

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAM USHER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cam Usher, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career of promoting tourism in Las Vegas.

Cam Usher has been working for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority in a multitude of capacities for the past 25 years. Since 2004, Cam has directed sales and marketing for the authority's international offices in Austria, England, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, and South Korea. Since her career began with the authority in 1980, she has run everything from convention and special event sales to the authority's research department and the Las Vegas News Bureau. Most recently, Cam has actively recruited new international air service in conjunction with McCarren International Airport; her efforts have made it easier for travelers to come here to visit from diverse locations. During her tenure, she received a number of accolades, such as being named to the Travel Agent Magazine's "Most Powerful Women in Travel" list 3 years in a row. Cam's professional successes should not over shadow her philanthropic endeavors; her generosity is profoundly evident in everything she does, whether it is introducing friends to potential clients or creating job opportunities of local youth.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Cam Usher for her illustrious career and contributions to the development of the international tourism industry in Las Vegas. I wish her the best in her retirement.

HEALTH CENTERS RENEWAL
AMENDMENTS OF 2006

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, in introducing the Health Centers Renewal Amendments of 2006. This important legislation will re-authorize the Health Center program through fiscal year 2011 and enable us to build on the tremendous successes that the health centers have already achieved.

With 46 million Americans currently living without health insurance, health centers have become a critical feature of our country's safety net. Of the more than 14 million Americans served by health centers, 75 percent are either uninsured or Medicaid beneficiaries. In fact, more than 90 percent of health center clients have incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Without health centers to provide quality primary and preventive care,

these folks would most likely forgo health care and end up in our hospital emergency rooms.

Health centers are not free clinics. While health centers do not turn away patients due to an inability to pay, every patient pays something based on a sliding scale. This policy improves both financial and health outcomes, ensuring that patients are invested in their health care and follow the doctor's orders.

Another critical feature of the health center program is the community board. For approval and funding as a federally-qualified health center, a center must have put in place a board of directors whose membership is at least 51 percent comprised of health center patients. While communities may initially view this aspect of the health center program as a significant hurdle, this requirement ensures that community health centers are just that—grounded in the community. With a community board governing the health center, patients are assured that all health center policies have been developed with the needs of patients in mind. It is the complementary nature of these requirements that has helped the health center program become so effective and enjoy unprecedented bi-partisan support, from both the Congress and the Bush Administration.

Despite the accomplishments to date of the health center program, much more work needs to be done. While the number of health centers has increased by 58 percent since 1997, the number of health center patients has increased by 90 percent over the same period. There is still tremendous need and, unfortunately, the ranks of the uninsured are only growing.

In the Houston area, we now have nine federally-qualified health centers, an increase from the four centers we had in our area just one year ago. While we have celebrated that achievement, our state of Texas still has the largest percentage of uninsured individuals in the country, and many more health centers are needed in our state to meet our growing need for quality health care that is affordable. This legislation will help us address that need by ensuring the continued authorization of this important program that has improved the health of millions of our constituents.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my friend, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for all of his work over the years on behalf of our health centers. He is a tireless champion of this program, and I look forward to working with him to make sure that the reauthorization of this program is just one of the many health care accomplishments that will be part of his legacy in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE BARON DE KALB
COUNCIL NO. 1073 OF THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the

Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 of the Knights of Columbus and to offer my thanks for the continual dedication it has shown to the southern Brooklyn communities it serves. The Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 was founded in 1906 by Ambrose P. Rikeman, who became their first Grand Knight. It was founded on the principals of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, principals that have been ingrained in the hearts and minds of its members ever since. The Council is named for Baron Johann De Kalb, a courageous and loyal military leader whose spirit continues to live on in the leaders of this great Council.

The Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 has risen from its humble beginnings, when a small band of men met in Grand Knight Rikeman's house, to its present day thousands strong membership that meets at the "Baron-By-The-Sea", a property purchased by the Council in scenic Sheepshead Bay in 1949. In 1969 members were devastated to learn that a fire had destroyed their "Baron-By-The-Sea", but no fire could destroy the members commitment, dedication and desire to reach ever greater achievements for their beloved Council. In 1973 Grand Knight Gus Rogers proudly led his members into the newly built "Baron-By-the-Sea", the structure on Nostrand and Emmons Avenues that continues to provide invaluable services to its members and our southern Brooklyn community to this day.

Therefore, on Behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate the Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 of the Knights of Columbus and all of its past and present members for 100 years of dedication and service to our community.

HONORING PETER LOJACONO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, April 30, the Federation of Italian-American Societies of Western New York will hold its annual celebration. Following Sunday Mass at historic St. Anthony of Padua Church in the shadow of Buffalo City Hall, celebrants will gather at Buffalo's Adam's Mark Hotel to mark this celebration.

At this event, a truly unique person will be honored with the Association's God, Family and Country award. That person is Peter LoJacono, and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to rise to honor Peter today.

Peter LoJacono is a lifelong resident of Western New York, having been graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute and, later, from my own alma mater, Buffalo State College. Peter has taught Italian and Spanish at Hutchison Technical High School in the Buffalo Public School system for 18 years, where he has demonstrated a commitment to his students that is second to none.

• 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.

As many people know, Mr. Speaker, Buffalo is an area rich in cultural diversity, and Buffalo's Italian American community is a critical component of that diverse tapestry. Peter's leadership within our community is strong, serving on the Board of Directors of the Italian Heritage Festival of Buffalo, where literally tens of thousands of Western New Yorkers enjoy all things Italian along Hertel Avenue in Buffalo each summer. A longtime member of the Romulus Club and the Knights of Columbus, Peter also serves as president of the Buffalo-Torremaggiore Sister Cities Association, encouraging the continuation of shared cultural exchange between Buffalo and its sister Italian city. Peter is a faithful communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Buffalo, where he performs in the choir and is a leader within the parish.

While Peter's commitment to his community and to his faith is clear; most notable, however, and almost certainly his most significant point of pride, is his family. Peter's wife Francine and children Sarina and Marco are his clear pride and joy, and their life remains full of the richness and wonder that any couple with a young family could hope to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, America is a wonderful country where immigrant people who came before us populated communities like Buffalo and Western New York, hoping for a better life than the one they left behind. My people, coming from Ireland, did it, and Peter LoJacono's people did it when they came from Italy. People like Peter realize the sacrifice that his forebears made so that he could live the vaunted American Dream, and his contribution to the community he lives in can never be overstated. On behalf of the entire membership of the House of Representatives, I want to thank Peter LoJacono for his ongoing contributions to our community, and I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to honor Peter here.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM
H. BAILEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William H. Bailey for his outstanding career in music and business, but more importantly for his contributions to the Civil Rights movement. On May 2nd of this year Dr. Bailey will be recognized at the formal dedication of William H. Bailey Middle School, which is named in his honor.

Dr. Bailey was born Feb. 14, 1927, in Detroit, where his father worked in an auto factory. When his father lost his job during the Depression, the family moved to Cleveland, where Dr. Bailey grew up and learned to sing in church choirs. He finished high school at 16, and his musical talent combined with his high grades won him a voice scholarship to Morehouse University in Atlanta. While working his way through college by performing in local night clubs, Benny Goodman and John Hammond recruited him to sing with Count Basie. He then toured the "Chitlin' Circuit," performing in black communities of big cities. He had three hit records: "Danny Boy," "The Worst Blues I Ever Had," and "Blue and Sentimental."

In 1950, Basie broke up his big band and Dr. Bailey became a student at the School of Radio and Television in New York City, receiving a scholarship from American Broadcasting Company. After he wasn't hired as on-air talent he tried for technical jobs, also without luck. Then, he heard about the Moulin Rouge in Las Vegas. Although Las Vegas was highly segregated, the Moulin Rouge Casino and Hotel was open to all. Dr. Bailey co-produced a show with black entertainers that became a hit, drawing a hip, interracial crowd. But when he started this job, he had to use the service entrance to reach the TV studio. He complained and the management decided to change their racist policy. Following his news casting career, Dr. Bailey developed a reputation for starting new ventures.

In 1957, he joined KTNV—Channel 13, where he hosted a variety show, and developed Las Vegas' first dance program for teens. In 1961 he also hosted current events talk shows. From 1965 to 1971 Dr. Bailey began working as a newscaster. In 1958, Dr. Bailey began working for gubernatorial candidate Grant Sawyer. The Legislature of 1961 established a commission to find out whether discrimination existed. Gov. Sawyer realized a great asset that he had and appointed Dr. Bailey as Chairman of the new commission. In this position he set up a dealers' school using loaned gambling tables and space from Al Benedict, a Stardust executive. At Dr. Bailey's suggestion, Benedict recruited managers from other casinos as teachers. Bailey also set up training programs in radio and television jobs, and other fields. More than 1,000 jobs were opened to minorities in 2 years because of his efforts.

In 1964 Dr. Bailey opened a club at Miller and Lexington avenues in West Las Vegas, named "Sugar Hill." In 1965, Bailey bought the riot-damaged West Owens Shopping Center and converted it to the Pan-Afro Auditorium, which featured great bands, including Sonny Charles and Ray Charles. Bailey also established the Nevada Economic Development Co., which helped minority businesses get \$300 million in government grants over 19 years. This success led to a job in Washington as Associate Director of the Minority Business Development Agency. Later, President Bush made him Deputy Director, overseeing MBDA's \$66 million budget.

Proud as he is of the civil rights laws he helped pass, Dr. Bailey believes that today, learning the ropes of business, professions, and technology will do the most to improve the lives of minorities. He believes that "education is the light that blinds ignorance" and is a strong advocate for parent participation in schools, a curriculum that includes fine arts, and preparing all students for college.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. William H. Bailey on the floor of the House. I commend him for his contributions to this country and thank him for his continued service to young students in southern Nevada.

A TRIBUTE TO RUSNAK
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rusnak Automotive Group in cele-

brating 40 years as a premiere automotive dealer in Southern California. Paul Rusnak opened his first location in 1959 because he saw the beginning of a fascination with European sports cars.

Over the years, his business grew to include more than 25 different automotive brands, both domestic and European. From Culver City to Pasadena, Rusnak Automotive Group has centered its market in convenient locations for our community members.

A short distance from Art Center College of Design, where many automotive designers are inspired, is the intersection of Orange Grove and Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California. This location is where Rusnak showcases cars such as Jaguar, Porsche, Audi, Rolls-Royce, and Bentley in historic buildings that have served as automotive dealerships since the turn of the century. The famous Walter M. Murphy Motors and Murphy Co. Coachworks of Duisenberg fame was housed where Rusnak now displays Porsches. Also, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics has designated the Rolls-Royce dealership as one of the nation's historic aerospace sites—it was the first plant for Aerojet Engineering Corporation, which was the site of the invention of rocket fuel.

The largest automotive mall in the world houses Rusnak/Westlake and BMW, Porsche, and Audi dealerships. Rusnak Automotive Group has received many awards over the years including the first J.D. Powers "Customer Approved Retailer." But—the best awards have come from the many repeat customers who have made Rusnak the number one volume Audi dealer in the Western United States and the fastest growing Mercedes-Benz dealer in Southern California. Looking to the future, Rusnak now has a new BMW dealership on the 101 Freeway in Thousand Oaks, California.

Mr. Paul Rusnak, his daughter, Liz Rusnak Arizmendi, Vice President Public Relations, and Rusnak Automotive Group are generous supporters of many local charitable organizations, including Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Make a Wish of Greater Los Angeles, the Pasadena POPS Orchestra, the AIDS Service Center of Los Angeles, Hillside, Methodist Hospital Foundation, the American Red Cross and the Ronald McDonald House of Pasadena.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the contributions of Rusnak Automotive Group. I ask all members to join me in congratulating Paul Rusnak and his staff for celebrating 40 years of contributions to the community and automotive industry.

IN TRIBUTE TO KIRBY GODSEY

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. R. Kirby Godsey, of Macon, Georgia, who is retiring after a long, successful tenure as President of Mercer University. I rise to thank Dr. Godsey for his extraordinary wisdom, leadership and grace that blessed not only Mercer University and Middle Georgia, but me as well.

Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1979, Kirby Godsey became the 17th president of Mercer University. For almost 27 years, Kirby guided Mercer

as it grew in prestige and national recognition. U.S. News & World Report has ranked Mercer as one of the leading institutions in the South for 14 consecutive years. The Princeton Review named Mercer among "The Best in North America," and USA Today ranked Mercer among the Top 10 in three categories for its National Academic Achievement Awards for student-athletes.

Mr. Speaker, Kirby Godsey's strong, perceptive, caring, steady and engaging leadership has been critical to Mercer's success. Without him and his commitment to Mercer, I believe Mercer would not be the University it is today. But Mr. Speaker, Kirby Godsey's beneficial influence did not end at Mercer's borders. He has been a remarkable force for progress in Macon and Middle Georgia. The lives and projects he touched for the better would be too numerous to mention even if I were capable of cataloging them all. Let just a few examples suffice. Under Kirby's leadership, Mercer partnered with the City of Macon and others to successfully revitalize and transform the neighborhoods surrounding Mercer's campus. Indeed, Kirby Godsey's Mercer became a major force for rejuvenating Macon's central business district. And Mercer's School of Medicine and its School of Engineering were no more than dreams before Kirby Godsey's tenure. Now Mercer-trained physicians provide care in underserved rural areas while Mercer engineers serve our nation at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD forever include this brief acknowledgement of the accomplishments of Kirby Godsey as President of Mercer University. He will continue to bless those around him with his uncanny wisdom and grace. Few leave such enduringly positive legacies.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONALD ROBB

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald L. Robb, Jr. retired United States Air Force Major, who passed away on January 11, 2006 in Boulder City, Nevada.

Donald was born in Ohio and grew up in Ohio and Florida. After a few years of college, He enlisted in the Air Force after he felt the call of duty for his country. During his time in the military, Donald was stationed at bases in South Carolina, Japan, California, South Korea and Nevada. As Director of Administration for Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, he supervised over 100 personnel. He was the first such director to receive a "1" rating from the Inspector General team. For a total of twenty years Donald served his country as a navigator and an administration officer. He received many awards for his dedicated and outstanding military service, including; the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Combat Ready Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Vietnam Service Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, the Republic Vietnam

Campaign Medal and Republic Vietnam Gallant Cross.

Donald is survived by his children, Donald L. Robb, III, David A. Robb, Daniel L. Robb and Diana L. Robb, and his wife, Marcia Robb.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. WILLIAM B. WELLING

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an extraordinary individual who spent his life serving his country and fellow man. On April 15, 2006, Mr. William B. Welling passed away at the age of 82. A man of great sincerity, integrity, humility, courtesy, wisdom and charity, Mr. Welling was a trusted friend and mentor to many and will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

A man of many hats, Bill was a historian, photographer, editor, writer, author and WWII Veteran. His love of knowledge coupled with his strong work ethic helped him to find success in all of his endeavors.

After honorably serving his country in WWII, Bill returned to the U.S. and earned a degree from Yale University. Upon graduating, he put his many talents to work. His extensive career included serving as a reporter/aviation editor for the Baltimore Evening Sun, account executive for a New York advertising agency, and chief of technical publicity for the Baltimore Division of the Martin Company. He also edited a quarterly for the North American employees of the Danish owned Maersk line and regularly contributed articles to trade and professional media.

Aside from his business career, Bill was recognized as a photo historian both in the U.S. and overseas. For five years he edited Photographica for the American Photographic Historical Society. This followed the publication of his Collector's Guide to Nineteenth Century Photographs, which was the first book for the photography collecting market published in the U.S. He is also the author of Photography in America, The Formative Years 1839-1900 and East Side Story which was privately published on behalf of the Boys Brotherhood Republic of New York.

His strong belief that he had an obligation to help the youth of his community drove Bill to spend many years working with the Boys Brotherhood Republic, a youth recreation center on the Lower East Side. The organization teaches inner city youth the principles of self government and the value of education as a means to transcend the perils of negative youth activity. The 6 to 18 year old citizens of the Boys Brotherhood Republic (BBR) elect their own mayor and city council, and administer their own police and court systems. Under Bill's guidance these young men became adults, learning how to solve everyday problems as responsible committed citizens.

Mr. Speaker, Bill's greatest assets in life were his intellect and sense of humor. His exceptional ability to pass on knowledge with constant wit and charm always made him the "life of the party", leaving all whom he encountered feeling not only joyful but more intelligent as well.

There is an old saying: "If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it." The book on the life William B. Welling was completed on April 15, 2006. He can no longer offer advice, make us laugh, or personally pass on his vast wisdom to younger generations; however, his indomitable spirit lives on through the countless candles he helped others to light. Surely that is the mark of a meaningful life.

For unyielding service to his country, family, friends and community and for being an inspiration to us all, I ask my colleagues to join me in bidding a final farewell to a great American, Mr. William B. Welling.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 5020

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I opposed the Renzi amendment because, while we all oppose leaks in our intelligence community, we have learned more about the illegal wiretapping program, the use of torture and extraordinary rendition, and the situation in Iraq from leaks to media outlets than we have from the administration. While we should do our best to prevent intelligence leaks, we must also ensure that we aren't being complicit in the cover-up of illegal activities or the manipulation of intelligence.

I also voted against final passage of the Intelligence Authorization bill because, while it is a fine bill, it represents a missed opportunity. Democrats have tried to address the series of intelligence scandals, yet were prevented from doing so by continued abuses of the legislative process by the Republican majority.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. I join the Jewish people in the State of Israel, the United States, and across the globe in remembering and honoring the 6 million Jews who were brutally murdered by the Nazi regime during the Holocaust.

April 25, 2006 is a day for all people to reflect upon that most horrific period of history. The Holocaust demonstrated that even a supposedly cultured society could tolerate the most senseless atrocities. We must keep in mind that the Nazi genocide against the Jews was not perpetrated solely by a lone crazed individual. It was the carefully considered plan, years in the works, of a group of genocidal fanatics, which won the support of an entire nation. The Holocaust reflected the worst potential inherent in human nature for hatred of an entire religion simply for existing.

I am privileged to represent diverse cultures in Brooklyn. In my district lives a large but dwindling population of Holocaust survivors. Many of these survivors rebuilt their lives with nothing more than the shirt on their back. Today, based on the strong foundations of

those Holocaust survivors, sits the beautiful Jewish communities in my district, including Williamsburg, Midwood and Canarsie. These communities represent the best of Jewish life and have successfully resurrected the Jewish community's wonderful religious heritage from the ashes of the Holocaust. Their synagogues, yeshivas, kollels, and social service organizations, which serve all people of all backgrounds, would make their ancestors proud.

On this day, we celebrate their remarkable achievements in bringing up a generation of Jews who have learned from their parents' resoluteness the importance of preserving as much of their tradition as they possibly can. We acknowledge their commitment in the face of unspeakable adversity and their sacrifices so that another generation might carry on their values.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of organizations in my district that have taken extraordinary steps in servicing and caring for the Holocaust survivor population: The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty; The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg; The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush; The Jewish Community Council of Canarsie; The Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; Peasch Tikvah and all the Bikkur Cholim organizations. Their selfless work for Holocaust survivors continues to serve as an inspiration to me and it is a great honor to recognize their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here today in remembering the Holocaust. Regrettably, there are still Holocaust deniers today and it is imperative that we never forget and continue to learn from this unforgettable chapter of history.

YOM HASHOAH

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day.

On this day of remembrance, we mourn—as a community, as a nation, and as a world—the 6 million Jews who lost their lives during one of the darkest periods of our history. We pray that those still pained and anguished by the unimaginable suffering may find peace and comfort. And we reflect on what can happen when the world fails to confront evil, hatred, and bigotry.

Yom Hashoah is also a time to remember the individual acts of martyrdom and heroism committed during the Holocaust. We recall those brave Jewish martyrs in the Warsaw ghetto armed only with pistols and Molotov cocktails who repulsed the sophisticated weaponry of the Nazis for one month. We recall those righteous gentiles who risked their lives to shelter and protect Jews. And, we recall those who were forced to leave their homeland in search of new lives in unfamiliar lands.

My mother, Renee Perl, was one of the many who had to flee their homeland. Forced to start anew at the mere age of 14, she left Austria—alone—spending time in Holland and England before arriving in Philadelphia at 16.

Once arriving at the shores of America, my mother—like so many Jews—was hesitant to tell her story—hoping that by trying to forget about the war she could move on. But, little by little, we came to know her story and the enduring pain it caused for her and so many others.

As we move further and further away from this period of history, those who witnessed such acts and those of us—who have heard first-hand accounts become fewer. It is our duty to pass their stories along so that future generations can reflect on their courage, valor, and heroism. And, it is our obligation to tell their stories so all of us Jews and non-Jews—can heed the lessons of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, I am tremendously grateful for being able to share my family's experience. I know my mother would be proud to know that we are not only paying tribute to those who suffered tremendous pain and hardship, but recalling the Jewish people's great spirit to survive, our continued faith in God, and our unwavering belief in freedom and democracy.

HOLOCAUST MARTYRS AND HEROES REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day. We pause as a Nation on this day to remember the 6 million Jews who perished under Nazi oppression.

Between 1938 and 1945, the Nazi government systematically attempted to annihilate the entire Jewish population simply because of its religion, culture, and history. Countless families were torn apart, entire communities decimated.

On Yom Hashoah, we not only mourn for those who lost their lives, we mourn for one of humanity's darkest times. And we reflect on what hatred, ignorance, indifference and prejudice can do to mankind when allowed to breed unchecked.

Yom Hashoah also marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943. It is a time to reflect on the bravery of those who fought for justice, freedom and for survival in the face of torture and oppression.

It is fitting then, that this year's Yom Hashoah theme is "Legacies of Justice," honoring the Holocaust survivors who stood as witnesses during the Nuremberg Trials.

Their legacy calls on us to never forget the atrocities that occurred and to never again turn our backs on human suffering, regardless of where it occurs in the world. They call on us to stand for freedom—not only for ourselves but also for all humanity—to fight for those too weak to defend themselves, and to stand vigilant against apathy and hatred.

Today as we commemorate our Jewish martyrs and heroes at the National Rotunda, let us remember our duty to speak out against suffering and injustice.

We best honor the 6 million who perished at the hands of hatred by fighting against anti-Semitism, racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination that seek to divide us.

And we must vow to never allow such tragedies to happen again. For our sake, for our children's sake, and for the sake of humanity.

TRIBUTE TO MR. REGINALD FOOTMAN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who continues to have a positive impact on the young people of my community through his heart-filled and uplifting music about his home borough. Mr. Reginald Footman, also known as Barshem, is a recording artist from the Bronx who hopes to steer hip hop back to its roots, providing inspiring messages over hard-hitting beats.

Barshem's love of languages has helped him to develop as a lyricist and become the skillful emcee he is today. He began by writing poetry and small rhymes, but it was not until his cousin made his first rap record, that Barshem saw an opportunity for a career. At the young age of 11, he started his own group: "Energy Posse" which evolved into another group named "Alpha Omega." In the mid 1990's, the group became widely known and performed with other notable artists such as Jay Z, Lil Kim, Big Pun, and Fat Joe.

In the late 90's, Barshem made his acting debut in the movie *Above the Rim*, working as a stand in for the late Tupac Shakur. He would later accept roles on the television show *Third Watch* and a short appearance with Academy Award winner Denzel Washington in *The Manchurian Candidate*, but his love for hip hop kept him focused on his music. He has written title tracks for movies such as: *Rock the Paint*, *Marci X*, *Bull's Night Out* and *Full Clip*.

After many years of acting and rapping, Barshem met Allen Boxer, an investment banker with whom he partnered to create B&B Records, LLC. And now, one year after his first song was recorded, Barshem & B&B Records, LLC are set to release Barshem's debut album: *Ghettoometry* which includes a hit single dedicated to the borough of the Bronx.

Throughout his career, record executives have pushed Barshem to produce violent and misogynistic music; however, he has consistently stood his ground and refused to compromise his belief that music should empower, not destroy. Fortunately, his hard work has finally paid off and he is set to release an album that he can say he did his way.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the district that gave birth to hip hop and it is my hope that today's hip hop artists will remember the spirit of self-empowerment that once characterized this music genre and realize the tremendous positive influence they can have throughout the world.

I applaud Barshem for staying true to these principles and never forgetting his roots in the Bronx.

COMMEMORATION OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom

HaShoah, to pay respect to the millions of Jews who perished as a result of the Holocaust. Today more than ever, it is important to recall the insanity that swept through Europe and allowed ordinary men and women to become mass murderers or to permit others to turn a blind eye to the killing. We need to remember the six million Jews whose lives were cut short because of a concerted effort to annihilate an entire people. Their deaths were not the natural result of war and deprivation. They were killed intentionally and for no other reason than that they were Jews. We should also celebrate the brave individuals who sheltered, cared for and protected Jews despite the danger to themselves.

It is shocking to find that a mere 61 years later, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is openly denying the very existence of the Holocaust. President Ahmadinejad stunned the world last December when he made a speech declaring that the Nazi's mass murder of Jews during World War II was a myth. Foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki affirmed that Holocaust denial is now the official Iranian government position. "The words of [President] Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on the Holocaust and on Israel are not personal opinions, nor isolated statements but they express the view of the [Iranian] government," Mottaki said.

In March 2006, at the initiative of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, state-run Isfahan University sponsored a conference to 're-examine the scientific evidence for the Holocaust.' More conferences are expected, as Iran tries to wrap its insupportable views in scholarship. Unfortunately, these Iranian leaders are giving voice to a view that is becoming all too common.

After President Ahmadinejad spoke, the vast majority of world leaders immediately condemned his irrational claims. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged all UN members to "combat such denial and to educate their populations about the well established historical facts of the Holocaust, in which one third of the Jewish people were murdered along with countless members of other minorities." I believe we need to take affirmative steps in the United States to make sure that our young people understand the horrors of that evil time. That's why I introduced the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act of 2005, to ensure that programs are developed throughout the country to teach young people about the millions who died and the terrible repercussions of unfettered hatred. I am pleased that Senator MENENDEZ introduced a companion bill in the Senate today.

As the generations who survived the Holocaust pass away, we need to make sure that new generations know the horrors of that terrible time. We need to make sure that those who would deny the existence of the Holocaust do not have the ability to rewrite history. The pain of those who perished at the hands of the Nazis is all too real. We have an obligation to remember a time when pure evil swept the globe, millions were swallowed up in the gas chambers and the Jewish people were nearly wiped out of existence. As Simon Wiesenthal said, "For your benefit, learn from our tragedy. It is not a written law that the next victims must be Jews. It can also be other people. We saw it begin in Germany with Jews, but people from more than twenty other nations were also murdered."

ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my voice with those of my colleagues who once again are commemorating the Armenian Genocide. On this somber day, we take time to recall the horrors of long ago, as Armenians are doing all over the world. Beginning in 1914, over 1.5 million people were systematically killed in what historians call the first genocide of the twentieth century, and over half a million Armenians had to leave their homeland.

Knowledge about the Armenian Genocide is spreading. Just recently, PBS broadcast an extremely detailed and heart-rending examination of the subject. Even in Turkey, where the government refuses to acknowledge what happened or consider accepting any responsibility for it, a growing number of historians and prominent individuals have openly defied Ankara to speak truth to power. They include Orhan Pamuk, the country's leading writer. Turkish officials sought to bring criminal charges against him for "defaming Turkishness" but in the end, thankfully, thought better of it.

Unfortunately, President Bush, in his annual message about the Genocide, did not use the word. Once again, terms like "mass killings" and "forced exile" mask the depth of the horror that took place, carefully avoiding the plain truth. In fact, as has been described in numerous newspaper articles, Ambassador John Evans, who was posted in Yerevan, is being recalled for having the courage to say publicly that what happened to the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire was Genocide. It saddens me that the U.S. Government would go to such lengths to deny the undeniable. I would like to commend Ambassador Evans for his bravery—as a career Foreign Service Officer, he must have known what the consequences might be.

I express solidarity with my colleagues in this Congress who called upon President Bush to call the Genocide a Genocide. I hope this is the last year when the United States Government will shrink from using the word in its description of what the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire endured.

Finally, in my annual statements on the Armenian Genocide, I often refer to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and comment on the status of the talks underway to resolve it. In the last year, official sources in Yerevan and Baku, as well as Washington, have occasionally indicated that a deal was close. Hopes were high for the meeting last month between Presidents Kocharian and Aliiev in Rambouillet, France. Unfortunately, we did not see the desired outcome.

I hope that the negotiations will soon succeed in resolving this painful conflict. An Armenia at peace with Azerbaijan would not dampen the painful memories of events in the early twentieth century, but it would offer reassurance over the prospects of Armenia in the twenty-first.

91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 91 years ago, a systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide was initiated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire against its Armenian population. Beginning in 1915, and continuing over the next eight years, over one and a half million Armenians were tortured and murdered, and another half million were forced from their homeland into exile.

In his annual April 24th commemoration statement, President Bush once again failed to acknowledge this annihilation of a people as genocide. In a time when the denial of the Armenian genocide is again on the rise in Turkey—and through its agents, even here in the United States as witnessed by a federal lawsuit in Massachusetts opposed to our public school history curriculum on genocide—President Bush once again squandered an opportunity to demonstrate American courage and leadership and speak out with moral clarity on the issue of genocide. By failing to affirm the Armenian Genocide, President Bush insults the suffering endured by the Armenian people and especially the remaining survivors of the genocide, most of whom are now in their 90s.

Luckily, such leadership and courage is not lacking among the Armenian-American community. Not only do they continue their historic work on the recognition and documentation of the Armenian Genocide, but they are genuine leaders and partners in efforts to educate Americans about the other genocides of the 20th and 21st Centuries—the Holocaust of World War II, Cambodia, Rwanda and Bosnia, to note some of the most prominent.

Most recently, the Armenian-American community has been actively engaged in bringing to the attention of U.S. and world leaders the genocide going on right now in Darfur, Sudan. I would like to honor, in particular, the work of Mr. George Aghjayan, Chairman of the Armenian National Committee of Central Massachusetts, who has been especially active in education and organizing activities about Darfur. Mr. Aghjayan, who lives in Worcester, Massachusetts, has helped rally interest and support on Darfur not only from his own community, but from college students, religious leaders, and genocide survivors.

I'm proud to be a member of the House Caucus on Armenian Issues, and to support the activities taking place today in the U.S. Congress in memory of the Armenian Genocide. I am more proud, however, to have had the opportunity to meet and learn from the extensive Armenian-American community in central Massachusetts and from their exemplary community leaders, like George Aghjayan and his wife, Joyce. Through them I have found my own voice and determination to denounce genocide wherever it is taking place, and to confront the culture of denial that would erase the historical record of the Armenian Genocide.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAMAR
MARCHESE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lamar Marchese for his long and distinguished career at Nevada Public Radio.

When Lamar Marchese moved to Las Vegas in 1972 he noted the absence of a public radio station. Marchese, his wife Patricia and a small group of founding board members incorporated Nevada Public Radio in December 1975 as an independent non-profit corporation. Lamar served as Chairman of the Board while the station was in formation in the late 1970s. In late 1978, he resigned from the Board and became a candidate for General Manager. Lamar was hired in this capacity in January 1979. KNPR, the first NPR affiliated radio station in Nevada, signed on the air in March 1980 while housed in a janitors' closet at the former Silverbowl Stadium on Boulder Highway. Under Lamar Marchese's leadership KNPR has evolved from its humble beginnings at Silverbowl Stadium to a public radio network that now operates a system of two Las Vegas stations, four associate stations in Tonopah, Panaca, Lund/Ely and St. George, Utah, nine rural translators and a statewide radio reading service for the blind and hearing impaired.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lamar Marchese for his distinguished career and keen leadership that has allowed public radio in Nevada to thrive. His dedication to providing a public voice over the airwaves has allowed untold numbers of people to access a variety of radio programs. I wish him the best in his retirement.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL CYSTIC FI-
BROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. HART. Madam Speaker, today, as we consider H. Con Res. 357 to support the goals of National Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Awareness Month in May, I would like to bring attention to such efforts in my district and in western Pennsylvania.

One such family in my district, the Nicotras, are doing just that. "Hayden's Heroes" was formed in 2005 by Sam and Rhea Nicotra to support CF research. The Nicotras' grandson, Hayden Klein, was diagnosed with CF in 2004, when he was just one week old. The Kleins and their family faced the questions familiar to many CF patients and their loved ones about genetic factors, the difficulty in diagnosing CF and, of course, the challenges in treating and managing the disease.

The Kleins had no history of the disease on either side of the family and, since CF patients can look healthy, there is no way to diagnose the disease just by looking at him or her. Clearly, cystic fibrosis is stealthy; we have much to learn about its origins, how to treat it and, ultimately, how to defeat it.

Fortunately, many Americans are committed to providing the resources to wage this battle, and, with National CF Month approaching, it is important that we recognize the many local resources to support this important task.

The local chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is an active participant in the national Great Strides walk to raise funds for CF research—participants across the country have succeeded in raising more than \$150 million since 1989. The local chapter will participate in this year's walk next month at North Park Lake in my district.

The local CF Foundation office also encourages friends and families of CF patients to provide support for such resources and research, and the Nicotras have been local leaders with Hayden's Heroes, which is hosting a "Dancing with the Pittsburgh Stars" event to raise awareness of the disease and support local resources, and a local talent-training organization in my district, the In Tune Studio, is also working on an event to support CF research.

It is through such community efforts that we will understand more about CF and treat this disease, and I commend the dedication and tenacity of the local chapter of the CF Foundation and, in particular, the Nicotras and their family, for advancing this important cause.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing National Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Awareness Month and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute a worthy cause like the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JACK
WOOLF'S LIFETIME ACHIEVE-
MENTS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the lifetime achievements of Jack Woolf from Fresno, CA.

For more than 30 years, Jack Woolf and his family have been an integral part of the development of diversified agriculture on the west side of Fresno County. He has been an active community member who has tirelessly worked to promote Fresno and the agricultural industry. Mr. Woolf embarked upon his entrepreneurial career in 1974, with the creation of Woolf Enterprises. The business began as a simple row crop operation but under Jack's watchful eye it grew into a large agricultural business that ultimately branched out into many agricultural industries.

Presently, Woolf Enterprises products include tomatoes, garlic, cotton, wheat, alfalfa, wine grapes, almonds and pistachios. In addition, Jack Woolf is a partner in several processing plants, an irrigation business and an agricultural nursery. Mr. Woolf is an individual who, through hard work and his commitment to a vision of a better future, has established Woolf Enterprises as a cornerstone in California's agriculture industry. By serving in leadership positions with various agriculture and water agencies, Mr. Woolf has been able to promote his dynamic vision and direction for a

strong San Joaquin Valley agricultural industry.

In addition to his entrepreneurial spirit—Jack has also diversified his community interests by serving on various boards throughout the Valley. These boards include the Westlands Water District, the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Channel 18 KVPT—public programming, the Clark Museum in Hanford, and the Fresno County Grand Jury. Mr. Woolf has also been generous in giving back to the community. The following institutions have all benefited from his philanthropic efforts: CSU Fresno, University of Santa Clara, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Santa Catalina School in Monterey, Channel 18 KVPT, the Clark Museum and Saint Agnes Hospital. Furthermore, the agricultural community in Fresno has decided to establish a Jack Woolf Scholarship Endowment fund which will be awarded to students pursuing a degree in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

On behalf of the residents in the San Joaquin Valley, it is with great pleasure that I stand today to laud the efforts of Jack Woolf and extend my utmost appreciation for his contributions and continued loyalty to the community.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. FAMILY HEALTH
PLAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on this, day 25 years ago the U.S. Family Health Plan was approved by the U.S. Congress. For the past 25 years the U.S. Family Health Plan has provided a commitment and service to the Nation's military health system by caring for our military families. Through the years, the U.S. Family Health Plan has been a valued partner with the U.S. Department of Defense by continuing to serve nearly 100,000 military beneficiaries today.

The U.S. Family Health Plan is a proud member of the TRICARE program. It has distinguished itself by consistently earning the highest beneficiary satisfaction ratings among all TRICARE providers. The plan is administered by some of this Nation's finest health care institutions, including Johns Hopkins—Maryland, Brighton Marine Health Center—Massachusetts, Martin's Point Health Care—Maine, St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers—New York, CHRISTUS Health—Texas, and Pacific Medical Centers—Washington State.

U.S. Family Health Plan's roots date back to 1981 when the Omnibus Reconciliation Act designated 10 public health hospitals as U.S. Treatment Facilities to provide care for the uniformed services through an agreement with DoD. In 1993, that designation evolved into a fully at-risk managed healthcare plan named U.S. Family Health Plan. The plan's popularity grew in the regions where it was offered. In 1996, the National Defense Authorization Act designated the U.S. Treatment Facilities as TRICARE Prime Designated Providers and made the U.S. Family Health Plan a permanent part of the military health system.

Please join me in congratulating the U.S. Family Health Plan on their 25 years of service to our Nation's military families and for

their outstanding contributions to military health care.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRUCE JAMES

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bruce James, who is retiring after 3½ years as the Public Printer of the United States.

Bruce James was appointed by President Bush to be the Public Printer of the United States in 2002 and made a commitment to serve three to five years. Bruce is able to claim many successes during his tenure as the Public Printer of the United States, most notably that he took a government office operating at a \$35 million-a-year deficit and made it profitable, using those profits to reorganize the agency to increase the use of digital technology and the Internet in carrying out its business.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Bruce James for his distinguished record as head of the Government Printing Office. In this role as a public servant he served with honor and dignity. I wish him the best in his retirement and with any future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BEAVER COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Beaver County Children & Youth Services.

The Beaver County Children & Youth Services organization helps place children who are victims of child abuse in safe foster homes. The program has three different areas of service, which include general protective services, teen protective services and substitute care.

On April 27, 2006, the Commissioners of Beaver County will announce that May 2006 will be designated as "Beaver County Foster Parent Month." As part of the event, the Beaver County Children & Youth Services will tie a blue ribbon to a large tree for each child in placement throughout Beaver County. In addition, there will be a large blue ribbon displayed in the courthouse for the duration of Foster Parent Month. Protecting children is an important issue and I commend the efforts of the staff at the Beaver County Children & Youth Services.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Beaver County Children & Youth Services and Beaver County Foster Parent Month.

A TRIBUTE TO EVA MURILLO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Eva Murillo. Ms. Murillo was a prominent advocate for victims and survivors of violent crime in the State of California. She passed away on April 4, 2005.

Eva Murillo was born on July 29, 1946 in Delicias, Chihuahua, Mexico. She came to the United States at the age of 11 and lived in Sacramento, California where she became a United States citizen. Ms. Murillo earned her B.A. in Liberal Studies from California State University Northridge and upon graduation she worked as a Project Coordinator for El Proyecto, where she helped at-risk youth. In 1991 a business trip led her to Hanford, California, where she fell in love with the community and its small town charm. She immediately decided to move her family there.

Shortly after her arrival in Hanford, Ms. Murillo worked with Kingsview Community Services. It was there that she discovered her passion to help victims of crime and embarked on a life-filling career. Mrs. Murillo's advocacy efforts include her twelve years of distinguished service to the Kings County Victim Witness Assistance Program, in which she compassionately pioneered efforts to help women in abusive relationships. Ms. Murillo's work ethic proved that working for victims and survivors of violent crime was more than just a job, but a way to give back to her community. Her uncanny ability to bring people together and her sincere demeanor truly represented the 2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme of "Strength in Unity."

On March 26, 2006, Ms. Murillo accepted an award from the Soroptimists International of Hanford for making a difference in her community. An excerpt from the award given to Ms. Murillo described her as a person with "true compassion for those she came into contact with."

To honor the tremendous contribution of Mrs. Murillo, the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus has decided to name one of our annual victim's rights awards after her. It will be called "The Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award." This award will be given to a crime victim/survivor who has taken a personal tragedy to triumph over adversity. The honoree is a person who has utilized his or her experiences as a crime victim to promote public education and awareness, public policy development, or greater awareness about crime victim's rights and needs. Their efforts result in increased help and hope for other victims and survivors of crime.

Eva Murillo is survived by her husband Tomas and three children: Gerald, Jo Ann and Lory. She is also survived by her daughter-in-law Irma and three grandchildren: Jade, Julian and Justine.

Eva Murillo cared deeply about advocating for victims and witnesses of violent crime. Her warm and compassionate personality which inspired those around her will be missed deeply by the people of Kings County. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to her friends and family.

HONORING AL TROUT, MANAGER OF THE BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE, BOX ELDER COUNTY, UTAH

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, the Nation's premier refuge, the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, is located just west of my home in Brigham City. I rise today in tribute to Mr. Al Trout, who has served as the refuge manager for the last seventeen years and is now retiring after an illustrious career with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Al came to Utah and the refuge in 1989, inheriting a rented office with no staff and little budget. Al rallied hundreds of volunteers who donated nearly seventeen thousand hours of labor and raised fifty thousand dollars in cash to reopen the refuge which had been decimated by floods six years earlier. The refuge now covers over seventy four thousand acres of wetlands, marshes, mudflats and open water. Over one hundred varieties of common and exotic bird species frequent the refuge. Bird counts during the peak migration months are up into the millions, from as far away as Russia, Central America and the Pacific Islands. In 2001, the refuge was designated as the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve. For his efforts, Al was named Refuge Manager of the Year in 2001, the Service's most prestigious award.

Al played a key role in the revival of one of the Nation's oldest refuges, created by an act of Congress in 1928. Al was instrumental in the creation of the Friends of Bear River Refuge, which raised 1.5 million dollars for the construction of the recently dedicated James V. Hansen Wildlife Education Center, which is a destination point for birders throughout the world and stands as a testament of Al's vision, determination, and efforts in restoring the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

Thank you, Al, for the air boat tours of the refuge and your excellent management of the refuge—you will be missed! Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement. I extend to you, your lovely wife, and your three children my best wishes for success in the years that lie ahead.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRIENDS IN THE DESERT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the volunteers of Friends in the Desert for their tireless effort to provide food to the needy.

Six days a week, volunteers with Friends in the Desert feed the homeless of Henderson, Nevada out of the dining hall at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Their efforts not only fill the daily nutritional needs for some of the communities less fortunate members, but also provide them with a taste of home cooking, rather than institutional food. The more than 3,000 volunteers associated with Friends in the Desert

served more than 20,000 dinners during the year. The system used by this non-profit group harnesses the good intentions of a wide swath of the Henderson community. Friends in the Desert provides a place for the privileged members of society to reach out to those less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the volunteers of Friends in the Desert for their commitment to helping provide food for the homeless. The sheer size and scope of their operation is a testament to their dedication and their efforts should be applauded.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD R. RUBANO,
JR.

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Superintendent of Farrell School District Richard R. Rubano, Jr.

Mr. Rubano not only serves as the Superintendent of the schools in Farrell, but also teaches a leadership class to juniors and seniors in the school district one day a week. The subjects taught in the class vary from speech preparation to key decisionmaking to job and college outlook. This leadership class has become very popular among students in the Farrell School District.

Mr. Rubano has been the superintendent of the Farrell School District since 1997. Before becoming the superintendent, Mr. Rubano spent many years as a teacher, then principal. Mr. Rubano has served as a team facilitator for a group of ten who designed new math curriculum for grades K-6. He also assisted in writing the district's Act 178 Professional Development Plan. Mr. Rubano has dedicated his career to bettering the education of young minds.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing all of the hard work and time Richard R. Rubano Jr. has put in to make the school district better. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual like Richard R. Rubano, Jr.

IN HONOR OF LINDA ROSENTHAL
ON THE OCCASION OF HER ELECTION
TO THE NEW YORK STATE
ASSEMBLY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Linda Rosenthal on the occasion of her election to the New York State Assembly. After a lifetime on the Upper West Side, more than 2 decades of community activism, and 13 years as my Manhattan District Director and Director of Special Projects, on February 28th, 2006, Linda was elected to represent the 67th Assembly District. Assemblywoman Rosenthal's dedication to her constituents continues the West Side's legacy

of progressive politics and independent representation in Albany.

Linda first got involved in politics after a dispute with her landlord more than 20 years ago. This experience led her to become a staunch advocate of tenants' rights. Throughout her career, Linda has worked with both individuals and with community groups to secure funding and legislation to help low- and middle-income residents.

As Manhattan Director and Director of Special Projects for the 8th Congressional District, Linda was instrumental in enacting several initiatives to enhance the quality of life for the residents of my District. Linda has been a relentless advocate of such community improvement projects as the Hudson River Park, the 72nd Street subway renovation, various senior and community centers, local parks, playgrounds, and green spaces.

Perhaps Linda's most significant contribution followed the notorious attacks on the World Trade Center in my district on September 11, 2001. Following the attacks, Linda passionately fought the Environmental Protection Agency to provide adequate clean-up efforts to improve the air quality for those who live and work in lower Manhattan. The fight is ongoing, but her dedication to the cause may well save countless lives. Linda also worked strenuously to compel the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation to free up more Federal grant money to aid in the economic recovery of small businesses in the area.

In Albany, Assemblywoman Rosenthal has hit the ground running. Since taking office, she has already introduced significant legislation, sponsored over 40 bills, testified before State agencies, and met with community leaders and constituents about the issues facing our neighborhood. She has also been named to the Committees on Housing; Corporations, Authorities and Commissions; Agriculture; Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; and Energy.

Linda Rosenthal is the kind of public servant every Member of Congress wants to work with. Her selfless dedication to her job, her fierce protection of my office and my reputation, and her genuine interest in helping the greater good, are all a testament to her character. I am saddened to see her leave my office after 13 years, but I am also deeply proud of her. I can't think of anyone who deserves to hold public office more than Linda.

For her commitment to her neighborhood, her city, her State, and her Nation, it is my privilege to congratulate Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal on her record of distinguished service, and on her recent election, and to join the rest of her constituents in high expectations of her future public service.

IN HONOR OF ELSA GREENBERG
ON THE OCCASION OF HER 70TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elsa Greenberg on the occasion of her 70th birthday. Elsa was born April 25th 1936, in Providence, Rhode Island, six minutes after her twin sister Saralee. Elsa grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts and Port-

land, Maine, and when she was 13, she moved to Miami, Florida.

Elsa studied at the Universities of Alabama and Miami, where she learned to dance and studied education and social psychology. She was married in 1956 to Mel Greenberg, who would later found the Miami-based Greenberg Traurig law firm in 1967.

A devoted wife and mother of three children—Dianne, Carol, and Michael—Elsa was widely-known in South Florida as a thoughtful and gracious hostess, and, with Mel, a generous philanthropist and engaged citizen. She was for many years an avid classical music and tennis fan, a political devotee, and a gourmet cook, even picking up the art of macrobiotic cooking after Mel was diagnosed with cancer. Elsa and Mel were married for 38 years.

Elsa now devotes herself primarily to her family. Invariably, she can be found with her children and their spouses Steve, Mark, and Maria and her grandchildren Arik, Ditty, Daniel, Josh, Brian, Melanie, and Carolina. Elsa continues to be a refined hostess, now passing on her secrets to her family. She has also taken up knitting, amazing her family and friends with her impressive mastery of the craft. Elsa Greenberg continues to be a strong political enthusiast and is, in short, a patriotic citizen—the kind of constituent we all want in our districts.

For her commitment to her family, to her community, and to her nation, it is my privilege to wish Elsa Greenberg a very happy 70th birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SIGRID
SOMMER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sigrid Sommer for her wonderful service to Las Vegas and her commitment to public international education.

Sigrid Sommer has served with great distinction as Germany's Honorary Consul in the Las Vegas area and beyond. She has enjoyed the highest possible respect for her professional accomplishments, as well as affection for her warmth and friendliness, by all those who have had the privilege of working with her, both in Germany and the United States. She has resided in the Las Vegas area for some 30 years and comes from a distinguished family of diplomats and journalists in Germany. She is a fixture in local business, cultural and political affairs and is married to another well-respected member of the Las Vegas community, attorney George Golson. She has received many accolades for her personal and professional accomplishments, most notably receiving the "Cross of Merit" from the German government in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sigrid Sommer for her personal and professional success. I wish her the best in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES MOHAN

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate Charles Mohan for all of his hard work with the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, UMDF.

This year the UMDF celebrates its 10th anniversary and the retirement of founder and Board Chair, Charles Mohan. Mr. Mohan started the foundation after his daughter, Gina, lost her courageous struggle with mitochondrial disease. The UMDF is headquartered in Pittsburgh and has funded more than \$3,000,000 for research to find a cure for this devastating disease.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Charles Mohan for his work with the UMDF. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual.

COMMEMORATING EARTH DAY 2006

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, Saturday marked the 36th annual Earth Day, a day set aside for reflection, education, and action on the impact of human beings on our planet. Although it is certainly important to celebrate the rich diversity of nature with our families and communities, my greatest hope for the Earth is that my children's children will not have to observe an Earth Day. Instead, I look forward to a future when concern for the environment is part of each decision our country makes, rather than only a matter we address one day each year on a date set aside to make us consider the impact we are having on our surroundings.

While the front pages of our newspapers routinely carry stories on the degradation of our natural resources, environmental issues have yet to rise to a top priority in Congress. Nonetheless, the decisions we make today will profoundly impact the way we live for years and generations to come. Indeed, our stewardship of the environment is inextricably tied to our economic security and growth.

This is not news to the American people. Over the last 20 years, more Americans have said that environmental protection is a high priority for the Nation. Nearly three in five Americans are active in or sympathetic to the environmental movement, but most believe the government has a negative, or at best negligible, impact on these efforts.

One area in which the Federal Government has failed to lead is global warming. A recent Gallup poll found that nearly two-thirds of Americans worry about the greenhouse effect, up from just over half in 2004. Eighty-three percent believe that global warming will become a problem for the U.S. and 57 percent feel it poses a very serious threat to the world. And, Mr. Speaker, 68 percent of our fellow citizens believe the Federal Government should be doing more to combat it.

The science of climate change has become clear and alarming. NASA recently confirmed that 9 of the last 10 years have been the warmest since modern records began in 1861, with 2005 topping the list. Much of this rise can be explained by a 35 percent increase over preindustrial levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, caused by the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial production.

Even if we stopped emitting greenhouse gases today, the current levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere will cause the Earth's temperature to reach its highest point since the end of the Ice Age some 9,000 years ago. Average global temperatures could rise by 3 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century. This would melt the polar ice caps, causing sea level to rise twenty or more feet, causing severe worldwide flooding that would put large parts of Florida and California underwater. Warmer weather will also lead to severe weather patterns that will contribute to food shortages, increase the spread and severity of disease, increase the damage and displacement from a range of natural disasters, and jeopardize billions of people around the world.

In 2005, the economic costs of weather-related catastrophes have been estimated at more than \$200 billion. As temperatures rise, so will this economic toll. The extinction of millions of plant and animal species presents another priceless and irreversible toll of global warming.

While some temperature rise is inevitable, most scientists still believe that concerted action can prevent the most apocalyptic consequences of climate change. The global nature of this challenge creates not only an obligation for the U.S., but also an opportunity. By conserving the resources we have and developing new, cleaner sources of energy, we will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, protect our wilderness, and purify our air, water, and soil. Taking the lead in improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions will improve our economic security and prosperity today and for generations to come.

New scientific findings highlight the urgency of addressing global warming and related environmental challenges. Fortunately, the innovative and enterprising spirit of the American people puts us in an ideal position to seize this opportunity. Together, we can change the headlines to reflect a more optimistic outlook for our planet while improving our own quality of life. The American people have made it clear that the environment should be on our agenda every day, not just Earth Day, and I hope that Congress will heed this appeal.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD L. SCHWARTZ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bernard L. Schwartz, a distinguished American who retired in March 2006 as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Loral Space and Communications, Inc., posts he has held since the company was founded in 1996. He served in the same posts

at the predecessor company, Loral Corporation, since 1972.

Loral Space and Communications designs and manufactures large, geostationary telecommunications satellites, and through its Skynet subsidiary provides a wide range of satellite services. Under Mr. Schwartz's wise leadership, Loral Space and Communications has played a central role in the development of the satellite industry and a central role in satellite services for our nation.

Bernard Schwartz is a legend on Wall Street and in the defense industry. He is highly regarded for his work in the fields of economic growth, industrial policy, technology and national security. He gives generously of his time, his talents and resources to many organizations to further examine these topics. Among his extraordinary contributions are the endowment of academic chairs for the study of economic policy and international affairs at New School University and Johns Hopkins University, as well as establishing a fellowship program in public policy at the New America Foundation. He is a Trustee of New York University Hospitals Center where he established the Neurointerventional Radiology Center, and he funded a distinguished chair in urologic oncology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He established chairs at the Brookings Institution and at Tel Aviv University and founded a Communication Institute at Baruch College where he serves as a Trustee. Mr. Schwartz serves on the Board of the New York Historical Society, and as Vice-Chair of the New York Film Society. He is also a Trustee of Third Way and the Democratic Leadership Council.

Mr. Schwartz, a graduate of City College of New York, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science by his alma mater. He and his wife live in New York City and have two daughters, three granddaughters and one grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bernard Schwartz for his extraordinary leadership and countless contributions to our nation's economy and its well-being. He has taken his citizenship seriously and given back to the country he loves so much. We salute him for his leadership of Loral Space and Communications, which serves the interests of our country and for his continuing patriotism which makes him a national treasure.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY CHAPLIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sidney Chaplin a Las Vegas business and civic leader who died this past March.

Sidney Chaplin was a longtime executive vice-president and general manager of Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada drew great personal satisfaction from helping those less fortunate. He was a true philanthropist who never sought recognition for his good deeds and generosity. During World War II, Mr. Chaplin served in the United States Air Force. After his military service for our country, he started his working career as an insurance

salesman in New York City. After that, he began his first job in the wine and spirits industry; which became his life long career. This career in liquor distribution enabled him to be exceedingly generous to others. Over the years he supported a number of religious and charitable groups. Sidney donated his time and resources to Temple Beth Shalom and eventually became a sponsor of the Shirley and Sidney Chaplin Lecture Series at the Temple. He was also a longtime supporter of the Lou Ruvo Alzheimer's Institute and UNL Vino.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of Sidney Chaplin. His professional success and philanthropic dedication should serve as an example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO GOEHRING FARM OF
MARION TOWNSHIP

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Goehring Farm of Marion Township as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The Goehring family began their family farm 100 years ago on 88 acres of land in Marion Township. The original owner of the farm, John Goehring, was just 27 years old when he started the farm. Brothers, Jim and Ron, now manage over 100 head of cattle and expanded acreage on the farm. With a number of children to follow in the family foot steps, the farm will surely continue to prosper in the years to come.

The family marked the farm's 100th anniversary on Saturday, April 8, 2006 with a dinner at Concord United Methodist Church in North Sewickley Township.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the 100th anniversary of the Goehring farm. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a great family business.

BULGARIA'S BASES WELCOME U.S.
MILITARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, The Washington Times reported this week that "Bulgaria has agreed to open three military bases for permanent use by 2,500 U.S. troops who will be available for combat in the Middle East and other nearby regions."

While this may be the "first time Bulgaria has authorized the stationing of foreign forces on its soil in its 1,325-year history," this is not the first time Bulgaria has demonstrated its willingness to help our country in the Global War on Terrorism. Over 400 Bulgarian troops have bravely served alongside our troops in Iraq. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has been successful in recruiting allies. By welcoming U.S. troops to their bases, Bulgaria

has once again helped our military forces fight terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan so that we do not have to face them on the streets of America.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Bulgaria Caucus, along with Congresswoman ELLEN TAUSCHER, I sincerely appreciate our strong partnership with Bulgaria as a valued member of NATO which hosts today the NATO foreign ministers in Sofia including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

COMMEMORATING THE 91ST ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to join my colleagues in commemorating the 91st anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide.

Genocide is a very powerful word, and should be reserved for only the most horrific examples of mass killing motivated by a desire to destroy an entire people.

Without a doubt, this term is appropriate to describe the unimaginable atrocities suffered by the Armenian people from 1915 to 1918.

During this period, more than one million Armenians died from starvation or disease on long marches, or were simply massacred by the Ottoman Turks.

Some still deny these events, or try to justify them as an extension of war.

But the debate on this historical issue has been settled. The distinguished International Association of Genocide Scholars, among others, has concluded that it is undeniable.

Others, including some who accept the historical facts, say Congress should not pass a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide because it will irreparably damage our relationship with Turkey.

This is a phony argument.

The European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and many European countries, including France, Germany and Italy have formally recognized the Armenian Genocide.

Yet this has not dissuaded Turkey from actively seeking to join the European Union.

At some point, every nation must come to terms with the wrongs committed by previous generations.

For Germany, the Holocaust. For South Africa, Apartheid. And for our country, slavery and the treatment of Native Americans.

In the same spirit, Turkey should allow—and indeed, encourage—an open and honest discussion of the Armenian Genocide.

Adolf Hitler once remarked, "Who remembers the Armenians?" The answer is, we do.

And we will continue to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide, and other genocides, because, in the immortal words of Spanish philosopher George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NANCY AND
JOHN KELL "IKE" HOUSSELS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy and John Kell "Ike" Houssels and their exemplary record of professional achievement and community service.

Nancy Houssels has always been at the forefront of cultural and social philanthropy. She served, at one time or another, on several boards including: Nevada Ballet Theatre, UNLV Foundation, the National Conference of Christians & Jews, and Law Vegas Performing Arts. Mrs. Houssels was also the co-founder of the Nevada Dance Theatre in 1972 and has served the company as Chair and Co-Chair for 35 years.

John Kell "Ike" Houssel is widely recognized as one of the respected and honored principles in the gaming industry. After graduating from West Point and, subsequently, Stanford Law School, Mr. Houssel embarked on a career in casino resort hotel ownership and management in the 1950s when he became the managing partner of the Showboat, followed by his legendary leadership as president of the Hotel Tropicana and later of the Union Plaza Hotel.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor both Nancy and John Kell "Ike" Houssels for their exemplary professional careers and their commitment to enriching their community. I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE 103RD UNIT OF
THE SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION
SOKOL

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 103rd unit of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, USA, located in Farrell, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary.

The Sokol USA was created as a fraternal benefit society dedicated to providing insurance and physical fitness programs to men and women. The roots of Sokol USA can be traced back to Czechoslovakia in 1862. The program was started in New York in 1898. Eight years later, 22 Slovak immigrants founded the 103rd unit in Farrell, Pennsylvania. They take great pride in the fact that all of their programs are still conducted by volunteer members, and that they continue to offer weekly gymnastic classes for all age groups.

On May 20, 2006 Sokol members from the Farrell area, western Pennsylvania and surrounding states, as well as from their sister club in the Slovak Republic are expected to attend the Anniversary Banquet of the Sokol USA which will be held at the Radisson Hotel in West Middlesex, PA. They will be celebrating the 103rd units 100 years of service to the community.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating The Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol

USA of Farrell for its 100 years of service. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated organization like Sokol USA.

STATEMENT ON HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe Yom Hashoah, the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day.

The Holocaust was an unprecedented crime that took the lives of 6 million Jews, broke apart families, and wrongfully imprisoned individuals subjecting them to tortures, rape and other horrendous actions.

In 1933, the Jewish population of Europe stood at over 9 million. Most European Jews lived in countries that the Third Reich would occupy or influence during World War II. By 1945, close to two out of every three European Jews had been killed as part of the Nazi policy to systematically murder the Jews of Europe.

Yom Hashoah serves as a reminder that we must never forget the appalling tragedy of the Holocaust, and the 6 million Jews who lost their lives.

It was racism, bigotry, anti-Semitism and general religious intolerance that drove Hitler to pursue the destruction of the Jewish people. To honor the victims who lost their lives in the Holocaust, and to ensure that such acts never happen again, there must be a concerted effort to fight intolerance and discrimination.

Before I was elected to Congress in 1990, my family and I and our two children visited Dachau in southern Germany. It was important not only for my wife and I, but also for our children to see what inhumanity mankind could do to itself; not only for our generation but for our children and the next generation to make sure that it never happens again.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues on this Yom Hashoah in commemorating those who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

TRIBUTE TO MR. HAROLD SOENS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and community service of Mr. Harold Soens, who recently passed away at the age of 66 at his home in Santee, California. As President of the San Diego Off-Road Coalition and the California League of Off-Road Voters, Mr. Soens was passionate about off-road recreation, devoting his life toward working with the community; especially children. He educated others about the sport, teaching the value of off-road safety and etiquette and working to protect the rights of all off-road enthusiasts while, at the same time, appreciating the environment with which we have been blessed.

Mr. Soens learned the value of service at a very young age, losing his father aboard the USS *Arizona* during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. It was this example that Mr. Soens would follow throughout his life as he devoted his time toward the goal of creating a positive environment and future for outdoor recreation in California.

An off-road enthusiast since 1958, Mr. Soens rode everything from midgets to sprint cars and spent some time racing as a competitive motorcycle rider. Known for his sense of humor, friendliness, frankness and energy, Mr. Soens served in several capacities with the California Off-Road Vehicle Association, the American Motorcyclist Association, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreational Area Technical Review Team and the Stakeholders Roundtable for OHV Recreation in California. Even with these responsibilities, Mr. Soens found the time to volunteer hundreds of hours at the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreational Area and as an ATV Safety Instructor for the State of California.

Mr. Soens was also heavily involved with the Survivors of Pearl Harbor and the California Police Activities League (CalPal) program where he served as a mentor to inner-city and under-privileged children by providing the opportunity for them to appreciate the beauty of our desert and the enjoyment of off-road activities. At all times, with all students, Mr. Soens stressed the responsibility of being safe and treating the land in which they lived and played with respect.

I wish to express to his wife, Jean, his four children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild, my sincerest condolences for their loss. In a time where the idea of volunteerism is often seen as a burden, Mr. Soens' dedication and service is a reminder to us all that effort rendered toward the benefit of our community is the greatest use of our time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HERB
TOBMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Herb Tobman, who passed away this past March. Herb was known as a successful businessman and a community leader and his quiet generosity that impacted the lives of countless Nevadans.

Herb was born in the Bronx in 1924. In the 1950s, Herb moved to Las Vegas, where he opened City Furniture Exchange, the first used furniture store in Las Vegas. The business thrived, and it was a Las Vegas landmark for more than 25 years. His success as a businessman led Herb to start Western Cab Company in 1965. Herb started with one cab, and ended with more than 134 taxicabs and 355 employees.

In addition to his business accomplishments, Herb was also an active participant in Nevada politics. In 1986, he ran in the Democratic gubernatorial primary against incumbent Richard Bryan. Instead of using his wealth to fuel his political aspirations, Herb limited contributions to \$10 per individual. Needless to

say, those limits put him at a competitive disadvantage, but Herb still managed to receive more than 15 percent of the primary vote.

Herb also knew the importance of giving back to his community and made many charitable contributions throughout his life. However, Herb never sought recognition for his efforts, but he impacted almost every life in southern Nevada. Every year, during the holidays, Herb anonymously fed hundreds of homeless individuals in Las Vegas. He helped local children with their college expenses, and he helped people who were down on their luck. No challenge was too great. If Herb knew you needed help, he was there to provide it oftentimes unknown to his beneficiaries. I needed help on several occasions, and Herb was always available. Herb was my friend and I will miss him very much.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the memory of Herb Tobman for his professional successes and distinguished philanthropic record. His death is a great loss to the community and he will be greatly missed. Nevada is a better place because of Herb.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE BIANCO

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Dave Bianco, the Project Coordinator, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program, at St. Margaret Foundation.

Mr. Bianco, a resident of Hampton Township and an Iraq veteran, has designed the AED program to support a "heart safe" community. The AED program trains, and places AEDs in places where people tend to congregate like schools, churches, community centers and police and fire departments. AEDs are designed to reverse Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) which kills 300,000 people annually. The AED program through St. Margaret Foundation began 1998 and has saved 17 lives, including eight since June 2005. The Foundation has donated 162 AEDs since 1998 and continues to be the only foundation in the country that provides complimentary AEDs and full-service, diagnostics and repairs. Two AEDs will be donated to Al Zarenko, Director of Community Services, to be placed in the new community center in Hampton Township.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dave Bianco for all of his work for St. Margaret Foundation. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual.

TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO—
MICHAEL J. NOVOSEL

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's greatest military heroes, Michael J. "Mike" Novosel, who

passed away on April 2 at the age of 83 at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC.

Mike Novosel was a remarkable man who ranked among the best who ever donned a military uniform. I'm proud to point out that he spent much of his life in southeast Alabama where he had a monumental impact on the mission of the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1922, Novosel joined the U.S. Army Air Corps when he was 19. His training eventually took him to Maxwell Air Force Base where he qualified to fly the B-29 Superfortress. In 1945, he flew four Pacific combat missions with the 58th Bombardment Wing during the final days of World War II. But he did not stop there. Novosel commanded a B-29 as part of a fly-over during the Japanese surrender ceremony. His military career then led him to command the 99th Bombardment Squadron in the Pacific where he served until 1947 when he returned to the United States as a B-29 test pilot and then joined the Air Force Reserve. Soon after, he was called back to active duty at the Air Command and Staff School during the Korean war. But this was all just the beginning for Novosel.

During the Vietnam war, then Lieutenant Colonel Novosel volunteered for duty in the Air Force Reserve. However, he was turned down because of his age. So, he traded his blue suit for the uniform of a U.S. Army warrant officer, and instead of piloting B-29's, took the stick of a Bell UH-1 Huey. As a "dust-off" helicopter pilot, Novosel served two tours in Vietnam, totaling 2,543 missions airlifting 5,600 medical evacuees. Amazingly, one of the men he rescued was his own son, who, ironically, later rescued him. In one rescue mission, Novosel braved tremendous enemy fire to rescue no less than 29 men.

His bravery resulted in his receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor. He returned stateside to instruct the Army's Golden Knights parachute team at Fort Bragg and later he taught at the Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker. In 1985, Novosel was the last World War II pilot still flying. Fort Rucker named its main street "Novosel Avenue" for him, and after retirement Novosel remained in Enterprise, AL, where he was an active member of the community until his death.

Mr. Speaker, CWO4 Mike Novosel will rightfully be buried in Arlington National Cemetery alongside America's other great heroes. We can all be proud of his exemplary record, and I extend my condolences to his family.

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support today of the Iran Freedom Support Act because this bill shows our undisputed commitment to addressing the situation in Iran.

We have seen the potential effects of international inaction in this type of situation.

The regional security in the Middle East cannot be further compromised by an Iranian loose cannon.

There is little doubt that Iran is on a mission to rebuild its nuclear weapons and use that capability to wreak havoc and destruction on Israel and others throughout the world.

Without action, we are going to continue to allow Iran to be a safe harbor for terrorists, see its economy further deteriorate, and see the Middle East further destabilize.

This bill includes the necessary tools for the U.S. to help prevent Iran from pursuing nuclear and other weapons programs, deny them the resources they need to support terrorism, and stop them from oppressing the Iranian people.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LTC PHIL WAGNER, USMC

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of LTC Phil Wagner, U.S. Marine Corps. Phil died at the age of 87 this past February.

Phil Wagner, one of the "Greatest Generation" served in World War II and retired from the Reserves having attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. Lieutenant Colonel Wagner was a member of the American Legion for 52 years and served as Post 31's commander in 1970-71. He then took over the demanding job of adjutant, a post he held from 1972-1997, 25 years, with only one hiatus in 1977. He was not only active as a member and administrator of Post 31, but also of Grace Community Church, Boulder City Hospital Board and the BPOE Elks Club. Phil's dedication to his fellow veterans and to the community as a whole is admirable.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of LTC Phil Wagner. His death is a profound loss for the community.

HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, as a alumna of Washington and Jefferson College, I am especially pleased to recognize that this year's Hugh O'Brian Youth, HOBY, Leadership Seminar will be held at Washington and Jefferson College from June 15 to June 18, 2006.

The HOBY Leadership Seminars are designed to prepare our country's high school sophomores to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, schools, workplaces and communities. Selected high school students from each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Canada, Mexico, Korea, Taiwan and Israel attend annually and interact with recognized leaders from business, education, the arts, government and other professions. These discussions are intended to generate opportunities for young people to demonstrate and develop their leadership abilities when they return home for the betterment of community and country through community service.

This year marks the 48th year of outstanding dedication to recognition and devel-

opment of leadership potential in high school students and the 28th year that the seminars are being conducted in Pennsylvania. Moreover, the Western PA Seminar is a 3-day workshop modeled after the World Leadership Congress and hosts over 70 students from high schools in the western one-third of Pennsylvania.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminars and their distinguished service in Pennsylvania. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute this premier leadership development program.

IN MEMORY OF ED DAVIS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, former Los Angeles police chief and former California State Senator Ed Davis.

In the days since Ed died Saturday at age 89 in San Luis Obispo, California, many adjectives have been thrown around, including his moniker of "Crazy Ed." But Ed Davis was crazy like a fox. He was tough, intelligent, and perhaps most importantly, innovative.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Ed Davis started his police career as a beat cop and never forgot that. One of his many accomplishments as police chief was the creation of the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation to help families of officers killed in the line of duty.

He also is credited with creating community policing programs that were at first ridiculed, then copied across the country. His twenty principals of policing are still studied. He used to tell his officers that good policing means saving a life rather than taking one. But he was tough when he needed to be. Perhaps the statement most widely quoted is Ed's suggestion to hang airliner hijackers at the airport. He also stood up to city officials over law enforcement funding by telling the citizens to "bar your doors, buy a police dog, call us when we're available and pray."

As we all know, innovation is fun, but it's also worthless if it's ineffective. Ed Davis' policies were very effective. While crime increased 55 percent across the country during Ed's tenure, it fell 1 percent in Los Angeles.

Ed retired from the LAPD in 1978 and ran successfully for the State Senate 2 years later. A year later I ran for the City of Simi Valley City Council. Ed represented Simi Valley for the 7 years I served as mayor of the city. He never tried to impose his will on the city, but was always ready, willing, and able to help the city grow and prosper during those years.

After he retired from the Senate in 1992, Ed Davis became an elder statesman to police departments and State officials. His innovations live on.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Ed Davis' life and accomplishments, and in expressing our condolences to his wife, Bobbie, his children and grandchildren, and his many, many friends. Godspeed, Ed.

RECOGNIZING WORKERS'
MEMORIAL DAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today, on Workers' Memorial Day, we honor the 54 Oregonians and the millions around the world who have died on the job since last year. These men and women were more than just workers. They were fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, friends and co-workers.

On this 18th anniversary of the first Workers' Memorial Day in 1989, it is important not only to remember these people who gave the ultimate sacrifice, but to recognize the challenges and dangers facing employees in the workplace. We have made great strides as a Nation to address the issue of workplace safety. The Occupational Safety and Health Act, passed on April 28, 1971, has made a huge impact on workplace conditions. But we can, and we must, do better.

There is always hope for the future and our communities, our legislators and our businesses must work together to keep workplace safety a highest priority. I acknowledge these brave Oregonians, and look forward to this list growing ever shorter.

Justo Aguirre, Kurt Bell Heavy, Steven Brandt, Michael Breaux, Daniel Buckley, Brook Campbell, Gordon Cecil, Curtis Claffin, Howard Culver, David DeLacy, Loren Duncan, Thomas Ellsberg, Marty Erickson, Blake Foster, Robert Friedman, Dale Funk, Angel Gonzalez Cacho, Jason Gorman, Matthew Gregg, Rory Hanebrink, Mark Hauser, Harold Hawkins, David Henning, Lawrence Hoffman, Mark Howard, William Jobin, David Johnston, Christopher Jones, Brett Kulkarni, William Lanus, Paul Linck, Terry Little, Donald McCready, William McFarlane, Candace Mein, Bryant Myers, Kristine Okins, Ernest Oleman, Howard Pearsall, Mark Richardson, Gary Richey, Juan Rios, Vernon Robbins, Kevin Roberts, David Rossiter, Robert Smith, Gen Stewart, Joseph Sutton, Terry Sutton, Ronald Theus, Bobbi Thompson, Brian Tiller, Leobardo Velazquez, and Eric Yung.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LT. COL.
JOHN MEIERDIERCK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel John Henry "Hank" Meierdierck, who passed away, in Las Vegas on March 21, 2006, at the age of 84.

Hank was born April 13, 1921, in Newark, New Jersey, the son of John Henry Meierdierck and Ida Getto Meierdierck. Hank married Mildred Marie Giles in 1943. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II and remained in the U.S. Air Force after the war, amassing over 7,000 flying hours in more than 50 different aircraft. Hank retired from the USAF as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1964. He then went to work for the CIA at headquarters, Langley, VA. He did a signifi-

cant number of the original experimental flight tests on the U-2 airplane and the SR-71 airplane at the Nevada Test Site. Because of this work he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Then later, in 2005, Hank was awarded the Agency Seal Medallion from the Central Intelligence Agency for his leadership in developing the U-2. He was also authorized to wear the Air Medal, the European Area Medal with three Battle Stars, the World War II Victory Medal; the American Medal; the Air Force Reserve Medal; the AFOUA Medal; the Korean War Medal; and the AFLSA Medal with four Brass Oak Leaf Clusters.

Hank and his wife moved to Las Vegas, in 1970. They traveled extensively to wherever the fish are biting or the sun is shining. Hank considered himself a very good fisherman, and would want to be remembered as much for that as his military career. In retirement, Hank was a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and was very active and served as president of the Roadrunners Internationale, an affiliation of employees who were previously associated with the U-2 and SR-71 programs at Area 51. He was also honorary chairman of the Heroes of the Cold War Memorial and organized many military unit reunions. Hank is survived by his wife, Millie; two daughters, Gail and Victoria; one son, Jay; and 5 grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING YOM HASHOAH,
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues and with my constituents in solemn recognition of Yom Hashoah, a special day on which we mourn the millions of Jews who perished at the hands of Nazi Germany and remember the horrific tragedy of the Holocaust.

This day commemorates the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto, in April of 1943, and the selfless bravery of hundreds of everyday men and women who fought courageously against a troop of thousands of Nazi soldiers. This day fomented the resistance movement in ghettos throughout Europe, and it is the inspiration for the National Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance each year in the United States.

This day has special significance for Jews, the main target of Nazi atrocities. I have many constituents who are Holocaust survivors, and many more who lost friends, relatives and loved ones. We mourn their loss, and honor their memory and the memory of the 6 million Jews whose lives were so cruelly, wantonly and prematurely ended. We will never forget them, and what happened to them.

At the same time, we must recognize that the same forces that brought about the Holocaust continue to exist in the world today. We have seen it in Kosovo and Rwanda, we continue to see it in Darfur. Let us therefore honor the innocent victims by recommitting ourselves to fighting ignorance, bigotry, hatred and, perhaps most important, "inaction by people of good will."

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Matry's and Heroes' Remembrance Day, which memorializes the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis during their campaign of genocide in World War II. We mourn the innocent lives lost and vibrant communities destroyed while the world shamefully stood silent, and honor those heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto who faced certain death when they refused to submit to the Nazi's planned extermination of their community.

To this day, Mr. Speaker, many European countries have failed to right the past wrongs of the Holocaust by failing to adequately redress the wrongful confiscation of property by the Nazi and communist regimes. These seizures took place over decades; they were part of the modus operandi of repressive, totalitarian regimes; and they affected millions of people. The passage of time, border changes, and population shifts are only a few of the things that make the wrongful property seizures of the past such difficult problems to address today.

While I recognize that many obstacles stand in the way of righting these past wrongs, I do not believe that these challenges make property restitution or compensation impossible. On the contrary, I believe much more should have been done—and can still be done now—while our elderly Holocaust survivors are still living.

Today I also want to sound the alarm about a disturbing trend that Jews face today: a rising tide of anti-Semitism throughout the world.

I serve as the Ranking Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, CSCE, commonly known as the Helsinki Commission. In 2004 I traveled as part of the U.S. Delegation, with former Secretary of State Colin Powell, to attend a special conference in Berlin addressing anti-Semitism, held under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE. The OSCE is a 55-nation regional security organization which promotes democracy and human rights in Europe, Central Asia, and North America.

Before traveling to Berlin, I made a point to visit Auschwitz for the first time. I was shocked and stunned to see how efficient the Nazi operation was: they wanted to maximize the number of individuals that could be killed.

Seeing the remains of that factory of intolerance, hate and death, it reaffirmed how we must continually stress the importance of advancing understanding throughout the OSCE region and the entire world. We must tirelessly work to build understanding and respect between different communities to prevent future acts of prejudice and injustice.

At the Berlin Conference, I had the privilege of participating as a member of the U.S. delegation, and I gave the official U.S. statement in the session on tolerance. The meeting ended with the issuance of the Berlin Declaration of Action.

The Berlin Declaration laid out a number of specific steps for states to take to combat the rising tide of anti-Semitism, including: striving

to ensure that their legal systems foster a safe environment free from anti-Semitic harassment, violence or discrimination; promoting educational programs; promoting remembrance of the Holocaust, and the importance of respecting all ethnic and religious groups; combating hate crimes, which can be fueled by racist and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet; encouraging and supporting international organizations and NGO's; and encouraging the development of best practices between law enforcement and educational institutions.

As we commemorate Yom Hashoah, let us honor the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust by pledging to fight intolerance, hate crimes, and violence in our community and around the world. We shall never be silent again.

RECOGNIZING DR. CAROL A. CARTWRIGHT, PRESIDENT OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Carol A. Cartwright, President of Kent State University. President Cartwright will be leaving from her position after serving the Kent State University for 15 notable years.

President Cartwright's commitment to community outreach and economic development extends throughout northeastern Ohio. President Cartwright has a vision to work cooperatively with the surrounding communities to unite academic, public health, business, and community groups for common goals and betterment.

One of the most impressive and lasting achievements of President Cartwright is Kent State's leadership in pulling together The North East Ohio Consortium for Biopreparedness, focusing on public health preparedness. The facility addresses health and safety issues through education, research and workforce development. Part of the center's overall mission is to educate the community on issues regarding public health hazards, infection control and bioterrorism preparedness. The Northeast Ohio Consortium for Biopreparedness is one of only two bio-safety laboratory training facilities in the United States recognized by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. President Cartwright's perseverance to advance biotechnology research has enabled the facility to address public health and protection concerns on a local, State and National scale. I would also like to commend President Cartwright for including the 910th Airlift Wing Command, University of Akron, Youngstown State University, Case Western Reserve, Summa Health Care System, North Eastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, and various other organizations in the Consortium.

President Cartwright has also strongly supported the Washington Program in National Issues, WPNI, which gives Kent State students a real-world appreciation for life and work in the Nation's capital. Each spring semester, Kent State sends 20 of its top students to intern on Capitol Hill, Federal agencies, associations and other organizations. In

its 33rd year, the WPNI program is one to be envied by any other university in the country.

Kent State University and all of northeastern Ohio has benefited enormously from President Cartwright's vision, commitment and leadership—and she will be greatly missed.

In closing, I would like to congratulate President Cartwright on all of her astounding achievements during her 15 year tenure as President of Kent State University. I wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DOUGLAS HAROLD RITCHIE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Douglas Harold Ritchie, of the Las Vegas Sun, who passed away April 1, 2006, at the age of 86.

Born February 20, 1920, in Portsmouth, England, Doug was the second eldest child of film distributor Joseph M. Ritchie and his wife, Jessica. Educated in Dublin, Ireland, Ritchie joined the British Army out of high school in the late 1930s.

During World War II, Ritchie served as a British officer and saw action on D-Day at Normandy. He later served with troops that marched into Germany and liberated prisoner of war camps. After the war he was transferred to India where he served as a Major in the British Army through the late 1940s. There he was witness to the turmoil that resulted in the separation of India and Pakistan. While shocked by the violence he witnessed between Hindus from India and Pakistani Muslims, Doug calmly maintained control. That was a trait that not only helped him in the 1st Punjab Regiment, but throughout his life.

Leaving the military in 1950 after 11 years, Doug came to Las Vegas. His brother-in-law Hank Greenspun, had purchased the Las Vegas Free Press from a group of International Typographical Union members who started the newspaper after being locked out by the Review-Journal over a wage dispute. Hank published his first issue of the Free Press on June 21, 1950, and 10 days later renamed the paper the Las Vegas Sun. In addition to serving as classified ad manager, Doug became head of Sun promotions in the 1970s and head of public relations in the 1980s.

In 1969 Doug met Brenda Ritchie and they were married in 1971. The couple would have celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on April 10.

Doug served full-time with the Sun until 1990, the year the paper entered into a joint operating agreement with the Review-Journal, which then took over the selling of classified ads for both papers. That year, Ritchie and his family moved to California, and he maintained the title of assistant to the publisher until his death.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Douglas Ritchie on the floor of the House today. He will be remembered as a mild-mannered man, dedicated to his family and the community.

COMMEMORATING THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise to join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Today we declare to people living in every corner of our globe that the Turkish and American governments must finally acknowledge what we have long understood: that the unimaginable horror committed on Turkish soil in the aftermath of World War I was, and is, an act of genocide.

The tragic events that began on April 24, 1915, which are well known to all of us, should be part of the history curriculum in every Turkish and American school. On that dark April day, more than 200 of Armenia's religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and killed. Ultimately, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the Young Turks, and more than 500,000 more were exiled from their native land.

On this 91st anniversary of the beginning of the genocide, I join with the chorus of voices that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow the planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian Genocide must be acknowledged, studied and never, ever allowed to happen again.

I recently joined with my colleagues in the Caucus in urging PBS not to give a platform to the deniers of the genocide by canceling a planned broadcast of a panel which included two scholars who deny the Armenian Genocide. This panel was to follow a documentary about the Armenian Genocide which aired just last week. Representative Anthony Weiner and I led a successful effort to convince Channel Thirteen in New York City to pull the plug on these genocide deniers.

The parliaments of Canada, France and Switzerland have all passed resolutions affirming that the Armenian people were indeed subjected to genocide. The United States must do the same. I will not stop fighting until long overdue legislation acknowledging the Armenian Genocide finally passes.

Of course, an acknowledgment of the genocide is not our only objective. I remain committed to ensuring that the U.S. Government continues to provide direct financial assistance to Armenia. Over the years, this aid has played a critical role in the economic and political advancement of the Armenian people. I have joined with my colleagues in requesting military parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the FY07 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We also have requested an adequate level of economic assistance for Armenia and assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh.

On this solemn day, our message is clear: the world remembers the Armenian Genocide, and the governments of Turkey and the United States must declare—once and for all—that they do, too.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE**HON. MARK FOLEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, Reuters news recently reported that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is ready for a "political settling of accounts with history" provided that historians would prepare an unbiased study of claims that millions of Armenians were the victims of genocide under Ottoman rule during the First World War.

That accounting has already been done. A March 7, 2000 public declaration by 126 Holocaust Scholars affirmed the incontestable fact of the Armenian Genocide and urged Western democracies to officially recognize it.

This declaration by foremost scholars from around the world was adopted at the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Scholar's Conference on the Holocaust convening at St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 3–7, 2000. The petitioners, among whom was Nobel Laureate for Peace Elie Wiesel, also called upon Western democracies to urge the government and parliament of Turkey to finally come to terms with this dark chapter of Ottoman-Turkish history and to recognize the Armenian Genocide. According to this renowned gathering, Turkish acknowledgment would provide an invaluable impetus to that nation's democratization.

Monday, April 24th marked the 91st anniversary of the 1.5 million Armenian deaths and countless exiles in 1915 caused by the Ottoman Empire. President Bush commented that "it was a tragedy and should always be remembered."

In December 2005, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier announced that Turkey would be expected to recognize the event during EU accession negotiations. "This is an issue that we will raise during the negotiation process," he said. "We will have about 10 years to do so and the Turks will have about 10 years to ponder their answer."

If Turkey is prepared to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, then its leaders can proceed immediately to direct dialogue with its counterparts in Armenia to define a common vision for the future. By so doing, Turkey will begin the vital process of preparing its citizens for a more complete and honest assessment of the final acts of the Ottoman Turkish state and embracing the new opportunities available to them by gaining possible admittance into the European Union. Facing history squarely will liberate Turkey.

THE NEED FOR REAL REFORM OF
LOBBYING AND CONGRESSIONAL
PRACTICES**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, the American people have lost faith in Congress—as seen in the dismal 30 percent approval ratings. It demonstrates that our fellow citizens believe Congress no longer keeps their interests at the

forefront of its mind. Instead, they've learned that special interests get the first, and sometimes the only say, in this House.

They read in the paper about how some Members pay coach fares, but fly in luxurious corporate jets.

They've read reports about a Member who opened up defense contracts to the highest briber. And were only caught because a few, intrepid local reporters were better policemen than the gridlocked House Ethics Committee.

Because they know their elected representatives are often forced to vote on legislation that hasn't been available long enough to read.

What if, after someone signed papers on a new home, the bank inserted an extra page of regulations into the agreement? And the bank then claimed that the new homeowner's signature was proof they agreed to it? That person would be outraged, and justifiably so.

But last December, during consideration of the fiscal year 2006 defense appropriations conference report, 40 pages of text were inserted into the agreement after conferees had signed it. This text gave inappropriate immunity to makers of avian flu vaccines. It was done, quite literally, in the middle of the night. Sadly, there was no outrage from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. It was business as usual under this House leadership.

Yet I must report with deep regret that the bill before us does nothing to address these issues. At best, the Majority's proposal only papers over the deep divide between Republicans and most Americans on how Congress should conduct itself.

In the Rules Committee, I offered an amendment to allow Members 24 hours to read legislation before a floor vote on it. It would seem like exactly the kind of approach that our constituents want. But, the Majority rejected in Committee mark-up in addition to blocking it from coming to the floor for debate.

I also offered an amendment that would require a public vote by conferees on all conference agreements. Again, my amendment goes to the real abuses that our constituents are concerned about. But again, the Majority rejected it.

It is perhaps the ultimate irony—and the highest level of hypocrisy—that the House is debating a bill intended to increase transparency under a restrictive rule. Democrats have consistently identified abuses of power in how this Congress conducts business. And now we see those same abuses being used to prevent true reform from even being debated in public.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have reached their limit with the conduct of this House. Soon, they may take their ball and bat and go home. They'll tune us out forever. Click off C-SPAN. Walk away, disgusted by the very process that is supposed to represent them. We must enact real reform before it's too late—reform that raises the bar on both lobbyists and Members. That is not this bill, and it cannot be this bill under the straight-jacket laid down in this rule. I urge my colleagues to reject this rule, reject this bill and start over.

A TRIBUTE ALPHA PHI ALPHA
FRATERNITY ETA NU CHAPTER**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of the Eta Nu Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, on the campus of East Carolina University that took place on April 3, 1971. This Fraternity is the first Black Greek organization to be chartered on a campus where the percentage of African American enrollment is less than 13 percent. Under the direction of eight men, A.A. Best, J.J. Wise, W.G. Keys, O.T. Faison, C.H.G. White, J.C. Bryant, J.P. Harrison, and A.D. Moseley Eta Nu was established on the campus of East Carolina University. Those persons first initiated into the Eta Nu Chapter were known as the Undisputed Truth. The members of this Chapter are as follows: David Franklin, Gregory Clark, Jerry Congelton, John Clark, Tony Sedgewick, Jimmy Louis, Tommy Patterson, James Mitchell, Kenneth Hammond, James Johnson, and Kenneth Wright.

Over the years the Eta Nu Chapter has excelled and raised the bar for others to follow and has maintained high standards of scholastic achievement and service to the community. Following a brief period of suspension, the Eta Nu Chapter was resurrected in fall 1999 with the initiation of four young men known as the Four Knights of Resurrection. Since returning, members of the Eta Nu Chapter have worked diligently to increase the number of opportunities available to our youth; they have engaged in relentless efforts toward the improvement of the campus and the community as a whole.

The chapter currently participates in several community service initiatives; one such measure is the Jarvis Memorial After School Program where our youth are nurtured and directed on a positive and productive path.

This Chapter of Eta Nu holds several distinguished honors. The current SGA President is a member of this chapter as well as the second African American SGA Vice-President. Further, the first, second, and third African American Homecoming Kings of ECU were members of this Chapter. The highest Fraternal GPA at ECU for the past 4 out of 5 semesters were represented by a member of the Chapter, and lastly, the founders of the Black Student Union at ECU were members of this Eta Nu Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the members of the Eta Nu Chapter at East Carolina University are committed to distinguishing themselves as the most exemplary Chapter. I ask my Colleagues to join me in wishing the members of this Chapter the very best with their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DAVID BIBB

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge David Bibb, of Morgan

County, Alabama. Judge Bibb recently retired as Morgan County District Judge on April 21, 2006.

After a successful law career with A.J. Coleman and David Cauthen, Judge Bibb was appointed to the Morgan County District Court in 1981. He subsequently won election to the bench in 1982 and he continued to serve in that capacity until his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, throughout Judge Bibb's judicial career, he was well respected in the local community and the entire State of Alabama. He was known for being a fair judge who worked diligently to uphold the law, making our community an even better place.

He has remained active in the Morgan County community, serving on numerous advisory boards and task forces. Most notably, he is a member of the Morgan County and Alabama State Bar Associations, the District Judge Association, and a member of the Alabama Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He has also been a lecturer at the Alabama Judicial College and for the Alabama Child Support Association.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 21, Judge Bibb's family and friends gathered to celebrate his long and distinguished judicial career. I rise, on behalf of everyone in North Alabama to thank him for his service and join his colleagues, family, and friends in congratulating him on a job well done.

HONORING RUBEN M. GARCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ruben M. Garcia on his 75th birthday and for his remarkable dedication to the City of Laredo, Texas.

Ruben M. Garcia was born on April 27th, 1931, to Manuel B. Garcia and Elena Montemayor, in Laredo, Texas. He graduated from Martin High School in 1950 and served his country in the Korean War. After his wartime service, he returned back to Laredo and married Helen Ramirez.

Mr. Garcia has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his membership and work in several civic, social, educational, and governmental organizations such as the Federal Reserve Bank of San Antonio, Central Power and Light Board, Laredo Junior College, Laredo Development Foundation, Laredo Chamber of Commerce, South Texas Private Industry Council, Laredo International Fair & Expedition.

In addition to his community service, Mr. Garcia was honored as the Laredo Morning Times Man of the Year in 1974. Since his retirement from his family business in the construction industry, he has dedicated himself to raising cattle. For his dedication and hard work in the ranching industry, he was honored as Rancher of the Year by the Laredo International Fair and Expedition in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Ruben M. Garcia.

HONORING COAST GUARD CAPTAIN
PETER V. NEFFENGER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Coast Guard officers are measured by the depth of their dedication to protecting our country and its citizens, and by the respect they earn from the men and women who serve under them. By every measure, CPT Peter V. Neffenger is an outstanding commander.

On April 28th, Captain Neffenger concluded his accomplished tenure as Commanding Officer, Captain of the Port, and Federal Maritime Security Coordinator for the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach.

During his three-year command, he skillfully guided over 2,400 active duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary men and women through times of dramatic change and increasing responsibility. He leaves the nation's largest port complex better prepared for the daunting security challenges of the 21st century.

Captain Neffenger has overseen unprecedented security improvements at the Port of Los Angeles-Long Beach. Under his leadership, the Coast Guard's Los Angeles-Long Beach Sector conducted over 150 vessel boardings and over 500 commercial vessel escorts. The Captain led the Sector in several major exercises, including the largest one in Coast Guard history.

In his role as Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, Captain Neffenger spearheaded the coordination of federal, state and local agencies. He worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Customs and Border Protection, county and local law enforcement, and others to develop a communications network for law enforcement personnel.

His leadership produced the first Area Maritime Security Committee, an interagency body that serves as a model for ports around the nation. Captain Neffenger was a key member of the expert panel that developed the first National Strategy for Maritime Security, and he established a joint-operations partnership with the Coast Guard and CBP for daily intelligence and information-sharing within the port complex.

Captain Neffenger leaves the Port of Los Angeles-Long Beach safe and secure. His foresight, expertise and courage will be sorely missed, but his work in Washington as the Chief of Programs and Budget for the United States Coast Guard will undoubtedly serve our homeland security interests and make our country safer.

On behalf of my constituents and the communities surrounding the port complex, I extend our congratulations to a friend and neighbor, Pete Neffenger, and best wishes for his next assignment.

IN MEMORY OF AVIATION
PIONEER A. SCOTT CROSSFIELD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a most distinguished indi-

vidual—Scott Crossfield. Scott was an authentic American hero—though he would decline the applause—who served the Nation with distinction as a premier test pilot. With characteristic courage and enthusiasm, he carried out numerous pioneering test flights during his career—flights that significantly advanced the field of aeronautics.

It is rare for someone as famous and expert in his field to come to Congress as a professional staff member, but Scott proved to be an invaluable resource as well as a tireless advocate for aeronautics research and development during his years of service to the House Science Committee in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Scott came to the Committee after a wide-ranging career as a Navy pilot during World War II; an aerodynamicist, project engineer, and research test pilot at NACA, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NASA's predecessor agency); as chief engineering test pilot and director of testing and quality assurance for North American Aviation, one of the main contractors on the Apollo program; as a vice president for research and development of Eastern Airlines; and as senior vice president of Hawker Siddeley Aviation.

Author Tom Wolfe sought to capture the spirit of a test pilot in *The Right Stuff*, his compelling look at the men who flew at Edwards Air Force Base and the Mercury Seven astronauts. It was a difficult task, because among men like Crossfield "[t]his quality, this it, was never named, however, nor was it talked about in any way." In 1960, Scott's peers in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots recognized his incomparability with their highest honor—the Ivan C. Kincheloe Award—for "Outstanding Development and Flight Testing of the X-15". The X-15 is one of three aircraft in the National Air and Space Museum that embody Scott's influence. The Museum honored him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000.

Scott is known to the public for flying his Douglas D-558-II Skyrocket at Mach 2—twice as fast as sound—on November 20, 1953. Equally vital was his knowledge of aeronautics and his practical experience in the design, development, manufacture and operation of aircraft, allowing him to describe the events during flight in the language of his fellow engineers. Interviewed by *Aviation Week & Space Technology* for a 1988 documentary, Scott identified himself as an "aeronautical engineer, an aerodynamicist, and a designer. My flying was only primarily because I felt that it was essential to designing and building better airplanes for pilots to fly. . . . The opportunity to be a test pilot . . . is there for all—and probably within the grasp of most. In my mind, we should divest ourselves of this idea of special people (being) heroes, if you please, because really they do not exist."

Wolfe wrote of the Brotherhood of the Right Stuff, ". . . [T]he idea here (in the all-enclosing fraternity) seemed to be a man should have the ability to go up in a hurtling piece of machinery and put his hide on the line and then have the moxie, the reflexes, the experience, the coolness, to pull it back in the last yawning moment—and then to go up again the next day, and the next day, and every next day, even if the series should prove infinite." During his career Scott confronted numerous emergencies: engine flameouts, aircraft control failures, an X-15 landing which broke the

plane in two—and the day in June 1960 when a ground test of the X-15's rocket engine ended in an explosion that threw the cockpit twenty feet at a speed that exposed Scott to 50 times the force of gravity.

Scott wrote in his book, *Always Another Dawn*, "all I could think of was the possibility of a second explosion that might hurl my part of the airplane halfway across Edwards and through the main hangar and workshop. In the cockpit I moved swiftly to do what I could to prevent this. . . . Immediately afterwards, . . . we recalled in detail all that we could remember while it was still fresh in our minds. These eye-witness accounts, added to the miles of telemetry data and the film strips from the three movie cameras, would enable us to establish the cause of the explosion very quickly." Such dedication was critical to correcting failures, improving performance and accomplishing the major goal of NACA, which was to infuse the leading edge of aeronautical technology into American industry and aircraft.

The Committee on Science and Technology was fortunate, when it came time to recruit Scott, to have Jack Swigert, the pilot of *Apollo 13*, as its chief of staff. Scott and Jack had known each other for years and it was Scott who talked Jack into leaving graduate school at the University of Colorado for the astronaut corps.

Scott answered the call to public service and brought his unique abilities and contacts to a decade and a half of distinguished service on the Committee. When he joined the staff he had already been a pilot for over 40 years. During his years of service, Scott was the Committee's lead staffer both for the Federal Aviation Administration and for the aeronautics portion of NASA. The universally high level of respect he garnered opened doors no one else could open. His unique experience and level of knowledge meant that he was on top of both the technology and the politics of the agencies he oversaw.

In the wake of the *Challenger* disaster, Scott applied himself to an analysis of the Shuttle orbiter's braking system as his part of the Committee's investigation. He wrote that, ". . . Orbiter landings appear high risk even under ideal conditions, which seldom occur. Exceptional procedural and skill demands are placed upon the pilots to nurse the brakes and tires through every landing. Landing rules have had increasing constraints imposed that hamper operational flexibility and usefulness of the Orbiter. . . . [I]t is a tribute to the pilots that they were able to carry such a tender system so far." When the Shuttle returned to flight in 1988, it did so with a stronger braking system. The astronauts can thank Scott Crossfield every time their drag chute deploys as the Shuttle rolls down the runway. The Committee, upon his departure in 1993, expressed "[a]ppreciation for [his] knowledge and experience in aviation and engineering, contributions to sound aviation policies, and foresight to set in motion plans for 21st Century aerospace transportation." NASA awarded him the Distinguished Public Service Medal and the Federal Aviation Administration a Certificate of Appreciation.

In 2003, Scott applied his experience at teaching pilots to a singular purpose. The team chosen to attempt a recreation of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight at Kitty Hawk asked Scott to train the pilots attempting to get the replica Flyer into the air. The Wrights

didn't leave an instruction manual for the Flyer, and as Scott told the Experimental Aircraft Association's Sport Aviation magazine, "[t]hings you would do intuitively as a pilot in any other airplane just don't work with this one." Aviation Week magazine recognized his contribution by including Scott as Laureate for Aeronautics/Propulsion in 2003.

Scott always had time to fly his plane around the country to share his experiences and love of aviation. He loved speaking to young people—especially in the Fairfax County elementary school near his home that is named after him. That honor probably meant as much to him as receiving the National Aeronautics Association Collier Trophy from President Kennedy, the National Space Club's Wernher von Braun Trophy or his enshrinement in the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame, the National Aviation Hall of Fame and the International Space Hall of Fame.

Scott was one of a kind and all who worked with him were blessed to have the opportunity to do so. I want to express my condolences to his family on the sad loss of this amazing man.

EDWARD AND MERLE FORD ON
THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward and Merle Ford on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Edward and Merle celebrated this wonderful milestone on February 28, 2006 after having spent half a century in love and with the shared experiences of family life. Edward Lee Ford was born on July 31, 1929 in Hemingway, South Carolina. He relocated to Pennsylvania to attend Pine Forge Academy. Prior to graduating from Pine Forge, Edward and his twin brother, Jesse, were drafted into the Army where they served as medics. During his time at Pine Forge and while in Germany, Edward diligently wrote to Merle Elizabeth Cheatham. Merle was born on January 1, 1934 in Baltimore, Maryland, and like Edward, attended Pine Forge Academy. During the early days of their romance, letter-writing kept their love alive.

On October 23, 1955, Merle Elizabeth Cheatham and Edward Lee Ford were wed at the chapel on the grounds of Pine Forge Academy. The Fords have four children; Rhonda, Terry, Dwayne, and Lisa; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Merle and Edward have likewise kept their connection to Pine Forge Academy strong. Merle worked as the Registrar, Secretary to the Principal, and Typing Teacher at the Academy, while Edward designed and built Kimbrough Hall, several of the log cabins, and renovated North Hall into the Music Conservatory. Edward even served as the first president of the Pine Forge National Alumni Association. In 1995, Edward, along with his brother Jesse, received the honor of being alumni of the year. In addition to their dedication to each other and the Academy, the Fords are pillars in their church where they serve as Head Deacon/Deaconess at the Walnut Street

Community Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Edward and Merle Ford on their fifty golden years of love and dedication to each other. I hope they will continue to live in the house Edward built for Merle and that they are blessed with continued joy, health, and love.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2005 ST.
CHARLES CRIME STOPPERS

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2005 St. Charles Crime Stoppers award winners. For those of you not familiar with the program, Crime Stoppers began 30 years ago in the state of New Mexico as a community partnership to help combat crime. This community partnership consists of the local authorities, the press and area residents. Since its inception, Crime Stoppers has expanded to all 50 states, including the District of Columbia, as well as worldwide with programs in Canada, Europe, Australia, parts of Southeast Asia and other locales. In total, there are 1,200 programs worldwide.

Oftentimes, when a crime is committed, there is generally a witness who has either seen firsthand the act take place or has knowledge that could lead to the arrest of the perpetrator. Whether it is a mugging, a drug deal or an auto theft, someone in the local community has information. The obstacle local law enforcement face is that many of these tipsters are reluctant to come forward for fear of retaliation by these criminals or for other personal reasons.

The solution is Crime Stoppers, which provides witnesses with a safe and anonymous way to relay tips, and therefore avoid having to go on the record and fear reprisals. While Crime Stoppers tips generally do not provide police with the evidence needed to make an arrest, the information does provide police with leads that have ultimately led to a countless number of arrests and prosecutions. Rewards also help reluctant tipsters to come forward with information.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the 13 2005 St. Charles award winners. Michael Shipley was honored as the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. For 14 years, Mike has dutifully served the local community both as an officer with the St. Charles Police Department but also as a mentor and coach to the local youth. He may be best known for his role as head trainer at St. Charles Boxing where he helps kids learn the "sweet science" but most importantly stay out of trouble.

Kimberly Huffman was honored as the Crime Stoppers Civilian Employee of the Year. After completing the police academy and beginning her work as a police officer, Kim was devastated to learn that she had been diagnosed with a medical condition that would preclude her from fulfilling her day-to-day duties. As a result, Kim resigned as an officer and began to work as a communications specialist with the department, where she excelled. Recently, Kim was ecstatic to learn that her condition had been misdiagnosed and will be able

to again pursue her dream of becoming a police officer.

The Neighborhood Block Captains Award was presented to Randy and Jan Joeckel for their work in their neighborhood, Hanover Manor. The Joeckels have diligently worked to maintain a safe and crime free neighborhood by organizing neighborhood watches and community meetings to help keep tabs of developing problems.

Jim Trenary Chevrolet was the recipient of the 2005 Crime Stoppers Business of the Year Award. Jim Trenary employees have been extremely active in the local community with various fundraising efforts to help out good causes. Jim Trenary Chevrolet has also been an invaluable tool to the St. Charles Police Department by providing cars to be used for surveillance and sting operations.

The 2005 Crime Stoppers Special Recognition Award was presented to Thomas Benton. After retiring from 20 years of service to the St. Charles Police Department, Thomas became the director of security for a local casino. Never one to forget his law enforcement skills, Thomas was able to help local authorities identify two suspects from two different bank robberies using casino surveillance tapes and testimony from casino employees.

St. Charles Suburban Journal reporter Jason Lee received the Crime Stoppers Media Relations Award. Jason's reporting on area crime was detailed and thorough and he helped create awareness for the program by including Crime Stoppers information in his articles. Jason also proved to be an asset to the St. Charles Police Department, as he helped out with leads on certain cases.

The 2005 Citizen Award was presented to Renee & Derrick Rivers, Colleen Clifford, John Hanley, Susan & Andy Quinones, Ann Walton, Ann Grice and Stacey Nelson. All of the Citizen Award recipients were actively involved in helping apprehending suspects and thwarting future crimes. And in one particular case, an infant's life was saved by arresting a mother for child abuse and endangerment.

I commend all these recipients and hope my colleagues share in my admiration for the Crime Stoppers. I encourage all Americans to learn more about this wonderful partnership.

THE ENDANGERED CHILDREN OF
NORTHERN UGANDA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, when current Ugandan President Yaweri Museveni overthrew the murderous regime of the late Milton Obote in Uganda in 1986, many had hoped that their nation would finally emerge from the nightmares of the Obote and Idi Amin regimes. Unfortunately, yet another horror lay ahead for the people of northern Uganda.

Many in the Acholi community were alarmed at the sudden loss of power when Obote was overthrown, and Alice Lakwena formed the Holy Spirit Movement to fight for the Acholi people. Despite her promises that her followers would have immunity from the bullets of the Ugandan army, they were defeated two years later, and she fled to Kenya.

Meanwhile, Joseph Kony, believed to be Lakwena's cousin, took up the battle, forming a group known as the Lord's Resistance Army or LRA. The LRA is often said to be determined to rule Uganda according to the Bible's 10 Commandments. In reality, this group has a philosophy that blends elements of Christianity, Islam and traditional Acholi beliefs into a murderous world view that has terrorized Kony's own Acholi people and set back development in the North by years if not decades.

Over the last 20 years, as many as two million persons—an estimated 90 percent of the population of the Acholi area in northern Uganda—have been forced into internally displaced persons camps. More than 20,000 children have been forced to serve as either soldiers or sexual slaves for the LRA. Those children who have escaped kidnapping by the LRA are forced into the phenomenon known as night commuting, in which an estimated 50,000 children walk miles from the rural areas to towns in order to find relative safety in bus shelters, churches or even on the streets.

The impact of this war on Ugandans in the North, as reported by the Civil Society Organisations for Peace in Northern Uganda, is almost unbelievable:

—The rates of violent death in northern Uganda are three times higher than those reported in Iraq following the Allied invasion in 2003.

—Each month, nearly 3,500 Ugandans die from easily preventable diseases, extreme violence and torture;

—Each day, 58 children under the age of five die as a result of violence and preventable diseases.

—Three times more children under the age of five die in northern Uganda than in the rest of the country.

—One quarter of the children in northern Uganda over ten years of age have lost one or both parents.

—Half of the nearly two million internally displaced persons in northern Uganda are children under the age of 15.

—About a quarter of a million children in northern Uganda receive no education at all because of displacement and the fact that 60% of schools in northern Uganda no longer function due to the war.

Because of the war in the North, Uganda has developed a lost generation that has grown up in dire circumstances with fear and deprivation as their constant companions. Nearly half of all children in the northern town of Kitgum are stunted from malnutrition. They likely will never be able to recover what this war has cost them.

There is great concern that the Government of Uganda is insufficiently committed to improving the situation in northern Uganda. On at least two occasions when there appeared to be a chance for peace talks with the LRA—once in 1993 and again in late 2004–2005—the Government of Uganda launched offensives that ended any chance of peace and yet failed to end the terrorism of the LRA. More recently, the indictment of top LRA leaders by the International Criminal Court has effectively ended further peace efforts.

Because of its inability to end the LRA threat, the Ugandan government in 2003 began encouraging local leaders in northern and eastern Uganda to raise civilian militias to help protect civilians. Unfortunately, according

to a study done by the Alan Shawn Feinstein International Famine Center at Tufts University, these militias were hurriedly recruited, poorly screened and incompletely trained. Furthermore, known criminals are part of these militias, which also contain boys and girls less than 18 years of age.

The Feinstein Center study also reports that there is a widespread perception among individuals and organizations in northern Uganda that the government has malevolent reasons for not ending the war with the LRA. They include revenge against northerners for human rights abuses under previous governments and neutralization of political challenge from the North. In the Uganda elections held earlier this year, President Museveni's main opponent Kizza Besigye, won 80 percent of the vote in northern Uganda—a testimony to the government's unpopularity in the North.

Whatever the truth about the Government of Uganda's war effort, it is certainly a fact that not enough is being done to safeguard the endangered children of northern Uganda. With all the attention given to the genocide in Darfur, a similar crisis in northern Uganda has been eclipsed in both attention and resources.

Just as we have a moral obligation to rescue the suffering people of Darfur, we have a similar obligation not to ignore the terrorized population of northern Uganda. If the eyes and ears of the world are focused elsewhere, we must redirect them to Uganda's distressed northern population—especially the children. Uganda's future may depend on our efforts.

Regrettably, the phenomenon of child soldiers is not one confined to Uganda or Africa. It is a global tragedy in which as many as 300,000 children are involved in as many as 30 conflicts around the world. As in Uganda, children are used by governments or government-supported militias and rebel forces such as the LRA. Utilized in everything from combat to spying to clearing minefields, these children are often killed or maimed, and even those who can escape often find it difficult to reintegrate back into society. They desperately need our help.

To that end, I and some of my colleagues in the House and Senate are planning to introduce legislation shortly to address the issue of child soldiers. This legislation condemns the conscription, forced recruitment or use of children by governments or paramilitaries in hostilities and urges the U.S. Government to lead efforts to enforce existing international standards to end this horrendous human rights abuse.

This legislation would deny U.S. military assistance to 7 of the 26 nations believed to use children in their military forces: Burundi, Columbia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Paraguay, Sudan and Uganda.

RUSSELL KOLB

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Russell Kolb for his 50 years of outstanding service to the Ridge Fire Company of East Vincent Township, Chester County Pennsylvania and the communities it serves.

In addition to his active membership in the Company for 50 years, Mr. Kolb is also a

Trustee and President of the Company. During his time of service, Mr. Kolb has earned the love and respect of his fellow citizens for his dedication and commitment to the local community.

Throughout his tenure, he has been the lead fundraiser for the Company's chicken barbeques, fairs, and annual Thanksgiving turkey raffle. He also serves on the Building and Truck Committees, which oversee the purchase of new equipment, building repairs, and major renovations. The countless hours of service he has provided to the Company and community are testament to his passion for volunteerism and exemplary citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Mr. Russell Kolb, one of Chester County's and Pennsylvania's great citizen volunteers, for his ceaseless and unselfish commitment to the safety and betterment of his local community and fellow citizens.

THE DEDICATION OF RIVERBEND PARK

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to acknowledge and celebrate a momentous day in the history of the City of Oroville (City), California, a community I have the honor of representing in the House of Representatives. On May 5, 2006, local residents will join representatives from the City, the Feather River Park and Recreation District (District), the California State Water Contractors, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and several other entities to dedicate Riverbend Park. This dedication is the culmination of a collaborative effort involving numerous stakeholders and is a very positive development for the residents of Oroville and the surrounding areas.

Enhancements to Riverbend Park have been ongoing for the better part of 25 years. But only now, during the final stages of DWR's relicensing of hydroelectric facilities at nearby Lake Oroville, are the sparkling visions of local officials and residents for this property being realized. During the last five years of negotiations with state authorities, local officials made it clear that this project was a priority for the community. DWR responded by making Riverbend Park a Special Project as part of the relicensing process and pledged financial assistance and personnel to make the improvements sought by the City and District. While more projects are scheduled, District officials have already significantly improved the area by upgrading and restoring public access to the Oroville Wildlife Area Ponds, placing Americans with Disability Act compliant restrooms on site, installing a water well pump for irrigation and fire suppression, and constructing better barriers to deter illegal trespassing and dumping. Presently, the 210 acres that make up Riverbend Park provide outstanding opportunities for hikers, fishermen, bird watchers, wildlife viewers, disc golfers, and other recreation enthusiasts.

The Feather River, which runs adjacent to Riverbend Park, has long been a focal point of the Oroville community. Before the construction of the Oroville Dam many years ago, area

residents and visitors enjoyed numerous forms of recreation in and on the Feather River. Now, the construction of Riverbend Park has helped to usher in a new and positive era in the City, punctuated by a renewed focus on quality development along the Feather River. I am pleased to commemorate this phase of the development and look forward to future improvements along this important natural feature.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the people of Oroville, their elected officials, and District staff as they celebrate the exciting occasion of dedicating Riverbend Park. As a showcase for the entire region and a safe place for people of all ages, I am sure Riverbend Park and the amenities it offers will make a lasting impression on residents and visitors to the area for decades to come. I congratulate area leaders and citizens as they commemorate this momentous occasion.

METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WITH EMPOWERMENT AWARDS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three outstanding New York City women: Inez Dickens, Yvette Clarke and Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, as the recent recipients of the first Annual Metropolitan College of New York Women's Empowerment Awards and to enter into the RECORD an article from the New York CaribNews entitled "Women's History Month With Empowerment Awards," that salutes their achievements in their fields. These three ladies were truly deserving of the accolades bestowed upon them during National Women's History Month, at a gala recognition ceremony held at Metropolitan College on March 20, 2006.

March of each year symbolizes Women's History Month. This time is set aside to honor all women with particular emphasis on the extraordinary contributions of women who actively make a difference in the daily lives of others. The three honorees for the Metropolitan College of New York's Women's Empowerment Awards have made notable contributions to furthering the causes of Diversity, Education and Public Service. New York City Council members Inez Dickens and Yvette Clarke, along with the Deputy Manhattan Borough President Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, were the honorees whose stellar careers and accomplishments merited this special recognition.

To quote and agree with the MCNY President Stephen R. Greenwald, ". . . Each of our honorees represents a model of success for our students and for all New Yorkers." While giving eloquent and sincere award acceptance speeches each honoree spoke of their values and the motivating forces that guided their careers. They also stressed the importance of community activism as they encouraged the audience to step up and make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the first Annual Metropolitan College of New York for their decision to select and recognize Inez Dickens, Yvette Clarke and Rosemonde Pierre-Louis for

their contributions to humanity. These trailblazers are very much deserving of the Women's Empowerment Awards.

[From the New York CaribNews, Apr. 4, 2006]

METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WITH EMPOWERMENT AWARDS

Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY) celebrated Women's History Month with the First Annual MCNY Women's Empowerment Awards for Contributions to Diversity, Education and Public Service on Monday, March 20 in the College's Student Lounge. The inaugural Women's Empowerment Awards were bestowed upon New York City Council members Yvette Clarke and Inez Dickens and Deputy Manhattan Borough President Rosemonde Pierre-Louis. MCNY President Stephen R. Greenwald welcomed the honorees, MCNY students, faculty and guests to the event and MCNY Alumna Lori N. Jones-Dessalines, Founder, President, and Center Director for Achievers of New York, Inc. Math Center in West Hempstead, Long Island, served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

"We are delighted to honor the achievements of these three outstanding New York City officials. In some ways, their accomplishments echo the pioneering work that Audrey Cohen began when she founded the Women's Talent Corps in 1964—the precursor to Metropolitan College of New York. Each of our honorees represents a model of success for our students and for all New Yorkers," said Mr. Greenwald.

Councilmember Yvette Clarke credited her parents' community activism with motivating her to become a public servant. She also encouraged the students in the audience, the majority of who were women, to become active in their respective communities.

"I stand on the shoulders of many women who serve our City daily on community boards, in block associations, PTAs, tenant associations—women who are the unsung heroines of our City. It is on their behalf that I accept this award," Ms. Clarke noted.

Council member Inez Dickens departed from her prepared remarks to tell the students a bit about her family history. Her family left Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1920's to escape the racially motivated violence against African Americans. In the course of one day, more than 10,000 whites gathered and setting fire to every building standing, leveled 35 square blocks, murdered, raped and robbed, and committed other atrocities against African Americans. They used machine guns and airplanes that dropped nitroglycerin and dynamite in an all out attack on the African American section of town. The Dickens family moved first to Canada and then settled in Harlem where Councilmember Dickens' uncle, then her father, were among the first African-American elected officials in the New York State legislature.

Deputy Manhattan Borough President Rosemonde Pierre-Louis encouraged the students to seek creative ways to be involved in public service. Stressing the importance of activism, she outlined many of the initiatives she spearheaded in her role as an attorney and an advocate for battered and other women's issues. She added, with the pride of achievement, that in 2006 she is the first Haitian American woman to hold a significant public appointment in New York.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 4681

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, would like to enter into the record my views on a bill that was marked-up in the International Relations Committee on April 6, 2006, H.R. 4681, The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Chairman HENRY HYDE for his wisdom and determined effort to temper H.R. 4681 to reflect the shared commitment of members of the U.S. House to ensure Israel's security, combat terrorism and work towards a peaceful two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinian people. Despite Chairman HYDE's noblest efforts, I unfortunately believe the substance of the legislation as put before the committee will not help the U.S. advance our vital interests in the Middle East and therefore I cannot support the bill in its current form.

Among our colleagues in the U.S. House, there is unanimous intolerance and condemnation for the Hamas-led government of the Palestinian Authority. The refusal of the political leadership of Hamas to recognize the State of Israel, renounce violence and terrorism, and agree to previous agreements and obligations of the Palestinian Authority is unacceptable and therefore they must be isolated by the international community. Congress should be extending our support for the Bush administration's current position of leading the international community to keep firm pressure on Hamas until they agree to an internationally recognized civilized standard of conduct. At the same time, Congress must work with the administration and the international community to avoid a serious humanitarian crisis among the Palestinian people.

Unfortunately, instead of advancing the U.S. interests, H.R. 4681 does not recognize the three criteria set forth by President Bush for engagement with the U.S. H.R. 4681 sets an elevated threshold which will make engagement nearly impossible even if Hamas does agree to recognize Israel, renounce terrorism and agree to abide by all previous agreements. The policy outcome of H.R. 4681 would not only isolate Palestinian leaders who have been committed to advancing the peace process, have denounced terrorism and are working with Israel for a permanent two-state solution, it will result in the isolation of the U.S. among members of the international community that are working for a peaceful and just solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

This bill also places extreme constraints on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people which has the potential for very negative human consequences. Palestinian families and children must not be targeted for deprivation of their basic human needs, but instead treated in a fashion that reflects our values and the belief that their lives are valued. Non-governmental organizations (representing many of our faith communities) with significant experience delivering humanitarian assistance have expressed serious concerns regarding the lack of flexibility in H.R. 4681. An April 6, 2006 letter from the United States Conference on Catholic Bishops to

Chairman HYDE expressing concerns regarding the substitute amendment to H.R. 4681 states, "the legislation should provide for the urgent needs of the Palestinian people. A further deterioration of the humanitarian and economic situation of the Palestinian people compromises human dignity and serves the long term interests neither of Palestinians nor of Israelis who long for a just peace."

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the text of the letter from the Catholic Bishops Conference for the record as well.

In its present form, this bill will not allow NGOs to properly carry out the very assistance determined to be necessary by the Secretary of State. It would be my hope that this is not an attempt to intentionally make it prohibitively difficult for NGOs to fulfill their contracts, thus ensuring suffering and misery among the Palestinian people, but rather a failure in drafting the bill that can be remedied as the legislative process proceeds.

The inclusion of the section of the bill targeting the United Nations agencies and programs, section 4, is very disappointing and clearly not intended to advance the peace process or the well-being of Israelis or Palestinians. The United Nations, as a member of the Quartet, has a vital role to play in ensuring humanitarian needs are met. To target a member of the Quartet in such a fashion is a clear sign that this bill is intended to undermine the Bush administration's multilateral leadership. This section has no positive effect on the policy goal stated in section 2 of the bill and will likely isolate the U.S. in the future. This entire section of the bill must be removed.

There are other aspects of this bill which I disagree with because I believe they harm U.S. interests. Fortunately, some of my remaining concerns regarding the bill are appropriately addressed in S. 2370, as introduced in the U.S. Senate, which I feel provides the President appropriate flexibility to positively advance U.S. interests with regard to the Palestinian Authority and the peace process.

Finally, my opposition to H.R. 4681 is based on policy grounds that reflect my support for a Middle East peace process which will ultimately yield security and freedom from terrorism for the people of Israel and a democratic, secure and peaceful Palestinian state. H.R. 4681, in its current form, will result in no greater security or opportunities for peace than exist today with current law and the administration's present policy course, but may in fact have the result of destabilizing the current situation while fueling a humanitarian crisis. It would be my hope that this legislation will be amended and improved as the process moves forward. Advancing this bill in its current form undermines U.S. interests, exacerbates a potential humanitarian crisis and has potential long-term negative consequences for the Israeli people and the Palestinians. In its current form, I must oppose H.R. 4681.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD PEACE,

Washington, DC, April 6, 2006.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives, 2110 Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2170, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I write to express the bishops' concerns regarding the Amendment in the Na-

ture of a Substitute to H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006.

The bishops' perspective on this legislation is shaped by two overriding concerns. First, H.R. 4681 should be measured in light of the ultimate goal of promoting a two-state solution that provides security for Israel and a viable state for the Palestinians, two states living alongside one another in peace. Second, the legislation should provide for the urgent needs of the Palestinian people. A further deterioration of the humanitarian and economic situation of the Palestinian people compromises human dignity and serves the long term interests neither of Palestinians nor of Israelis who long for a just peace.

Mr. Chairman, the bishops are grateful that the language of the substitute now acknowledges the goal of a two-state solution, but we remain profoundly concerned that some of the provisions of the bill would directly undermine this goal. For example, the legislation rightly calls upon Hamas to renounce terrorism, recognize Israel and accept prior agreements, including the Road Map, but then forbids contact with the Palestinian Authority, "including the Palestinian Legislative Council" (page 9, lines 15-16) despite the fact that many members of the Council are not members of Hamas or a Foreign Terrorist Organization and have, in fact, renounced terrorism, recognized Israel and supported past agreements. Similarly, in section 7 and 8 the travel and representation of officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the United States is restricted despite the fact that the PLO has renounced terrorism, recognized Israel and negotiated the prior agreements. These actions curtail contact with moderate Palestinian leaders whose support and cooperation are crucial for pursuing a two state solution.

The bishops appreciate the steps you have taken to improve section 3 of the legislation, (e.g., the shortening of notification provisions). However, we remain profoundly concerned with the narrow definition of the exception to limitations on aid to Gaza and the West Bank in subsection (d). Especially given the deepening poverty and unemployment in the Palestinian territories, the exception ought to include more than the provision of services to meet "basic human health needs." The basic human needs of the Palestinian people as they fall into deeper poverty include: "education, job training, psycho-social counseling and other humanitarian needs." The bishops' relief and development agency, Catholic Relief Services, reports that their assistance programs in the Palestinian Territories could be severely curtailed or ended under the proposed legislation. Other reputable, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) report similar concerns.

Another issue related to NGOs is the prohibition on all contact with the Palestinian Authority (PA). Any organization delivering assistance in the West Bank and Gaza will need to have incidental contact with the PA in order to secure permits and conform to legal requirements. This routine, non-substantial contact should not be prohibited.

Attached to this letter you will find some specific language recommendations that the Bishops' Conference believes would help the legislation to meet two important goals supporting a two-state solution to the conflict and alleviating the urgent human needs of the Palestinian people through aid. These goals are in the best interests of both Palestinians and Israelis who long for a just peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

THOMAS G. WENSKI,
*Bishop of Orlando, Chairman,
Committee on International Policy.*

SIR KNIGHT PASQUALE COLLETTI

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sir Knight Pasquale Colletti for his outstanding service to the Chester County community as the Knights of Columbus' Past Faithful Navigator. The Chester County, Pennsylvania Fourth Degree Assembly #1873 has faithfully served the community and parishes for many generations. Mr. Colletti has received numerous accolades and awards from the Assembly and fellow Knights hold him in high esteem for the compassion he shows to families with loved ones in military service. Mr. Colletti extends help, support, and prayers for servicemen and women either before or during deployment or after their return. His leadership in patriotic causes and community service is inspirational. He is a true patriot, an exemplary citizen, and a pillar of the Chester County community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Sir Knight Pasquale Colletti for his leadership, dedication, and love of country. I hope that Mr. Colletti will continue to undertake his great works on behalf of the community and County and help Pennsylvania Fourth Degree Assembly #1873 continue its long history of distinguished community service.

TRIBUTE TO HOPE WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Hope Williams, Jr., the grandson of slaves, the son of a man wrongfully imprisoned, and a civil rights pioneer. This native of rural Fort Motte, South Carolina, was a fixture during the civil rights era in his home state, and his passing on November 21, 2005 left a void that will never be filled.

On June 14, 1910, Mr. Williams was born the youngest of 12 children to Hope, Sr., and Adline Gold Williams during the era of Jim Crow laws. He received only a sixth grade education at Julia Peterkin's Lang Syne School because a public school education was not available to him and others similarly situated. Yet he continued to educate himself beyond his formal school years.

While Mr. Williams was still at home, his father was snatched and put on a chain gang for defending himself against the assault of a local white man. With his mother left to care for her large family alone, Mr. Williams stepped up and helped build a new cabin for his family. The house still stands, although battered by time. It remains a testament to Hope Williams' legacy of determination and endurance.

During World War II the boundaries of skin color temporarily diminished as all young men were called to serve. Hope Williams served his country by cultivating cotton on a Calhoun County farm he secured through one of the government's "Resettlement Administration" programs. However, racial tensions rose

again, and Mr. Williams found himself drawn into the civil rights movement joining the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC. He was involved in organizational meetings with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at Penn Center in Frogmore, South Carolina, and helped mobilize voter registration and participation in Calhoun and Orangeburg counties.

His leadership in the African American community, led Mr. Williams to form the Calhoun County Branch of the NAACP, and he served as its president for 12 years. He focused his efforts on working with South Carolina's first Black Senator since Reconstruction, I. DeQuincey Newman, to improve voter registration and economic development in African American communities.

Mr. Williams defied threats by the Ku Klux Klan and even took on the powerful State Senator Marion Gressette, and continued his voter registration drives. Ultimately Senator Gressette deputized him as a registrar with the power to register people where he met them rather than at the voter registration office. He was then appointed to the Calhoun County Board of Education and Voter Participation. He served in that capacity for many years, and was active in many other community organizations.

His dedication to his faith was equally profound. Mr. Williams joined New Bethany Baptist Church at the age of 14, and remained an active member until his passing. He served as Church Clerk, Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent. He became an Ordained Deacon, and finally served as Chairman of the Deacon Board until he fell ill before departing this life.

Mr. Williams was the patriarch of a wonderful family. His married June Miller in August 1932, and the two had 18 children. Mr. Williams was also the proud grandfather of 56 grandchildren and great-grandfather to another 45. At the time of his passing, he had eight great-great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Hope Williams was a stalwart of the civil rights movement. He was instrumental in helping African-American communities in Calhoun County secure their right to vote, and he was among the unsung heroes in South Carolina that pave the way for me to be elected the first African American to Congress from South Carolina since Reconstruction. In fact, he was very active in all my political efforts until his illness. It was a long road, but one made easier by the tremendous work and sacrifice of men and women like Hope Williams. I encourage you to join me in expressing deep gratitude, posthumously, to Mr. Williams, and to issue that this triumph story is enshrined in the hollowed halls of Congress.

MEDICARE PART D DEADLINE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress and the Bush Administration to extend the May 15th deadline for enrollment in Medicare Part D.

The Bush Administration has spent millions of taxpayer dollars to promote this complicated plan. However, 6 months after enrollment began, only slightly over half of Medicare re-

ipients, who did not previously have coverage, have enrolled in Part D. These low numbers are due in large part to the complexity of the system, the number of unfamiliar plans entering the market and the misinformation initially presented by CMS.

This was made very clear to me after many meetings with seniors and persons with disabilities in my district that this is unnecessarily complicated and that CMS was unprepared to deal with its implementation from the outset. As Members of Congress, we have all heard from constituents—both Medicare recipients and providers—about the difficulties in enrollment and in the accuracy of the payment system. I even heard from one constituent who was so frustrated by the system that, against our advice, he has disenrolled completely and plans to rely on emergency room care for his health coverage. That is unacceptable.

Coverage decisions are made more difficult by the fact that a beneficiary may only change plans once a year, whereas a plan may change its coverage options on a whim. Regardless of these complexities, those who do not enroll by May 15th will be charged a 7 percent minimum penalty for the rest of their lives. Medicare beneficiaries should not be charged for this Administration's problems. We need to extend the deadline for enrollment and in the meantime, go back to the drawing board and write a Medicare prescription drug plan that makes sense.

The Medicare Part D plan does not provide the comprehensive coverage that is needed for our seniors and persons with disabilities. This plan appears to be focused on providing profits for HMOs and pharmaceutical companies, not on improving health care and quality of life for Medicare recipients. Those priorities are made clear with the provision banning the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating for best price on prescription drugs.

Recent studies show that by negotiating for best price we could save enough money to provide coverage for all recipients without a premium. A comprehensive Medicare drug benefit focused on seniors would come directly from Medicare, would allow negotiation, and would allow for re-importation of prescription drugs when safety standards are met.

We can do better, and we must do better. I urge my colleagues to support a deadline extension and comprehensive prescription drug coverage under Medicare.

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Iran Freedom Support Act. We are at a crucial point in U.S. relations with Iran. The U.S. must insist that they stop the nuclear programs, respect international regulations, and end harboring of any terrorist or terrorist funding organizations.

I support my colleagues in taking up this piece of legislation. I urge a yes vote. However, I believe a few changes and improvements to the legislation need to be made before it is sent to the President.

One concern is that section 202 of this bill sanctions companies in the countries who are

working with us to oppose Iran's nuclear program. These sanctions have a potential to split our allies, aiding Iran, something I'm sure supporters of this bill would not want to do. Congress and the President should have a united front against Iran and enacting legislation that threatens that unity is not in our best interests.

Additionally, Title II urges managers of U.S. pension plans to divest stocks of companies that report investments in Iran's energy sector. These provisions could negatively affect the smooth functioning of U.S. capital markets and the savings and investment flows that are essential to economic growth.

We must send Iran a strong signal with a united front. I urge passage of this bill because we must address the very real threat of the nuclear arms race in the Middle East stemming from Iran's irresponsible actions. The current regime in Iran must be held accountable for its threatening behavior even as we support a transition to democracy and tolerance in Iran.

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church on the occasion of its 135 years of continuing service.

On April 23, 2006, Bethel African Methodist Church, the oldest African-American church in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, will celebrate its 135th anniversary. Bethel had a very humble beginning. While the Church was initiated in 1869, original members of the Church began holding worship services for many years in local homes. It was not until 1871 that the Church marked its formal founding as an African Methodist Episcopal Church. During 1871, the Church also moved into its present and only sanctuary. Many renovations, upgrades, and membership additions have helped the Church grow, but members still turn to their original roots for strength and stability.

Over twenty pastors have served the congregation of Bethel and their current pastor, the Reverend Dr. Vernon Ross, Jr., has helped provide both spiritual and community growth. Through his leadership, Bible studies and Sunday school have grown tremendously and over 100 new members have found a new church home. Bethel has taken the initiative to create an after-school program, a women's and men's ministry, and a program to facilitate Christian education. They have also added a youth/young adult choice program and expanded the voice mass choir. In addition to this growth, the congregation remains focused on its missionary and lay organizations and has added to its outreach ministry by using church vans to stay involved in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church on the wonderful occasion of its 135th anniversary. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is committed to serving its community and is carrying out its mission to minister to the spiritual needs of the people of the greater Pottstown community in a most extemporaneous fashion.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GUYANA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the independence of the nation of Guyana from Great Britain and to enter a tribute to the relationship between Guyana and the United States into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On May 26, 1966 the people of Guyana rejoiced in their newfound freedom status and embarked on their journey of establishing independent statehood. Guyana officially became a republic on February 23, 1970. The transition to independence was not an easy one but the people of Guyana persevered and sustained as their nation evolved into a country of peace and prosperity.

The Caribbean is a diverse region that includes some of the hemisphere's richest and poorest nations. Among the 16 independent nations of the Caribbean, Guyana sits poised on the north central coast of South America. United States interest in Guyana and other Caribbean nations include economic, political and security concerns. Guyana has long been recognized as a vital partner to the U.S. on security, trade, health, the environment, education, and regional democracy.

Mr. Speaker: In the spirit of friendship and cooperation I congratulate Guyana on the occasion of their 40th anniversary of independence and I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement submitted by the Ambassador of Guyana, the Honorable Bayney Karran.

THE TRIBUTE

As a former British colony Guyana shares a similar historical, linguistic, religious and socio-political heritage with the United States. Moreover, as a member state of the Organization of American States (OAS), Guyana is a solid partner and ally of the United States at the hemispheric and the wider international levels in advancing mutual interests and addressing common challenges. In remarking upon the status of the bilateral relationship in 2003, President George W. Bush stated, "The United States and Guyana enjoy a strong and productive partnership. . . . (The interests of the Guyanese people) and those of the United States are closely aligned. . . . Working together to further our shared goals, we will build ever stronger bonds between our two countries".

Those bonds were evident when Guyana, aided by the combined efforts of former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter to bring about free and fair elections, emerged from the clutches of authoritarianism and returned to the fold of democratic nations in 1992. Guyana has always collaborated unstintingly with the United States to combat the scourges which pose challenges to democracy, development, human rights, peace and security.

The following are some useful indicators of Guyana's level of friendship and cooperation with the United States:

The Fight Against Drugs: Guyana recently extended an invitation to the DEA to open an office in Guyana after the DEA was made to depart neighboring Venezuela. The United States has responded positively to the invitation. Guyana has also concluded a Shiprider Agreement with the United States.

Free Trade: Guyana and the United States were in mutual agreement at the Fourth Summit of the Americas that the Free Trade Area of the Americas should proceed to be implemented.

Good Governance and Governability: Guyana's classification as a Threshold Country by the Millennium Challenge Corporation underlines its determination to improve its performance in ruling justly, investing in people and encouraging economic freedom.

Terrorism: Guyana suffered proportionately the heaviest losses in human casualties of any country including the United States from the 9/11 airplane attacks. Of a population of 750,000, 25 Guyanese nationals perished at the World Trade Center and one at the Pentagon.

HIV/AIDS: Guyana is a beneficiary country under the PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plans for AIDS Relief) Program.

Trafficking in Persons: The 2005 TIP Report which elevated Guyana from a Tier 3 to a Tier 2 country referred to appreciable progress by Guyana in complying with standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons.

International Criminal Court: Guyana has signed an Article 98 agreement with the United States.

Inter-American Agenda: As a member of the Inter-American System, Guyana shares policies and programs with the United States and other states in the hemisphere as set out, for example, in the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Declaration on Hemispheric Security and other Conventions of the Inter-American System.

Above all, however, lasting bonds of friendship and cooperation between Guyana and the United States have been nurtured and strengthened by our respective people. The United States is home to a large Guyanese Diaspora which makes significant contributions to both Guyanese and American societies.

BAYNEY KARRAN,
Ambassador of Guyana.

RECOGNIZING AFRICA MALARIA
DAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Africa Malaria Day and express my support and admiration for the determined public health officials, NGOs, clinicians and communities that are working to defeat this preventable disease that takes its greatest toll on the pregnant women and children of Africa.

Each year, 300–500 million people in Africa contract malaria. One to three million Africans will unnecessarily die. Every thirty seconds an African child under the age of five dies. Nearly four percent of all maternal deaths annually are the result of malaria. The battle against malaria is ranked as the second highest global disease burden in Africa.

Despite these tragic statistics, there is great hope for beating the disease and reducing the human cost it inflicts. Through contributions and collaborations of the public and private sectors, great strides have been made in the fight against malaria. Insecticide treated nets have been distributed to the vulnerable populations in pilot projects. Another project

sprayed residual insecticides inside houses to repel mosquitoes from places where people sleep. Successful trials of a pediatric vaccine are being carried out, with the hope of a widely accessible vaccine available in 2010. Without the dedication of both governments and independent organizations, these amazing advances would not have been possible.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in calling attention to the plight of millions of families across the African continent, on this 2006 Africa Malaria Day, who needlessly get sick and become incapacitated missing school and work and in the worst cases die. The U.S. has rightly taken on a global leadership role in providing the financial resources and the scientific research to minimize malaria's heavy burden. We must continue to support those working to fight this disease and those millions whose lives can be immeasurably improved by ending malaria's costly human toll.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH O'NEILL
VERNER AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of my constituents and a South Carolina government agency for winning the prestigious 2006 Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for their contributions to the arts.

Mr. David Sennema of Columbia, South Carolina has been selected to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award. It is hard to have lived in South Carolina in recent years and not have been touched by Mr. Sennema's talent and leadership. In his capacity as the first general manager of the Columbia Music Festival Association, he developed and directed the South Carolina Philharmonic. As the Executive Director of the South Carolina Museum Commission, he was instrumental in planning and developing the South Carolina State Museum. Mr. Sennema also served as the first Executive Director of the South Carolina Arts Commission. His career has taken him around the country to universities and to arts organizations, including the National Endowment for the Arts. In his retirement, Mr. Sennema continues to impact the arts in South Carolina by serving on boards and commissions and writing and performing.

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health has been chosen for the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award in the Government category for its Art of Recovery program. This innovative program enables South Carolinians living with mental illness to exhibit and sell their artwork. More than 350 artists, who receive care from the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, have benefited from Art of Recovery during the five years since its inception. This program has helped erase the stigma of having a mental illness, and provided participants with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Sennema and the South Carolina Department of Mental Health for their commitment to the arts. As an individual or an agency, we learn through these Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor Award re-

ipients that art has the power to inspire, to teach and to heal.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 513, 527 REFORM ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the so-called 527 Reform Act of 2005 (H.R. 513). This legislation singles out 527 organizations in an effort to undermine their fundraising and is a direct assault on free speech.

This legislation would change the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA) to add 527 organizations in the definition of political committee. If enacted, this bill would suppress free speech and obstruct the efforts of grassroots organizations to encourage voter participation while doing nothing to address the culture of corruption in Congress.

I support the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) of 2002, which established balanced and effective strategies to achieve fairer elections. H.R. 513 is an unbalanced measure that favors corporate trade associations over independent advocates. For example, the bill would provide an unfair advantage to corporate interests by allowing them to continue spending unlimited and undisclosed dollars for political purposes while subjecting independent organizations, like citizens joining together to promote voter registration, to contribution limits and source restrictions.

H.R. 513 also removes all limits on national and state party spending for Congressional candidates in primary or general elections. This section of the bill is an unmasked attack on BCRA and clear evidence of the majority party's true intentions in advancing H.R. 513. The goal is not reform, but partisan advantage in political fundraising.

If we are serious about reform, there are several Democratic proposals that have been put forward to address the real problems facing this Congress. We should be reforming the Rules of the House in order to provide Members adequate time to review legislation before a vote. We should also be addressing the practice of travel on corporate jets and disclosure of fundraising by lobbyists. Unfortunately, the Republicans will not allow a real, comprehensive debate on this critical issue.

H.R. 513 is the majority party's cynical and underwhelming response and is clearly meant to distract attention from the real problems of corruption. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and vote for a real package of reforms—changes that Congress needs and that Americans expect.

AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN
ENTERPRISE FOR THE AMERICAS
MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT FUND

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4916 authorizing a replenishment of the Enterprise Fund for the Americas.

The Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) was created in 1993 as part of the 'Enterprise for the Americas' initiative to provide technical assistance in Latin American and Caribbean countries to stimulate innovation and economic growth. The objective of the fund is to use grants and investments to develop micro enterprises, build worker skills, strengthen environmental management and improve the functions of financial markets. I'm pleased to be able to say that the Multilateral Investment Fund has been a model of reform and transparency for other multilateral banks of reform and transparency. The Fund has aggressively embraced transparency in its work. It is on the front line of change in a development sector where indictments of ineffectiveness are most often heard.

Experience demonstrates that private sector development agencies can be a powerful and transformative development tool. In Poland and across central Europe these types of funds have helped build small and medium size businesses, created jobs, changed the economic environment and helped establish a middle class. Given the rapidly deteriorating political condition in Latin America, we need every arrow in our quiver if we are to demonstrate to countries in our hemisphere the inherent value of open market—both political and economic.

In the preceding 4 years, Congress provided almost \$72 million for the MIF. Although the U.S. has pledged \$150 million over the next six years for MIF II, meeting that commitment will depend on budget constraints and shifting spending priorities. There are many competing needs in the fiscal year 2007 budget and it will be no different in following budget years. It is, however, worth noting that our pledge has leveraged thus far an additional \$352 million from 36 other countries.

We need to be innovative in our development work if we are to increase trade and build small and medium size businesses. The Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund helps to achieve these goals. I support this legislation.

“WOMEN TIME NOW” IN THE U.S.,
CARIBBEAN, LATIN AMERICA,
AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE AS FEMALES TAKE OVER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an interesting and spell-binding editorial entitled “Women Time Now” that clearly recognizes the growing number of

outstanding women who are emerging as leaders throughout the world. I sincerely commend the newly elected leaders and admire the female leaders from the past who paved the way for this newer group of women elected officials. It is evident that they are poised to demonstrate their ability to lead their countries into the future.

Portia Simpson-Miller, Jamaica's first woman Prime Minister and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Liberia's new President and the first elected female leader in Africa's history are surfacing to prominence with much support from their countrymen. The term referenced in the article to give a sense of the political climate in their countries is "national euphoria". This term clearly signifies the exuberance that is felt as these ladies take on the task of running their countries.

While I am overjoyed for the newly elected female officials, a disturbing part of the editorial addresses the declining number of males in the U.S. and in the Caribbean who are failing to take advantage of the educational opportunities that could lead to a more active role from men in politics of the future. The Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies ventured to say that in another decade women will be leading the Caribbean in most spheres of influence. Hopefully, opportunities will continue to exist for all and more young men and women will embrace and seize the opportunity to contribute to the political processes in their countries.

Mr. Speaker, I have deep respect for the fortitude and commitment of the many women leaders who are rising to the forefront as they embark on the mission to bring about positive changes in their countries. I enter this editorial into the RECORD to reiterate the point that women are emerging as leaders throughout the world and this emergence signifies that it is truly "Women's Time Now."

[From the NY Caribnews, April 4, 2006]

"WOMEN TIME NOW"

"It's woman time now, give her a chance."

Across Jamaica, indeed throughout the Caribbean and in the West Indian Diaspora in North America and Europe, both men and women are chanting that sentiment.

Although the words are meant for Portia Simpson-Miller, who in a few days time will make history in her country by becoming Jamaica's first woman Prime Minister, they are also being directed at Liberia's new President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first elected female leader in Africa's history, and the newly installed President of Chile, Latin America's first woman head of state and government.

Like others in different parts of world, Simpson Miller and Johnson Sirleaf, for instance, have come to office with national euphoria serving as the wind beneath their wings. It's up to them to lead their respective countries into a new and prosperous direction.

Simpson-Miller, perhaps the most popular politician in Jamaica is not the first woman to head a Caribbean government. Eugenia Charles, the Prime Minister of Dominica in the 1980s and Janet Jagan, Guyana's President in the 1990s, are but two who come quickly to mind. In addition, Haiti, the Netherlands Antilles and St. Marteen have all had women at the helm.

Across the Caribbean, indeed, around the world women are taking charge, enacting new laws, changing old bad habits, reshaping broken countries and companies and bringing a new sense of order and inspiration that augurs well for the future.

In the U.S., which by the way lags Rwanda in giving women a larger share of political and parliamentary power outstanding women now hold key positions in government, the judiciary, on college campuses, civil society, the trade unions, corporate America and elsewhere. But as outstanding as it sounds, the pace may have been a bit too slow and needs to be quickened.

Such outstanding women as Dame Billie Miller, Barbados' Senior Minister who has been her country's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade for a dozen years, Claris Charles, Grenada's Minister of Education, Dame Pearlette Louisy, St. Lucia's Governor General, and Pat Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago who is one of the Caribbean's most accomplished composers, arrangers and ethno musicologists are but a few of those who come to mind for having changed the course of government, the trade union movement or cultural expression in our part of the world.

Just the other day, Dr. Nigel Harris, Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, served notice that in another decade women would be leading the Caribbean in most spheres of influence. He based that on the fact that females account for more than 70 per cent of the students on UWI campuses in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. While that's a source of joy, it's also a reason to express regret as far as young men are concerned. The male of the species in both the U.S. and the Caribbean are failing to take advantage of educational opportunities, thus leaving us all to ask what does that tell us about the future?

Women, especially Black women around the world are seizing every chance they get to make a difference for themselves and society. The barriers they have broken down are mind-boggling and are a lesson to all about rising to the occasion.

That's not to suggest that the path has been easy or that the future is entirely rosy. They must expect challenges at every step but there is little doubt that they would be able to complete the task successful.

GENERAL DEBATE OF H.R. 609

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, with great disappointment, I rise to voice my opposition to H.R. 609, a bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act.

College affordability is the major issue for this generation of students and their families. A higher education is increasingly out of reach for too many in America and for those who do attend, the average student debt amount continues to grow. Many of us know how difficult it can be to finance a college education and we also know that this education is a key to a successful economic future.

The Higher Education Act is one of the most important laws governing our Nation's education system because its intent is to create and improve access to college for millions of students each year. Discussion of this law should be focused on changes that will make college more affordable for all families and that will increase our global competitiveness. Instead the Republican leadership has put forward legislation that does nothing to increase the affordability of college and at the same time allows for-profit education companies access to limited education dollars.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is moving America in the wrong direction. While other nations around the world are investing in higher education, this Congress has passed a \$12 billion cut to student aid—the largest cut to students ever. That devastating cut, combined with the effort in this bill to eliminate fraud and abuse protections currently governing financial aid dollars, clearly show that the Majority has prioritized for-profit education companies over our students and our future.

In addition, Republicans have included language to broaden federal influence over colleges and universities. This bill gives Congress a role in overseeing daily campus activities, including monitoring classroom discussions, reviewing student grades, and setting curriculum. This sets a dangerous precedent for what has historically been an issue of academic freedom for our higher education system.

It is the American dream to have the opportunity to learn, to work in the career of your choice, and to succeed. It should not be the policy of the United States Government to limit the dreams of students. Mr. Speaker, I urge colleagues to reject H.R. 609 and to work for legislation that improves access to college and increase our ability to compete in the new global market. This is a priority for families and our communities and should be a priority for our leaders in Washington.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEDICATED DENTAL SERVICE FOR HIV/AIDS ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the Dedicated Dental Service for HIV/AIDS (DDS for HIV/AIDS) Act of 2006 to establish a loan repayment program for dental school graduates in exchange for their agreement to remedy a critical shortage of dentists for the poor, particularly in areas with a high incidence of HIV and AIDS, by agreeing to serve such patients. This bill is similar to legislation Congress has enacted in the past to encourage other health professionals, such as physicians, nurses, optometrists and pharmacists to provide vital services in underserved areas.

Howard University professors of dentistry inform us that the first indicators of HIV/AIDS infection are often oral health problems. Oral health problems often not only constitute an important early signal of HIV/AIDS symptoms; they also serve as benchmarks for disease progression. One of the most serious problems with the spread of HIV/AIDS is the reluctance of people to be tested for such a disease, especially in the African American community and other big city and rural areas. Access to dental care, I therefore, is critically important from the earliest onset, especially in high impact areas. Access, of course, minimizes long term oral health complications for patients, but it also provides important linkages to good overall medical care to combat the disease in the community.

A recent RAND health study on HIV costs and services found that the vast majority of patients received care at their local AIDS clinic, not a primary dentist. Moreover, these

disfavored patients must look for service within the context of a nationwide drop in dental school applicants and graduates, and a projected 60 percent loss of active dentists due to retirement. As a result, the average American, especially those with HIV/AIDS, will or already are having difficulty in obtaining dental care.

For HIV/AIDS patients the crisis is palpable. They have even more difficulty than other Americans finding dentists who will accept Medicaid or treat patients at reduced cost. Some dentists are reluctant to provide care. Although only one case of transmission between dentist and patient has been documented, problems of access are acute. Many patients must travel long distances to find care. Many states do not include dental care as part of their Medicaid coverage. Patients often must search for providers such as schools of dentistry or local community clinics which receive some funds from the Dental Reimbursement Program (DRP), administered through the Ryan White CARE Act.

My bill would create a loan forgiveness program for dental school graduates who agree to serve HIV/AIDS populations in areas where there is a high incidence of such cases, as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services. This program is drawn from the nurse loan forgiveness program passed by Congress in 1998. The crisis for the dental profession, especially in the distribution of dentists in underserved areas, is even greater than for physicians. Dental school graduates incur an average loan debt of \$100,000. Under the guidelines of the program, the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to pay 60 percent of the principal and interest on the loans in exchange for service for a period of no less than two years. If a dentist agrees to participate in a third year of service, another 25 percent of the principal and interest on his loans will be paid. Loan forgiveness programs bring important added value because many recipients remain in practice in the area to which they are assigned. The secretary of HHS is to submit to the Congress a report on the program, with information including the number of dentists enrolled, the number and amount of loan repayments, the placement location of loan repayment recipients, and the evaluation of the overall costs and benefits of the program.

With more than one million Americans with HIV/AIDS, and over 16,000 in the District of Columbia, and its impact among people of color, these health providers need greater attention. We are proud of the overworked and underfunded services that are available in the District of Columbia. The Howard School of Dentistry has a long history of providing dental services to the poor here, and the HU CARES program, provides care for nearly 1,200 patients a year. The vital Whitman Walker Clinic, the largest provider of comprehensive HIV/AIDS services in the District and the region serves over 1,500 dental patients a year.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in establishing this dental loan repayment program that will meet an immediate and pressing need in communities across the country, as we have for other professions.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5216, THE PRESERVATION OF RECORDS OF SERVITUDE, EMANCIPATION, AND POST-CIVIL WAR RECONSTRUCTION ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to introduce H.R. 5216, the Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act. This important legislation will build upon the success of the Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000 (P.L. Number: 106-444), which passed both the House and the Senate unanimously in 2000 and was signed into law in November 2000. The law required the Archivist of the United States to create a searchable indexing system to catalogue the geological records from the post-Civil War Reconstruction period.

Based on the immense success of the Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act, I have joined with my colleagues to introduce follow-up legislation to ensure that those Americans who want to trace their family's history in our country are not prevented from doing so because access to records is difficult. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, for most Americans, researching their genealogical history involves searching through municipal birth, death, and marriage records—almost all of which have been properly archived as public historical documents. However, African Americans in the United States face a unique challenge when conducting genealogical research due to our Nation's history of slavery and discrimination. Instead of looking up wills, land deeds, birth and death certificates, and other traditional genealogical research documents, African-Americans must often try to identify the name of former slave owners, hoping that the owners kept records of pertinent information, such as births and deaths.

To compound this difficulty, African-American genealogists find that most current records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction are frequently inaccessible, poorly catalogued, and inadequately preserved from decay. While some States and localities have undertaken efforts to collect these documents with varying degrees of success, there has not been any national effort to preserve these pieces of public and personal history to make them readily and easily accessible to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act was an important first step towards ensuring that many of these valuable and important records are appropriately maintained. Without this Act, we run the risk today of losing other critically important historic documents.

The Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act, tackles this problem in two ways. First, it would ensure that existing records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction housed within the federal government that include the Southern Claims Commission Records, Records of the Freedmen's Bank, Slave Impressments Records, Slave Payroll Records, and Slave Manifests would be properly preserved by authorizing \$5

million for the Archivist of the United States to preserve, maintain and electronically catalog. Second, this legislation would also authorize \$5 million in grants to be distributed to States, academic institutions, and genealogical associations to preserve and establish databases of the important local records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction currently housed throughout the country. These grants will ensure that families doing research in my home State of California or anywhere in the country will have access to these treasure troves of genealogical information.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be joined by over forty of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle who are original cosponsors of my legislation and particularly appreciate the support of my good friends and colleagues, TOM DAVIS, and ELIJAH CUMMINGS, whose assistance in drafting this bill has been monumental. I would urge the rest of our colleagues to support this legislation and hope that we will be voting on this bill soon.

I would also like to call attention to the following websites, which will provide genealogical researchers, as well as people interested in the history of African-Americans, a true bounty of useful and meaningful information.

National Archives Genealogy Website (<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/>)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AFRICAN AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY RESOURCES*

African American Civil War Memorial, DC (<http://www.nps.gov/afam/index.htm>)

Booker T Washington National Monument, VA (<http://www.nps.gov/bowa/index.htm>)

Boston African American National Historic Site, MA (<http://www.nps.gov/boaf/index.htm>)

Brown v Board of Education National Historic Site, KS (<http://www.nps.gov/brvb/index.htm>)

Cane River Creole National Historical Park, LA (<http://www.nps.gov/cari/index.htm>)

Central High School National Historic Site, AR (<http://www.nps.gov/chsc/index.htm>)

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park (Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial), OH (<http://www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm>)

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, DC (<http://www.nps.gov/frdo/index.htm>)

George Washington Carver National Monument, MO (<http://www.nps.gov/gwca/index.htm>)

Maggie L Walker National Historic Site, VA (<http://www.nps.gov/malw/index.htm>)

Martin Luther King Jr National Historic Site, GA (<http://www.nps.gov/malu/index.htm>)

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, DC (<http://www.nps.gov/mamc/index.htm>)

Natchez National Historical Park, MS (<http://www.nps.gov/natc/index.htm>)

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, LA (<http://www.nps.gov/jazz/index.htm>)

Nicodemus National Historic Site, KS (<http://www.nps.gov/nico/index.htm>)

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, AL (<http://www.nps.gov/semo/index.htm>)

Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, AL (<http://www.nps.gov/tuai/index.htm>)

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, AL (<http://www.nps.gov/tuin/index.htm>)

*Parks have primary source documents, museum artifacts, historic structures, landscapes and related resources. Both primary and secondary sources at these sites contain lists of persons, families, institutions and organizations significant in African American

history. They are a gold mine of research for African American families.

DATABASES IN AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

1. Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System* (<http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss/>) United States Colored Troops, African American Sailors in the Union Navy

*This database has the names of the nearly 180,000 African American soldiers in the Union Army, USCT. It also has the names and places of origin (throughout the world) of African American sailors in the Union Navy.

2. National Register Information System (National Register of Historic Places) (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/>)

*The National Register of Historic Places has a listing of over 1000 places that are significant in African American history, in communities all over the United States. An outdated publication describes some 800 of these, but the database itself, with some enhancements, would provide significant information on local communities and families.

STUDIES IN AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

African-American History of War of 1812 Sites (pdf) (<http://crm.cr.nps.gov/archive/20-2/20-2-12.pdf>)

A History Remembered: Why Were Buffalo Soldiers in Yosemite? (<http://www.nps.gov/yose/nature/articles/buffs.htm>)

African American Archeology & History (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/seac/af-am/index4.htm>)

African American Heritage in the Golden Crescent (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/goldcres/cultural/afriahome.html>)

African American History and Culture (<http://crm.cr.nps.gov/issue.cfm?volume=20&number=02>)

African American Sailors in the Civil War Union Navy (http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss/sailors_index.html)

Africans and African Americans on Jamestown Island 1619-1803 (pdf) (http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/african/african.pdf)

Chattel Slavery at Hampton/Norhampton, Baltimore County (<http://www.nps.gov/hamp/lancastr2.htm>)

Clues to African American Life at Manassas National Battlefield Park (<http://www.nps.gov/mnr/exhibit/arch00.htm>)

Connections: African-American History and CRM (<http://crm.cr.nps.gov/issue.cfm?volume=19&number=02>)

Encountering the Cultural Diversity of the Lower Mississippi Delta Region (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/delta/concept05.htm>)

Frankly, Scarlett, We Do Give a Damn: The Making of a New National Park (pdf) (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/categrs/gates.pdf>)

Fugitive Slave Traffic and the Maritime World of New Bedford (pdf) (<http://www.nps.gov/nebe/research/grover.pdf>)

In Those Days: African American Life Near the Savannah River (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/seac/ITD/longversion/itd-ig1.htm>)

Racial Desegregation in Public Education in the U.S. (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/themes/Scanned%20Nominations/Desegregation/deseg-education.htm>)

Slavery and Resistance (<http://crm.cr.nps.gov/issue.cfm?volume=21&number=04>)

Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King (<http://www.nps.gov/malu/documents/resources.htm>)

The Black Experience in Natchez 1720-1880: Special History Study (1993) (http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/natc/davis.pdf)

ORAL HISTORIES IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Oral Histories Capturing Forgotten Moments in Civil Rights History (<http://crm.cr.nps.gov/archive/19-2/19-2-5.pdf>)

Faces of Whaling Oral History Project (<http://www.nps.gov/nebe/research/faces.pdf>)

LESSON PLANS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY* *Teaching with historic places*

An American Success Story: The Pope House of Raleigh, NC (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/124popehouse/>) Meet Dr. Manassa T. Pope, an African-American doctor and entrepreneur in the early 20th century, and learn about his efforts to gain civil rights well before the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Brown v. Board: Five Communities that Changed America (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/121brown/index.htm>) Learn about the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that declared segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

Chicago's Black Metropolis: Understanding History through a Historic Place (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/53black/53black.htm>) Examine the history of this "city-within-a-city," a self-supporting African-American community that prospered from the late 19th century until the 1930s.

From Canterbury to Little Rock: The Struggle for Educational Equality for African Americans (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/crandall/crandall.htm>) Understand the magnitude of the struggle involved in securing equal educational opportunities for African Americans and examine how Prudence Crandall challenged the prevailing attitude toward educating African Americans in New England prior to the Civil War.

Glen Echo Park: Center for Education and Recreation (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/24glenecho/24glenecho.htm>) Trace the evolution of this Maryland site from a chapter of the Chautauqua movement, to a racially segregated amusement park, to a national park.

Iron Hill School: An African-American One Room School (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/58iron/58iron.htm>) Discover how an early 20th-century philanthropist reformed Delaware's education system for African-American children.

The Liberty Bell: From Obscurity to Icon (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/36liberty/36liberty.htm>) Analyze the influences that shaped the symbolic meaning of the bell, including why some civil rights protestors chose the Liberty Bell as their symbol for African American equality.

Memories of Montpelier: Home of James and Dolley Madison (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/46montpelier/46montpelier.htm>) Visit the Madisons' plantation home and their world of social prominence, and explore some contemporary views of slavery.

New Kent School and the George W. Watkins School: From Freedom of Choice to Integration (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/104newkent/104newkent.htm>) Learn about the U.S. Supreme Court case that forced the integration of public schools and meet the individuals who experienced segregation, fought to dismantle the institution, and integrated the public school system of New Kent County, Virginia.

The Old Courthouse in St. Louis: Yesterday and Today (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/9stlouis/9stlouis.htm>) Compare two images of St. Louis's handsome Courthouse—as a gathering place for pioneers heading west and as a dramatic focus for Dred Scott's heroic efforts to free his family from slavery.

The Siege of Port Hudson: "Forty Days and Nights in the Wilderness of Death" (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/71hudson/71hudson.htm>) Understand the importance of the Mississippi River to both the North and South during the Civil War, as

well as the critical role African American soldiers played in the Civil War and how their fighting changed general public perception of their abilities.

Two American Entrepreneurs: Madam C.J. Walker and J.C. Penney (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/walker/walker.htm>) Examine the historic places associated with two of America's most famous 20th century businesspeople.

The Vieux Carré: A Creole Neighborhood in New Orleans (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/20vieux/20vieux.htm>) Examine New Orleans's distinctive French Quarter, a vibrant reflection of its Creole heritage, and recall the city's role in American westward expansion.

When Rice Was King (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/3rice/3rice.htm>) Investigate early rice plantations in Georgetown, South Carolina, to learn how rice cultivation transformed the native environment and promoted the South's dependence on a plantation economy. Recent revision to this lesson includes the examination of the origins of rice production and the cultural genesis of students' communities.

*Teaching with Historic Places is a program of the National Register of Historic Places. Individual Parks also have lesson plans in African American history.

TRAVEL ITINERARIES TO AFRICAN AMERICAN PLACES

We Shall Overcome: Historic Places of the Civil Rights Movement (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/civilrights/>)

Aboard the Underground Railroad (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/underground/>)

Amistad: Seeking Freedom in Connecticut (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/amistad/>)

Asheville, North Carolina (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/asheville/>)

Atlanta, Georgia (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/atlanta/>)

Aviation: From Sand Dunes to Sonic Booms (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/aviation/>)

Baltimore, MD (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/baltimore/>)

Historic Charleston's Religious and Community Buildings (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/charleston/>)

James River Plantations (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/jamesriver/>)

Lexington, Kentucky (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/lexington/>)

Southeastern Louisiana (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/louisiana/>)

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/prvi/>)

Raleigh, North Carolina (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/raleigh/>)

Virginia Main Street Communities (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/VMainstreet/>)

World War II in the San Francisco Bay Area (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/wwIIbayarea/>)

Washington, DC (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/>)

HONORING SAM MIRABELLA

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sam Mirabella, who embodied the boundless spirit of his native Tampa, Florida and was devoted to serving his community.

During his 12 years as a Tampa City Councilman, Sam played an important role in improving our city and helped usher Tampa's

government operations into modern times. And as a charter member of The Tampa Sports Authority, Sam was instrumental in bringing Tampa's first stadium to life and putting Tampa on the map for America's sports fans and teams.

However, the people Sam served didn't have to go to City Council meetings to bend Sam's ear. Sam, with his trademark cigar and colorful sense of humor, was always available at Mirabella's Seafood Co., which he co-owned. Even in his retirement, Sam was a fixture in South Tampa, riding his bike through the neighborhoods on a daily basis and stopping to talk to just about anyone who crossed his path.

Sam served his country in World War II and was always giving back to his hometown through a host of community and charitable organizations. A die-hard Gator fan, Sam was also eager to support his alma maters, the University of Florida and H.B. Plant High School.

Sam's passing is a tremendous loss for the Tampa community. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family and many friends.

JOE LOUIS . . . REMEMBERING
THE LEGEND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as the 25th anniversary of the death of boxer Joe Louis approaches on April 12, 2006, I feel it quite appropriate to reminisce about the outstanding career accomplishments and contributions he made to society during his lifetime.

Joe Louis Barrow, son of an Alabama Sharecropper was 10 years old when he moved to Detroit, Michigan with his mother and stepfather in 1924. He developed his physique by delivering 50-pound blocks of ice as a teenager. At 18, he learned that a boxing club paid fighters in food, so he fought to win \$7 worth of food in a match where he was knocked down seven times in two rounds. He vowed never to fight again.

A short time later a professional fighter, Holman Williams, gave him some lessons and persuaded him to enter the Golden Gloves competition. In 1933, his then manager, John Roxborough, shortened his name to simply Joe Louis. He went on to win 50 of 54 amateur fights, 41 by knockout, and was AAU national light heavyweight champion in 1934 when he was 19 years old.

Known as the "Brown Bomber" Louis turned professional in 1935. He won his first eight fights, but finally lost to Max Schmelling, a German who was a key part of Hitler's "Aryan Superiority". Joe Louis was granted a much sought after rematch with Schmelling on June 27, 1938. The fight resulted in a first round knock-out of Schmelling, two minutes and four seconds into the round. This feat dealt a devastating blow to Hitler's Nazi Germany.

Louis was very popular among whites as well as blacks. This fondness was attributed to his very quiet and modest demeanor. His popularity peaked after he knocked out Max Schmelling, as Schmelling was viewed by many as a tool of Hitler's Nazism.

Louis defended his title 25 times in 5 years, knocking out 25 of his opponents. He entered the Army in 1942 and was used basically as a good-will ambassador. He appeared in a movie, *The Negro Soldier*, in an attempt to boost morale among black fighting men.

After World War II ended, he defended his championship five more times. Louis announced his retirement in 1949 but his obligation to pay more than \$1 million in back taxes forced him back into the ring. His last fight resulted in a knock-out by champion Rocky Marciano in the 8th round on October 26, 1951.

Louis won 67 professional bouts, 53 of them by knock-out, and lost 3 bouts, 2 by knockout.

In 1969 ill health overtook him and after collapsing on the street in New York City he was hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital. Upon his release, he became a greeter at a Las Vegas casino. After attending a Larry Holmes/Trevor Berbick boxing match, Louis went into cardiac arrest and died at age 67 on April 12, 1981.

Joe Louis had an exceptional and fascinating boxing career filled with many wonderful moments. He was a ground breaking world renowned athlete who broke racial barriers at a time when that was difficult to do. He reigned as the U.S. Heavyweight champion for a record 12 years and most of all he opened doors for such future legends as Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson and Sugar Ray Robinson.

Even though 25 years have gone by since Joe Louis passed away, History will always continue to portray him as one of the best prize fighters of all time.

IN RECOGNITION OF CALIFORNIA
STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN
BERNARDINO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate California State University, San Bernardino on its 40th anniversary and recognize the extraordinary contributions the university has made to California's 43rd district and to the United States of America.

As a result of President Karnig's excellent leadership, CSUSB ranks among the fastest growing universities in the California State University system, and educates over 16,400 students per year. Since 1967, over 55,000 students have graduated from the university.

Comprised of five academic colleges staffed with exceptional faculty, CSUSB offers over seventy degrees and certificates to students. Several graduate and undergraduate programs have been nationally accredited, including the M.B.A. program, computer science, geographic information and decision sciences, psychology, business, health, public administration, and accounting and finance, among numerous others.

I am proud to recognize Cal State San Bernardino as one of California's most diverse universities. Diversity is so prevalent at CSUSB that on campus, there is no majority ethnic group. The university offers strong educational opportunities for minority students and has been nationally recognized for its contributions to the higher education of minorities.

Recently, the Princeton Review honored CSUSB in its "Best in the West" rankings and U.S. News & World Report named the university among the best places to earn a master's degree in the West. Such acknowledgement and respect is well-deserved and speaks volumes about the university's national presence. CSUSB is an asset to California and contributes significantly to the quality education system in our state.

Cal State San Bernardino represents the best of America's higher education system. I congratulate the university on its 40th anniversary and look forward to recognizing its wonderful contributions to California in the future.

IN HONOR OF HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Today is Holocaust Remembrance Day, or in Hebrew, Yom HaShoah—Day of the Destruction. The "destruction" is an apt description of the horrific crime that resulted in the deaths of six million Jews and destroyed families and communities across Europe.

In remembering the unspeakable horror of the Holocaust, we must recommit ourselves to ensuring that this tragedy never happens again and to fighting the precursors that led to this mass genocide—the bigotry of anti-Semitism, the discriminatory Nuremberg Laws, and the blind eye that the world turned for far too long. We honor the memory of those that suffered, and we pray for a world free from such hatred and despair.

The Jewish people have a long history of persecution and redemption. This month, the Jewish people celebrated Passover—a commemoration of the Exodus when the Jews received their freedom and were redeemed after 400 years of enslavement. This cycle of persecution and redemption has continued over the thousands of years since then, and in the years following the Holocaust, the Jewish people were redeemed through the founding of the State of Israel.

The nation was founded on principles of democracy and freedom, and has maintained these ideals in the face of the ongoing terrorism that continues to plague its people. However, despite these attacks on its people, this Jewish State continues to serve as haven for persecuted Jews and since World War II, has taken in entire communities from the former Soviet Union, South Africa, Ethiopia, Argentina, and throughout the world.

Immediately following the liberation of the concentration camps, we pledged to ourselves, never again. Never again will the world stand idly by while individuals are being slaughtered solely for their race, religion or ethnicity. But in the years since then, we have seen atrocities committed in Bosnia, Rwanda and Kosovo and a genocide is still ongoing in Darfur. Today, I rise on this solemn day to remember these brutal acts of genocide and recommit myself to this pledge, never again.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5020) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I joined yesterday with the distinguished Ranking Member of the Intelligence Committee, Congresswoman JANE HARMAN, in voting against H.R. 5020, the Intelligence Authorization bill, to protest the Bush Administration's insistence on wiretapping Americans without adhering to the requirements of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and other statutory provisions on wiretapping.

DARFUR PEACE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this important legislation, H.R. 3127, strengthening sanctions on individuals and governments seen as responsible for the atrocities in the Darfur region of Sudan, and authorizing additional funds for peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts in the region.

After more than 3 years of conflict, between 300,000 and 400,000 innocent and impoverished civilians have died from government-sponsored violence, disease and starvation because of war, and more than 2 million people have fled their homes to internal camps and neighboring Chad.

Despite international condemnation of the Sudanese government, genocide and ethnic cleansing continue unabated.

What is keeping the United States and the international community from intervening meaningfully to stop this humanitarian crisis? What is keeping President Bush from acting with moral clarity and compassion?

While this Congress continues to slowly legislate on the Darfur genocide, the threat of sanctions has done little to end the atrocities. This dire crisis requires a much more robust response.

Our commitment to end the Darfur genocide must be judged by only one test: What are we doing that serves to end the killings and the suffering?

The aim should be to end the genocide, disarm the Arab militias, guarantee humanitarian assistance, protect civilians, secure the refugee camps, and provide safety to families returning to their villages.

Military experts have estimated that these tasks will require 40,000 to 50,000 well-trained and equipped troops. We also have new and

innovative technologies that could protect civilians. If we are serious about dealing with this most pressing human rights catastrophe, then we must pressure the Bush Administration and the international community to do all that is needed to stop the genocide in Darfur.

I call for less political maneuvering, and more real action.

Over three years have passed. Out of an estimated pre-conflict population of 7 million in Darfur, somewhere between 300,000 and 400,000 innocent civilians have died.

What are we waiting for? For the Sudanese government and the Arab militias to finish what they have started?

I support this bill, yet I urge my colleagues to support an international peacekeeping mission authorized to use force to protect civilians and disarm the Janjaweed—one with an adequate mandate, and well-trained and equipped soldiers.

SLEEP APNEA TEST ADVISED

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, based on my concern regarding the severe impact of obstructive sleep apnea on young children and the need for baseline testing between ages three and four, I want to call my colleagues attention to an April 18, 2006 article in MedPage Today "Sleep Apnea Test Advised for Down's Children" and ask that it be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

(By Judith Groch)

SLEEP APNEA TESTS ADVISED FOR DOWN'S
CHILDREN

CINCINNATI, April 18—Because of high rates of obstructive sleep apnea in young children with Down's syndrome, researchers here have recommend baseline testing between ages three and four.

Overnight polysomnograms performed on 56 children, ages 3.5 to four, found that 57% of the children had abnormal results and evidence of obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, according to a study in the April issue of the Archives of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

When the researchers included an elevated arousal index, which is associated with increased difficulty breathing, the abnormal percentage rose to 80%, said Sally Shott, M.D., of the University of Cincinnati here, and colleagues.

Because of a lack of expertise in evaluating sleep disturbances, the parents are often oblivious to the problem. Sixty-nine percent of parents who filled out a questionnaire about their child's sleep patterns reported no problems, whereas 54% of the children had abnormal polysomnograms, Dr. Shott said. Parents and children came from a tertiary-care pediatric referral center.

The polysomnograms were classified as abnormal if the obstructive apnea index was greater than 1, if the carbon dioxide level was greater than 45 mm Hg for more than two-thirds of the study or greater than 50 mm Hg for more than 10% of the study. Also included was unexpected hypoxemia (oxygen saturation less than 92% during sleep or repeated intermittent desaturations less than 90%), the researchers said.

For purpose of analysis, the results were categorized in three groups, the researchers said. Group 1 (n=21) consisted of abnormal

results because of an elevated obstructive sleep apnea index. These children also had hypercarbia, hypoxemia, or any combination, with or without hypoventilation and an elevated arousal index, according to the researchers.

In this category, they said, hypercarbia and hypoxemia, in addition to an abnormal obstructive apnea index, led to a statistically high obstructive apnea index compared with the index for children who did not have these add-on's (17.15, ±4.63 vs. 2.9±1.86, respectively; P=.02).

In group 2 (n=11), results were reported as abnormal because of hypoventilation with hypercarbia and/or hypoxemia, with or without an elevated arousal index. The apnea obstructive index was in the normal range. However, results from other studies show an increased risk of hypertension and abnormal cardiac rates as well as sleep fragmentation with prolonged hypercarbia, the researchers commented.

The third group (n= 24) included children with normal polysomnograms, but further inspection found that 13 of these children had an arousal index greater than 10 (mean index 15.6).

Commenting on the significance of the arousal response, Dr. Shott said that ordinarily an arousal is a protective reflex that helps curtail the upper airway obstruction and reestablish a patent airway.

However, there is concern that an excessive number of arousals may lead to fragmented sleep and sleep deprivation. The increased arousal rate in Down's children may affect daytime function, ability to learn, and resultant behavior, often misattributed to a child's limited intellectual abilities, she said.

The parental questionnaire cast doubt on the parents' ability to assess their child's sleep problems. In general, these parents underestimate the severity of their child's sleep disturbances, Dr. Shott said. Thirty-five parents completed a questionnaire at the study's outset asking whether their child snored, stopped breathing while sleeping, and if there were snorts and gasps for air during sleep.

Overall, 11 (31%) parents reported that their child had sleep problems, but these parents were correct about a sleep abnormality in only four cases. The other seven children, believed by parents to have abnormalities, had normal polysomnograms. Of the 24 parents who reported no sleep problems, 13 children (54%) had abnormal tests, the researchers reported.

In a further analysis, for children in Groups 1 and 2 with major sleep disorders, 13 parents (77%) said their child had no sleep problems, and in group 3, in which the children were normal, seven (39%) said their child had sleep problems.

"Our results point to the need for objective testing for obstructive sleep disorders in children as young as three or four years," Dr. Shott said. Because there is a high incidence of sleep disorders in Down's syndrome children, "baseline studies, using full overnight polysomnograms, are recommended even if parents report no sleep problems in their child," she said.

TRIBUTE TO PETER LUTHER

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Peter Luther, one

of the 15th district's most distinguished community and business leaders. Peter has dedicated the last six years of his life to creating a world without limits for people with diabetes both in California and all over the world.

Peter joined LifeScan Inc., a Johnson & Johnson company headquartered in Milpitas, CA, in 2000 to oversee U.S. sales and marketing. Peter's responsibilities soon expanded to global sales and marketing, eventually leading to his current position as president of LifeScan. Peter's commitment to people with diabetes and their families has positioned LifeScan as the leading global diabetes management company that partners with patients and healthcare professionals around the world to offer innovation that improves the quality of life. Over 21 million people in the U.S. alone have diabetes, and tens of millions more are at risk to develop this chronic condition in the near future. Peter has worked tirelessly to provide the most advanced, accurate, and clinically-based quality diabetes management products and services available today.

Peter's professional accomplishments have consistently reflected the Johnson & Johnson credo that guides all company employees to put patients first. Peter recently developed an industry-patient advocacy partnership called the Diabetes Care Coalition that created the "Know Your A1C" campaign. The media campaign carries the message of awareness about sound diabetes management and tight glycemic control to people with diabetes through public media outlets. The American Diabetes Association named Peter "Father of the Year 2004" and inducted him into their honorary Pinnacle Society.

However, of all the professional accolades Peter has received during his impressive career, I believe he is most proud of his devotion to his family as a committed husband and father. While Peter's wife Dina and their three children remain his nonnegotiable priority, he has been able to surpass business goals and at the same time strike a workfamily balance with humility, grace, and strength.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Peter well in his personal and professional endeavors as he departs LifeScan and California for a major corporate promotion that will relocate him and his family to New Jersey, and I thank him for his exceptional service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO THE ELIZABETH RIVER/ARTHUR KILL WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize a valued institution within my Congressional district. For the past 8 years, the Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill (ER/AK) Watershed Association has been dedicated to the education and empowerment of its diverse, multilingual residents by proactively addressing clean water issues. Through services such as water-quality testing, research and advocacy, the ER/AK Watershed Association, which is certified through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, stands apart from many environmental organizations because of its emphasis on educating under-

served communities about the environmental issues that affect their daily lives.

Responding to resident requests for community-generated graphics and maps of the watershed, the ER/AK Watershed Association worked closely with New Jersey's Rutgers University Center of Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis and the prestigious international Green Map organization to create a dynamic Green Map that will document the natural and cultural resources of our Watershed community. It is important to share with you that two other watershed universities, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Kean University, have generously provided formative and foundational resources to the ongoing development of the ER/AK Watershed Association.

I salute the ER/AK Watershed Association and its partners as they utilize their Green Map to enhance the quality of life in and around the watershed for its natural and human residents. I am proud to have this organization in my district and I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL TRADE REQUIRES UNMITIGATED TRUTH IN HEALTH (TRUTH) ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, in November 2005, President Bush announced a "National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza", which contained plans "to prepare our nation, and our world to fight this potentially devastating outbreak of infectious disease." Clearly, our government must develop and implement thorough plans to detect, respond to and recover from an avian flu pandemic in the event that an outbreak occurs in the United States. However, our country cannot effectively combat avian flu unilaterally. That is why today I am introducing the Global Trade Requires Unmitigated Truth in Health, TRUTH, Act, a bill that seeks to address global health risks in an era of unprecedented international commerce that has created enormous opportunities while also speeding the spread of communicable diseases.

As global trade increases the number of products crossing international borders at faster rates, we also see an increase in harmful and dangerous diseases flying across our borders. With mounting concerns surrounding avian flu and recent experience with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, SARS, governments have not only the right but the responsibility to protect their countries from the threat of disease.

Because avian flu cases have been confirmed in Asia, Europe and the Middle East and the ease of international travel increases the chances that avian flu could emerge in our country, our health officials need the latest epidemiological data as soon as cases are confirmed abroad. The Global TRUTH Act will ensure that all countries that participate in global trade are also good citizens when it comes to protecting the global public health.

The SARS outbreak in Asia in 2002 and 2003 highlighted the inherent dangers in de-

layed reporting of public health risks for the supposed benefit of international trade. When a country is reluctant to publicize early cases of disease for fear of such an announcement's economic effects, that disease is allowed to spread. In order to maintain a system of global public health preparedness, we should enshrine fundamental public health preparedness principles in the international trading system, including the World Trade Organization, WTO.

Unfortunately, press reports have indicated that Indonesian officials covered up and then neglected the spreading bird flu in Indonesia for 2 years until it began to infect humans. According to an Indonesian microbiologist, the Indonesian government could have eradicated its emerging avian flu outbreak if it had acted sooner. Moreover, Indonesia's national director of animal health admitted that Indonesian government officials did not set aside money to vaccinate poultry against the disease this year, despite assurances that such vaccination would be a principal component of the government's avian flu containment plan. Vietnam and China also reportedly failed to take steps that could have contained the virus in Asia.

As noted by the Indonesian microbiologist who first identified the flu virus in the country's bird population, failure of the Indonesian government to take prompt action to stamp out avian flu inside the country's borders has deadly consequences far beyond them. Two years ago when it was revealed that Chinese officials had covered up the existence of SARS inside their country, I urged President Bush to link international trade benefits to international cooperation on public health issues that transcend national boundaries. China eventually responded to international pressure by permitting World Health Organization, WHO, officials to investigate in the affected provinces, but, according to then-Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, "If Chinese authorities had reported cases in the beginning of the epidemic, the impact of SARS on the international health and economy would likely have been substantially more limited."

The avian flu outbreak spreading through Asia and Europe presents serious public health challenges for our government and nations around the world. Prevention and containment of infectious diseases are only possible if governments report outbreaks immediately, permit medical researchers to investigate cases, and take protective measures such as vaccinations and quarantines, where appropriate.

In order to both achieve vital public health goals and continue the spread of international trade, the Global TRUTH Act directs the U.S. Trade Representative to submit a proposal to the World Trade Organization, WTO, that states that the WTO take into account whether countries are undermining the international trading system through a failure to comply with the WHO's International Health Regulations. The Global TRUTH Act directs the U.S. Trade Representative to propose that the WTO should enforce strong public health considerations by imposing sanctions or other punitive measures on members who are found to violate the International Health Regulations as well as requiring all member countries to abide by rules of other international organizations with regard to public health. By requiring countries to follow the regulations of the WHO in order to be a member of the WTO, we will link

the related goals of improved global public health and increased global trade.

The Global TRUTH Act also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare an annual "Global Public Health Assessment", modeled on the State Department's country-by-country human rights reports. The purpose of the assessment is to report to Congress on the status of compliance with and observance of the International Health Regulations in each country that is a member of the World Health Organization.

The Global TRUTH Act is an important tool in the improvement of global public health standards and the ever-growing international marketplace. Louis Pasteur famously said, "Chance favors the prepared mind." Early detection is critical to the success of our Nation's avian flu preparedness plans. By working simultaneously to decrease global public health risks and remove a potential roadblock from international trade, the Act will ensure that international trade decisions are not made at the expense of public health, thus allowing for safer trade and a safer, healthier global community.

INTRODUCTION OF INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE NSA EAVESDROPPING

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it has been 4 months since this Congress became aware of the NSA's secret surveillance activities, yet no Committee has held thorough and independent investigations into the program.

Before we legislate on this issue and give the Executive unprecedented and sweeping new authorities to conduct surveillance on Americans not suspected of terrorist activity, we must understand the true nature of the program, how effective it is, and whether it is even constitutional.

To that end, I am introducing the attached bill that will create an independent commission, evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate, to answer such questions.

I hope that my colleagues will put politics aside and do what we did in the 1970s when we found out that the Nixon administration was wiretapping Americans without warrants: conduct a thorough and independent investigation of all the relevant facts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month because of official business in Colorado I was not able to be present for three votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 82, H.J. Res. 81—Providing for the appointment of Phillip Frost as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 83, H. Res. 703—Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and supporting continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 84, H. Res. 744—Expressing support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland and support for continued police reform in Northern Ireland as a critical element in the peace process—I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCTION OF MATTHEW LYON POST OFFICE NAMING BILL

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill that would name the United States Post Office in Fair Haven, Vermont, in honor of Matthew Lyon, one of our nation's early defenders of the First Amendment, a former member of the Vermont House of Representatives, and Vermont's fourth Representative to the United States Congress. Matthew Lyon is also recognized as the founder of Fair Haven, Vermont.

Matthew Lyon plays an important role in the history of our country. He was the first person to be tried and convicted under the repressive 1798 Sedition Act. The Sedition Act was sweeping legislation passed during a period when America was engaged in hostilities with France. The purpose of the legislation was to punish Americans who opposed President John Adams' foreign policy toward France. This legislation was unquestionably a direct attack on rights explicitly protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Matthew Lyon's only crime was writing a letter to the editor critical of President Adams' foreign policy towards France and submitting another person's similar writings to a local newspaper that published them. Solely for expressing his views and exercising his First Amendment rights, Matthew Lyon was sentenced to four months in jail, required to pay the cost of his prosecution, and fined \$1,000. He was, however, subsequently pardoned by President Thomas Jefferson.

At a time when we find ourselves struggling to balance the security of our nation with the liberties we cherish, I can think of no better time to honor one of our nation's champions of the First Amendment's right of free speech. Naming the Fair Haven Post Office in honor of Matthew Lyon would be a fitting tribute to him and his fight for liberty, and would serve as a reminder of Fair Haven's connection to this great American patriot. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Government Reform Committee to move this bill through committee and onto the House Floor.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2006

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens. Financial literacy has been linked to lower delinquency rates for mortgage borrowers, higher participation and contribution rates in retirement plans, improved spending and saving habits, higher net worth, and positive knowledge, attitude, and behavior changes. Expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth.

A March 2005 GAG report entitled Credit Reporting Literacy found that educational efforts could potentially increase consumers' understanding of the credit reporting process and those efforts should target those areas in which consumers' knowledge was weakest and those subpopulations that did not score as well on GAG's survey, including those with less education, lower incomes, and less experience obtaining credit. Public, consumer, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates for Americans of all ages and walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, websites, and one-on-one counseling for individuals. In February 2005, Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT (R-IL) and I co-founded, and currently co-chair, the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, FELC, to (1) provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to work in collaboration with the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, (2) highlight public and private sector best practices, and (3) organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars, and events, such as Financial Literacy Month in April 2006 and the annual Financial Literacy Day fair on April 25, 2006. The Caucus has been a success.

I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters in support of a bill Congresswoman BIGGERT and I co-sponsored and that passed the House: H. Res. 737, a bill Recognizing the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month that falls in April of each year. The bill was reported to the House favorably by the Committee on Government Reform and passed the House on April 6, 2006 by a recorded vote of 423-1. The documents I am submitting today include letters of support for H. Res. 737 from the Federal Trade Commission and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. I am also submitting for the RECORD three letters in support of Financial Literacy Month. They include a letter from the President, George W. Bush, Rick Perry, Governor of the State of Texas, and the Southeast Regional Financial Education Center.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,
Washington, DC

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: Thank you for co-sponsoring House Resolution 737, designating April 2006 as "Financial Literacy Month" to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States, and calling on various public and private entities to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

Measures such as this help boost consumer education programs the Federal Trade Commission has developed for fostering a national "culture of financial smarts," where all individuals can take steps towards personal financial stability and contribute to a healthy national economy. Along these lines, the FTC's Office of Congressional Relations wanted to share with you new resources launched for Financial Literacy Month that are available for supporting your outreach programs.

Enclosed please find the FTC's "Focus on Finances" booklet, which we have modified from a newspaper supplement that ran in The Washington Times. As you will see, the booklet serves as a guide for young adults, entering a new phase in their lives in facing new financial challenges and opportunities. From new college students to graduates entering the work force, this guide focuses on issues that all consumers are faced with: credit, budgeting, debt, and identity theft.

We hope you will agree this booklet will be a valuable tool for distribution via district offices or as handouts at community events. The publication can be printed out via the FTC's Web site at www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/misc/nie0406.pdf, or you can contact me, Derick Rill, at my e-mail address—drill@ftc.gov, or via phone at 202-326-3007.

Beyond the FTC's Focus on Finances booklet, the FTC has a wide range of consumer education resources we think you will agree can serve to help your constituents, and we are happy to discuss with your staff ideas for newsletter items, Web site assistance areas, town hall events and more. See the reverse side of this document for details.

Thank you again for being a part of Financial Literacy Month and please let us know how we can best help your office reach the goals that your resolution set stressing the importance of financial education for all Americans. We look forward to working with you in the future. Please call us at FTC anytime we can be of service.

Sincerely,

DERICK RILL,
Congressional Outreach Specialist.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS,
April 14, 2006.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. RUBIN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT AND CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: On behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), we write to commend your leadership and commitment to financial and economic literacy. The NAIC shares and embraces the goals of H. Res. 737, a Resolution Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month, and offers our support for your continued efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States.

On March 28, the NAIC launched a comprehensive public education program to assist consumers with information about insurance issues. Under the banner of Insure U, the campaign has two objectives: to help consumers get smart about insurance as

their needs change at different life stages, and to educate them about how to avoid being scammed by fake insurance companies. The program includes an online education site and public service announcements in English and Spanish.

The Insure U curriculum, available at www.insureUonline.org, includes a basic introduction to the four major types of insurance—auto, home, life and health—as well as special considerations for young singles, young families, established families and empty nesters/seniors. The public service announcement encourages consumers to call their state insurance department prior to purchasing an insurance policy to confirm that they are dealing with a real insurance company authorized to do business in their state.

Thank you again for your continued leadership and commitment to financial and economic literacy. The NAIC is committed to working with you, other members of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, and all Members of the House and Senate through events during Financial Literacy Month and year round.

Sincerely,

ALESSANDRO IUPPA,
Maine Superintendent
of Insurance, NAIC
President.

CATHERINE J.
WEATHERFORD,
NAIC Executive Vice
President and CEO.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington DC, March 23, 2006.

I send greetings to all those observing Financial Literacy Month this April.

The American economy is the envy of the world because of the talent of the American people. Our economy grows when individuals are allowed to make their own decisions about how to save, spend, and invest their money and are given the freedom to make a better life for themselves and their family.

The Federal Government has an important role to play in helping citizens gain the knowledge and tools they need to compete and succeed in the 21st century. The Financial Literacy and Education Commission, created in 2003, was tasked with developing a plan to improve the money management skills of our citizens. Through the launch of "Taking Ownership of the Future: The National Strategy for Financial Literacy," the Commission is hoping to prepare people for the opportunities of life in a free society, enable them to make informed decisions about their financial futures, and help consumers protect their credit and good name.

My Administration remains committed to expanding economic opportunities and fostering an environment that encourages growth and vitality. By creating an ownership society, where more Americans own their own homes and businesses and control their own retirement savings and health insurance, we can achieve a great national goal and make our country a place where the dignity and security of financial independence are within reach for all Americans.

I appreciate Secretary Snow, members of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, and all those working to make every citizen an agent of his or her own destiny. Your work reflects our trust in the American people and makes our society more prosperous and just.

Laura and I send our best wishes.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
STATE OF TEXAS,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR.

Sound financial management is important to ensuring that Texans are well-positioned to meet their needs now and in the future.

From saving and investing to making wise credit decisions, a better understanding of financial management and planning fosters long-term financial security.

At home, at school, and elsewhere in our communities, and at an early age, we must educate young Texans on these important issues. Not only does financial literacy education help to ensure that young Texans mature into responsible adults, it also contributes to economic success and prosperity for our great state into the future.

During the month of April, an awareness campaign will be conducted to highlight the importance of financial literacy among young Texans.

At this time, therefore, I encourage Texans of all ages to recognize the importance of saving, investing and having financial goals. Together we can continue to make a difference for the future.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2006, Youth Financial Literacy Month.

RICK PERRY,
Governor of Texas.

APRIL IS NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR
YOUTH MONTH

RALEIGH, N.C.—Governor Mike Easley has declared April 2006 as Financial Literacy for Youth Month in North Carolina. Financial literacy programs are being launched across the nation to heighten the awareness and need to provide financial education to young people. The JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy national biennial survey of financial literacy released 2006 test results on April 5th in Washington, DC. The average score for the 2005-06 survey was 52.4%, up marginally from 52.3% in the 2003-04 survey. This year, North Carolina joined the ranks by surveying 254 high school seniors in 13 schools across the state. Test scores were below the national average at 48.2%.

SERFEC will commemorate Financial Literacy for Youth Month with a full-day event for the freshman class on the campus of Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, NC on Thursday, April 20th. The kickoff for the event will feature concurrent workshops on: It Just Makes Cents: Budgeting Basics; The World of Banking; The Credit Trap: Using Credit Wisely; and What's Your Whip: Helpful Tips on Vehicle Financing. William "Bill" Cheeks, President of ABBA Associates, Powder Springs, GA and Midwest/Eastern States Regional Coordinator for the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy will serve as the guest luncheon speaker. During the afternoon Real World Event, a virtual life skills simulation, students will be challenged to develop a monthly budget based on various educational and employment levels, while ensuring everyday needs and situational crises are met. Corporate sponsors for this power-packed event include Branch Bank & Trust, Citigroup, Citifinancial, GMAC, and the Federal Reserve Bank.

SERFEC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide K-12 and college freshmen throughout the southeast region with a working knowledge of basic personal finance. SERFEC is principled on the Japanese maxim: "Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I'll remember. Involve me, and I'll be changed forever." According to Angela Towns, Chief Executive Officer, "Teaching youth basic money management skills is a misnomer. We can tell youth about money and even show them how money works—but until we involve them in the practical application of basic personal finance, we will miss the opportunity for economic growth, economic empowerment, and economic change in the lives of our young

people, their families, and their communities.”

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and to honor Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Earlier this week, concerned citizens throughout the world solemnly remembered the history of the Holocaust and recognized the victims and those who survived this tragedy. Upon this one day, we remember those that suffered, those that fought, and those that died. Six million Jews were murdered. Many families were completely decimated.

Between September 1, 1939, when Nazi troops invaded Poland, and Germany's surrender on May 8, 1945, Hitler waged two wars. One was against Allied forces on three continents. The other was against the Jews in the form of the Holocaust.

In the years since, descendants of Jewish immigrants have clung to their identity and have prospered across this Nation and throughout the world. In my district, there is a significant population of Jewish survivors and their families that showed heroic bravery and a will to live.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to imagine an evil more powerful than the massacre and willful destruction of a people. By honoring the Holocaust Remembrance Day, we renew our commitment to prevent future atrocities, and therefore we ensure the lessons of the Holocaust are properly understood and acknowledged. As it has been over 60 years since the Holocaust, it is imperative that we pay tribute to the memory of others who have suffered and to never forget the past.

IN HONOR OF DR. WALTER CARL
GORDON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great doctor who has devoted his life to serving his countrymen—Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr.

At the age of 78, Dr. Gordon is retiring after nearly 40 years practicing medicine. He has served his community and his country throughout his entire life, all the while blazing new trails for those who would follow him.

Born on October 25, 1927 in Albany, Georgia, Dr. Gordon earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton Institute and then his Master of Science in chemistry from Tuskegee Institute. Before attending medical school, he spent several years teaching chemistry at Lincoln University and Albany State University. In 1955, he graduated from Meharry Medical College and began to serve his country on another level.

The young Dr. Gordon joined the United States Army and was stationed at Letterman

Army Hospital in San Francisco for his first internship. He later completed his surgical residency at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. He became the first African-American surgeon at Walter Reed, the Army's most distinguished medical center.

Dr. Gordon was sent to Vietnam where he was given command of an evacuation hospital. There he helped to develop a new, revolutionary approach to surgery which contributed to saving the lives of countless American servicemen. He was awarded three Army Commendation Medals and one Legion of Merit award for his service, and retired in 1968 as a Lieutenant Colonel. But Dr. Gordon's service was not over.

In 1981 he rejoined the military to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves. He served beyond the call for another decade before retiring with the rank of Colonel.

While still serving in the Reserves, Dr. Gordon practiced medicine in Albany, Georgia at the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. He worked for one year as the Chief of Staff and for two terms as the chairman of the Hospital's board. In 2005, the Board awarded him the title of "Board Member Emeritus."

In 2003, Dr. Gordon joined the Hospital staff as a primary care physician at the VA Clinic. Since then he has diligently served the veteran population of Southwest Georgia. He has never forgotten the men and women who have, like him, worn the uniform of this great nation.

Whether serving in Washington, D.C., Vietnam or Albany, Dr. Gordon has performed his service with honor, courage and integrity. His lifetime of altruistic care-giving has made him a legend in our community and an inspirational figure for us all.

Today, we thank and honor Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr. for his dedication and lifelong commitment to the welfare of others. On the occasion of his retirement from the field of medicine, we wish for him the joyous, healthy and tranquil life that he so richly deserves. Dr. Gordon is a healer and a patriot and we applaud his lifetime of service.

HONORING COURAGE OF FIRST
MARINES TO SCALE SUMMIT OF
MT. SURIBACHI

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of the first United States Marines to scale the summit of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima is a small rocky island only two miles wide and four miles long located approximately 650 miles south of Tokyo, Japan. It is a volcanic island, much like the islands of my home state of Hawaii. A place where cool Pacific breezes rush over soft beaches and birds sing songs learned during lonely flights across the wide ocean.

For a brief moment in time, the Island of Iwo Jima became the central battleground between the Empire of Japan and the Allied Forces during those terrible and dark days of World War II. The Allied Forces were determined to take the island in preparation for a final attack on Japan, and the Japanese were

unbendable in their desire to defend Iwo Jima and to prevent the Allies from moving any closer to the main islands of Japan.

On February 19, 1945, approximately 70,000 American and other Allied Forces and 22,000 Japanese soldiers locked themselves in a horrific battle that would begin the final phase of the War in the Pacific. Entrenched in a series of interlocking caves, blockhouses, and pillboxes, the Japanese fought with determination to defend their island. Debarking off a naval armada of more than 450 ships, the Allies, led by the United States, brought the full weight of their highly trained and battle-tested troops to bear with the determined goal of taking the rocky island no matter what the cost. The battle for Iwo Jima would be one of the fiercest conflicts of the Second World War. 6,821 Marines were killed in action, and 19,217 Marines were wounded. Of the 22,000 Japanese defenders, only 1,083 survived.

On February 23, 1945, the fifth day of the battle, Marines from the 5th Division were ordered to ascend the slopes of Mt. Suribachi, the main peak controlling the island. Four Marine squads worked their way up the mountain and, at 10:30 a.m., the officer in charge, 1st Lieutenant Harold G. Schrier, along with the platoon leader, Sergeant Ernest Thomas, and Sergeant Henry Hansen, Corporal Charles W. Lindberg, Radioman, Private First Class Raymond E. Jacobs, Private James R. Michels, Private Philip L. Ward, and Corpsman, PhMac John H. Bradley, raised the American flag over Mt. Suribachi.

Today, when our Nation remembers the brave U.S. Marines of Iwo Jima, we often visualize the commanding bronze statue resting on the banks of the Potomac River. Most Americans do not realize that this memorial actually depicts the second, much larger flag that was raised on Mt. Suribachi, signaling the courage and determination of the United States to all on Iwo Jima and at sea.

In my home state of Hawaii, the Iwo Jima USMC Memorial Association, Inc. is working to raise the funds necessary to build a memorial to recognize the American Marines who raised the first American flag on Mt. Suribachi. I applaud their efforts, and hope that every citizen across the Nation will support those groups dedicated to recognizing the courage of American Marines everywhere.

DOLA MINERS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday was the 43th anniversary of the Dola, WV mine disaster that took the lives of 22 miners. On Thursday, April 25, 1963, Adam Aldridge, Gunther Bardorrek, William Bullough, Kenneth Burnside, Ralph Cado, Delbert Chapman, Carsie Crayton, Dorsey Fincham, William Fowler, George Grogg, Roy Hanna, Glen Haught, Harold Haught, Denzil Hawkinberry, Roy Kerns, James Lester, William Maxwell, Ralph McCloy, John Reed, Ralph Smith, Raymond Swiger, and Robert Welch lost their lives in a methane gas explosion at Clinchfield Coal Company's Compass No. 2 Mine.

Today, flags and flower arrangements line headstones of the fallen miners in family

cemeteries up and down Ten Mile Creek. A memorial is currently being organized by the families of the miners to recognize and honor them. The memorial will be dedicated later this summer to ensure they are never forgotten.

Those family members gathered know first hand the pain of losing a loved one—the same pain suffered by families across West Virginia this year. Our state will stand with these families, share in their suffering, and continue to push for improved safety in our mines.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Holocaust Remembrance Day has been set aside as a tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and for reminding our nation that we must vigorously pursue justice for the victims of all acts of hatred and inhumanity, not only for their sake but for the sake of future generations.

In addition, I have been concerned about the International Tracing Service (ITS) of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Bad Arolsen, Germany. Driven by frustration with the long delays and poor responsiveness of ITS, family members of victims of the Holocaust are calling for access to ITS to search for their missing family members. The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, which is the largest survivor organization in the world, has repeatedly called for the archives to be opened. In most instances they have received no response to their requests for information regarding the actual holdings of the ITS archives or on the issue of access. I sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice requesting her to contact ITS and insist on making these archives available to the U.S. government and other related government organizations.

ITS was established by the Allied High Command after World War II to assist in reuniting families that were separated by concentration camps and confirm the fate of family members during the war. The initial document collections were deposited by the United States, United Kingdom and France, and included captured documents and Displaced Persons' (DP) camp records. The 30 million pages of archival material related about the approximately 17 million victims of Nazism, both Jews and non-Jews, includes records of concentration camps, forced and slave labor, deportations, and DP camps. The documents have an important memorial function to shed new light on our intellectual understanding of the Holocaust and its aftermath.

As context for all of this human tragedy, the operation of the concentration camps, transport and deportation systems, and perpetration of the Holocaust at the human, not just the statistical, level. All of that, and more for us to learn and seek to understand, lies in the ITS archives. It is so imperative for the ITS archives to be opened to the public. To collect all this vital information and put a wall up around it so no one could get in, makes a horrific crime worse.

I have received a response from Secretary Rice who stated, "[t]he United States supports as open access system in Bad Arolsen for visiting researchers. Furthermore, the United States has proposed that the eleven countries making up the International Commission of the ITS receive a digitized copy of the archives so that individual member States can make those documents available for research purposes under their respective national privacy laws." I am encouraged that the German Ambassador to the U.S. Klaus Scharioth announced on April 24, 2006, that the German government is now our partner in getting the ITS archive opened and copies made as quickly as possible.

I also rise today in recognition of the 58th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent state. I am an original cosponsor of a resolution to recognize this important anniversary. Since 1948, the United States and Israel have developed a close friendship based on common democratic values, religious affinities, and security interests. U.S.-Israeli bilateral relations are multidimensional. Both countries have long recognized that their mutual interests of deterring war, promoting stability and achieving peace are not far off. I am committed to maintaining the close relationship that the U.S. government enjoys with Israel to secure democracy in the Middle East.

IN RECOGNITION OF LESLEY C.
DINWIDDIE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lesley C. Dinwiddie, past-president of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA), for her compassion, dedication, and pioneering contributions to nephrology nursing and kidney patients across the country.

As ANNA's 2004–05 president and a member of the organization for 24 years, Ms. Dinwiddie has inspired nephrology nurses to reach the highest levels of practice and patient care. A visionary leader, she has implemented a broad range of initiatives that will continue to improve care for patients whose lives depend on dialysis and other kidney replacement treatments.

The rising rates of kidney disease underscore the urgency of Ms. Dinwiddie's work: about 20 million Americans suffer from the disease today. The number of people diagnosed has doubled each decade for the last two decades and will likely continue to do so as Baby Boomers age.

For those who have lost over 85 percent of their kidney function, a condition known as end stage renal disease (ESRD), the only way to stay alive is to receive dialysis or a kidney transplant. There are now over 400,000 people in this country who are being treated for ESRD. Caring for these patients calls for highly-trained experts with sophisticated knowledge, making nephrology nursing one of the most challenging and rewarding nursing specialties practiced today. It is also one of the largest; ANNA's membership—now over 12,000—continues to grow each year.

As an ANNA president, Ms. Dinwiddie has led the association to many accomplishments. She spearheaded ANNA's advocacy efforts as the organization worked with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on such crucial issues as the nursing shortage, the role of the advanced practice nurse, and reimbursement for kidney care. She helped fuel grassroots advocacy efforts for the Kidney Care Quality and Improvement Act, H.R. 1298, of which I am pleased to be a cosponsor. This bill would modernize Medicare, advance quality care, and increase awareness of kidney disease in local communities.

Ms. Dinwiddie has also recognized the importance of recruiting and retaining nephrology nurses to help ensure the future of the specialty. She currently leads ANNA's annual "Nephrology Nurses Week," a national campaign that recognizes and celebrates the critical role of nephrology nurses in patient care. During another annual event, "ESRD Education Week," Ms. Dinwiddie and other nephrology nurses across the country invite state and federal legislators to visit dialysis units in their districts to learn more about kidney disease and treatments. I was pleased to visit the Cary Kidney Center in the congressional district I represent in August 2004. Ms. Dinwiddie has also expanded ANNA's collaborations with other nursing and kidney-related organizations, helping to ensure that the voices of nephrology nurses continue to be heard.

Professionally, Ms. Dinwiddie runs an independent nephrology nursing consulting practice in Cary, NC, specializing in vascular access for hemodialysis, education, and research. She is a member of the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative's (K/DOQI) Vascular Access Subcommittee and CMS's Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative. Ms. Dinwiddie is also a reviewer for ANNA's official journal, Nephrology Nursing, as well the Dialysis & Transplantation journal, and has numerous publications and presentations to her credit. She received a Diploma in General Nursing in Australia, a B.A. in psychology at the University of Arkansas, and her Masters in Nursing Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Lesley Dinwiddie for her years of vision, leadership, and commitment.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
NILAYA KUNTAMUKKALA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Ajay Kuntamukkala and Lavanya Reddy of Rockville, Maryland on the birth of their new baby girl. Nilaya Kuntamukkala was born on April 12, 2006 at 1:59 p.m., weighing 5 pounds and 13 ounces. She has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her wellbeing and bright future. Her birth is a blessing.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. In early May, he will be making stops in the United States en route to Central and South America.

I commend President Chen for his leadership and wisdom in having maintained peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait during the past six years. Despite the People's Republic of China's military buildup along the Taiwanese coast, despite China's passage of the anti-secession legislation last spring and despite China's continuous harsh rhetoric threatening Taiwan's future, President Chen continues to hope for a dialogue with his Chinese counterparts. President Chen wants permanent peace in the Taiwan Strait.

President Chen firmly believes in his people's right to maintain a free and democratic way of life. Any solution of the Taiwan question must have the consent and approval of the 23 million people of Taiwan.

We must help the 23 million people of Taiwan to determine their own future. First, we must reaffirm our commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act, which stipulates a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue. In the meantime, let's give our support to Taiwan in its application to be an observer at the World Health Assembly meetings this May.

It is my hope that President Chen will be warmly welcomed in the United States. Too often he has been misunderstood. I salute him as a leader who's always put his country and his people first. He is our "peacekeeper" in the Taiwan Strait.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENTS
OF AMADOR VALLEY HIGH
SCHOOL'S "WE THE PEOPLE"
TEAM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both congratulate and wish the students of Amador Valley High School's "We the People" team the best of luck for their national competition in the District of Columbia this weekend. I also congratulate their parents and teachers for this remarkable achievement.

The U.S. Department of Education's Center for Civic Education sponsors "We the People" as an opportunity for students to compete in their knowledge of American civics. Students are quizzed on everything from the U.S. Constitution, the founding of our country, and the revolution of American government. This makes for a great experience for the students, because the testing occurs during simulated congressional hearings. These are creative students who excel in critical thinking and their mastery of history and government.

I am proud to say that on February 3, 2006, the "We the People" team from Amador Valley High School finished first in the State of

California. They are the seventh in the school's history in a line of successful teams to qualify for the national competition in Washington, DC.

These students have been victorious at the congressional, regional, and State levels this year. The team consists of 30 seniors who prepared in 15,000 combined hours of study and preparation. During this time, this diverse group of students have come together as one team; supporting each other in the most difficult and rigorous academic experience of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I warmly congratulate the Amador Valley High School team and I want to add the names of these bright students in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Angela Aronoff, Kiel Barry, Sean Basalyga, Nihat Bayramoglu, Sanam Bhatia, Audra Bloom, David Crisostomo, Jennifer Doxey, Jasmine Guo, Scott Hanford, Jennifer Hank, Glenalyn Hunt, Lauren Johnson, Jack LaFrancesca, Jessica Ma, Amy Qin, Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh, Paula Reeve, David Rowse, Lakshmi Santhosh, Eugene Shenkar, Tiffany Shih, Suzanna Sund, Will Tagg, Sonia Talati, Susan Tang, Brookanne Thompson, Ronald Tran, Elise Viebeck, and Jempy Zhan.

H.R. 3277—FEDERAL AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SUNSET ACT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to speak in favor of H.R. 3277, the "Federal Agency Performance Review and Sunset Act." The Federal Government is fraught with chronic program overlap and duplication. As Congress has created multiple agencies and programs to meet the needs of our Nation over the years, it has become increasingly clear that many of these programs are now outdated because they serve similar purposes.

Did you know that: 19 federal programs throughout the government focus on substance abuse prevention; 90 early childhood programs exist in 11 federal agencies within 20 different offices; 86 teacher training programs exist in 9 different agencies; and 27 different programs and services to prevent teen pregnancy exist in HHS alone.

The costs of the hurricane recovery efforts in Texas and Louisiana have reached record proportions and will place an increasing amount of strain on our Nation's resources. The President has stated that federal spending cuts are inevitable in the near future if the government is to achieve a balanced budget. Congress must take accountability by making sure the most effective spending cuts do not hinder the necessary operations of the Federal Government.

The members of Congress have a unique opportunity in front of them. Together, we can help eliminate program overlap and duplication and at the same time help offset the costs of the hurricane recovery efforts with the passage of the Sunset Act. Under the "Federal Agency Performance Review and Sunset Act," or the Sunset Act the need and efficiency of each Federal Agency will be investigated by a Sunset Commission.

Once a Federal Agency has been reviewed by the Commission, Congress will have 2 years to positively reaffirm the need for that agency. No reauthorization by Congress in that 2-year span would result in the termination of the agency or program. The Sunset Commissions will empower the President to make the most effective spending cuts by trimming Federal programs whose functions exist elsewhere in the government.

Last year, Chairman Alan Greenspan testified before the Senate Budget Committee with regard to reforming the budget process. What was missing in government, he stated, was a systematic review of all Federal programs. He said, "[Congress] might want to require that existing programs be assessed regularly to verify that they continue to meet their stated purposes and cost projections." The Sunset Act is expressly consistent with this analysis, and would bring light of review and accountability to Federal programs, and result in considerable cost savings to the taxpayer.

A similar important piece of legislation that I introduced is H.R. 3276, the "Government Reorganization and Improvement of Performance Act". Under the "Government Reorganization and Improvement of Performance Act," bipartisan commissions would be created to study specific areas where there might be overlap and duplication in federal operations. The commissions would issue recommendations to the President on how to reorganize, at which time the President would decide whether to submit the proposal to Congress. This legislation would require both the creation of a Results Commission and any reorganization proposal endorsed by it to come before Congress under expedited procedures to ensure that the proposal receives a clean, up-or-down vote in both houses.

It is clear that the world works at much faster speeds than it did 40, 30, and even 20 years ago. It is clear that it should not require an act of Congress to reorganize the Executive Branch so that real solutions for crises can be found in the most efficient manner. H.R. 3276 will allow a "fast-track" reorganization authority to exist that will increase the overall operability and efficiency of the government and allow it to keep pace with the speed of the world today.

Something has to be done to eliminate the government waste caused by chronic program overlap and duplication throughout the Federal Government and get the biggest bang for the taxpayers' dollars. The two commissions proposed in H.R. 3276 and H.R. 3277 are critical to achieving a sensible and responsible analysis of government programs and operations and ultimately in eliminating unneeded programs and reorganizing government operations.

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I strongly support this bipartisan legislation—the Iran Freedom Support Act—which is a measured, appropriate and necessary response by this body to the continued belligerence and threatening actions of the Iranian regime.

Let none of us be mistaken: Iran, today, poses a grave and growing danger to international security and stability. And, this danger must not be ignored.

Just yesterday, Iran's supreme religious leader, in a meeting with the president of Sudan, reportedly said that Iran was ready to share its nuclear technology with other countries.

This was the latest in a series of outrageous and dangerous comments and actions undertaken by the government in Tehran.

For example, the Iranian president recently has stated his hope for "a world without America" and his desire to "wipe Israel off the map."

Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism. It supports Hezbollah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. It harbors al-Qaida operatives. And, it has maintained a hostile stance toward the United States and our national interests ever since Iranian radicals seized the American embassy in 1979.

Furthermore, there is little question today that Iran has engaged in a deliberate campaign of lies and deceit to conceal its quest for nuclear weapons.

As the French foreign minister stated earlier this year: "No civilian nuclear program can explain the Iranian nuclear program. It is a clandestine nuclear program."

In 2002, it was revealed that Iran was continuing to develop a nuclear program at two secret nuclear facilities—in direct violation of its international obligations.

Last August, the Iranian government resumed its conversion of uranium, a development that led to a 27-to-3 vote in February by the International Atomic Energy Agency to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council.

And, on March 29, the Security Council gave Iran 30 days—or until this Friday—to stop its nuclear activities.

Unfortunately, the Iranian regime seems intent on following a path of confrontation rather than cooperation.

And that is why I urge the members of this body to support this legislation, which, among other measures, would require the President to impose any two of six specified sanctions against any foreign company or entity investing \$20 million or more in the development of Iran's oil or gas industry—so long as Iran refuses to dismantle its chemical, biological or nuclear weapons program.

This bill also would authorize financial and political assistance to human rights dissidents and pro-democracy advocates in Iran.

And, it expresses the sense of Congress that the President should instruct our U.N. representative to work to secure a Security Council resolution calling for sanctions on Iran for its repeated and flagrant breaches of its nuclear nonproliferation obligations.

Madam Speaker, the members of this body are properly focused on our Nation's continuing efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, we cannot afford to dismiss or ignore the grave danger looming in Iran.

Let me emphasize, I believe that the international community has a collective obligation to exert its will on lawbreakers, such as Iran. This is not the duty alone of the United States or any other single state.

The measure before us is warranted, appropriate and necessary. And I urge the members to support it.

HONORING ROBERT B. WEGMAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert B. Wegman, Chairman of Wegmans Food Markets, Inc, and a well known business leader and philanthropist who passed away Thursday, April 20, 2006 at the age of 87.

After 3 years of service in the United States Marine Corps, Wegman became a store manager at his family business in 1947. He took over the business after his uncle's death in 1950. Born at a time when people bought fruits and vegetables from pushcart peddlers, Robert Wegman was a pioneer in the supermarket industry. He not only spearheaded the concept of one-stop-shopping by adding in-store cafes, federal credit unions, pharmacies, photo labs, dry cleaning services, video departments and childcare centers to Wegmans Markets, he built a successful business based on the simple idea that it was essential to treat customers and employees right.

Anyone who has shopped at Wegmans knows that these stores are not your average supermarket chain. This is in large part due to fact that Robert Wegman valued quality more than a quick profit. In explaining his goals, he said "I have never pursued growth for growth's sake—all we really want from our efforts are the finest food stores anywhere, operated profitably." Combined with a desire to expand the choices and quality of goods available to consumers, Wegman revolutionized the industry and turned shopping into an experience rather than a chore. When a shopper enters a Wegmans they not only find high quality products at low prices, but they enter an environment with all of the charm of a European market and all of the convenience that one expects of a local supermarket. Under his leadership, Wegmans received the Golden Shopping Cart Award for Best Supermarket, was named the "Most Family-Friendly Supermarket in America" by Child magazine and has been awarded the prestigious Black Pearl Award for advancing food safety and quality.

In addition to his business savvy, Robert Wegman knew the importance of taking care of his employees. The 70 Wegmans Markets that stretch from New York to Virginia employ more than 35,000 people and offer programs like the Wegmans Scholarship Program, which has awarded \$56 million to 18,000 employees since 1983. As a result of Robert Wegmans efforts, Wegmans has been named one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" by Fortune Magazine for nine consecutive years starting in 1998. In 2005, Wegmans achieved the honor of being ranked number 1 on the list.

Outside of his life as a businessman, Robert Wegman was also a philanthropist. He has donated millions of dollars to charity, including \$25 million to the Rochester Roman Catholic Diocese to educate inner-city students, \$10 million to the Aquinas Institute, \$5 million to St. John Fisher College for the Wegmans School of Pharmacy and \$8 million to the University's School of Nursing.

Robert Wegman is survived by his wife, Peggy; sister, Cecilia Wright; brother, Jim Wegman; children, Danny Wegman, Gail

Tobin, Joan Goldberg, and Marie Kenton; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

COACH JOHN WOODEN POST
OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 4646, which would rename the postal facility in Reseda, California in honor of a UCLA legend, a teacher and community leader, and the greatest coach in sports history: John Wooden.

Coach Wooden achieved unmatched success in his years at UCLA. His commitment to excellence, his steady leadership, and his great wisdom have made him one of the most beloved figures in the history of that great university.

As we saw this year, Coach Wooden's legacy continues. Through hard work, determination, and a deep belief in the power of teamwork, his Bruins captured the Pac10 Championship and advanced to the NCAA Championship game. This year's victories are Coach Wooden's victories because his wisdom and work ethic are the lifeblood of the UCLA basketball program.

I was lucky enough to attend UCLA in the years leading up to the Bruin's unprecedented string of championships and undefeated seasons. Coach Wooden's leadership was the driving force behind four undefeated seasons, 88 consecutive victories, and 7 consecutive NCAA championships.

In addition to the wins on the court, Coach Wooden was an inspiration to his players and the UCLA community. His players' admiration and respect has extended decades beyond their time at UCLA. The University's worldwide visibility and commitment to excellence are forever tied to Coach Wooden's great legacy.

I wish Coach Wooden many years of health and happiness and it gives me great pleasure to support H.R. 4646.

IN HONOR OF THE BARON DE
KALB COUNCIL NO. 1073 OF THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 of the Knights of Columbus and to offer my thanks for the continual dedication it has shown to the southern Brooklyn communities it serves. The Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 was founded in 1906 by Ambrose P. Rikeman, who became their first Grand Knight. It was founded on the principals of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, principals that have been ingrained in the hearts and minds of its members ever since. The Council is named for Baron Johann De Kalb, a courageous and loyal military leader whose spirit continues to live on in the leaders of this great Council.

The Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 has risen from its humble beginnings, when a small band of men met in Grand Knight Rikeman's house, to its present day thousands strong membership that meets at the "Baron-By-The-Sea", a property purchased by the Council in scenic Sheepshead Bay in 1949. In 1969 members were devastated to learn that a fire had destroyed their "Baron-By-The-Sea", but no fire could destroy the members commitment, dedication and desire to reach ever greater achievements for their beloved Council. In 1973 Grand Knight Gus Rogers proudly led his members into the newly built "Baron-By-the-Sea", the structure on Nostrand and Emmons Avenues that continues to provide invaluable services to its members and our southern Brooklyn community to this day.

Therefore, on Behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate the Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 of the Knights of Columbus and all of its past and present members for 100 years of dedication and service to our community.

HONORING SCOTT MILLER

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Scott Miller for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to his community and his country.

As an active member of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Scott appreciates the important relationship between the United States and Israel. Scott knows that the nation of Israel is not only a shining example of democracy in the Middle East, it is one of our nation's most important allies. And Scott understands the enormous benefits of strengthening ties between our two great Nations.

Scott Miller and AIPAC are virtually synonymous. Scott is former chair of the Dallas AIPAC council, and a member of AIPAC's National Executive Committee. As the founder of AIPAC's young leader movement, Scott has helped expand the organization and its membership in Dallas. This Sunday, he will also be receiving the Sam Wolfson Distinguished Leadership Award.

But AIPAC is just one of Scott's many interests. He is a past President of Jewish Family Service of Dallas, the CFA Society of Dallas/Fort Worth and the Wharton Club of Dallas/Ft. Worth. He has served as the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas and currently serves on the boards of the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Community Center.

Scott is also a leader in business, specializing in global investments as both the principal of Miller Global Investments, L.L.C. and founding member and partner of FCM Investments. Last but not least, Scott is also a dedicated family man. He and his wonderful wife Julie have three lovely children.

I am proud to call Scott my friend and it is my pleasure to recognize his distinguished service today in the U.S. House of Representatives.

LENEXA, KANSAS, POLICE CHIEF ELLEN HANSON WINS POLICE EXECUTIVE RESEARCH FORUM LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lenexa, Kansas, Police Chief Ellen Hanson, who last week was given the Police Executive Research Forum [PERF] Leadership Award. Presented annually since 1984, the Leadership Award has been given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of law enforcement over the course of their careers, who exemplify the highest principles and standards of a true leader in policing on a national level, and whose efforts serve as a model to the law enforcement community. PERF is a DC-based nonprofit membership association committed to promoting innovative law enforcement practices through research and experimentation, management and technical assistance, training, publications, and advancing the national debate on public safety issues.

Chief Ellen Hanson has been the Chief of Police of Lenexa since 1991, and her strong leadership and innovative programs have enhanced the entire region in several fields of police work. She initiated the Safe School Program that became a model throughout the Kansas City Metropolitan Area in the mid 90s. After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks she helped organize the Kansas City Metro Disaster Tactical Response Team, a multi-jurisdictional response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive threats or attacks.

Following several officer-involved shootings in Johnson County, Chief Hanson developed a program called "Officer Involved Shooting Team" (OIST), made up of the most experienced commanders, investigators, and crime scene technicians in the county cooperating with the District Attorney's Office. She has also initiated a program to prevent underage drinking known as "Party Patrol," which received national attention on the CBS program "60 Minutes."

As PERF Board of Directors' President and Los Angeles Chief of Police William Bratton noted at her awards ceremony, "Both PERF and the police profession have benefited from Ellen's intense commitment to the continued advancement of the quality of law enforcement in this country. She has made outstanding contributions to PERF."

"Ellen Hanson is not only well known and respected by her peers in Kansas, but revered by colleagues around the country as an outstanding police chief and role model," added PERF Executive Director Chuck Wexler. "Her work with the Kansas City Metro Disaster Response Team is considered a model strategy for regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies."

Chief Hanson is also a board member of the Kansas City Metro Squad, another successful model of cooperation among regional law enforcement officials in major criminal investigations. She is an active member of the Metropolitan Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association, has been involved in regional initiatives regarding racial profile training, and has led ef-

forts to establish child abuse prevention centers in her jurisdiction.

Chief Hanson graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1980 as one of the first female students, and was one of the founders of the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE), which has provided support, training and mentoring to female law enforcement executives since 1995.

We are lucky to have Chief Ellen Hanson in Lenexa. Indeed, her career has been marked by her willingness to lead, not only her city, but our region, in cooperative efforts on a wide variety of law enforcement initiatives. I know I have certainly appreciated her work with me in instituting and maintaining an effective Amber Alert program in our two-state, multi-county area. I commend her for receiving this much-deserved national recognition of the essential role she plays in maintaining public safety within the Third Congressional District of Kansas.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5216

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my full support of legislation that Congressman TOM LANTOS, Congressman TOM DAVIS, and I have crafted entitled the Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act (H.R. 5216). This legislation would preserve and make more accessible important pieces of personal and American history.

By and large, Americans of non-African descent who research their genealogical history search through municipal birth, death, and marriage records. To the benefit of all Americans many of these records have been properly archived as public historical documents. However, African-Americans in the United States confront a unique challenge when conducting genealogical research due to the vestiges of slavery and discrimination.

Accordingly, African-Americans were denied many of the benefits of citizenship that generate traceable documentation such as voter registration, property ownership, business ownership, and school attendance. As a result, traditional genealogical research documents can at times be of limited value to African-Americans. Fortunately, slavery, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction records have proven themselves to offer a wealth of useful genealogical information that African-Americans can utilize to better understand their history. Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive national effort to preserve these important pieces of history or to make them easily accessible to all Americans. In the absence of congressional action, these records will remain inaccessible, poorly catalogued, and subject to the deteriorating affects of decay.

The Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act would address this troubling situation. Specifically, our bill would require the establishment of an electronically searchable national database in the National Archives to preserve records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction. It would

also provide grants to State and local entities to establish similar local databases. The records that would be preserved and made more accessible include the Southern Claims Commission Records, Records of the Freedmen's Bureau, Slave Impressments Records, Slave Payroll Records, and Slave Manifests. This legislation would also authorize a total of \$10 million to establish this national database and provide grants to states, academic institutions, and genealogical associations.

Recognizing that we can ill afford to allow these irreplaceable stories to be lost to the withering decay of time, our bill takes meaningful steps to resurrect the rich history of African-Americans. Not only will it allow a means by which African-Americans can trace their lineage, but also as a means by which we can preserve historically comprehensive and accurate information about our collective history as a nation.

As Author Maya Angelou once said, "No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place." On behalf of all Americans, join us in forging that essential nexus between the past and the present by cosponsoring this bi-partisan legislation.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND C. CHURCH

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise today to honor Raymond C. Church, a life-long resident of the great state of Rhode Island, in recognition of his 16 years of service to the accounting profession and the Rhode Island Society of CPAs (RISCPA).

Ray has very ably led the RISCPA and its nearly 1,500 CPAs and affiliated professionals throughout Rhode Island, and he is considered a leader among his peers. It is on this day that we thank him for his service to the accounting profession, to the community and to his country, and wish him well in his retirement.

Ray has also worked diligently for the citizens of Rhode Island and particularly the residents of Rhode Island House District 48. Ray was elected to the State of Rhode Island's House of Representatives in 2004 and has been serving on the House Committee on Corporations and the Permanent Joint Committee on Economic Development. He also served as the North Smithfield Town Administrator from 1987-1989 and is the former Chairman of the North Smithfield Town Budget Committee.

Ray served his country honorably in the U.S. Army, and is a Vietnam War veteran. He attended Bryant College and graduated with a major in Accounting in 1982. Ray is not only dedicated to his profession but to his family as well. He and his wife Carol have been married for 33 years and have one daughter, Jennifer.

It is with great pleasure that we honor Raymond C. Church today, and congratulate him and thank him for all he has done for his hometown, the state of Rhode Island, the association community, and the accounting profession.

RECOGNITION OF LANCE
CORPORAL NICHOLAS KLEIBOEKER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Lance Corporal Nicholas Kleiboecker who was killed in action fighting for freedom in Al Hillah, Iraq on May 13, 2003.

Lance Cpl Kleiboecker was a 19 year-old from Irvington, Illinois and was assigned to the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was a 2001 graduate from Odin High School in Odin, IL.

Kleiboecker made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is survived by Gary and Sheryl Kleiboecker of Iuka, Sam Clark of Sumner and many other family, friends and loved ones. I am proud of the service this young man gave to his country and the service his fellow troops perform everyday. It is soldiers like Kleiboecker that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy. God bless them and may God continue to bless America.

CURT GOWDY POST OFFICE

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American broadcaster who sadly passed away earlier this year but left an indelible mark on America as "a cowboy at the microphone." You may have known him from his coverage of some of America's most famous sporting events, including Joe Namath's famous "guaranteed" Super Bowl victory and Hank Aaron's 715th career Home Run to surpass Babe Ruth; or you may have learned about his love for fly fishing and the outdoors as host of The American Sportsman for 20 years.

A pioneer of TV sportscasting, Curtis Edward Gowdy was born July 31, 1919 in Green River, Wyoming to Edward and Ruth Gowdy. Schooled at the University of Wyoming, Curt got his start in broadcasting in Cheyenne, Wyoming. From there he went on to a career that spanned 7 decades, 16 World Series, 12 Rose Bowls, 9 Super Bowls, and 8 Olympiads resulting in admission to 20 different Halls of Fame. While his career took him all across our great country, we in Wyoming have always felt a special bond with him as one of our own. That's why I'm pleased to introduce legislation today to honor him by naming the post office in his birthplace after this cowboy, broadcaster, sportsman, husband and father. I would encourage my colleagues in the House to join me as a sponsor of this bill saluting Curt Gowdy, a man whose name is boldly etched in the pantheon of American broadcasters.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL
MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Minority Health Month. Celebrated during the month of April, the month highlights the importance of improving minority health through focusing on initiatives to eradicate health disparities.

The month was created by the National Minority Health Foundation in response to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2010 Initiative. Through the Foundation's efforts, and those of Representative DONNA CHRISTENSEN, Congress passed the resolution in 2001 during the 107th Congress.

Recognizing the disproportionate impact communities of color are burdened with pertaining to equitable access to health care resources, quality and outcomes, the month aims to eliminate health disparities through several mechanisms. These mechanisms focus on cultivating public and private partnerships among health care providers through enhancing social marketing, research, and legislative concerns as well as strengthening career training of professional health care providers to promote cultural competency.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a new issue for our Nation. In fact, in 1914, the state of African-American health was so dire that Booker T. Washington established National Negro Health Week (NNHW) in 1915. Additionally, in 1921, when the NNHW committee wanted to expand to reach a wider audience, the U.S. Surgeon General assisted them and together they published the Negro Health Week Bulletin.

In the same vein as these events, National Minority Health Month also serves as a reminder of how much work needs to be done to eliminate health and healthcare inequities. Although public health data dismisses overt prejudice within the health care profession, in reality what many minorities face is a less offensive, but equally deadly force. Borrowing a term often used by President Bush (in another context): We are confronting "the soft bigotry of low expectations."

Mr. Speaker, there is much research that supports the need for focusing on eliminating health disparities. In 2004, Dr. David Satcher, now Director of the National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse College, and Professor Stephen Woolfe, Director of Research at Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Family Medicine, released mortality data that their research team had gleaned from the National Center for Health Statistics. During the 1990s, they concluded, more than 886,000 deaths could have been prevented if African Americans had received the same health care as White Americans.

Equally shocking are the findings released in the 2002 Institute of Medicine report—"Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities", which concluded with great authority that Americans of color receive lower-quality health care than Caucasians. It further explains that African-Americans receive inferior medical care—compared to the majority population—even when the patients' incomes and insurance plans are the same.

Most shocking is that these disparities contribute to our higher death rates from heart disease, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life-endangering conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the disparities are real and frightening. In fact, of the 46 million uninsured Americans, at least 60 percent of Hispanic Americans and more than 43 percent of African Americans are uninsured. Further, while African-Americans comprise only 12.3 percent of the population, we account for half of all of the newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS infections. Statistics also indicate that non-Hispanic whites have a higher 5-year cancer survival rate than minority populations.

For this reason, I also would like to recognize National Minority Cancer Awareness Week which is an important effort held during the week of April 16–22. During the week, education is used as the weapon to empower the nation about the shocking disparities that are found within the population of individuals suffering from cancer.

Mr. Speaker, through these statistics, coupled with both the Satcher-Woolfe and the Institute of Medicine's 2002 indictments of our nation's health care system, it is safe to say that health and healthcare disparities are not only factual, but they also have an overwhelming negative impact on minority populations.

That is why dedication to keeping the harsh reality of health care disparities in the public spotlight is essential. For it should be mission of this Congress to raise the expectations of this society—it should also be our mission to assure that all Americans receive the health care they deserve.

If we are to bring about this change—if we are to substantially improve the health and life expectancy of all Americans, we must first fully appreciate the enormity of the challenge that we are confronting. We must also fundamentally change the way that this nation addresses our public health challenges. In fact, too many Americans of every race are dying before their time.

Mr. Speaker, we still have a difficult road to travel before universal health care is recognized as a basic civil right in this country. I have been working on these health care problems for quite a while now, and I am convinced that the acceptance of universal health care as a fundamental civil right will aid us in ending the debilitating health care system that is crumbling before us. In my mind, both sides of the aisle can provide part of the answer to this very big issue hampering our nation.

IN HONOR OF THE CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE ELEANORE NISSLEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true leader and visionary, the Honorable Eleanore Nissley of Ridgewood, New Jersey. Eleanore is being honored for her outstanding civic contributions by the Center for Civic Responsibility next week. It is an honor richly deserved and long overdue.

Eleanore Nissley has been a shining star in New Jersey politics and community life for 40

years. She served as Bergen County's Republican Committeewoman and has offered her talents and political acumen to candidates and campaigns at every level. In fact, given the integral role Mrs. Nissley has played in New Jersey politics, the New Jersey Federation of Republican Women named her Woman of the Year. Her longtime friend and President of the NJFRW, Dot Romaine calls Eleanore "the epitome of the Republican woman."

A native of Rutherford and an avid sports fan, Eleanore has served on the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority. Eleanore also gives her time and energy to the Boy Scouts, and she serves on the Board of Directors for the Interchange Bank.

One would think, Mr. Speaker, with all that Eleanore Nissley gives to her community that she hasn't a spare moment to herself. But, in fact, Mrs. Nissley's business abilities are equally renowned. And, Eleanore is committed first and foremost to her family. The mother of four and grandmother of many, Eleanore always finds time to devote to her loving lineage.

I am pleased beyond words, Mr. Speaker, to take this opportunity to add my thanks and praise to this chorus as well. Eleanore Nissley has time and time again given me advice and counsel that is priceless. I value Eleanore's friendship. And, I look forward to years of working with her to make North Jersey an even better place to live and work and raise a family.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO ITS CITIZENS SERVING IN AND RETURNING FROM OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish every employer in America was able to follow the lead of the County of Santa Clara, California. County employees who are on active military duty in direct connection with an armed conflict receive a salary augmentation which, in combination with their military pay, provides 100% of their base salary. Their employee benefits are also continued while they are deployed. Employees receive this salary augmentation and benefits for an indefinite period as long as they are involved in military service. The effort to support those in military service, guard and Reserves, doesn't end there.

The Veterans Service Office is a county funded agency established in 1946, assisting veterans and their families to obtain the benefits and services they have earned through their military services. The Veterans Service Office works closely with the Santa Clara County Employment Committee (VEC). The mission of the VEC is to promote the employment of veterans within the county by assisting local employers in recruiting veterans for job openings as well as providing employment-related assistance services for job-seeking veterans.

Each month, the California Department of Veterans Affairs forwards a list of returning veterans to the County VSO. This list includes on average the names of 50 to 100 veterans who have indicated an interest in receiving information on the services available for them from the county. Upon their return each veteran receives a letter from the VSO and a copy of the county's "Welcome Home" pamphlet, which includes information on veterans' services, health care, employment assistance and other benefits.

The Veterans Service Office, working in collaboration with the Peninsula Veterans Center, explores every opportunity to speak to returning veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. These talks occur as frequently as weekly, or whenever the officials are invited to address groups, such as new Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees—veterans who have recently returned home.

I have heard from families that, even though there is understandable worry about a loved one in a combat zone, at least that worry is not joined by worry about financial disaster. For those deployed, the strain and stress of separation from family is not compounded by financial worries.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to draw attention to the efforts of the Government of Santa Clara County and its employees as they serve the needs of our returning veterans and those currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Many in our country disagreed with the decision to invade Iraq, but no American should disagree with the need to support our troops and their families while they serve and to assist veterans after their active service is complete.

Santa Clara County, like other local governments in California, faces a fiscal bind. State and Federal governments have shifted costs to local government but in California, local governments have no ability to raise taxes in response. That means fiscal crunch time.

Despite that, the people of Santa Clara County, led by its Board of Supervisors and professional staff know this: the time of deployment should not be fiscal crunch time for the service member and family.

Let all employers, both public and private, look to Santa Clara County as a model of employer behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of efforts of the Government of Santa Clara County and its employees as they serve the needs of our returning veterans and those currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. I am proud of the citizens and taxpayers of Santa Clara County who stand behind these fine efforts.

NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2006

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I am most pleased to introduce the Native American Languages Act of 2006. This is a reintroduction in revised form of my bill, H.R. 2362, from the 108th Congress.

This vital legislation will authorize the Secretary of Education to provide grants to or enter into contracts with Native American language educational organizations, Native American language colleges, Indian tribal governments, organizations that demonstrate the potential to become Native American language educational organizations, or consortia of such entities, to establish Native American language nests for students under the age of 7 and their families. It will also authorize grants to operate, expand, and increase the number of Native American language survival schools throughout the country for Native American children and Native American language-speaking children.

The bill also authorizes the establishment of four demonstration projects that will provide assistance to Native American language survival schools and Native American language nests. The programs selected are well known nationally: all have over ten years of highly successful operation, and are all Native American controlled.

The demonstration sites range from a statewide system to a small localized program for under fifty students, and from programs restricted to elementary students to programs that go through high school and beyond. They include programs on reservations, programs in highly remote areas, and programs in urban areas. Students enrolled in them include children who are first language speakers and students from families where the language has not been spoken for three generations. They include programs with special strengths in teacher training and in resource materials development.

The four sites selected are the four research sites in an ongoing national study of academic effectiveness by prominent Native American and non-Native American educational researchers and major research entities with extensive experience in the field. The demonstration programs are authorized to use technology in cooperating and coordinating their work with each other and with other participating Native American language programs. They will provide direction to the Secretary of Education in developing site visit evaluations of programs and may conduct follow-up data collection that will be valuable in providing direction to schools.

Lastly, the bill provides direction relative to addressing barriers that have prevented Native Americans from accessing education in Native American languages. It also directs the Secretary of Education to provide for the inclusion of Native American language nests and Native American language survival schools in federal support for private schools and charter schools.

The Native American Languages Amendments Act of 2006 is consistent with longstanding federal self-determination policies toward native peoples, which support the promotion of economic and social self-sufficiency, as well as the preservation and revitalization of native culture, languages, art, history, religion, and values. Since language is a significant factor in the perpetuation of native cultures, the federal government enacted the Native American Languages Act of 1990 urging federal support for Native American languages, and the Native American Languages Act Amendments of 1992 establishing a grant program at the Administration for Native Americans to fund the preservation of Native Amer-

ican languages. My bill continues this commitment by our federal government to ensure the survival of these unique cultures and languages.

In my home state, I am proud that the people of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii have strongly supported the revitalization of Hawaiian culture, art, and language. In 1978, for example, the State of Hawaii wrote into its constitution a specific declaration that Hawaiian is one of our two official languages, along with English. This was a remarkable reversal from decades in which the very survival of the Native Hawaiian language was at risk due to benign neglect and to conscious efforts to discourage its use.

There is also support for Hawaiian language programs in both our public and private schools. At the forefront of these efforts have been supporters of Aha Punana Leo, a Hawaiian language immersion program which has endeavored to include both students and parents in an exciting and innovative way to revitalize Hawaiian language and culture. Ms. Namaka Rawlins, Director of Aha Punana Leo, and her husband, Dr. William (Pila) Wilson, have been pivotal in these efforts. The lessons of family and community involvement in the preservation of the Hawaiian language that they and others have proven are and can be used by other native communities and cultures across the country.

While the Aha Punana Leo program initially started with pre-school students, Hawaiian language survival schools were also established to allow for students to graduate from high school. Over 2,000 students are currently enrolled in Hawaiian language nests and survival schools. A Hawaiian language center—Hale Kuamoo—was eventually established at the University of Hawaii at Hilo with the collaboration of Aha Punana Leo as well as a Native College—Ka Haka Ula O Keelikolani College. Both programs have been crucial in providing training to teachers in Hawaiian language, college courses in Hawaiian, and graduate education in Hawaiian language and culture.

The revitalization of the Hawaiian language in my state has been instrumental in the preservation of Hawaiian culture, which is important to all of us who call Hawaii home. Today's legislation will take this lesson nationwide in continuing the commitment made by the federal government in 1990 and the progress that has been made since that time to preserve Native American languages, including the Hawaiian language. Mahalo, and aloha.

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the winners of the Illinois Regional Science Bowl—Sarah Carden, Alex Lapidis, Jeremy Lee, Tyler Mitchell, and Benjamin Xie. With the support of their coach, Mr. Kevin Farrell, these talented young students from Naperville North High School bested a field of Illinois brightest for a chance to compete in the 16th annual Department of Energy National Science Bowl.

As the only federally sponsored science competition, the National Science Bowl hosts

over 12,000 participants, making it the largest such competition in the United States. Each year, this event adds energy and excitement to the study of math and science for students across the country. Mr. Speaker, it is by inspiring and supporting the next generation of America's scientific leaders today that we can ensure America's competitiveness in the global marketplace tomorrow.

So once again, to the five promising young scholars from Naperville North representing the Land of Lincoln in this weekend's National Science Bowl, congratulations and good luck.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5020) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I rise today for the purposes of explaining my vote on H.R. 5020, which this chamber considered yesterday. I have a high regard for the intelligence officials that serve our country, and I strongly support efforts to make sure that they have the resources to complete their mission competently, professionally, thoroughly and legally. After listening to the debate on this bill, I reached the conclusion that this bill does nothing to rein in this Administration's domestic surveillance program conducted by the National Security Agency.

This bill contains some good provisions. It imposes restrictions on the growth of the National Director of intelligence to ensure resources are applied to strengthening the intelligence community's ability to penetrate hard targets, and not just add to the growth in bureaucracy. It fully funds the counter-terrorism program. However, the bill's provisions concerning oversight of domestic counterintelligence activity is tepid at best.

I believe we can conduct domestic intelligence activities in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and the protections guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. There exists a debate in this country if whether the NSA domestic surveillance program is being conducted within the limits of the FISA. During the debate on the bill, I learned several Members sought to offer a bipartisan amendment clarifying that all surveillance of American citizens must follow the law and be consonant with the 4th Amendment of the Constitution. The Rules Committee denied us an opportunity to consider that amendment. Any process that denies us the opportunity to protect our constitutional guarantees does not deserve my support, and for that reason, I voted against the passage of H.R. 5020.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AVERY JOHNSON; NBA'S COACH OF THE YEAR FOR 2005-2006

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the chorus of Dallas citizens and Mavericks fans across the globe in saluting Dallas Mavericks head coach Avery Johnson on his selection as the National Basketball Association's Coach of the Year for the 2005-06 season. In only his first full season as head coach of the Mavericks, Avery Johnson is the first coach in the storied history of the organization to receive the National Basketball Association's most distinguished honor for coaches. This season Coach Johnson led the club to an outstanding 60-win season, one of the best in franchise history.

In March of last year Avery Johnson assumed the duties of head coach of the Dallas Mavericks after former head coach Don Nelson decided to step down. Prior to the season, Johnson announced his retirement as a player

in October of 2004 to assume full-time duties as an assistant coach. Prior to his coaching debut, Avery compiled a stellar basketball resume at both the collegiate and professional levels.

Avery was a college standout at Southern University where he led the NCAA in assists as a junior and senior. He was named the Southwestern Athletic Conference Player of the Year and the MVP of the conference tournament both seasons as well. He still holds several NCAA Division I records including the most assists in a single game, the highest single season assists average and the highest career assists average.

At 5-11 and 180 pounds Avery went undrafted out of college, yet he did not let this deter him from his ultimate goal of playing in the NBA. He first played for the United States Basketball League with the Palm Beach Stingrays in 1988. His tenacious play and rock solid leadership led to his signing as a free agent with the Seattle SuperSonics later that year.

In his 16-year career with the NBA, Johnson played 1,054 games and averaged 8.4 points, 5.5 assists and 1.7 rebounds in 25.3 minutes per game. Avery also played in 90 playoff games and started 73 of those contests. He has playoff averages of 10.5 points, 6.2 as-

sists and 1.13 steals in 31.2 minutes per game. In 1999, he was a member of the NBA's Championship team.

Johnson became the 75th player in NBA history to play 1,000 career games in March of 2003 and joined Calvin Murphy as the only other player under 6-feet in height to reach that milestone. He also reached the 5,000 career assists plateau in February of 2000 against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

From 1990-92, he played with San Antonio, Denver, Houston and back to San Antonio. In eight of the next nine seasons (1992-2001), he was a member of the San Antonio Spurs. He spent one year during that time in Golden State (1993-94). He spent his last few seasons with the Denver Nuggets, Golden State, and signed with Dallas as a player/coach prior to the 2004-05 season prior to entering coaching.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Head Coach Avery Johnson on his selection as the National Basketball Association's Coach of the Year. He is a proven leader and I am certain he will continue to lead the Mavericks organization to new heights. GO MAV-ERICKS!