

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF  
NORTHVILLE, MI

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the City of Northville, MI, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Located on the western fringe of the Detroit metropolitan area, the city of Northville was incorporated as a village in 1867 and as a city in 1955. The area was a small industry-trade center in the early 1800s when farming and lumbering were the main occupations.

Today, Northville is home for approximately 6,500 residents and supports one of the finest school districts in the State of Michigan. Known for its rolling hills and attractive countryside, Northville has retained its small-town appeal with stately Victorian-era architecture in its Historic District and a "walk to" downtown area, which boasts of old-fashioned street lamps, galleries, and specialty shops and includes the historic Marquis Theater, which has served the families of the community for more than 80 years. The theater's marquee has been in operation since 1925, and at one time it was one of only 26 working marquees in the United States. Today's performers sing, dance, and act on the same stage as legendary stars Woody Herman, The Harmonicats, The Four Freshmen, and Count Basie.

The city has grown and prospered since the first city council meeting on December 19, 1955. Citizens of Northville are fortunate to have had strong leadership from its first Mayor; Claude Ely, to the current Mayor, Christopher Johnson. Citizen involvement insures Northville continues to be a vibrant community in which to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Northville as they celebrate their historic past. It is my hope this fine community will enjoy a long and prosperous future.

CONGRATULATING CRISPIN  
VALVES OF BERWICK, PA, ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE COM-  
PANY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Crispin Valves, of Berick, PA, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Begun in 1905 on the foundation of the patents granted to Clarence Crispin for his design of the Air Valve, Crispin is a fourth generation family business employing 70 people.

The Crispin Air Valve, for the first time ever, allowed the release of air build-up in water pipes without leaks or interruption of water flow in the line.

Since its inception, Crispin has served customers the world over. Still located on its original manufacturing site, Crispin today is a modern, professional company deeply rooted in the traditional values of its early beginnings.

No other company in the world has manufactured air valves longer than Crispin and no other company in the air valve market has the experience that Crispin has.

Crispin products are used in both hemispheres and in almost every country in the world. The breadth of their international experience allows them to understand and provide the flexibility that international customers require.

Focusing primarily on the municipal water industries, Crispin products are also used extensively by industrial, mining, chemical, energy and processing companies.

Crispin's customers include some of the world's top corporations including Phillips Petroleum, Walt Disney, Anheuser Busch, Bechtel, International Paper and Black and Veatch.

Their municipal client index includes customers from major metropolitan areas as well as small town water systems. They include Denver, CO; Los Angeles, CA; Tampa, FL; New York City, Dallas, TX, and thousands of others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Crispin Valves and its president, Mr. Darren Crispin, for representing the finest qualities of the American entrepreneurial spirit. Their family heritage and community-mindedness has resulted in a successful company that has employed many people in north-eastern Pennsylvania for over a century.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL MICHAEL  
R. SIMONE

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tremendous public servant. Col. Michael R. Simone, United States Army, recently retired after 30 years of uniformed service to our Nation. I know him both as a friend and as the Commandant of the Defense Language Institute located in my Central California District. DLI is the premier language training institution in the world, instructing U.S. troops in any language required to meet national security demands. I can think of no other single training officer in the U.S. military other than Colonel Simone who has done more to directly prepare our service men and women to meet the challenges we face in Iraq, Afghanistan, North Korea, and in the broader struggle against international terrorism.

In 1975, Colonel Simone earned a bachelor of science at the U.S. Military Academy at

West Point. After serving in field artillery, he went on to earn a masters in International Affairs from Columbia University in 1985. Colonel Simone served as assistant professor of Soviet Studies at West Point, completed a masters in Political Science at Columbia University, and also earned a Certificate of Advanced Training in Soviet Studies from the Averell Harriman Institute. Finally, he attended the Armed Forces Staff College, the U.S. Army Russian Institute, and completed the Defense Attaché Course.

Then Colonel Simone became a diplomat. From 1993 to 1995, he served as the Assistant Army Attaché in Embassy Moscow. Colonel Simone then moved to Vienna as the Assistant Joint Staff Representative to the U.S. Delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In 1998, he returned to Moscow as the Army Attaché. Then from August 2000 until May 2003, he commanded the European Operations Division of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's On-Site Inspection Directorate in Darmstadt, Germany. On June 4, 2003, Colonel Simone became the Commandant of the Defense Language Institute. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to close with a short personal anecdote. One of the greatest pleasures as a Member of Congress is to nominate the brightest high school graduates of our districts to the service academies. Every year, I host a small reception for the nominees and their families just before the students leave for their first academy year. This year, I asked Colonel Simone to host this reception. Not only did he and his wonderful wife Jan open their home, but they made sure, more importantly, that every room was full of serving junior officers, academy graduates all, who could offer the students advice and support as they began their great journey. This happy evening gave me a first-hand look at Colonel Simone's all-consuming dedication to training soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to applaud Col. Michael R. Simone, a person who has served his country with great distinction for so many years. I join with all his friends and family in honoring this talented man and his many achievements.

HONORING THE CITY OF NEWARK,  
CA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Newark, CA as it celebrates its 50th year of incorporation. The city will celebrate this milestone anniversary during its annual Newark Days event on September 22-25, 2005. This year's Newark Days celebration will fall on the anniversary of the city's incorporation in 1955.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The slogan for this year's Newark Days is "People, Pride and Progress." Newark Mayor Dave Smith describes this slogan as an accurate representation of the involvement of the city's community. In a recent article in the Tri-City Voice, a local paper serving the cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City, the Mayor describes "rampant volunteerism" in the city; everything from Newark Days, a non-profit organization, to feeding the poor through an organization like the Viola Blythe Center or the just concluded Ash Street Park summer program run by Friends of Ash Street Community Enrichment or the League of Volunteers Newark, which provides many services to the city.

During a recent interview in the Tri-City Voice, Mayor Smith proudly stated: the people of Newark always rise to the occasion to give of themselves to the community. This makes it a special place. Why do they do it? It's because they take pride in their community. There is a tremendous community pride in Newark.

From humble beginnings as a total bedroom community, the city developed a long-term vision and a strategic focus to insure its prosperity and economic independence. Thoughtful planning of residential and commercial development, careful renovation, community involvement, as well as the exemplary delivery of services has resulted in the city's fiscal and social wellness.

I join in expressing heartiest congratulations to the city of Newark, its elected leadership, administrators, and residents on the 50th anniversary to Newark's incorporation. I am confident Newark will continue to thrive. Happy birthday and best wishes for continued success.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL WILLIAM L. "SPIDER" NYLAND ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MARINE CORPS AFTER 37 YEARS OF SERVICE

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to General William L. "Spider" Nyland, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. General Nyland has served our great Nation for more than 37 years. The departure of General Nyland marks not only the end of an illustrious career replete with many honors, it also marks the beginning of several initiatives which, by virtue of his strategic vision, dynamic leadership and accomplished diplomatic skills, will ensure that U.S. national strategy is prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

General Nyland was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps under the NROTC program upon graduation from the University of New Mexico in 1968. In addition to attaining a M.S. degree from the University of Southern California, his formal military education includes The Basic School (1968), Naval Aviation Flight Training (NFO) (1969), Amphibious Warfare School (1975), Navy Fighter Weapons School (TopGun) (1977),

College of Naval Command and Staff, Naval War College (1981), and Air War College (1988).

After being assigned to VMFA-531, General Nyland was ordered to Vietnam where he flew 122 combat missions with VMFA-314 and VMFA-115. General Nyland's other tours included Instructor RIO, VMFAT-101; Squadron Assistant Operations Officer and Operations Officer, VMFA-115; and Brigade FORSTAT and Electronic Warfare Officer, 1st Marine Brigade. He also served as Operations Officer and Director of Safety and Standardization, VMFA-212; Aviation Safety Officer and Congressional Liaison/Budget Officer, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, DC; and Operations Officer, Marine Aircraft Group-24, 1st Marine Amphibious Brigade. He commanded VMFA-232, the Marine Corps' oldest and most decorated fighter squadron, from July 1985 to July 1987.

General Nyland subsequently served as section chief for the Central Command section, European Command/Central Command Branch, Joint Operations Division, Directorate of Operations (J-3), Joint Staff, Washington, DC. In July 1990, he assumed command of Marine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG), Pensacola. Following his command of MATSG he assumed duties as Chief of Staff, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing on July 5, 1992, and assumed additional duties as Assistant Wing Commander on November 10, 1992. He was promoted to Brigadier General on September 1, 1994 and was assigned as Assistant Wing Commander, 2nd MAW serving in that billet until December 1, 1995.

He served next on the Joint Staff, J-8, as the Deputy Director for Force Structure and Resources, completing that tour on June 30, 1997. General Nyland was advanced to Major General on July 2, 1997, and assumed duties as the Deputy Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He served next as the Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina from July 1998 to June 2000. He was advanced to Lieutenant General on 30 June 2000 and assumed duties as the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. He next served as the Deputy Commandant for Aviation on 3 August 2001. He was advanced to the grade of General on September 4, 2002 and assumed his current duties shortly thereafter.

General Nyland's personal decorations include: Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with eight Strike/Flight awards, and Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Throughout his career as a United States Marine, General Nyland has demonstrated uncompromising character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, selfless sense of duty to his Marines and members of other services assigned to his numerous joint commands. His powerful leadership inspired the Marines to tremendous success no matter the task, and achieved results which will assure the United States' security in this hemisphere and overseas.

General Nyland concludes his illustrious career as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. In this capacity, he has been the

principal advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps on all decisions of major consequence. His extensive and diverse background in operational and joint planning, professional military education and training, and budgetary and programmatic policy issues have been given wide credibility by decision makers in the Department of the Navy, the Joint Staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the United States Congress.

General Nyland has made a lasting contribution to the capabilities of today's Marine Corps and the future shape of tomorrow's Corps. We are grateful for General Nyland's dedication, sense of duty, advice and counsel. The Marine Corps will miss him, but General Nyland leaves a tremendous legacy for others to follow and emulate. I wish General Nyland and his lovely wife, Brenda, daughters, Brandy and Leslie, and son, Matthew, congratulations and all best wishes as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

IN HONOR OF THE ARC OF  
WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY, MI

### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Arc of Western Wayne County, MI, which is celebrating 50 years of commitment to reducing the incidence, and limiting the consequences of, mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

In the 1950's there were very few educational, employment or recreational opportunities available for people with mental retardation living in southwestern Wayne County, and families were commonly encouraged to institutionalize their children. Small groups of parents chose to seek alternative solutions for their children and began to band together with a common goal and commitment to promote the general welfare of people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. In 1954 this group of parents founded the Arc of Western Wayne County.

Today, with a membership of 140 families, the Arc of Western Wayne County works to create opportunities for people with disabilities to gain assertiveness and community living skills. The organization and its members help to shape public policy and advocate for people who have traditionally been excluded from society by monitoring, supporting and creating progressive community programs.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years the Arc of Western Wayne County has been committed to guaranteeing, for all people with developmental disabilities, the opportunity to choose where they live, learn, work and play. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the Arc of Western Wayne County, and the many men and women who contribute their time and energy and make a positive impact on our communities.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2361,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of our Nation's veterans, I support the additional \$1.5 billion provided in the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations bill that addresses the current shortfall in funding for veterans' health care. These funds are urgently needed to care for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the heroes from former conflicts who rely upon the VA for their health care. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, currently, there are 24.8 million veterans of the U.S. armed services. They served their country in one of the military branches—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard—or in one of many smaller groups that supported the military services, primarily during World War II.

Approximately 769,000 veterans live in Georgia serving in every major conflict and during peacetime. About a quarter of the nation's population, approximately 70 million people, are potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans, family members or survivors of veterans. The benefits include: medical care, payments to compensate for disabilities suffered during military service, rehabilitation and employment assistance, pensions to low-income disabled veterans, guarantees on loans to help veterans buy homes, financial aid to help them attend school, burial in a national cemetery and special headstones or markers for their gravesites.

Slightly less than half of all Americans who ever served during wartime in our country's history are alive today, and nearly 80 percent of today's veterans served during a war or an official period of conflict. There are widows and children of veterans of the Civil War and the Indian War of the last century who still receive VA benefits. The largest group of veterans fought in World War II. Approximately 550,000 Georgia veterans served during wartime during either World War II, the Korean conflict, during the Vietnam era or during the Gulf War. These veterans deserve our support especially due to the extraordinary sacrifices and contributions that they have made so that peace and freedom could exist around the world.

I also encourage Congress to provide much needed additional funding for veterans' health care in FY 2006 so that the VA's resources are sufficient to meet the increased demand for its services from our Nation's veterans and their families. It is critical that at all times, and particularly during a time of war, the quality of care for veterans must be a clear and unmistakable priority. We must fulfill our commitment to those who helped build America's strength and security. Our veterans should not have to wait any longer for the benefits they deserve.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER M. FALKEL

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from Highlands Ranch, SSG Christopher M. Falkel. Staff Sergeant Falkel died during combat operations in Deh Afghan, Afghanistan. He was just 22 years old.

Chris was a member of the elite Green Berets, and was affectionately known by his colleagues as "little brother." He was well known by his peers for his principle, toughness, patriotism, love of country and his bravery.

Staff Sergeant Falkel was a 2001 graduate of Thunder Ridge High School in Colorado. He enlisted that October with the goal of serving his country in the Special Forces. After completing courses in Arabic language and survival, evasion, resistance and escape he began Special Forces training in 2002.

Ultimately, Christopher was assigned to the 1st Special Warfare Training group, where he served his country with honor and distinction, earning—among other awards and medals—the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to friends and family of Staff Sergeant Falkel.

Christopher served his country with bravery and distinction, fighting against the forces of tyranny and oppression. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

All Americans owe Christopher and his family a great debt of gratitude. We honor his service and his sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING MAGEE RIETER AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS OF BLOOMSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA ON BEING NAMED SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR TO GENERAL MOTORS FOR THE 13TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Magee Rieter Automotive Systems of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of their being named worldwide "Supplier of the Year" to General Motors for the 13th consecutive year.

Of GMs 30,000 suppliers, Magee Rieter Automotive Systems is the only company in North America to achieve this remarkable record, a fact that should make its nearly 800 employees exceedingly proud.

Magee Rieter is the leading supplier of carpets to General Motors in America. The company has been in business in Bloomsburg since 1889 and has been supplying General Motors for more than 90 years, first with hand draped tapestries for Fisher Body carriages and, today, with fully molded carpet floors and integrated acoustical systems.

For more than a century, the company has endured and overcome numerous challenges including floods, fires and the rapidly changing business environment. After World War II, the company received the Army/Navy "E" award for excellence in recognition of its production of high quality materials for the war effort.

Magee Rieter records annual sales in excess of \$175 million and has an annual payroll of more than \$37 million that provides its employees with family sustaining incomes that average about \$39,000 annually. Overall, Magee Rieter is responsible for a \$168 million annual impact to the local economy.

The current employees of Magee Rieter are carrying on traditions of pride and success handed down by their parents, grandparents and great grandparents who worked at this remarkable company.

Under the leadership of president and chief executive officer Mike Katerman, Magee Rieter continues to be a cornerstone of the Bloomsburg community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Magee Rieter for demonstrating superior performance and for serving as a shining example for other businesses to emulate.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the White Lake Township Library, which is celebrating 30 years of service to the White Lake, MI, community.

On April 5, 1975, a resolution was adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Electors of White Lake Township, establishing "a free public library in accordance with Act 164, P.A. 1877." The six-member Provisional Library Board was appointed on May 20, 1975 and the first permanent board was named shortly after. The Library Board is composed of non-partisan elected officials who serve 4-year terms.

Library service was originally provided through a contract with the Waterford Township library. In 1980, White Lake Township's voters provided permanent support for the library by approving a perpetual operating millage of 0.3 mills in property taxes. In 1998, voters approved 0.5 mills for 8 years to add, maintain and improve library service.

The library has been housed in several locations around the township including the White Lake Community Hall and Brooks School. The core of the current building was built in 1984–1985, using local funds and a Library Services and Construction Act grant. The library was extensively remodeled and expanded in 2001 and now contains approximately 10,000 square feet and over 50,000 library items. Use figures have doubled in 5 years as the number of registered borrowers has grown to over 10,000 individuals. Long-range plans call for additional library space and expanded print, electronic and staff resources to meet the information and cultural needs of a rapidly growing township.

Mr. Speaker, for over 30 years the citizens of White Lake Township, MI, have continued

to support the White Lake Township Library. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking the citizens of White Lake Township, Library Board members and employees of the library for their outstanding service to the people of Michigan, and wish them well in the next 30 years.

HONORING MR. DONALD G.  
WALDON

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Donald G. Waldon on the occasion of his retirement as the Administrator of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation to recognize his many accomplishments. He is truly a man who embodies the American principles of hard work, dedication to one's family and service to one's community.

Don is a native of Columbus, Mississippi but grew up in Mobile, Alabama. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1961 with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and completed post graduate studies in science and engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1963 and Texas A&M in 1964. He is a 1994 graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute and the recipient of the Southern Industrial Development Council's 1994 Robert B. Cassell Award for Best Research Thesis.

Don joined the Army Corps of Engineers in 1961, where he worked in Mobile until 1966, conducting feasibility studies for water resource projects such as ports and waterways, including some early ideas for the Tenn-Tom Waterway. In 1966 he went to work for the Office of Management and Budget of the Executive Office of the President where he advised OMB and White House officials, including the President, on major budgetary, policy and legislative matters involving natural resources.

Don worked for OMB until 1974 when he was appointed as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior, a position he held until September, 1975. His duties included management responsibilities for all land and water resource agencies within the Department of the Interior, which at the time had a budget of nearly \$2 billion and approximately 12,000 employees. He had oversight over reclamation projects and the development of oil fields, coal mining on public lands, the Alaska Pipeline, the measures taken under the Nixon Energy Initiative, and served on a number of White House task forces, involving energy.

In 1975, on the advice of Tenn-Tom project Administrator Glover Wilkins, Don entered an exchange program inside the Federal Government and came to the Tenn-Tom on a 2-year basis, but ultimately stayed for 30. In 1979 Don resigned from the Federal Government and remained with the Tenn-Tom, taking the position of Deputy Administrator. When Glover Wilkins retired in 1984 Don was appointed to the post of Administrator, a position he has held ever since.

As Administrator of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority

Don has worked tirelessly to promote the development of the Waterway, exploring economic and trade opportunities, and addressing potential barriers to the Waterway's beneficial use. Under Don's leadership the Waterway has resulted in approximately \$5 billion in expanded industry. The Waterway has had a tremendous impact on the local communities, not just with industrial development, but by bringing in recreation and tourism dollars as well.

Apart from his leadership of the Tenn-Tom Waterway Authority, Don is active in a variety of organizations devoted to the development of our waterways. He is President of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council, Vice-Chairman of the National Waterways Conference, Inc., Director of the Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc. (a national trade group representing inland ports), Executive Committee member of the U.S. Maritime Administration's Heartland Intermodal Partnership, Vice-President of the Alabama-Tombigbee Rivers Coalition and an Advisory Board Member of the Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Donald G. Waldon for his many accomplishments and his enduring impact on his country, community, friends and family. He is a man of great dignity and character who takes pride in the accomplishments of those he has helped over the years. Don is an inspiring role model for all of us and I join his friends and colleagues in wishing him God's richest blessings in his retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON  
H.R. 3, SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE,  
FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION  
EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2005*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR for their leadership in bringing SAFETEA-LU to the floor. It is an important bill that will help ease congestion throughout the country.

In particular, I applaud their efforts regarding hybrid vehicles in High Occupancy Vehicle lanes. Allowing hybrids in HOV lanes will increase demand for the vehicles, improve air quality, and over time reduce our reliance on foreign oil sources.

Section 166 of SAFETEA-LU allows vehicles meeting certain fuel efficiency and emissions standards to use HOV lanes. The bill, specifically section 166(b)(5)(B)(i), is written to allow states to establish a program that addresses the selection of vehicles under the HOV provision. As long as states meet the minimum standards set out in the bill, they can adjust which vehicles will be authorized to use HOV lanes.

This intentional flexibility will allow California to implement a state law letting hybrid vehicles that get more than 45 miles per gallon in highway driving and meet California emission standards to ride in HOV lanes.

The bill also allows states to choose which HOV lanes will be eligible for use by these ve-

hicles. I call on California to study the issue carefully, so that only HOV lanes that can handle the increase in traffic be eligible for hybrid vehicles.

Again, I thank the chairman and ranking member for their leadership.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
LARNELL EXUM ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to LTC Larnell Exum, Deputy Chief, Army House Liaison Division, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, who retired September 1. Lieutenant Colonel Exum's illustrious career as an infantry officer embodies all of the Army's values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage and spans 20 years, during which he has distinguished himself as a soldier, leader, and friend of the United States House of Representatives.

Lieutenant Colonel Exum demonstrated his outstanding tactical and operational expertise in numerous command and staff positions overseas and in the continental United States. Continually serving in positions of ever-increasing responsibility, the highlights of his career include serving as a Company Commander with the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, at both Fort Campbell, KY, and in combat in Kuwait and Iraq during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and then as Aide-de-Camp to the Undersecretary of the Army.

As the Deputy Chief of the Legislative Liaison in the House Liaison Division, his last assignment in the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel Exum demonstrated the outstanding dedication and leadership skills that have characterized his distinguished career. In particular, he excelled at building relationships with Members of Congress and their staffs.

He escorted over 45 worldwide fact-finding missions for congressional delegations, traveling with over 135 Members to 25 countries. These ventures served to educate Members on subjects as diverse as the global war on terror, Army transformation, magnetic levitation trains, and future transportation technologies.

I traveled with Lieutenant Colonel Exum on several times and was thoroughly impressed with him on each occasion. He is one of the finest people I have worked with during my 17 years in Congress.

From 1986 to 1989, Lieutenant Colonel Exum distinguished himself as one of the top company grade leaders in Alpha Company, 1/22 Infantry Battalion, Fort Drum, NY, serving as a Rifle Platoon Leader and Mortar Platoon Leader in a light infantry battalion. He then was assigned to Alpha Company, 2/187 Infantry Battalion, both at home station and in combat operations in Kuwait and Iraq for Desert Shield and Desert Storm, when he was decorated for valor in combat.

Due to his fabulous reputation as one of the bright young officers in the Army, Lieutenant Colonel Exum was selected as the Aide-de-Camp/Military Assistant for the Under Secretary of the Army. He performed magnificently in this position and was subsequently

given the rarest of opportunities, a second company level command, which he maintained for all Army soldiers assigned to the Military District of Washington with duty at Fort Meade, MD.

In 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Exum was assigned with the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army and served there until 1996. During his year of service, he was the Protocol Staff Officer. His actions had a direct, positive impact on the public persona of the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army by coordinating events for the "Big Four" senior Army leadership with foreign dignitaries, senior U.S. Government officials, and senior military leaders.

He then transitioned from active duty to become an active Guard Reserve National Guard officer. His contributions to the National Guard while serving as the Security Clearance Adjudications Officer and Reserve Incentive Program Manager from 1996 to 2001 were without measure and positively impacted the lives of individual soldiers and the readiness and training of the Guard Bureau as a whole.

After serving as the Chief of the Inquiries Branch in the National Guard Bureau Legislative Office, he was then hand-picked to represent the National Guard Bureau and the Army as the first National Guard officer to serve in the House Liaison Division of the Secretary of the Army's Legislative Liaison office for many years.

Lieutenant Colonel Exum is a natural at building and maintaining credible relationships with Members of Congress and their staffs, which was invaluable as the Army faced many challenges associated with its budget and real world combat operations in the Global War on Terror. Members knew they could count on Lieutenant Colonel Exum for his sage counsel, professional advice, and unwavering integrity.

Lieutenant Colonel Exum's faithful service, leadership, loyalty, and dedication to duty uphold the highest traditions of military service, and he has repeatedly stood for the defense of this Nation, her citizens, and their freedom. His devotion to the defense of liberty epitomizes the words soldier, patriot, and American. Lieutenant Colonel Exum is a role model for his two children, Tyler and Taylor, and is a devoted husband to his wife, Tina.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my gratitude and that of the entire Nation to Lieutenant Colonel Exum for his service to the United States and his hard work in defense of freedom.

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IN RECOGNITION OF RON FOWKES

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor a good friend and public servant, Ron Fowkes, as he retires from his position as Council President for the Village of Milford, Michigan.

As a public servant Ron has demonstrated a deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, and hard work. Before serving on the Village Council, Ron served on the Milford Parks and Recreation Commission, which included terms as vice-chair and chairman. He also served on the

board of directors for the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce; the American Eagles Flying Club; River Bend Playscape steering committee; and founding board member of the Village Tree Board.

Mr. Speaker, Ron Fowkes has made a significant impact on his community over the past decade—from securing funds to plant more than 200 trees in the Milford community to leading the effort to renovate playgrounds and park facilities. His commitment to God, family and country has been a source of inspiration to the many lives he has touched.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Ron Fowkes. His wife Barbara and daughters Aimee and Victoria, and his many friends today can feel a rightful sense of pride and appreciation for Ron, and I offer my congratulations and appreciation for all he has done for his community and his country.

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RECOGNIZING AGOSTINO LOPORTO

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Agostino Loporto of Citrus County, Florida, a Purple Heart recipient from World War II.

Inducted into the military on March 1, 1941, Mr. Loporto went to boot camp at Fort Dix, NJ, and received additional training at Fort Benning and Camp Gordon. Shipped overseas in late 1943 to Liverpool, England, Mr. Loporto was in the Battle of the Bulge on D-Day.

Attached to the 4th Infantry Motorized Division in Belgium, Mr. Loporto was wounded in his shoulder by shrapnel in the Black Forest. He was taken to a hospital in Belgium and was transferred to a hospital in England when the Belgian hospital was hit by a B2 German bomber. Mr. Loporto received 4 months of medical treatment and was discharged from the military on November 4, 1945.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Agostino Loporto should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Loporto with his long-overdue Purple Heart. He is truly one of America's greatest generation.

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SALUTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LITTLE LEAGUE WESTERN REGION

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Little League Western Region, and its contributions to the youth of the Inland Empire, through its Western Regional Tournament. Little League is the foundation of good values and sportsmanship. Some of us may be bigger than others, or faster, but in team sports, as in life, it is the effort that counts! Through perseverance and teamwork, one can succeed!

Here in the Inland Empire, we like to be known for historic firsts. Did you know that

San Bernardino was the first site of Little League, west of the Rocky Mountains? Did you know San Bernardino had the first team from the West to advance to the World Series in 1951? So, when you play here, you are a part of history! This is a special place!

We should stop to honor those who have made this facility possible. The Western Regional Headquarters was constructed in 1969. The property on which the headquarters was placed was made available to Little League Baseball by the City of San Bernardino. Al Houghton Stadium and the Thomas C. Boyle Administration Building were built first, and the balance of what is here today has been gradually added. Warner Hodgdon, a local businessman, contributed heavily to the swimming pool, which is now such an important part of the Headquarters. Local firms pitched in with donated building materials, equipment and labor to gradually complete the complex. Many District Administrators and other local people labored hard and long. Western Regional Headquarters as it stands today has been a "labor of love."

On the grounds of the Headquarters Complex is a Junior Olympic size swimming pool. For other recreation and practice there are table games, batting cages, practice fields and a recreation hall. There is also a Senior Division field.

The Western Regional Tournament is the culmination of hard work by parents, fundraisers, volunteers, and the business community, as well as these talented players. Twelve teams, and 10 days of play! An audience of 50,000 to 60,000! A Tournament Committee of over 125 volunteers from 11 Western States! Recognition of all teams at the Inland Empire Sixty Sixers home game! The involvement of Team 14, a group of local businessmen and women who volunteer to host a team and take the players to other Southern California events! An annual Golf Tournament!

In addition, Little League Leadership Training Clinics are offered for League Officials, District Administrators, Managers/Coaches, scorekeepers and volunteer umpires. Included in the training sessions are two one-week Umpire Schools along with weekend rules clinics.

And so, I salute the young people who participate, and those who support the game. Play ball!

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EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of southeastern Arizona, my deepest sympathies go out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. While we are saddened by this tragedy, our compassion in this time of adversity will prevail. I am confident the spirit of community and generosity will be seen from across the country as we begin to clean up and rebuild from this horrible disaster. Whenever Americans get knocked down, they always get back up. Southern Arizona is ready to do its

part, by opening its arms and its heart to shelter the homeless from Louisiana and Mississippi.

This is just the first bill that Congress will need to enact to recover from this terrible disaster. It will provide an immediate infusion of money to allow FEMA and the Department of Defense to address the most immediate needs, ensuring there is no disruption in funding for relief efforts. Because much of the region is still underwater, the full extent of the damage is unknown. It will take some time to assess the scope and cost of this disaster, but Congress will ensure that FEMA and other federal agencies have the resources they need to assist the citizens of this region to get back on their feet.

#### RECOGNIZING HAROLD KURTH

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Harold Kurth of Citrus County, Florida, a Purple Heart recipient from World War II.

Volunteering for service in 1943, Mr. Kurth's ambition was to join the Air Corp, but was inducted into the Army at Camp Roberts to receive his basic training instead.

Following his initial training, Mr. Kurth was aboard the Sea Witch on his way to Guadalcanal when the ship was fired on by Japanese submarines. Luckily, the Sea Witch made it safely to Guadalcanal without further contact with the enemy.

Mr. Kurth then took part in campaigns on the Solomon Islands and the Philippines, where he was wounded by a hand grenade while guarding a church in Manila. He was part of a group of six soldiers who came under enemy fire in the church yard following a river crossing. Several of his compatriots were injured as well in the battle.

Part of the "Heavyweights of the South Pacific," Mr. Kurth's division was credited with killing 12,500 enemy soldiers during World War II. Serving three years without a furlough, Mr. Kurth returned to the United States on Christmas Eve, 1945.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Harold Kurth should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Kurth with his long-over Purple Heart. He is truly one of America's greatest generation.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINFONIA MEXICANA

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to the Sinfonia Mexicana, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

This important institution, located in San Bernardino, has been thrilling audiences since 1985, when Mario Porras and Charles

Eisenhard inspired members of the Inland Empire Symphony Association, local civic leaders, and then Consul of Mexico Emerenciano Rodriguez, to form a committee to present a unique concert of Mexico's symphonic masterpieces. Consul Rodriguez was selected to chair the committee for this exciting endeavor. The concert was a tremendous success! Enthused, the committee continued to present annual state-of-the-art musical and culturally enriching programs for the enjoyment of the entire community.

The purpose of this organization is to present the finest music compositions of Mexico to the Inland Empire. In addition to its outstanding music programming, the group has committed numerous volunteer hours and financial contributions throughout these many years, with participation of organizations and individuals that shared in the identical goal of program development and other auxiliary components.

The current success of the Sinfonia Mexicana has been recognized as an outstanding achievement in the Inland Empire and beyond. It is a well-established fact that Mexican folkloric music is enormously popular and world-renowned; however, what was relatively unknown to many people locally, was Mexico's veritable treasure of classical and symphonic music created by notable composers and arrangers—many of whom Sinfonia showcased over the past 19 years. They included: Carlos Chávez, Pablo Moncayo, Manuel M. Ponce, Silvestre Revueltas, Miguel Bernal, Blás Galindo, Juventino Rosa, Enrique Mora, Manuel Enriques, Ricardo Castro, Candelario Huizar, Felipe Villanueva, and others. To be sure, Chávez's "Sinfonia India" is a fine example of the unification of Yaqui and Seri indigenous melodies into a symphonic masterpiece.

A typical Sinfonia program of Mexican classical music often features a guest conductor and/or artists from Mexico performing with the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra at the historic California Theatre of Performing Arts in San Bernardino. Guest conductors have included Abraham Chávez, Sergio Cardenas, Francisco Savin, Guadalupe Flores, Eduardo Diazmuñoz, Enrique Diemecke, José Hernandez, Stewart Robertson, and Jeff Nevin. On two occasions Sinfonia had the distinction to host the "Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México" in San Bernardino. On their first visit, Maestro Francisco Savin served as musical director.

Sinfonia has presented a variety of special performances by outstanding ensembles from Mexico and Southern California. Sinfonia is now organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and yet maintains its volunteer-driven mission to foster the awareness of Mexico's symphonic musical masterpieces, and educate the public of the fine music and culture of Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, that is a résumé of the substantial achievements of this important cultural institution. My family and I enjoy this music. We encourage everyone in the community to partake of this great resource.

I ask that a more detailed history of Sinfonia be included in the Congressional Record, for public display and historical preservation. And again, I say: thank you to Sinfonia, for preserving these important musical traditions!

#### SINFONIA MEXICANA—A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Sinfonia Mexicana has been thrilling audiences since 1985 when Mario Porras and

Charles Eisenhard inspired members of the Inland Empire Symphony Association, local civic leaders, and then Consul of Mexico Emerenciano Rodriguez, to form a committee to present a unique concert of Mexico's symphonic masterpieces. Consul Rodriguez was selected to chair the committee for this exciting endeavor. The concert was a tremendous success! Enthused, the committee continued to present annual state-of-the-art musical and culturally enriching programs for the enjoyment of the entire community.

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Sinfonia has presented a variety of special performances by outstanding ensembles from Mexico and Southern California. They featured the West Coast premiere of "Navidades" by the internationally acclaimed Ballet Folklórico de Amalia Hernandez from Mexico City. And, from Baja California, Sinfonia presented "Bastian y Bastiana" Mozart's comic opera performed by a student group, Grupo Juvenil de Tijuana. Moreover, Sinfonia presented the West Coast premiere of the first Chicano opera, "Esperanza" composed by David Bishop and the libretto by Carlos Morton based on the classic cult film, "Salt of the Earth." The opera was performed by the Euterpe Opera Theatre of Pasadena, which featured soprano Ariella Vaccarino and tenor Eric Castro.

Quintessentially popular mariachi performances have included the legendary Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Sol de México de José Hernandez, Las Reinas de Los Angeles, Mariachi Mujer, Mariachi Divas, and Mariachi Champaña. Other diverse artists included Latin jazz great, Tito Puente, the romantic trio, Los Tres Reyes, famed folklorists Tlen Huicani (Veracruz), and the brilliant Ballet Folklorico del Pacifico. The famous pop artist, Vikki Carr graced Sinfonia's portfolio, as did Alicia Juarez (widow of José Alfredo Jimenez), Lalo Guerrero, Mayor Judith Valles, sopranos Maria Luisa Tamez and Florencia Tinoco; tenors Alejandro Guerrero, Pedro Rey, Raul Hernandez, Dennis Meade, Daniel Hendricks, and the West Coast debut of tenor Daniel Rodriguez performing with a symphony orchestra (the former New York police officer who awed the nation with his rendition of "God Bless America" in the aftermath of 9-11). Sinfonia endeavors to help promote the musical careers of local young aspiring artists such as Elizabeth Quintero and Desiree Flores. Sinfonia supported the very first youth mariachi in the region, Mariachi Estudiantil and founder Lou Herz, whom Sinfonia sponsored for several years, and supported the debut of the region's first all-girl, Mariachi las Princesas.

Sinfonia is now organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and yet maintains its volunteer-driven mission to foster the awareness of Mexico's symphonic musical masterpieces, and educate the public of the fine music and culture of Mexico. The board of directors and staff invite interested members of the community to become involved in Sinfonia Mexicana programs.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARIANO  
RIVERA

**HON. JOSÉ E SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Mariano Rivera, as he is awarded the 2004 Latino MVP Relief Pitcher of the Year Award by Latino Sports and the Latino Sports Writers & Broadcasters Association (LSWBA).

Rivera made his major league debut with the New York Yankees in 1995. Since 1997 he has served as the team's closer and has blown away his competition. Rivera is arguably the most effective closer in postseason baseball history, recording final outs in three Yankee world title seasons (1998, 1999 and 2000). He also owns the Major League record for most postseason saves with 32, as well as most World Series saves with 9. Rivera also established the longest scoreless innings streak in postseason play with thirty-three innings pitched and was named as the World Series MVP in 1999 and the Most Valuable Player of the American League Championship Series in 2003. He currently leads the Yankees as the club's all-time saves leader with 366 and boasts an incredible Earned Run Average below 1.00 in postseason play.

Mariano Rivera was born on November 11, 1969, in Panama City. The son of a fisherman, he grew up poor and played baseball as a kid using a glove fashioned out of a cardboard box. He has been described by many as being a deeply religious man, and says that he would one day want to move back to his

native Panama to become a Priest. While fans of opposing teams dread to see Rivera on the mound, all will agree that he is a class act. Never one to boast or brag about his incredible gift, Rivera comes to work and does the job better than anyone. He is fearless yet humble, a combination that we seldom see in today's athletes.

When the game is on the line, great athletes always rise to the challenge. Jordan, Montana and Pelé all separated themselves from the pack with their ability to overcome their fears and anxiety and play with a high level of confidence. With his ability to shut down opponents at the end of a game Rivera has earned a place among these elite competitors.

Mr. Speaker, Mariano Rivera is proof of the great contributions Latinos continue to make to this country. While I am proud of the many championships Rivera has helped to bring to the city of New York, I am more proud of the fact that he has helped to improve the lives of many young people in the South Bronx. Whether he knows it or not, Rivera's attitude towards the game of baseball provides all who watch him with a model of how to approach life—hard work and determination.

Mariano Rivera exemplifies the idea of an athlete as a role model. For his unyielding competitive spirit and positive impact on the lives of all Americans, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Mariano Rivera as he is awarded the 2004 Latino MVP Award.

RECOGNIZING THE SPRING HILL  
NATIONAL DIXIE YOUTH AAA  
BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the members of the Spring Hill National Dixie Youth AAA baseball team on their recent victories at the State championships and world series.

The Spring Hill Nationals are made up of 9- and 10-year-olds who have worked tirelessly for their successes. The 13 members of this extraordinary team have demonstrated through their victories the traits of sportsmanship, dedication, loyalty, and discipline.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following members of the Spring Hill team: Gabe Abbadessa, Mason Arroyo, Drue Brooks, Brandon Brosher, Alex Martin, Danny Gendusa, Derek Newman, Nic Pasarella, Nick Ramirez, Drew Dessa, Brad Smith, Evan Webster, and Joey Wright. Their manager, Dave Smith, and assistant coaches, Bob Pasarella and Dave Newman contributed to their successes.

The Spring Hill National Dixie Youth AAA baseball team is Florida's team. I am honored that these fine young gentlemen are from my district and am proud of their accomplishments.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
ANASTASIA "ANNIE" SAIZ, OF  
BELEN, NM

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in loving tribute and memory of my sister Anastasia "Annie" Saiz, who passed away over the August congressional recess.

Beloved wife of Seferino Saiz, beloved sister of Florenio, Maria "Lupe" Napier, Morris, Tanny, Raymond, Joe, and Theresa Perez, and the late Abiflio Baca, beloved mother and mother-in-law of Robert Saiz and Lisa; Elsie Giron and husband, William; Sefe Saiz Jr. and wife, Liz; Dorothy Johnston and husband, Johnny; Lorraine Marquez and husband, Carl; and Charlie Saiz and wife, Rose, all of Belen. She is survived by 16 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren.

Annie lived life to the fullest, reaching the mark of 78 years young. She and Seferino had just celebrated their 60th anniversary with a family dinner at their home on August 5. They were married in 1945 in La Joya.

Annie was widely admired by family, friends, and colleagues. She was hard working, dedicated, committed, disciplined, loving and supporting. She was everything one would want in a sister, daughter, mother, wife, grandmother, and great grandmother.

She was employed by the Los Lunas Hospital and Training School, working with mentally challenged children. She had a big heart and compassion for the less fortunate. She would bring home children during the Easter holiday to enjoy the picnics; she couldn't see them being alone.

She was a devoted Catholic, and active in our Lady of Belen Catholic Church, and she volunteered at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She participated in civic causes, volunteering her time, getting up at 7 a.m. to drive voters to the polls. When she believed in a cause, she would work her heart out.

She loved to shop. During the holidays she always gave out presents to strangers and her friends. She enjoyed listening to Mariachi music, going dancing at the senior citizen dances with Seferino and friends. She enjoyed listening to Jennifer sing Mariachi songs. When we would visit she was always so thoughtful and kind to give me and Barbara and my children a little gift. We will always remember her kindness and love for family.

Annie enjoyed spending time with her family. She always supported her children and grandchildren, cheering them on at baseball games; she was their No. 1 fan. She defended her family, as she stood by their side. She was all about "familia." On her children's birthday, she would call the local DJ and dedicate songs to her children. She would tell them to turn on the radio, and there is a special song, chosen from her heart.

She was a great cook. Everyone would go to her house, and even if you were not hungry, she would make sure that she gave you a plate and made you eat. The food was always so delicious, how could you refuse. We loved her tortillas and atole. She had special Mexican food remedies for our colds.

Annie's life was dedicated to family, friends, and community. Her memory lives on in our

thoughts and prayers. We say, "Goodbye. God bless you, we love you, and we miss you." We all loved her with all our hearts. She is now in a better place with her heavenly Father and at peace.

CONGRATULATING IRVIN "BUZZ"  
CAVERLY

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, since 1933, Baxter State Park has been one of the most important natural and recreational places in the state of Maine. From an initial purchase of 5,960 acres, the park has grown to 204,733 acres that welcome more than 100,000 visitors each summer from all parts of the United States. Baxter State Park is special for its role as home to many of Maine's most beautiful mountains, lakes, and rivers and as the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.

Throughout Baxter State Park's history, no man or woman, besides Governor Percival Baxter himself, has been as important to the park as Baxter State Park Director Irvin "Buzz" Caverly. Buzz Caverly began his career at Baxter State Park as a ranger in 1959 and by 1981 had risen to the rank of Park Director, where he has ably and enthusiastically managed the park since.

Buzz recently announced his retirement. Through the years, Buzz earned a well-deserved reputation for thoughtfulness, fairness, and dedication to the legacy of Percival Baxter and to Baxter State Park.

Growing up in the Katahdin region of Maine, Baxter State Park has always been my backyard, and I know that Buzz has continued the proud traditions of conservation and recreational access on which Baxter State Park was founded and which the people of the Katahdin region and all of Maine deeply value.

It can truly be said that Buzz knows Baxter State Park better than any man or woman alive, and his absence will be felt for years to come at the park. Indeed, Buzz's legacy will be remembered not only by those of us that love the park, but by the countless thousands of people who had the good fortune to meet him throughout the years and enjoy his own infectious love for Baxter.

On behalf of the residents of Maine's Second Congressional District, and for myself personally, I would like to thank Baxter State Park Director Irving "Buzz" Caverly for his hard work and dedication to Baxter State Park and for protecting an area that will remain a special place for all future generations of visitors from throughout Maine and away. Buzz, thank you and congratulations.

RECOGNIZING JOSH COOLEY

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Josh Cooley of Pasco County, Florida, a Purple Heart recipient from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A deputy in the Pasco County Sheriff's office since 1998, Mr. Cooley enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in July of 2003. A third generation Marine, Lance Corporal Cooley was deployed to Iraq in December 2004.

While on patrol in Iraq, Mr. Cooley was the victim of a roadside blast. Following the attack, Mr. Cooley has required several head surgeries to remove pieces of scrapnel, some as large as a credit card. He currently remains in a local hospital recovering from his wounds sustained in early July.

While at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, Mr. Cooley was presented his Purple Heart by President George W. Bush. An emotional and brief ceremony with Mr. Cooley's family was a fitting tribute to his and their sacrifices both on the battlefield and back here in Florida.

In addition to the support from his coworkers and family, the entire Pasco County region has helped the Cooley family. Volunteers have hosted fundraisers to help defray the costs of his medical bills, and have even reroofed his house. We are all proud to know that the good people of Pasco County have come together to support those who defend our freedoms and liberties in the United States Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like Josh Cooley should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Cooley and his family with this proclamation and let them know that America is grateful for the sacrifices of Lance Corporal Josh Cooley and that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

REGARDING THE POEM "A  
SOLDIER'S REFLECTIONS"

**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, on July 12, 2005 I read a poem on this Floor entitled "A Soldier's Reflections." At that time, I inadvertently gave credit to the wrong author. I apologize to its author Mr. George L. Skyepek and ask that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD be amended and the appropriate correction be made to credit the author.

RECOGNIZING JOHN FEDYSZYN

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. John Fedyszyn of Lady Lake, Florida, a Purple Heart recipient from the Vietnam War.

A native of Dunkirk, NY, Lance Corporal Fedyszyn was a proud member of C Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. Mr. Fedyszyn served as a forward-observer radioman who fought in savage exchanges with North Vietnamese Army artillery units north/northeast, west, and south of Dong Ha throughout his deployment with the 12th Marines in Vietnam.

Many times, out-gunned and out-ranged, the 1st Battalion 12th Marines continued to return fire rather than give any quarter to North Vietnamese artillery units. Lance Corporal Fedyszyn earned his Purple Heart when he was wounded by the enemy during an attack on May 9, 1968. He was first presented the Purple Heart by the Commanding General of the 3rd Marine Division.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like John Fedyszyn should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Fedyszyn with his long-overdue purple heart. He is truly one of America's greatest generation.

CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST  
RESIDENTS REACH OUT TO VIC-  
TIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the 17th District of California, we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The devastation wrought on Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama is unimaginable to most Americans but we on the Central Coast of California want our fellow Americans on the Gulf Coast to know that we stand shoulder to shoulder with them to rebuild their lives and communities.

The epicenter of the 1989 Lorna Prieta earthquake occurred in the Santa Cruz Mountains 10 miles from my congressional district. It was 7.1 on the Richter scale and was the first major quake in northern California since 1906. Since that time, residents on the Central Coast have experienced many federally designated natural disasters including mudslides and flooding.

We Californians understand all too well that Federal disaster assistance has to be immediate and sustained. The \$10.5 billion in emergency funding approved on September 2 is the start of what must be a long-term Federal effort to assist the residents of the Gulf Coast communities to rebuild their lives and communities. There is no price tag on the emotional and spiritual healing for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, but it may be a small comfort to know that millions and millions of Americans are contributing in many ways to your future well-being and that you are not alone.

RECOGNIZING EDWIN BOMBLY

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of Mr. Edwin Jerome Bombly of Hernando, FL.

Born in Hamtramck, MI, Mr. Bombly moved to Hernando, FL in 1978. An Army Veteran and the owner of a local insurance company, Mr. Bombly was very involved in local philanthropic activities and social organizations.

Mr. Bombly was a member of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, a third degree member of the Knights of Columbus, chairman of

the Citrus County Right to Life, and had recently been elected president of the Florida Right to Life. In addition to participating in these organizations, Mr. Bombly was a devoted family man who enjoyed playing the saxophone.

Mr. Speaker, I know that his family, friends and loved ones miss his presence but are heartened to know that he has passed on to a better place.

RECOGNIZING MR. PATRICK WEST

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Patrick West for his 25 years of service to the people of Paramount, California.

Pat began his career with Paramount in 1980 at a time when the city was being called a "suburban disaster," and was ranked as one of the Nation's worst places to live. Pat was a leading part of a team of local citizens and city employees who made a commitment to turn Paramount around. And turn the city around they did.

For example, to help reduce the high crime and gang problem in Paramount, Pat and other city employees and community leaders developed the GRIP anti-gang youth program. GRIP is now nationally recognized as one of America's longest running and most successful programs at reaching children early in elementary school, steering them away from gang involvement and towards more positive activities.

Pat started work in the city's Recreation Department, where GRIP is located. During 1986–1994 he moved to the Community Development Department where he was responsible for planning, zoning, and housing efforts in the city. Then, in 1994, Pat became City Manager for Paramount. Pat's able hand at community development and city management can be seen today in the thriving business districts of Paramount, and the creative use of suburban revitalization methods, such as pocket parks. Those years in the 1980's and 1990's saw the dramatic transformation of Paramount from suburban disaster status to a model of positive suburban redevelopment, with a city that stands out today for the quality of its city management and the quality of public services that it provides its residents and businesses. Pat West has played a leading role in directing that transformation over two and a half decades.

Pat's roots and life have been spent in our region of Southern California. Born in Inglewood, raised in Huntington Beach, and educated at UC Irvine for a bachelor's degree, and Cal State Los Angeles and Cal State Dominguez Hills for masters' degrees, Pat is truly a local Southern Californian who has done well, and done well for his State and his greater community.

Pat is leaving Paramount after 25 years to take a promotional opportunity working for the larger city of Long Beach where he will head up that city's redevelopment agency and help another city in our region successfully meet the challenges it faces.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Pat West for his

many years of service to the people of Paramount, CA and in wishing him the very best in his work ahead for the people of Long Beach, CA.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA JOEL  
GRAMLING OF ZEPHYRHILLS,  
FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Corporal Joshua Joel Gramling of Zephyrhills, FL, a Marine Corps veteran of the war in Iraq. I am proud to join the entire Zephyrhills community, his friends and family, and his fellow soldiers to welcome Corporal Gramling back safely from Iraq.

Following his enlistment in the Marine Corps in 1998, Corporal Gramling served as a tank gunner for the first four years of his service. Following the completion of his four-year duty, Corporal Gramling decided to re-enlist in the Marine Corps. Activated before the end of the year, Corporal Gramling was deployed to Iraq in March, 2005 where he served in Regimental Combat Team 8.

During his time in the Marine Corps, Corporal Gramling has received two Good Conduct Medals, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the National Defense Medal.

Born into the military with both parents serving at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, Corporal Gramling comes from a long line of military veterans. A proud member of three generations of American military men and women, Corporal Gramling continues his family's tradition of service to America's Armed Forces. In fact, twelve members of his family have served in the Gulf War, the Vietnam War and in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, the entire Zephyrhills Community is proud to have a native son and proud soldier return home safely from active duty. True American heroes like Corporal Gramling should be honored for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifice in battle.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL HIGH  
SCHOOL NJROTC PROGRAM

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps unit of Central High School in Brooksville, FL for being recognized by the Navy as the 2005 Best Unit in the Navy's Area 7 and runner up as the 2005 Best Unit in the Nation. Both of these prestigious awards are sponsored by the Navy League of the United States.

Central High's NJROTC program is focused on the development of their cadets as model citizens as well as fostering the growth of tomorrow's leaders. In addition to their countless time spent drilling and reviewing on the pa-

rade grounds, the unit has amassed over 5,900 community service hours in a wide variety of community oriented activities. The unit has also pushed its cadets to achieve in the classroom, with several cadets participating in national academic contests, three cadets being awarded NROTC scholarships, and one cadet appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy.

In his application to the National NJROTC Awards Nominating Committee, the Area 7 manager stated that he had never seen a more inspiring event than the Evening Parade conducted by Central High's NJROTC Unit. Working as a team, the unit performed with a flawless precision that was of the same caliber as some of the finest honor guards in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Central High's Area 7 Best Unit award and their number two ranking in the nation, I would like to congratulate all the cadets participating in Central High's NJROTC program and their instructors for their dedication to the cadet program, for their service to the Brooksville community, and for their love of the United States of America. This unit will serve as an inspiration and an example for other NJROTC programs throughout Florida and throughout the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORTH HIGH  
SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, in North St. Paul, MN, this year marks 100 years of North High School, a pillar of the community since 1905. North High is one of three high schools serving the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, a district which educates nearly 12,000 students each year.

As illustrated by the school's vision statement and exemplified in the work of its faculty and staff, learning and citizenship come first at North High. Generations of students and their families have acquired knowledge, attained skills, and developed values that prepare them for lifelong learning and civic participation in our democratic society.

Learning and growth happen outside of the classroom at North High as well. Students are provided with many leadership opportunities, including participation in more than 25 clubs and organizations, such as National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and Teens Advocating Peace. In addition, North High offers more than 26 athletic team opportunities for both boys and girls to learn the values associated with teamwork and physical fitness.

Many families in Minnesota and in North St. Paul have shared memories and developed lifelong friends because of their North High experiences. My own family has strong connections to North High—both of my children are alumni of North High and I was a student teacher at North High while finishing my bachelor's degree at the College of St. Catherine.

We count on our Nation's schools to help create and support our communities, strengthen our neighborhoods, and educate and prepare our children and youth. North High is a

wonderful example of such a school. It is with great pride and appreciation for the role that students, faculty, staff, and alumni at North High play in North St. Paul and surrounding communities that I submit this statement for the official United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today our thoughts and prayers are with the thousands of citizens in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who have lost everything to Hurricane Katrina—their homes, their livelihoods, their families. Assisting people as they rebuild their lives after this unprecedented natural disaster is a moral responsibility of government. Like my colleagues, my top concern remains the search and rescue efforts underway on the ground in this affected region, and I am grateful for the heroic efforts of the relief workers who have joined in this effort.

I am encouraged that the battered Gulf Coast region will receive \$10.5 billion in emergency funding from Congress, funding that will aid critical evacuation and recovery efforts as well as allow this area to begin to recover.

However, the issue is less whether we have the money for this—we will—than whether it will be used efficiently. Despite early warnings regarding the damage a hurricane could cause to this region, it appears the President's budget underfunded countless flood control and prevention projects.

At the same time, there are serious questions regarding the administration's competence in responding to this tragedy. In particular, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's incoherent response in the days following this disaster has been, in a word, unacceptable. The American people, writing and calling our offices here in Congress, are demanding accountability from their government.

In the coming days, they will begin to get answers. But today, I want to urge the President to take responsibility and move the Federal Government to action. That must be our continuing goal.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this emergency funding is a necessary first step on what will surely be a long road to recovery, and I urge my colleagues to support it. In the coming days, I will be working with my colleagues to ensure that it is used expeditiously and appropriately. The American people and the victims of this unprecedented natural disaster deserve no less.

INTRODUCING THE RICE FARMERS FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the Rice Farmers Fairness Act. This

legislation conditions the continuation of farm subsidies in the state of Texas upon the maintenance of rice production. Federal law allows for the continuation of subsidies to landowners who discontinue tenant rice farming on their land. In essence, this means that the subsidy continues to flow in spite of an end to production.

This is a "something for nothing" subsidy of the worst kind! As a result of this provision, there is a very real threat to the agricultural infrastructure. With landowners receiving subsidies in spite of lack of production, the entire warehousing, processing and "value-added" industries are put at risk.

As grain elevators, processors and others see a reduction in demand for their services because of the diminution of production permitted by Federal law, they have a disincentive to continue to provide said services, services which must remain in place in order for those who remain in production to be able to bring to market the rice which they continue to produce. Thus, by way of the decimation of the infrastructure, this subsidy to non-producers comes at the expense of those who continue to produce rice. Therefore, the provisions of Federal law which provide this subsidy actually amount to another form of Federal welfare, taking from producers and giving to non-producers. These destructive government policies have particularly pernicious effect in Texas, where rice farming, and the related industries, are a major sector of the economy in many towns along the Texas coast.

My legislation is very simple and direct in dealing with this problem. It says that those who have tenant rice farmers producing rice in Texas must agree to continue to maintain rice in their crop rotation if they wish to receive subsidies. In this way, we can remove the perverse incentive, which the Federal Government has provided to landowners to exit the rice business and thereby put the entire rice infrastructure at risk.

America's rice farmers are the most efficient, effective producers of rice in the world, despite the many hurdles erected by Washington. The Rice Farmer Fairness Act helps remove one of these hurdles and this makes America's rice farmers even more efficient. In order to enhance our competitive position, we should also end our embargoes of other nations. Congress should eliminate the burdensome taxes and regulations imposed on America's farmers. I hope my colleagues will join me in removing these federally imposed burdens on rice farmers by supporting free trade, low taxes and regulations, and cosponsoring my Rice Farmer Fairness Act.

A CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO ARCHITECT FRANK GEHRY'S WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL ON THE OCCASION OF THE HALL'S INCLUSION IN THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE'S 2005 MASTERWORKS OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE SERIES

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate famed architect Frank

Gehry for having his building, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, included in the U.S. Postal Service's 2005 Masterworks of Modern Architecture series. The hall is one of 12 modern structures in the nation—and the only one on the West Coast—featured in the postal stamp collection now on sale at post offices throughout the country.

As part of this series, the Walt Disney Concert Hall is among a distinguished collection that includes the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, the Hancock Center tower in Chicago and the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

Located in my congressional district in downtown Los Angeles, the Walt Disney Concert Hall draws national attention to Los Angeles and serves as the centerpiece of downtown's successful revitalization that includes showcasing the area's diverse artistic and cultural offerings.

Occupying a full city block on the historic Bunker Hill, the concert hall serves most notably as the home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and its 3.6 acre site also includes California's smallest state park. Traveling at the intersection of First Street and Grand Avenue, passersby quickly take notice of Mr. Gehry's stunning design. The hall's bold eye-catching exterior is comprised of enormous curves made of stainless steel. Its expansive transparent doors and windows stretch along Grand Avenue and welcome the public to come inside. A futuristic-style external aerial walkway begins on Grand Avenue, and lifts visitors up and across the front of the venue, offering views of City Hall and beyond, and eventually winding around to the garden level on the other side of the building.

The interior of the hall is just as original. Acoustically designed by the world-renowned Yasuhisa Toyota, the hardwood-paneled main auditorium is lauded as state of the art. Even the seating arrangement is insightful. Theatergoers are seated on all sides of the orchestra and the absence of private boxes—common in most concert halls—adds a unique element to the experience.

The history of the origin of this national landmark is as inspirational as Mr. Gehry's creative genius. In 1987, Walt Disney's widow Lillian Disney gave a \$50 million gift to the community to build the concert hall as a way of paying tribute to her late husband's lifelong commitment to the arts.

Sixteen years later, when the building opened its doors in 2003, the completed Walt Disney Concert Hall stood as a proud collaboration of effort, talent and vision. There are many to thank for helping to make the Walt Disney Concert Hall a reality, including, but not limited to, the ironworkers who built the hall's exterior and the many financial sponsors who worked with The Music Center, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, the County of Los Angeles and the Disney family to obtain the funding needed to complete the project.

It is truly because of their devotion and hard work that so many visitors from all over the world have had the opportunity to enjoy Mr. Gehry's architectural masterpiece that stands today.

On behalf of all Angelenos, I congratulate Mr. Gehry for being recognized in this special way by the U.S. Postal Service and, above all, I thank him for giving Los Angeles a cultural and architectural jewel that will surely be enjoyed for generations to come.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations request before us today to provide \$10.5 billion in immediate aid to our fellow Americans who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. This \$10.5 billion in emergency funding will allow the Department of Defense and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue the Federal Government's efforts to help the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and other States impacted by the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

I am sure that the President will be requesting additional funds in the near future, and I am equally sure that the Congress will respond as quickly to approve the additional funds as they are needed. Anyone watching their televisions over the last week realizes that the effects of Katrina have been of biblical proportions. State and local officials have estimated the number of deaths from Katrina to be in the thousands, and property damage is estimated to be in yet unknown billions of dollars.

This is a national, natural disaster, and as such it deserves a swift and effective national response. We as a nation must come together to help our neighbors who have suffered such devastating losses.

It is the proper role of the Federal Government to provide that national response to such a national emergency. That is why I am pleased that the Congress has acted so swiftly to provide this immediate emergency funding of \$10.5 billion. And we as a nation, stand ready to provide additional aid to the people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I add my support to the swift passage of this down payment of \$10.5 billion for recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER COLLEGE OF NURSING

**HON. RAY LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend hearty congratulations to the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in Peoria, IL, as they celebrate 100 years of providing quality nursing education. This outstanding program was organized in 1905 as the Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Only 10 years later, the school was approved for a diploma nursing program by the State of Illinois.

As testament to their academic rigor and overall success, the School of Nursing has been accredited by the National League of

Nursing for 55 years. Additionally, in 1985, the School of Nursing established the baccalaureate in nursing degree program and became the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing. More recently, in 2001, the College of Nursing began offering a master of nursing degree as confirmation of their adherence to the highest standards of academic and clinical instruction.

The achievements of the College of Nursing are numerous and great, as evidenced by their attainment of the highest level of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association and National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, as well as the significant impact of more than 4,300 graduates on patients throughout the United States and the world.

I wish the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing all the best with their centennial celebration and thank them for their dedication to developing caring professionals through the finest nursing education.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, Congress had the opportunity and the charge to develop a comprehensive energy policy that would make America safer, decrease our dependency on foreign oil, and invest in the next generation of clean and renewable energy.

Unfortunately, H.R. 6 fails the current and future needs of our Nation miserably. As gas prices and oil industry profits rise, this bill rewards oil and gas companies with \$2.8 billion in tax breaks and provides \$1.4 billion in tax breaks for coal producers. These corporate giveaways only continue our addiction to Middle Eastern oil and enable our dependency on old and polluting technologies.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. needs to be a world leader in energy self-sufficiency through conservation, alternative energy sources, and responsible leadership from the White House and Congress. Regrettably, this bill fails on all those counts. It neglects to include a Renewable Portfolio Standard, which would have required large electric companies to obtain 10 percent of their power from clean renewable energy sources by 2020. This act, once again, fails to increase much-needed fuel efficiency standards of cars and trucks.

As if this bill was not already bad enough, a new provision appeared after the conference committee had adjourned, which steers \$1.5 billion to a private consortium located in the home district of Republican Majority Leader TOM DELAY. It provides that the consortium, of which Halliburton is a member, can keep up to 10 percent of the funds for administrative purposes. This is an outrage and a mockery of the democratic process.

America deserves a comprehensive energy policy that invests in the development of the next generation of fuel sources like fuel cells, hydrogen power and home grown Minnesota fuels like ethanol. I was pleased to see the measure tripling the amount of ethanol re-

quired in gasoline by 2012, but this bill could have done so much more to liberate our Nation from Saudi Arabian and Middle Eastern oil and move our Nation toward a sustainable and energy-independent future.

Mr. Speaker, this is an energy bill for 1950, not 2050. It would have been difficult to support this outmoded policy decades ago, and I certainly cannot vote for it today.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, of everything that can be said about this \$15 billion giveaway to the oil and gas industry—that it does nothing to alleviate the record high costs of oil, nothing to reduce our dependence on oil—the worst may be that it is a missed opportunity. And that is because it fails to harness America's entrepreneurial spirit to develop new sources of energy. It is a continuation of the status quo at a time when we need a new American energy policy—bold new thinking to foster energy independence and grow our Nation's economy in a way that addresses the threat of global warming.

But instead, this bill provides billions in tax breaks for oil companies already reaping record profits. It does little to encourage development of new forms of energy. And it restricts States' abilities to protect their own natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are rightly concerned about how our dependence on foreign oil affects our foreign policy. This bill does nothing to reduce that dependence. If anything, it enshrines that dependence into law. Today we import 58 percent of our oil, and by 2025 we will still import between 64 and 68 percent of our oil, even after enacting this legislation. Nor does it reduce skyrocketing gasoline prices—something even the president has conceded.

And that is because this bill rejects common sense ideas that could help us reduce our need for foreign oil. The conference committee rejected a measure that would have required America to decrease its oil consumption by 5 percent by 2015. At a time when Americans are fed-up with high gasoline prices, we should be looking for ways to reduce their need to fill-up at the pump. But the committee also rejected a modest proposal that would have increased the fuel efficiency of our cars by one mile per gallon per year for the next 15 years.

The final version of this bill also rejects a Senate proposal to require utilities to generate 10 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020. This provision would have helped us to significantly reduce our dependence on traditional polluting sources of electricity. Another missed opportunity.

As if the lack of new thinking in this bill weren't enough, it also declares war on States' rights when it comes to protecting their citizens. The bill would eviscerate the role of the States in the siting of LNG facilities and grant sole jurisdiction in such matters to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,

FERC. This provision flies in the face of the Coastal Zone Management Act. CZMA is a unique partnership between coastal States and the Federal Government that allows States to protect their own coastal resources. This is an especially important law for Connecticut, where the commerce that comes from the Long Island Sound fishing grounds, ports and recreational area makes it a \$5 billion economic asset. Because our State's economy depends on the Long Island Sound, we believe that the State has the obligation to protect it from possible environmental harm.

Rather than passing this legislation, we ought to be reducing our dependence on foreign oil by improving our energy efficiency and maximizing our domestic energy production in an environmentally sound way—by investing in cleaner, more secure energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and fuel cell technology. My State of Connecticut is a leader in fuel cell technology, with several businesses doing research that is on the cusp of revolutionizing the way our Nation powers its homes, cars and businesses. This bill should be investing in American small businesses like Proton Energy in Wallingford, Nxegen in Middletown and Danbury's Fuel Cell Energy—companies that already do over \$300 million worth of fuel cell business and move us closer to true energy independence.

Mr. Speaker, this bill proposes 20th century solutions for 21st century energy challenges. It neglects the realities of a changing world—that our dependence on foreign oil has real consequences for our foreign policy, that the warming of the planet will have a serious impact on the lives of all Americans. It ignores our entrepreneurial spirit and technological know-how to develop and harness new forms of energy. And it ignores the rights of States to look after the interests of their citizens.

America can do better—and deserves better—than this conference report. I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

#### INTRODUCING THE TEXAS EDUCATOR RETIREMENT EQUITY ACT

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Texas Educator Retirement Equity Act, which restores to widowed Texas public school teachers the means to receive the same spousal Social Security benefits as every other American. As I am sure my colleagues are aware, widowed public school employees in Texas, like public employees throughout the Nation, have their spousal Social Security benefits reduced if they receive a government pension. This "Government Pension Offset" affects Texas teachers who work in school districts that do not participate in Social Security and even applies if the teacher in question worked all the quarters necessary to qualify for full Social Security benefits either before or after working in the public school system!

Until last year, Texas schoolteachers could qualify for full widow benefits by working one day in a school that participates in Social Security. Unfortunately, last year Congress took that option away from Texas teachers.

One consequence of this action is that many teachers have taken early retirement while others have been discouraged from entering teaching. Thus, the victims of this action are not only Texas teachers, but also Texas school children who are denied access to quality teachers.

Passing the Texas Educator Retirement Equity Act is a good first step toward treating teachers fairly. Of course, I remain committed to working to pass H.R. 147, the Social Security Fairness Act that repeals both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision, another provision that denies public employees full Social Security benefits.

Congress should also be encouraging good people to enter the education profession by passing my Teacher Tax Cut Act (H.R. 402) that provides every teacher with a \$1,000 tax credit, as well as my Professional Educators Tax Relief Act (H.R. 405) that provides a \$1,000 tax credit to counselors, librarians, and all school personnel.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in enabling Texas teachers to obtain the Social Security benefits for which they would be eligible if they were not teachers by cosponsoring the Texas Educator Retirement Equity Act.

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the destruction of Hurricane Katrina and the massive flooding of the city of New Orleans and surrounding areas have created a national tragedy that is unprecedented in U.S. history. The resulting humanitarian crisis and the horror that has developed in the streets of New Orleans are both appalling and unacceptable. Our national response must be equal to the need of the victims, and although emergency responders and relief workers on the frontlines are working around the clock to do everything they can, immediate Federal efforts were inadequate.

However, despite this grave tragedy, I am confident that together we will overcome the challenges ahead to help our brothers and sisters of the city of New Orleans and the impacted Gulf region. For the victims and their families, know that your country grieves with you, and we stand with you in this time of need. Be assured that help is on the way.

President Bush has told the Nation that the government will commit all the necessary resources, and we in Congress are working hard to make sure Federal aid is delivered and victims are helped. In the last few days thousands of National Guard troops, including 475 Wisconsin soldiers, have been deployed to the Gulf States to provide assistance and security to the region. Today, Congress will pass what is likely a first installment of emergency aid for the ravaged areas.

The national community is rallying in other ways as many local communities and volunteers are organizing fundraising drives and

other relief projects. I have heard from many constituents who want to know how they can help and who are already assisting in local efforts. The people of western Wisconsin have consistently demonstrated their generosity in times of crisis and once again they are answering the call of compassion.

There is a lot of work to do in the days, weeks and months ahead, but we will not stop until we have found a safe haven for every citizen, provided the necessary medical care to the weak and ailing, and attended to the needs of all victims of this awful tragedy. May our hearts, thoughts, aid, and support continue to be with the victims and their loved ones over the Labor Day weekend and throughout the relief and reconstruction process.

#### RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF ALMA, KANSAS

### HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community of Alma, Kansas for the successful revitalization of the Alma Creamery.

Beginning in 1946, this town of 762 people was identified by the presence of the Alma Creamery, famous for producing delicious Alma Cheese. Bernie Hansen, a pioneer in the development of value-added foods, furthered this tradition when he purchased the company in 1986. Bernie developed the company and sold it more than a decade later. Unfortunately, the creamery then closed in 2000. This was a setback to the community of Alma. And for more than 3 years, the production plant lay dormant. However, during this time, Alvin Kahle and Jim Ferguson, two longtime employees, did something great. On their own initiative, they regularly cleaned up and maintained the plant with the hope that one day it would reopen.

Their hopes were fulfilled in October of 2003 when former owner Bernie Hansen purchased the plant at an auction. Bernie quickly rehired Alvin and Jim. He also asked Linda Craghead, who serves part-time as Wabaunsee County economic development director, to serve as general manager of the company. In addition, more than one million dollars was invested in equipment, facilities and personnel.

On April 28, 2004, the hopes of Bernie, Linda, Alvin, Jim and the entire community were realized. On that day, the first batch of hand-made Alma Cheese was produced in a completely remodeled plant. Since the plant reopened, this delicious product has been attracting more and more customers. The company's workforce has expanded from 5 to 15 employees in order to keep up with increasing demand.

According to Bernie Hansen, the company's growth is the result of an inspired team effort "The renewed success of Alma Creamery can be attributed to a hard working staff, a supportive community and a trusted brand name widely-recognized across the state of Kansas," Hansen said.

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success.

The revitalization of Alma Creamery is an example of how hard work, innovation, professional management and community support can create just such an opportunity.

Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Alma Creamery is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE TO  
HURRICANE KATRINA

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all West Virginians, our thoughts and prayers are with the countless many whose lives were disrupted by Hurricane Katrina. We extend our hope that families will be reunited, lives will continue to be saved and, in time, homes and towns will be rebuilt.

Once again, when it mattered most, West Virginians have risen to the occasion. Hurricane Katrina dealt us a big blow last week, and reaction to this disaster will probably be analyzed long after our people have recovered and our cities have been reconstructed. But it is with great certainty that I tell you no one will question the swift reaction of West Virginia, among the first states to roll up its sleeves and roll out its resources.

West Virginia has had its share of devastating floods in recent years and has learned how to rapidly organize its agencies following an emergency. Because of this, we were able to mobilize quickly in response to the calls of help from the governors.

Three West Virginia Air National Guard C-130 cargo planes flew in 200 evacuees from New Orleans late Saturday and early Sunday. Most of these evacuees are now housed at the Camp Dawson Army Training Site in Preston County. As of Monday morning, five C-130 Hercules cargo planes from West Virginia stand ready in Texas to bring back about 400 evacuees from the Houston Astrodome.

Six crews from our State's Air National Guard—four from the Charleston-based 130th Airlift Wing, which just two weeks ago was saved from the chopping block by the BRAC Commission, and two from the Martinsburg-based 167th Airlift Wing—have been sent to aid storm victims.

In addition to these ongoing National Guard efforts, our Secretary of Military Affairs and Public Safety Jim Spears, the National Guard and the State Police continue to work directly with the homeland security officials in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi on formulating an action plan to assist victims who have lost their homes and are in desperate need of a place to stay.

Our citizens, too, have wasted no time in pitching in. They never do.

Marshall University has waived all application and late fees for students displaced by Hurricane Katrina who wish to take classes during the fall semester.

Marshall students, faculty and staff have begun making plans for a relief effort for victims of Katrina. Thunder Relief 2005 will be a joint effort in response to the devastation from

the disaster in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. All donations raised from the effort will go to the American Red Cross. And at the medical school, Dr. Robert B. Walker is serving as a liaison officer for any medical personnel in hurricane-stricken areas who need to get Marshall's assistance in transferring patients or providing medical or other required public health resources.

In my hometown of Beckley, West Virginia, the Beckley Christian Ministerial Alliance, spearheaded by the Rev. David F. Allen, is collecting donations from area congregations through the month of September, with a presentation of the donations to the Red Cross scheduled for September 30.

There are other countless community and individual efforts going on across our state: Fish fries, barbecues and spaghetti dinners in small towns, bucket brigades at spotlights, donations from widows on fixed budgets, from children with piggy-banks full of carefully saved pennies. A drop in the bucket might only be a drop, but when it's all added up, our residents are giving a little hope to those who need it the most.

As a West Virginian, I am proud of the way both our State leaders and residents have responded to this disaster. Like any good neighbor, they opened their doors and their hearts to those in need. Our friends to the South can count on West Virginia.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR DAN ALBERT

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, there is a rumor in Monterey, California, that when the Portola expedition arrived there in June, 1770, Mayor Dan Albert was there to welcome them to the City. Mayor Albert has served the people of Monterey for so long that we forget that there was a time when he was not part of local government. He and his wife Joanne are also dear friends to me and my wife Shary. So I rise today to honor not only a public servant of the highest caliber, but also a friend of many years.

Dan Albert is serving his tenth two-year term as Mayor of Monterey. He has held the position of Mayor longer than anyone in Monterey's 225 year history. Mayor Albert was elected to the City Council in 1979 and elected Mayor in 1986. Prior to that time, he served on the City of Monterey Parks and Recreation Commission for several years. He is a former member and Chair of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), the one local position that he and I have both held.

But length of service is not everything, as my colleagues know. The value to a community comes through what it continues to receive from its longstanding public officials. By that measure, Dan Albert is worth his weight in gold. When first elected to the City Council, Monterey was in the economic doldrums. The fishing industry had disappeared, the tourism industry was weak and the military economic activity was being continually threatened. What a difference 25 years of real leadership makes. The BRAC Commission just reaffirmed the indispensable role that Monterey plays in

supporting the Defense Language Institute and Naval Postgraduate School. Monterey is the center of a thriving regional tourism economy. Its convention center, Window on the Bay Park, Aquarium, and coastal recreation trail all draw and enrich visitors from at home and abroad. And the City of Monterey is a national model for the participation of its citizens in neighborhood preservation and enhancement. All of these trends, and many others, have Dan Albert's quiet leadership at their center. It is a legacy that has made a permanent mark on Monterey.

Mayor Albert retired after 37 years from his position as teacher at Monterey High School. During his time at Monterey High he coached the Monterey High varsity football team for 23 years. Mayor Albert and his wife, Joanne, are lifetime residents of the city and both attended Monterey High School. They have four grown children and ten grandchildren.

Finally, I want to mention something that is not often said of politicians. Danny Albert is polite. He is always gracious; always friendly. He treats all those around him with dignity, respect and a charming humor. Which is not to say that he doesn't fight hard for his city. As a former football coach, he knows how to block, tackle, and score touchdowns for Monterey. But he does so with a style that preserves the conversation and promotes mutual respect and civility.

TRIBUTE TO A LEADER, GEN.  
JOHN W. HANDY, COMMANDER,  
U.S. TRANSPORTATION COM-  
MAND AND AIR MOBILITY COM-  
MAND

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege today to pay tribute to a leader and warrior, GEN John W. Handy, Commander, United States Transportation Command, USTRANSCOM, and Commander, Air Mobility Command, AMC. General Handy is retiring after honorably serving this great Nation for over 38 years. It has been a distinguished career.

General Handy was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force in 1967 and received his pilot wings in 1968. He has accumulated over 5,000 hours piloting just about every mobility aircraft in the U.S. Air Force, to include the C-7A Caribou, the C-130 Hercules, the C-141 Starlifter, the C-37 Gulfstream V, the C-9 Nightingale, the KC-10 Extender, and the Nation's newest mobility airlifter, the C-17 Globemaster III. His hands-on performance, sound judgment, and expertise made him an exceptional Air Force leader.

General Handy commanded the 21st Air Force at McGuire Air Force Base. He created and commanded AMC's Tanker Airlift Control Center. He also commanded two airlift wings and a maintenance squadron. He previously served as the Director of Operations and Logistics for USTRANSCOM; the Air Force's Director of Programs and Evaluations; the Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, DC; and Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, DC. It is clear and widely

accepted that General Handy is the pre-eminent mobility and logistics expert in the Department of Defense.

In November 2001 General Handy assumed command of US TRANS COM at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. USTRANSCOM is one of nine unified combatant commands and executes mobility combat operations through its three component commands: The Air Force's IAMC, the Navy's Military Sealift Command, MSC, and the Army's Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, SDDC. General Handy has had the unique distinction of simultaneously commanding both USTRANSCOM and its air component command, AMC. USTRANSCOM provides the synchronized transportation, distribution, and sustainment which projects and maintains our national power. As a global combatant commander, General Handy has made supporting the American warfighter his top priority.

Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, USTRANSCOM, under General Handy's leadership, has moved over 2.4 million passengers, 6.4 million short tons of cargo, and 2.8 billion gallons of fuel in support of the Global War on Terrorism, including Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. To put this in perspective, the passenger movement is equivalent to moving the entire population of Kansas while the cargo movement is equivalent to moving over 70 Washington Monuments halfway around the world. General Handy, an avid NASCAR racing fan, is fond of stating the amount of fuel moved could run the Nextel Cup Series for the next 19,473 years.

America truly has a military deployment and distribution system that is unmatched anywhere in the world. America's military might moves with USTRANSCOM, but so too does its heart. As quick as we are to defend this great nation, Americans are just as quick to assist those in need; and when we do, we turn to the remarkable capabilities of USTRANSCOM. Under General Handy's command, USTRANSCOM has provided humanitarian relief to hurricane victims in the United States, earthquake victims in Iran, and tsunami victims in South Asia, just to name a few. The medicines, supplies, equipment, and personnel that USTRANSCOM delivered to these and other natural disasters ultimately saved lives and eased human suffering.

In addition to conducting the largest military movement since World War II and providing unparalleled humanitarian relief, General Handy has made it a priority to transform our Nation's deployment and distribution system, ensuring our ability to project national power where needed with the greatest speed and agility, the highest efficiency, and the most reliable level of trust and accuracy. As the USTRANSCOM commander, General Handy actively took on the role of the Distribution Process Owner for DOD, charged with improving efficiency and interoperability across the entire DOD supply chain. His initiative to develop Joint Deployment and Distribution Operations Centers, JDDOCs, in each of the regional combatant commands continues to improve combat capability and save valuable resources. Regional Combatant Commanders can now plug into the DOD supply chain system, track their requirements, and prioritize their actions. The net result is that troops and equipment are now arriving to the battlefield faster and at less cost. While meeting the

needs of the warfighter, General Handy's Distribution Process Owner improvements have generated almost one-half billion dollars in cost avoidances and savings in the global war on terror.

General Handy will be the first to tell you he did not accomplish these feats alone. General Handy has led the way in seeking collaborative joint solutions to today's complex combat issues. Those who worked for him and with him, military and civilians from every branch of Service, will miss his leadership and mentorship. They'll miss the stories and humor he used to get his message across. We in Congress will miss his straightforward approach and sound counsel. The nation will miss his devotion to duty, ceaseless drive for improvement, and unwavering support to the American warfighter.

General Handy will be remembered as the man who brilliantly led our Nation's mobility forces during the Global War on Terrorism. I know we speak on behalf of our colleagues and a grateful nation in saying thank you to General Handy and his wife, Mickey, for their years of service and sacrifice. General Handy, we wish you well in all your future endeavors and pray that those who follow in your footsteps may continue the legacy of unprecedented support to our great Nation. Good luck and Godspeed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2361,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference agreement on the Department of Interior Appropriations, H.R. 2361, because it addresses urgent needs within our veterans' health care system. Last month, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a \$1.3 billion shortfall in funding for veterans' medical care, and it is estimated that in FY 2006 this shortfall could grow. This is unacceptable. With thousands of new veterans entering our health care system every year—including those that have fought in Iraq, Afghanistan and the global war on terrorism—we must provide the resources they need and deserve, as well as continuing to provide for those who came before them. This bill provides \$1.5 billion in emergency funding in FY 2005 for veterans health care and keeps our promise to those who have so honorably served our nation.

This bill also provides a \$5 million increase for the National Endowment for the Arts. I support this investment in our artistic resources. It enhances the richness of Minnesota and our nation's cultural legacy and allows participation in the arts by many who would not otherwise have the opportunity.

Regrettably, this bill falls short on supporting the federal programs that conserve our environment and protect the public's health. This bill cuts funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund by 17 percent. This fund allows states to allocate funds for local water

and sewage treatment projects. St. Paul Regional Water Services recently applied for Clean Water funds for a water filtration project and were denied because there wasn't enough funding.

Funding for the National Park Service is also cut by three percent. These dollars are used to protect our national treasures like Voyageurs, Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks. The maintenance backlog at our National Parks has increased from \$4.9 billion in 2000, when President Bush pledged to eliminate the backlog, to \$7.1 billion today. We should give the Park Service the resources to maintain these national treasures instead of slipping farther and farther behind in unmet maintenance needs.

I am pleased to support our nation's honored veterans. Unfortunately, while this bill could have done so much more to keep our families and communities strong and healthy and protect our nation's cherished natural resources for generations to come, this Congress failed to make the environment and public health a priority.

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the goals and ideals of National Health Center Week. I also wish to recognize the Will County Community Health Center which is one of Illinois' largest and most comprehensive public health agencies. The Will County Community Health Center has served Will County in my 11th Congressional District since 1942 and became a Federally Qualified Health Center in 1997. They annually care for more than 48,000 medically underserved county residents.

On July 25, 2005, House Resolution 289, of which I am co-sponsor, passed the U.S. House of Representatives. House Resolution 289 reads as follows:

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers are non-profit, community owned and operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 such health centers servicing more than 15,000,000 people in over 3,600 communities;

Whereas such health centers have provided cost-effective, high quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system;

Whereas these health centers provide care to 1 of every 7 uninsured individuals, 1 of every 9 Medicaid beneficiaries, 1 of every 7 people of color, and 1 of every 9 rural Americans, all of whom would otherwise lack access to health care;

Whereas these health centers are engaged with other innovative programs in primary and preventive care to reach out to over 621,000 homeless persons and more than 709,000 farm workers;

Whereas these health centers make health care responsive and cost-effective by integrating the delivery of primary care mammograms, and glaucoma screenings;

Whereas in communities served by these health centers, infant mortality rates have been reduced over the past 4 years even as infant mortality rates across the country have risen;

Whereas these health centers are built by community initiative, and run by the patients they serve;

Whereas Federal grants provide seed money empowering communities to find partners and resources to recruit doctors and needed health professionals;

Whereas Federal grants on average contribute 25 % of such a health center's budget, with the remainder provided by State and local governments, Medicare, Medicaid, private contributions, private insurance, and patient fees;

Whereas there are more than 100 health centers that receive no Federal grant funding, yet continue to serve their communities regardless of their patients' ability to pay;

Whereas health centers tailor their services to fit the special needs and priorities of their communities, working together with schools, businesses, churches, community organizations, foundations, and State and local governments;

Whereas health centers contribute to the health and well-being of their communities by keeping children healthy and in school and helping adults remain productive and on the job;

Whereas health centers encourage citizen participation and provide jobs for nearly 100,000 community residents; and

Whereas National Health Center Week raises awareness of the health services provided by health centers: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Health Center Week; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize Health Departments in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's families and communities.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 21, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives considered numerous amendments to H.R. 3199, a bill to reauthorize the Patriot Act. While I did vote on a number of these amendments earlier in the day and week, I had to depart D.C. on the afternoon of July 21, 2005, and travel to New Orleans to attend and testify before a Base Realignment and Closure meeting. I was granted an official leave of absence by unanimous consent on July 22, 2005 (see 151 Cong. Rec. H6376-01). I was absent during consideration of the following votes. If present, I would have voted the following:

1. Rollcall vote No. 409 (Berman Amendment)—No.

2. Rollcall vote No. 410 (Schiff Amendment)—Yes.

3. Rollcall vote No. 411 (Hart Amendment)—Yes.

4. Rollcall vote No. 412 (Jackson-Lee Amendment)—No.

5. Rollcall vote No. 413 (Boucher Amendment)—No.

6. Rollcall vote No. 414 (Final Passage)—Yes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 6, 2005*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives considered the following pieces of legislation: (1) H. Res. 360—Commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific; and (2) S.J. Res. 19—A joint resolution calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Unfortunately, I was absent and unable to vote for these two pieces of legislation, as I was attending to and assisting my constituents and their needs in the Third Congressional District of Mississippi after the devastating destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina on Monday, August 29, 2005. I have requested an official leave of absence for this time. If present, I would have voted "aye" for both resolutions.