

Our churches will continue their ameliorative ministries. But it is not enough for us as a Church or a society to be merciful. We must remember the admonition of the prophet Micah. "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah's choice of verbs is instructive. We are not to love justice or preach justice, we are to do justice—to act, and, when necessary, to struggle.

We urge the members of our churches, of other churches and other faiths, and all whose conscience compels them to do justice to join us in opposing this budget. Write to your representatives. Write to your local newspaper. Join the organizations working to obtain justice for the 36 million Americans living below the poverty line, the 45 million without health insurance and the unknown millions struggling to keep their families from slipping into these ever increasing ranks. Together, let us pledge ourselves to creating a nation in which economic policies are infused with the spirit of the man who began his public ministry almost 2,000 years ago by proclaiming that God had anointed him "to bring good news to the poor."

Signed by:

The Most Reverend FRANK  
T. GRISWOLD,

*Presiding Bishop and  
Primate of the Epis-  
copal Church, USA.*

The Right Reverend MARK  
HANSON,

*Presiding Bishop of  
the Evangelical Lu-  
theran Church in  
America.*

The Reverend Dr. CLIFTON  
KIRKPATRICK,

*Stated Clerk of the  
General Assembly,  
Presbyterian  
Church, (U.S.A.).*

The Reverend JOHN H.  
THOMAS,

*General Minister and  
President, United  
Church of Christ.*

Mr. JAMES WINKLER,  
*General Secretary,  
General Board of  
Church and Society,  
United Methodist  
Church.*

JOB TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT  
OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 2, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 27) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 27, the so-called Job Training Improvement Act of 2005.

Millions of Americans are unemployed today and finding it harder to get a job. According to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, job seekers in Minnesota still out-number unfilled jobs by two-to-one.

Unfortunately, H.R. 27 does nothing to put people back to work. It doesn't shorten the lists of people waiting to use the resources at my one stops. It won't meet the needs of the approximately 8,000 Minnesota youth who can't get WIA job-related services every year. Instead, this bill unravels the very programs that ensure these workers have the skills and training they need to find high paying, long-term jobs.

H.R. 27 eliminates targeted programs designed to help both dislocated workers and unemployed adults find a job. It block grants dedicated assistance forcing low-income workers and welfare recipients to compete with dislocated workers for the same limited federal resources.

This bill eliminates dedicated funding for job search services, like Minnesota's Job Bank, which assists thousands of Minnesotans. This funding supports a rapid response system that meets the immediate needs of workers affected by mass layoffs. These changes threaten to break apart Minnesota's statewide workforce development system at the very time when these services are needed most to help unemployed workers find jobs.

In addition, H.R. 27 does nothing to ensure that these limited funds are used for training. It allows governors to take money away from adult education and veterans' job programs and use it to cover bureaucratic costs. Sadly, it also restricts youth funding to out-of-school youth. This will devastate the Building Lives Program, which Ramsey County uses to provide job training services to troubled teens during school hours.

Most concerning, however, is that this bill repeals basic civil rights protections for employees of job training programs by allowing organizations that receive Federal job-training funds to discriminate on the basis of religion.

I speak as a person who was brought up by a Lutheran mother and a Catholic father. I remember when my mother went to church to see her little girl receive her first communion and wasn't made to feel welcome. I don't want to go back to those days. I don't want the children I represent to know how it feels to be kept from fulfilling their dreams or meet their potential because someone doesn't like the church, mosque or synagogue you attend. Yet, this bill leads our country in that direction.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly believe that we must strengthen our workforce investment system to help Minnesotans get back to work. H.R. 27, however, fails to meet that goal and at the same time encourages rolling back civil rights protections. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill today.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER JACK DAWSON

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Commis-

sioner Jack Dawson. Commissioner Dawson is a life-long resident of Texas and a pillar of the Comal County community.

From his first career as a computer programmer for Shell Oil to his current seat as a Comal County Commissioner, Jack Dawson has served his community with distinction.

Jack Dawson opened what is now Dawson Realty with his wife Bonnie, and he has also founded the local subdivisions first homeowners association.

Commissioner Dawson has spent his life in the service of the public. As the Board President of Canyon Lake Volunteer Fire Department, he helped to form new fire and emergency services districts for the community. He has consistently worked to improve the local communities of Comal County and the State of Texas.

Commissioner Jack Dawson has lived with his wife Bonnie Dawson in Comal County since 1976.

He is a man that understands community needs and the value of hard work.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of Comal County Commissioner Jack Dawson.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL BARRON SMITH AND HIS ENDLESS COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Corporal Barron Smith of the Flower Mound Police Department, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his heroism in saving another man's life.

Corporal Smith, without regard to his own life, quickly leapt into a local lake after seeing a man beginning to drown. In the summer of 2004, Corporal Smith and his wife were camping at Grapevine Lake when they noticed a group of people having difficulty swimming in the lake. As two men began to go under, Corporal Smith decided to jump in with a life vest in an attempt to rescue the individuals. One man was able to swim to a buoy just as Corporal Smith reached the second man and helped him to shore.

Corporal Smith's act of bravery represents the best of "Texas' Finest." Officers like Corporal Smith are exemplary and are ideal citizens. His continuing service to his community, on-and-off duty, makes our community safer.

I am proud of the Flower Mound Police Department and especially our attentive citizens, like Corporal Smith, who commit their lives and time to protect and serve our community at any time, anywhere.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GUADALUPE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JIM WOLVERTON

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Guadalupe County Commissioner Jim

Wolverton for the important contributions he has made to his community.

Jim Wolverton is the son of a military family, and was born in Frankfurt, Germany. He moved to Texas at the age of two, and attended Samuel Clemens High School and San Antonio Junior College.

For nine years, Jim owned an electrical contracting business, and learned important lessons about leadership and organization. He has now put those lessons to work for the citizens of Guadalupe County, to great effect.

Under his supervision, Guadalupe County has passed legislation which greatly increased the amount of money available for health care for the indigent. He increased county services such as Fire, MES, and Libraries, and supervised the construction of a new, fourteen million dollar jail facility. He has worked with the municipalities in his district to establish quality, long-term business growth, and has worked with organizations outside the county government to ensure an adequate water supply for the residents of Guadalupe County. Jim Wolverton is an intelligent and committed public servant, and the citizens of Guadalupe County are better off as a result of his work.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to honor the contributions of Guadalupe County Commissioner Jim Wolverton.

YEAR TWO OF CASTRO'S BRUTAL CRACKDOWN IN CUBA

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of democratic reformers in Cuba, on the second anniversary of Castro's brutal crackdown of pro-democracy advocates.

Two years ago, with the world's attention riveted on Iraq, Fidel Castro ordered his feared State Security apparatus to round up at least 75 of Cuba's bravest and brightest, prominent and lesser-known dissidents. Among these are 28 independent journalists and 40 Varela project workers. With sickening speed, these men and women were paraded before kangaroo courts and given prison sentences ranging from 6 to 28 years. 61 remain in jail.

When the Committee on International Relations met April 16, 2003 to decry this vile abrogation of justice, I stated at that time: "Even some of the most outspoken leftists, who once saw in Fidel Castro something to admire, now admit that Castro's unbridled cruelty, thirst for blood and extreme paranoia are indefensible."

I regret to report that Castro has given me no cause to reassess that statement.

What were the so-called crimes of these brave men and women? Advocating democracy . . . writing as independent journalists . . . being men and women of faith . . .

Their real offense was to dare to question the authority of a single man, Mr. Castro. The Cuban Revolution is really about Castro's vanity and pursuit of personal power. From the beginning, Castro has shot and jailed anyone—even his close friends—who has dared get in the way of his personal ambition.

Dictatorships, reflecting the whims of a despot, always subject their people to deprivations and absurdities. The Castro regime recently let a handful of its political prisoners out

on "parole," citing health reasons. The regime's callousness towards ailing political prisoners is well documented.

Now, independent Cuban journalists are reporting that Cuba's prisons have been virtually emptied of medical personnel. Why? Mr. Castro decided to send them to Venezuela and other places to advance his personal expansionist agenda.

Writing in the Spanish newspaper, *El Pais*, Nobel prize winner Jose Saramo, a Portuguese communist and close friend of Castro commented, "Cuba has won no heroic victory by executing these three men, but it has lost my confidence, damaged my hopes and robbed me of illusions."

Without anything that resembles due process, three alleged ferry hijackers were killed by firing squad in Cuba, while others got long jail terms.

Illusions, as Castro lover Jose Saramo has only now begun to acknowledge, often persist despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Nowhere has this been more evident than in the case of Castro's Cuba.

Despite decades of credible reports of widespread egregious violations of human rights, including the pervasive use of torture and vicious beatings of political prisoners by the Cuban government, some have clung to indefensibly foolish illusions of Castro's revolution.

Despite the fact that the Cuban government systematically denies its people the freedoms of speech, press, assembly, and association, and severely restricts workers' rights, including the right to form independent trade unions, some have, nevertheless, clung to illusion.

Despite the fact that Castro maintains an unimaginably vast network of surveillance by the thugs in his secret police and Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs)—neighbors spying on neighbors—some continue to embrace bogus perceptions—illusions about Cuba.

In his book, "Against All Hope, a Memoir of Life in Castro's Gulags" Armando Valladares, a courageous and amazing man who spent 22 years in Cuban prisons wrote:

"The government of Cuba and defenders of the Cuban Revolution denied that incidents that I recount (in the book) ever happened. Castro sympathizers, who were more subtle, said the incidents I described were exaggerations. And there were others, well meaning, who simply could not bring themselves to believe that such horrors, crimes and torture existed in the political prisons of Cuba."

"My response to those who still try to justify Castro's tyranny with the excuse that he has built schools and hospitals is this: Stalin, Hitler and Pinochet also built schools and hospitals, and like Castro, they also tortured and assassinated opponents. They built concentration and extermination camps and eradicated all liberties, committing the worst crimes against humanity."

"Unbelievably, while many non-governmental organizations like Amnesty International and America's Watch have denounced the human rights situation in Cuba, there has been a continuing love affair on the part of the media and many intellectuals with Fidel Castro."

That love affair—that illusion—seemed to crash and burn with the onset of the current crackdown on dissidents. The EU took action in June 2003 by limiting high-level EU governmental visits and inviting Cuban dissidents to national day celebrations. But their memories are short. In January of this

year, at the initiative of the Spanish government, the EU temporarily suspended these measures for a six-month period.

Let me mention a few of the ones who were summarily sentenced and remain in prison. Omar Rodriguez Saludes, an independent journalist known to ride his bicycle to news conferences: 27 years. Hector Palacios, one of the key figures promoting the Varela Project: 25 years. Oscar Espinosa Chepe, who wrote critical articles about the Cuban economy for the Internet: 25 years. The President of the Independent United Confederation of Cuban Workers (CUTC), Pedro Pablo Alvarez, 25 years. Journalist Raul Rivero and Ricardo Gonzalez Afonso, an editor at "De Cuba" magazine, each got 20 years. The list goes on and on.

It was a true honor to hear from Economist Morta Beatriz Rogue today, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison and released for health reasons in 2004. We salute her courage to continue the fight on behalf of those who are still in prison today.

For its part, the Bush Administration has made its deep and abiding concern for the political prisoners and the protection of elemental human rights in Cuba abundantly clear. At the time of the crackdown, former Secretary of State Colin Powell declared:

"In recent days the Cuban government has undertaken the most significant act of political repression in decades. We call on Castro to end this despicable repression and free these prisoners of conscience. The United States and the international community will be unrelenting in our insistence that Cubans who seek peaceful change be permitted to do so."

In like manner, the Congress has consistently demanded the immediate release of all the prisoners and support of the right of the Cuban people to exercise fundamental political and civil liberties. H. Res. 179, a resolution offered by Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN in April 2003, passed by a vote of 414-0, 11 present. In April of 2001, I sponsored a resolution, H. Res. 91, calling on the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva to condemn Cuba's human rights abuse and appoint a Special Rapporteur for Cuba. While it passed, there were a disturbing number of negative votes. That vote was 347-44 with 22 voting present. We have another opportunity today to move forward a resolution offered by my Colleague, Mr. MENENDEZ, to show that these prisoners are not forgotten.

Fidel Castro, his brother Raul, and numerous leaders of Cuba's dictatorship, are directly responsible for crimes against humanity past—and present. Someday these oppressors will be held to account and the people of Cuba will live in freedom.

Note on the Varela Project: Named after a 19th century anti-slavery, pro-independence priest, Felix Varela, the Varela Project was a petition to the National Assembly seeking a nationwide referendum calling for basic human rights, an amnesty for political prisoners, private enterprise and election law reform to facilitate free and fair elections. On May 10th of 2002, more than 11,000 signatures were initially submitted—easily exceeding the constitutionally prescribed 10,000. Castro, however, responded by orchestrating his own petition drive that said Cuba's socialist system could not be changed, leading the rubber stamp National Assembly to declare Cuba's socialist system "irrevocable".

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER GREGORY PARKER

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Commissioner Gregory Parker. Commissioner Parker is not only the youngest Commissioner to win a seat in Comal County, he is also the first African American elected to this office.

Commissioner Parker is a military veteran who has served his country through hard work and commitment to his values.

Like many of us, Commissioner Parker had to work his way to the top. He spent 13 years working in the technology sector, eventually earning the title of Director of Software Development at Austin Data Systems.

Commissioner Parker founded Gregory Parker Consulting in 1999, where he serves as Senior Partner and Senior Policy Analyst. It was here that Commissioner Parker distinguished himself with his commitment to the issues important to Comal County and to the State of Texas. He is a man who believes that through dedicated community research, and traditional American values, we can provide the quality of policy that our citizens deserve.

Commissioner Gregory Parker, who resides in New Braunfels, is also the hard working single father of Jean Luc Parker.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to honor the past and future accomplishments of Commissioner Gregory Parker.

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION  
MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF CONGO: A CASE  
FOR PEACEKEEPING REFORM

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the recent U.N. Peacekeeping scandal in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We know that there have been disturbing allegations of sexual misconduct and exploitation of refugees by U.N. peacekeepers and civilian personnel assigned to the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Human rights groups and the U.N.'s own internal investigations have uncovered over 150 allegations against Mission personnel. These allegations typically involve peacekeepers' sexual contact with Congolese women and girls, usually in exchange for food or small sums of money. According to the U.N., these contacts occurred with regularity, and many involved girls under the age of 18, with some as young as 11-14. Even more troubling are allegations of rape, forced prostitution, and demands of sex for jobs by U.N. civilian personnel.

Some in our audience might be thinking that apart from the more serious allegations of rape and other sexual abuse, prostitution is the world's oldest profession and that it is unrealistic to ask soldiers away from their families to abstain from sex. This attitude of "boys

will be boys" is indeed common. In fact, the U.N. reported that it encountered significant and widespread resistance to its investigation, and that numerous U.N. personnel were unwilling to identify perpetrators.

The reality, however, is that this state of affairs is not just a private matter involving only the personal moral choices of the peacekeepers. Hundreds of vulnerable women and children are being re-victimized; the reputation of the United Nations is being badly damaged; and lack of internal discipline is compromising security and effectiveness of the peacekeeping operations. From any perspective, this situation is deplorable.

Let me expand on a few of these points. First, United Nations forces conducting operations under United Nations command and control are tasked with upholding international humanitarian law and have a particular duty to protect women and children from sexual assault or exploitation. Peacekeepers have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable members of Congolese society. When the peacekeepers become the exploiters, something is dreadfully wrong.

Second, the civilian population is especially vulnerable. There are frequent outbreaks of armed violence in the eastern half of the Congo, especially in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, as the country emerges from its second war in the last ten years. The civilian population in these areas has experienced systematic acts of rape, torture, murder, and other abuse. Many of the Congolese women and girls in the camps which the peacekeepers are protecting have been orphaned and/or are victims of rape which occurred during the conflicts. Investigators found that they have experienced significant trauma which continues to affect them today.

Poverty and hunger are also significant factors contributing to the abuse. Children driven by hunger approach the peacekeepers seeking food or the smallest sums of money. Many families are cut off from their farmlands because of fear of attacks from militia, and few alternate employment options exist. According to the U.N.'s own investigation, food supplies in some camps are reportedly inadequate.

Third, the continued toleration of sexual exploitation and abuse by U.N. leaders is severely damaging the reputation and the effectiveness of the organization. All troop-contributing nations recognize the Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets as binding. This Code explicitly bans any exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex, and renders the perpetrators liable to disciplinary action for serious misconduct. In fact, the U.N. has promulgated at least five U.N. codes of conduct prohibiting sexual activity with children (persons under 18 years of age) in the Congo, and yet the practice continues unabated.

This activity is prohibited under rule four of the Code of Conduct for Blue Helmets, the MONUC code of conduct, the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of 2003 (ST/SGB/2003/13), section seven of the Secretary-General's bulletin on observance by United Nations forces of international humanitarian law of 1999 (ST/SGB/1999/13), and new "non-fraternisation" regulations promulgated by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in a letter to the U.N. Security Council on February 9th. That the abuse continues

and is characterized by internal U.N. reports as "significant, widespread and on-going" appears to indicate there is rather a state of "zero-compliance with zero-tolerance" throughout the mission.

In the words of Dr. Sarah Mendelson, Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, who testified in a joint issue forum before the House Armed Services Committee and the Helsinki Committee last fall, "Military misconduct is a threat to any mission. When that misconduct involves human rights abuses, it affects the credibility and reputation of peacekeepers and can enrage local populations. When those implicated are also responsible for force protection, they can compromise their main military mission. . . . Those peacekeepers who serve with honor are being tainted by the minority who purchase sex with these women and girls and by the even smaller minority who actively engage in the grave human rights abuse of trafficking."

The U.N. has struggled with similar allegations regarding peacekeeper misconduct and sexual exploitation in the past ten years in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea, as well as on the European continent in Kosovo and Bosnia. Some of the underlying issues are complex, such as how to ensure perpetrators are held accountable when no effective U.N. mechanism exists, and Member states are unwilling to prosecute. Yet other simple fixes also exist, such as the creation of an offender database, holding commanders accountable for the conduct of their troops, and banning nations from peacekeeping missions which refuse to take disciplinary action. The seeming reluctance of the U.N. to act on some of these seemingly obvious solutions raises questions about the willingness of leadership to undertake reform, and raises questions about the ability of the U.N. to police itself.

Furthermore, the United States Congress has a fiduciary obligation to do so. The United States is the world's largest donor to the peacekeeping mission in the Congo, contributing over \$200 million annually, and contributes almost over a quarter of the entire peacekeeping budget of the United Nations. The Administration has asked the Congress for an additional \$780 million for peacekeeping operations in the supplemental budget request.

We hope that continual Congressional efforts will spur needed change, not only in the Congo, but in the standard operating practices of U.N. peacekeeping around the world.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF COMAL COUNTY JUDGE  
DANNY SCHEEL

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedicated public service of Comal County Judge Danny Scheel.

Judge Danny Scheel is an essential part of Comal County. He is a fifth-generation resident of the county, and has spent a distinguished career in the public sector, holding the positions of Comal County Constable and Comal County Commissioner.

He has also been active as an advocate for his community on the State level. He is a

member of the Alamo Area Council of Governments, represents Comal County on the Texas Association of Regional Councils Service Board and Employee Health Benefits Board, and he is Co-Chairman of the Central Texas County Judges' Mobility Alliance.

He has been responsible for major improvements in Comal County's emergency management program. In response to the flood of 1998, he hired an Emergency Management Coordinator and established emergency procedures that helped the county cope with the flood of 2002.

Danny Scheel has been recognized as New Braunfels Citizen of the Year, A Friend of the 4-H, and was selected to interview with the Today Show during the 2002 floods.

Mr. Speaker, he has set a wonderful example of commitment to public service, and I am proud to have this opportunity to thank him.

IN MEMORY OF MR. LEWIS  
FENTON

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lewis Lowry Fenton, who passed away February 10, 2005 at the age of 79. Lewis's life long dedication to education and community service will forever remind us of the importance of kindness, dedication and outstanding civic leadership.

Born in Palo Alto, California, Lewis completed his undergraduate and law degree from Stanford University. After serving in the Army Air Corps, he partnered with his mentor, J. Hampton Hoge, and established the Hoge and Fenton Law Firm in Monterey, California. After the firm expanded, Lewis remained counsel to two firms, Fenton & Keller in Monterey and Hoge, Fenton, Jones and Appel in San Jose.

Lewis's keen interest in professional and community activities are extensive and reveal a lifetime of dedication to his career and the improvement of a long list of community organizations. In 1963 he was the president of the Monterey County Bar Association and one of the top civil litigators on the Central Coast. Amongst his many awards he was listed in both Who's Who in America and the "Best Lawyers in America". Throughout his life, Lewis showed enduring commitment to teaching law. He was a faculty member at the Hastings College of Law and the Stanford Law School.

Lewis's civic duties also made a significant impact on the Monterey community. In the Community Foundation of Monterey County, he was the President of the Board of Governors. A board member of many organizations, Lewis made a pioneering contribution to the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. He was also a founding board member of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and a founding board member of the Board of Trustees for the York School, where he devoted 50 years of extensive involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to remember Lewis for his honorable career and his contribution to our society. Lewis consistently went above and beyond the roles bestowed upon him, and has left a legacy of leadership and inspiration. Our thoughts go out to his family. While he will

be sorely missed, his life will continue to inspire those he touched.

OPPOSITION TO CLASS ACTION  
FAIRNESS BILL

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the so-called class action fairness bill. This legislation will close the courthouse doors to thousands seeking justice.

The bill we are considering today pushes almost all class actions into the federal courts and away from state jurisdiction. It is no secret that federal courts are generally less willing to consider complex civil litigation than state courts. They face incredible backlogs with hundreds of criminal drug cases and immigration cases. Federalizing class actions causes delays in getting relief for injured consumers.

Instead of fixing the current system, this legislation is only making it more difficult and time-consuming for Americans with legitimate complaints to have their day in court. Class actions are a critical way for people, particularly those without the resources to battle large corporations, to seek redress from companies for fraudulent behavior, defective products and employment discrimination. A strong class-action system is particularly important given the emergence of evidence proving corporate wrongdoing in recent years. This bill will give banks, credit card companies, insurers, HMOs, drug manufacturers and other big businesses a green light to defraud and deceive consumers without fear of being held accountable. Most troubling, this bill deprives Americans of an important forum—in many cases their only forum—for remedying genuine wrongs.

I support strengthening our class action system and reducing fraud, which is why I voted for a substitute bill. This legislation would ensure that people injured or discriminated against could still get the justice they deserve while making adjustments needed to reduce abuse in the class action system. The substitute puts an end to “coupon settlements” and court shopping. It keeps our class action system accessible and effective by carving out civil rights and worker rights cases. It protects cases brought by state attorney’s general. Lastly, it asks the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to report back to Congress on how the new law is working. The substitute is a real improvement in our legal system that will ensure the protection and justice promised to individuals, families and businesses by our Constitution.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF GUADALUPE COUNTY COM-  
MISSIONER CESAREO  
GUADARRAMA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Guadalupe County Commissioner Cesareo Guadarrama for his outstanding service to his community.

Commissioner Guadarrama is a native of Seguin, Texas. He is the owner of G3 Plumbing, and his experience in small business has given him the skill in leadership and organization that he uses on behalf of his district today.

Guadalupe County Commissioner Cesareo Guadarrama has a long history of civic volunteer activity. He has worked especially hard to help the youth and children of Seguin. He has been a part of many volunteer organizations, including Seguin Youth Services, the Guadalupe County Juvenile Citizens Advisory Council, and the Seguin Noon Lions Club. He served as Director of the Seguin Toys for Tots program, and was a member of the Seguin Independent School District Board of Trustees when it was recognized as the Outstanding School Board in the state of Texas, in 1990.

Cesareo Guadarrama’s work has helped to create a brighter future for the youth of Seguin, and for all of the citizens of Guadalupe County. I applaud him for his spirit of service, and thank him for all he has done for his fellow Texans.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the achievements of Guadalupe County Commissioner Cesareo Guadarrama.

FOSTER CARE MENTORING ACT OF  
2005

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, tonight I’d like to talk about legislation that I recently introduced—The Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2005 (HR 822).

Adopting a child is a life long responsibility, but let me be frank, the way we care for our children, especially children in foster care is a direct reflection of who we are as a society.

The Administration has boldly stated that they will “Leave No Child Behind.” I want to take them up on this pronouncement and extend this idea to the 523,000 children who are in foster care programs throughout this country.

These children cannot be left behind and must be given every opportunity to succeed.

The Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2005, will support the establishment, expansion and op-

eration of programs using a network of public and private community entities to provide mentoring for children in foster care.

Specifically The Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2005, does the following:

Provides \$15 million in grants to States to develop or expand statewide academic mentoring programs for children in foster care.

Authorizes States to use this funding to help recruit, support and train volunteers to serve as a foster youth’s academic and personal advisers.

Authorizes \$4 million to fund a national coordination and media campaign aimed at raising public awareness of the need to get involved in the life of a child waiting for foster care placement.

Engages college and graduate students by making them eligible to have their student loans discharged up to \$2,000 for every 200 hours they serve as mentors to children living in foster care. A total of \$20,000 in student loans incurred by participating college or graduate students would qualify for forgiveness.

My legislation is a good first step in approaching how we can better transition children into loving, supportive homes. But we must do more.

As I stated earlier, there are over 523,000 children in foster care. One in three of these children has been in care for over 5 years. Of the 25,000 children who leave the foster care system each year, they do so without ever having the promise of a permanent family fulfilled.

This is shameful! We must do better. Children in this country need to have a stable adult they can rely on and turn to for support while growing up. Mentoring is an excellent way to meet some of these children most basic needs.

The life experiences of children in foster care put them in a precarious and vulnerable situation. Children in foster care are more susceptible to; drug addiction, depression, delinquency, and pregnancy.

What’s more, the constant turnover in placements for children in foster care makes it difficult for these young people to succeed in school.

Mentoring can make a difference in the life of young people in foster care and provide a lifeline to academic success and better life skills.

Traditional mentoring programs often do not include the type of training and recruitment necessary to equip mentors with the tools they need to most effectively serve the needs of these young people. Those that do yield amazing results:

Current statistics show that for young people who are mentored; 45 percent are less likely to begin using illicit drugs; 59 percent do better academically, and 73 percent set and attain higher life achievement goals.

The need for mentors for children in foster care is clear, however, few states have programs aimed at serving the special needs of this vulnerable population. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 822 ‘The Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2005.’