EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF DON HORSLEY—A DISTINGUISHED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sheriff Donald Horsley on his long and distinguished law enforcement service for the County of San Mateo, and cities of East Palo Alto and Daly City, California, in my congressional district. As a patrol officer and as Sheriff, Don Horsley has dedicated thirty-eight years to law enforcement and has a proven record of combating the community's most vexing criminal challenges with effective strategies.

Under Sheriff Horsley's professional and dedicated leadership, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has developed an extensive number of innovative programs to ensure a safer community. These include the Graffiti Abatement Program, Community Policing Program, Vehicle Theft Task Force, Gang Intelligence/Investigative Unit, Sexual Habitual Offender Program, an expanded DARE Program, an identity theft and computer related crime task force, and a School Resource Officer Program as well as the Sheriff's Activity League to help kids become successful in school and keep at-risk kids out of gangs.

Sheriff Horsley has also exhibited a great talent in working with other public officials in coordinating cohesion among municipalities within San Mateo County, neighboring counties in the San Francisco Bay Area, and working with federal law enforcement. Sheriff Horsley has been actively involved in coordinating with the FBI and other Bay Area Sheriffs' Departments as part of a regional Joint Terrorism Task Force and has established a regional information sharing network.

Sheriff Horsley has proven instrumental in obtaining the necessary funds for enhancing law enforcement in San Mateo County. He has been integral in directing the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services to obtain federal grants from the Department of Homeland Security to secure equipment and training for first responders and public health workers. Additionally, Sheriff Horsley successfully worked with Congresswoman ESHOO and me to obtain federal funds for San Mateo County to build a state of the art crime laboratory.

In performing the many responsibilities of his job, Sheriff Horsley has not lost sight of the goal of attempting to rehabilitate and treat prisoners humanely. Under his leadership, Sheriff Horsley has brought educational, religious and substance abuse programs to the county jail. He has also ensured medical and mental health services for prisoners as well as instituting Critical Incident Training for officers in the field to more effectively communicate with mentally ill individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Sheriff Donald Horsley for his contribution to the protection and improvement of our community in San Mateo County. I am truly delighted and inspired by Sheriff Horsley's dedication to law enforcement and public service and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

50TH BUSINESS ANNIVERSARY OF MR. JOSEPH H. BALL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I would like the below article to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Ball is an outstanding constituent and I am honored to help him celebrate his fifty years of service to his family, community, and business. This article, "LM Honors Joe Ball for Five Decades in a Business He Loves", by Melissa Steven, appeared in the Main Line Times on November 9, 2006.

LM HONORS JOE BALL FOR FIVE DECADES IN A BUSINESS HE LOVES

Although he has been working for a half-century as founder and CEO of American Advertising Services, Joseph Ball said he feels like he hasn't worked at all. "I didn't work a day in 50 years because I loved every minute of it," said Ball of Penn Valley. "I believe in advertising, I sincerely do." This past August, the Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners recognized Ball and his American Advertising Services with an "Official Commendation" plaque for the company's 50th anniversary. Throughout five decades, Ball has spawned numerous other businesses in the communications area, including ACT (Advertising/Communications Times), the longest established marketing and business-to-business monthly journal for the Philadelphia region. And just a few weeks ago, Ball created yet another new business, American Business Development, which "marries businesses," said Ball.

"I don't live in yesterday," said Ball. "I look ahead and live in today." Ball was just 26 when he launched American Advertising Services in 1956. Working since 17 for The Philadelphia Inquirer, where he started as a copy boy, Ball volunteered to do just about anything his managers would let him do to learn, including writing and editing. He left the newspaper business because he wanted to take a chance and start his own company.

He started American Advertising Services company with a $35 Royal typewriter on a desk in a room he shared with his 10-year-old sister. The company grew and moved to Philadelphia, where he rented a space in a basement on South 22nd Street for $50 a month. Two more relocations later, Ball settled for the next 40 years at Second and Chestnut streets in Old City, Philadelphia. Two years ago, he moved the business to a new home in Bala Cynwyd.

Ball and his wife of 48 years, Sandy, have made Penn Valley their home for the past 40 years. They raised their three children there and sent all through Lower Merion School District schools. Now, with eight grandchildren, Ball still shows no signs of slowing down.

Melinda Williams, managing partner of the Williams Group, an ad agency, started her communications career as an account executive at American Advertising Services after graduating from Syracuse University. She had trouble finding a job, she said, because "you come out of college with a lot of knowledge, but yet no one would hire you because you didn't have any experience. Joe took a chance on me and on a lot of other people when they were young," said Williams. "And you never forget the first person who takes a chance on you."

Williams spent a year and a half with Ball's company, working with different companies as an account executive. She said the experience provided an education second to none. "It gave me a unique perch on the market. It allowed me to figure out which areas in communications I wanted to go into."

Including Williams, Ball has helped launch the careers of many other communications professionals who have walked through the doors of his businesses. Ball gave Warren Conely his start as an artist in the late '70s. Conely, now working at the Philadelphia Inquirer in advertising art, started as an artist for ACT. "He did give me my start in the business," said Conely. "He gave you a true taste of the ad industry." Ball believes so many former employees have succeeded because they learned very essential techniques from working with him. He teaches employees to "persevere, persevere, persevere" and "In sales, never hear the first 'no,' just give another idea."

"You just smile your way through the day and never see a problem," said Ball, "[but] see a challenge and think 'How can I overcome it?'" "Any facet in the ad industry, whether it be radio, television or print, you learned it all from Joe because he did it all," said Conely. "He got everybody involved in every aspect of the business." Williams said Ball's dedication to his job and love for it really showed every day. "He was always the first one in and last one out," she said. One key ingredient to Ball's success, said Williams, was his knack for hiring the right people for the job. "He always hired nice people who were smart, innovative, creative and who had a lot of potential."

In the '60s, at a time when women were going on interviews in white gloves, pumps at a reasonable height, and pearls, Ball was basing his hiring decisions on talent, not gender. "It was very hard for women to get positions because you needed experience to get hired, and Joe hired me without experience," said Jane Stark, who was hired by Ball in 1965 as a copywriter. Stark went on to be promoted to a public relations position at American Advertising Services. "Joe was responsible for opening a lot of doors and was very open to promoting employees within his business," said Stark, who later became the general manager of NBC TV-40 in South Jersey for 21 years. "He gave women lots of opportunities. From little acorns, big trees grow."

Williams agreed that Ball gave many women opportunities to start their careers

when there were not too many opportunities to be had. Williams said that the amount of people who have come through Ball's businesses, then moved on to bigger and better things—as well as the employees who have stayed over the years—is a testament to Ball. ''The students are doing better today than the teacher,'' said Ball, ''and that's the way it should be in America.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 522, H.R. 5585, the Financial Netting Improvements Act, had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

L.D. BELL HIGH SCHOOL'S BLUE RAIDER MARCHING BAND PLACES 2ND AT THE BANDS OF AMERICA GRAND NATIONAL COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the L.D. Bell High School's Blue Raider Marching Band of the 26th District of Texas. L.D. Bell placed second at the Bands of America Grand National Competition in Indianapolis.

The Grand Nationals Competition is considered to be the most elite marching band contest in the nation. L.D. Bell's Band of 300 students was also recognized with the National Outstanding Music Award. Earlier in the week, the band received second place at the rigorous UIL 5A State Marching Band Contest in San Antonio, Texas.

The Blue Raiders' achievements are the combined efforts of many extremely talented students, dedicated school administrators, the H-E-B School District, and a support network of parents and community. The students have excelled under the capable direction of Directors Jeremy Earnhart, Jolette Wine, Nick Thomas, Brandon Holt, and Wes Cartwright.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of the L.D. Bell High School Blue Raider Marching Band. I extend my sincere congratulations to these hard-working students, and I look forward to their future successes.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK McCARTY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patrick McCarty on his retirement as Executive Director of the Michigan Community Action Program. Patrick will be honored at a dinner on November 30th in Livonia Michigan.

Patrick began his career with the UAW in 1973 at Ford Motor Company. After serving as a bargaining committee representative for Local 723, Patrick was appointed by Stephen P. Yokich to be his plant's Quality Liaison Representative. During this time he was responsible for implementing the ''Working Together for Quality Program'' working with both management and employees at the Monroe, Michigan Ford Plant. In February 1992 his efforts were recognized and the Monroe Plant received the first National Recognition of Innovation, Support and Excellence Award for the ''Customer Commitment Quality Team'' created at the plant.

As a result of his leadership Stephen Yokich appointed Patrick as the Executive Director of the Michigan Community Action Program in 1995. In this capacity, Patrick was the head of the political and legislative arm in Michigan for the UAW. He has served in this position until his retirement.

Active in the Democratic Party, Patrick is an officer of the Michigan Democratic Party, a member of the Democratic State Central Committee, the 11th Congressional District Democratic Party, and a precinct delegate. He is also a lifetime member of the NAACP and the Detroit NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Patrick McCarty on his retirement from the UAW. I wish him, and his wife Dr. Rhonda Hennessy, the best as they embark on a new chapter in their lives.

HONORING G. JESSE FLYNN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Jesse Flynn, a public servant, businessman and citizen from my congressional district. Jesse is stepping down this month as President of the Bullitt County Chamber of Commerce after a year of exemplary service.

Raised in Anderson County, Jesse earned a college degree in business administration from Bellarmine College in 1971. Following service in the U.S. Army Medical Corp, Jesse formed Flynn Brothers Paving in 1973. Two decades later, Flynn Brothers Contracting, Inc. employs 250 personnel in the Greater Louisville area, generating strong annual revenues.

Jesse has distinguished himself as a business leader, serving as chairman at Flynn Brothers and as a board member of various organizations including the National and Kentucky Associated Builders & Contractors, de Paul School, First Citizens Bank in Elizabethtown and the Bullitt County Advisory Economic Advisory Board. His vast knowledge and strong work ethic led to his selection as Kentucky delegate to the White House Conference for Small Business during the early 1990's.

In addition to his many contributions to the business community, Jesse Flynn has remained actively involved in numerous community and charitable organizations. For his consistent generosity, Jesse was recently awarded the March of Dimes REACH Award and was named ''Citizen of the Year'' by the Kentucky Nurses Association. He was also selected to be a member of the U.S. International Cultural Center.

It is my great privilege to recognize Jesse Flynn today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his leadership and service. His unique achievements make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

TRIBUTE TO JELKA JANKOVIC

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Jelka Jankovic on her 100th birthday, which she celebrated on November 25, 2006. Since her immigration to the United States over fifty years ago, Mrs. Jankovic has been a model citizen, contributing to her community and bringing joy to the lives of family members and friends.

Mrs. Jankovic married Janko N. Jankovic, a lawyer, on October 4, 1925 in Serbia. Their son, Miodrag, was born in 1926. For the first part of her married life, Mrs. Jankovic concentrated on raising her son and running her household. In 1942 her son joined the army to fight the Germans and later the Communists. Tragically, he was lost in the war. Meanwhile, her husband who was serving in the Royal Yugoslav Reserve Forces, was captured by the Germans and spent the war years in a POW camp in Germany. Mr. Jankovic immigrated to the United States in 1950 and settled in Washington, D.C. where Mrs. Jankovic joined him in 1953.

Mrs. Jankovic has been an active and productive member of her community for over fifty years. She has worked as a private tailor, a baker at a French restaurant, and a beautician at a local salon. After retiring, Mrs. Jankovic moved to Bethesda, Maryland where she is well-known and loved for her generosity and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Jankovic as she celebrates her 100th birthday and I wish her good health and happiness. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Jankovic.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAYWARD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, December 2006 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Hayward Area Historical Society in Hayward, California. I rise to pay tribute to the Society's significant anniversary.

On an autumn night in 1956, 25 Hayward Area residents met at Bret Harte School to discuss a growing concern in the community. Amidst the progress and prosperity of the post World War II boom, the history of the area once known as Eden Township seemed to be missing from the cultural landscape.

The Hayward Chamber of Commerce Postwar Planning Committee first recommended the formation of a historical society in 1944. With so much happening at the conclusion of World War II and the community experiencing unprecedented growth in the following years,

no action was taken on the committee's suggestion. However, 10 years later, the City of Hayward celebrated its 80th birthday with great fanfare. Though the festivities were considered a success, the planners had encountered a huge problem identifying pioneer residents to ride in the city's anniversary parade. There was no established resource for gathering and providing information on Hayward's past.

The Community Services Committee of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce, chaired by Allen Strutz, decided to take matters into their hands and took steps to begin saving Hayward history. Soon, the Hayward Area Historical Society, HAHS, was born.

The first official election of officers was scheduled for the night of December 6, 1956. Volunteers immediately began gathering members and asking pioneer families to fill out historical questionnaires. Those documents became the foundation for HAHS's extensive archives.

During the ceremony to sign the Society's charter, which took place at the historic Eden Congregational Church, the Society proclaimed its intent to "discover, preserve and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Hayward Area." Among the first artifacts to be donated was a pencil drawing of Mission Dolores and a copy of the Hayward Journal from 1894.

HAHS has reached a number of benchmarks in growth and prosperity over the last fifty years. It has published numerous books, an "Adobe Trails" member newsletter, established a museum, a research library, and has amassed a collection of thousands of historical artifacts, self-produced exhibitions and has been a partner in restoring historical property in Hayward.

As the Hayward Area Historical Society continues its progress, I join the community in wishing them a very happy 50th birthday and continued success.

TRIBUTE TO QUEENIE MARY WOOTEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Queenie Mary Wooten, a distinguished public servant and citizen of Brooklyn, New York. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding woman and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service to community.

In 1974, Queenie Mary Wooten received her Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Medgar Evers College. She took additional courses, which enhanced her long and remarkable career in education. Currently, Ms. Wooten is the Coordinator of External Community Programs for Region #5. In addition to networking with East New York and Brownsville city agencies, she serves on the cabinets of Planning Boards #5 and #16.

Ms. Wooten is developing innovative and creative external programs to improve educational and developmental outcomes for students. She coordinates activities with the external community and assists the director with setting priorities and selecting high quality collaborative programs. Ms. Wooten mobilizes resources for regional and school priorities, collaborates with schools in Region #5 to create inter-agency regional advisory councils, and volunteers on Planning Board #5, working with the committee on education. Additionally, she works diligently with students to help them get credit for community services.

Ms. Wooten is one of the founders of the American College of Counselors, for the New York Branch, and was recently honored by the Department of Education for 41 years of service. She has received numerous honors and awards for her work, including: an award from Medgar Evers College as one of its first graduates; the Brooklyn Club of the Negro Business & Professional Women's Club Sojourner Truth Award; and the Van Siclen Block Association Education Award. Ms. Wooten has been honored by organizations such as the Women's League of Science and Medicine, Inc., National Sickle Cell Research and the Latin Souls Little League Baseball.

A very active member of her community, Ms. Wooten serves on numerous boards and is the Chair of the North East Committee of Elections. Ms. Wooten has been a faithful member of Grace Baptist Church for the past 35 years. One of 10 children of the late James and Estella Hunt Corely, Ms. Wooten has encountered many challenges during her life and has embraced them all with courage and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Queenie Mary Wooten. Her deep commitment to her community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING FEDERAL JUDGE PAUL BROWN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to one of the outstanding Federal judges in our Nation, U.S. District Judge Paul Brown, who is retiring after 21 years of distinguished service on the bench in the Eastern District of Texas. Judge Brown has been my good friend for many years, and he is a respected and beloved Judge and member of the community in Sherman, Texas.

Judge Brown represents the finest qualities of jurisprudence. Hanging on his wall in the Sherman Federal Courthouse are Socrates' four qualities for a good judge—to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially. Judge Brown embodied all of these qualities, and he dispensed justice accordingly. He was highly regarded, well-respected, and was a role model for many.

Paul Brown was the youngest of a family of six raised on a farm near Pottsboro, TX. He graduated from Denison High School and although underage, he got his parents' consent to join the U.S. Navy when World War II broke out. He served as a minesweeper in both the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters and as a part of the occupation forces in Japan. He was discharged as an Electrician's Mate 2nd Class in June 1946.

He returned to his studies and received a law degree in 1950 from the University of Texas before being recalled to active duty in the Korean war. He saw combat aboard a minesweeper which was sunk by mines, and he received an honorable discharge in December 1951.

Judge Brown began his practice of law following the war and following President Dwight Eisenhower's election, he went to work as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Texarkana under U.S. Attorney William Steger, who would become his mentor, good friend, and fellow colleague on the bench in the Eastern District until Judge Steger's passing this year. He served as Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1953 to 1959, then followed in Judge Steger's footsteps as U.S. District Attorney from 1959 to 1961.

While in Texarkana, Judge met and married Frances Morehead, and the two returned home to Sherman, where Judge Brown practiced law for a number of years. In 1985 Senator Phil Graham recommended him to President Ronald Reagan for a new judge's position created for the Eastern District of Texas, and Judge was confirmed that year. He held court in Beaumont, Paris, Sherman, and Texarkana, and as the caseload in Sherman grew, he eventually presided over the Sherman courthouse exclusively.

Premiere cases over the years included intellectual property, patent cases, and criminal cases precipitated by the bank and savings and loan failures of the 1980s and 1990s. In recent years he noted the increase in drug cases and expressed his regret that, in spite of all the efforts that have been made to prosecute drug dealers, the Nation is not making much progress in curtailing the use of drugs. No matter what type of cases came before him, Judge Brown always enjoyed the work and ran an efficient and orderly courtroom. His personal work ethic and judicial integrity have been remarkable, and his reputation for punctuality has been legendary.

At his retirement reception, hundreds of local attorneys, area judges and friends and family paid tribute to Judge Brown. The Eastern District Chief Judge, Thad Heartfield, speaking for the 15 judges on their court, has recommended that Congress name the U.S. District Courthouse in Sherman the "Paul Brown U.S. Courthouse." Judge Heartfield noted that Judge Brown has demonstrated the finest qualities of a U.S. district judge: knowledge of the law, courtesy, patience, wisdom and compassion. It will be my pleasure to introduce legislation to that end.

As we near adjournment of the 109th Congress, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a great American, outstanding public servant, and respected jurist, the Honorable Paul Brown, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BONNIE SCHOFIELD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Bonnie Schofield for her dedication to the community and families she served.

Bonnie has been serving 22 families in Hiko, NV, as a postmaster relief since 1973, 6

hours a day, 6 days a week. Last year, she became postmaster. Bonnie's families picked their mail up at the post office in front of her house in an old-fashioned way. Instead of using the modern-day post office boxes, the mail was sorted into old-fashioned sacks Bonnie handmade herself and then hung onto pegs. Families would then pick up their mail while the traditions of past generations stayed intact.

For the 30 years prior to her appointment as postmaster, Bonnie's mother-in-law held the position. Her daughter also continues the family tradition for she was named postmaster for 2004 in Alamo, NV. Bonnie also has served the National Association of Postmasters of the U.S., NAPUS, as state president, on its state council, and representing Nevada in Washington, DC.

On December 1, 2006, Bonnie retired from her position as postmaster and, with her, lay to rest the traditions of Hiko's community. What she will miss the most is the customer interaction and personalized service. Now that she is retired, she plans on nurturing her garden and traveling with her husband of 49 years. Bonnie also plans on spending more time with her 4 children, 18 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the gracious efforts of Mrs. Bonnie Schofield. Her diligence and dedication are to be admired. I wish her luck with all her future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ERSILIA CRUZ

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who made a difference to so many people in the community of Pueblo, CO.

Ersilia Cruz left her community a better place.

Ersilia Cruz, who was a driving force for Hyde Park and ''remodeling the West Side,'' as she put it, died of a stroke Friday. She was 75.

She helped bring the Cesar Chavez Academy and, most recently, the Dolores Huerta Preparatory High School to Hyde Park. She was director for many programs at the Hyde Park Community Center, was active at church and, her family said, had strong interests in the community and children.

Her son Steve said that Ersilia decided to stay alive long past when she was supposed to because ''she wanted to talk to everyone before she left. She wasn't going until everyone in the family talked to her, and the whole week was like that. She was all family. That's what she stood for, and it was a neat experience for our family.''

The recipient of several local, State and national awards, Cruz's most distinguished was probably the Dorothy Richardson Award in 2003, for which she was flown to Washington.

That same year she also had a street in Hyde Park named after her, called Cruz Court.

In the 1970s, Cruz operated G&E Grocery Store and later worked for Kwik Way and PDQ convenience stores, from which she retired while a manager.

Cruz is survived by her husband of 59 years, George. The two met and wed in Mora, NM.

Mrs. Cruz also is survived by 20 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and a great-great-granddaughter.

The entire community of Pueblo, CO, will miss Ersilia Cruz.

TRIBUTE TO FRED J. SHALTZ

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant and a close friend, Fred J. Shaltz. Fred recently retired as a Genesee County Michigan Commissioner after serving seven consecutive terms in office.

Fred's career in public service started long before he was elected to office. After attending the University of Michigan, Fred passed the State of Michigan examination and was licensed as a land surveyor in 1963. Two years later he founded Delta Land Surveying and Engineering, Inc. and Delta Aerial Photography. At the same time his career in community service began.

He has served as either a current or former board member of the following organizations: Flint Jaycees, Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan, Rubicon-Odyssey House, Eastern Michigan Mortgage Banker's Association, Builder's Association of Metropolitan Flint, Fenton City Local Development Finance Authority, Fenton Chamber of Commerce, Mott College Foundation Board, Valley School Trustee, and served as the vice president of the Flint Area Chamber of Commerce.

During his tenure as a Genesee County Commissioner, Fred carried out his duties by serving in the following capacities: member of the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, as chair of the Public Works Committee, member of the Lobdell Lake Board, chair of the Courthouse Square Committee, member of the 911 Consortium, the Valley Area Agency of Aging, the Genesee County Mental Health Board, Genesee County Recycling Coalition, chair of the Finance Committee, a member of the Leadership Committee, member of the Genesee County Mass Transit Authority, Greater Health Coalition, Genesee County Retirement Board, New Paths, County Park and Recreation, Chair of the Community Economic Development Committee, the Genesee County Board of Review, and the Flint City Planning Commission. Fred also served as the vice chair of the board of commissioners from 1995–1996 and 2000–2004. He was the chairman of the board during 1997 and 1998.

Recognized by his peers, Fred has received the following awards: Young Democrat-of-the-Year Award, Knight of the Month K of C Council 695 Flint, the 1966 Speak-Up and Spoke Award Flint Jaycees, Michigan's Community Leader, Flint Beautification Commendation, Women's Council of Flint Board of Realtor's Award, Feat Foundation Award, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping Fellow, Michigan American Legion Appreciation Award, Outstanding Service Award Greater Flint Area Chamber of Commerce, Community Mental Service Award, Flint City Council Appreciation, City of Fenton Community Service Award, Life-Member Award from Michigan Association of Realtors, Key to City of Flint, 2000 Dare Program, Burton Health Center Leadership Recognition, 1986 Associate of the Year from Home Builder's Association of Metropolitan Flint, Appreciation Award from Bureau of Business Practice, Patriotic Citizen Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dedicated Service Award from Genesee County Park and Recreation, Appreciation Award from the County Board of Health, Award from Valley Area Agency of Aging.

Between the years 1968 to 1992 Fred was appointed by different mayors to serve on 11 city boards. He was also appointed by three different Michigan Governors to the board of licensing for architects, land surveyors, and Michigan's Small Business Council. He was the second vice president of the Home Builder's Association in 1985, and repeatedly recognized by the National Engineering Society on Education, Qualifications and Examiners. Fred was a founding member of the Fenton Rotary Club and a founding member of the Fenton Township Service Club. His article on excellent business practices appeared in a 1988 issue of Inc. Magazine and he was a contributor to the magazine's book ''301 Great Management Ideas'' published in 1991. He contributed an article to a University of Michigan textbook on business, management, and leadership. In 2004 he was inducted into the Builder's Association of Metropolitan Flint Wall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to congratulate my friend, Fred Shaltz, as he retires undefeated in office after 7 terms with the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and 43 years of public service. I wish him the best as he embarks on this new phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2006 KENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROBOTIACS TEAM

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I take this time to recognize the 2006 Kenwood Elementary School Robotiacs. The team, which competes as part of the FIRST LEGO League (FLL), recently finished in first place for robot design and second place overall at the local competition held in Hammond, Indiana on November 11, 2006. With their success, the Robotiacs have advanced to the State competition, which will be held at Indiana University—Purdue University in Fort Wayne, IN on December 9, 2006.

The FLL is the result of an alliance between For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, FIRST, and the LEGO Company. The purpose of the FLL is to allow students to be creative and, with the assistance of mentors, solve real-world engineering challenges, develop important life skills, and learn to make positive contributions to society.

Kenwood Elementary School has been no stranger to success in this competition. This is the 4th consecutive year they have won first place awards at the regional level, which includes awards for research and robot design,

as well as an overall championship. They advanced each of these years to compete at the State level, each time competing against more than 45 other teams. One of these State competitions resulted in the team being honored with the distinguished Judge's Award.

The 2006 Robotiacs team consists of: Lena Colon, R.J. Groszewski, and Antonio Rosa, all sixth grade students, and two new members, third grade student Christopher Tucker and fifth grade student Connor Westerfield. With this year's theme being centered on nanotechnology, the team was given the task of creating a way to use existing technologies or to create a new product utilizing nanostructures. The result of their research and innovation was a quite impressive roofing system, which produces hydrogen that is compressed, stored, and used in the future by a fuel cell found in a home, thus eliminating the need for dependence on natural gas, oil, and coal. This, which the team is quick to point out, is very different than a solar panel that uses the sun's energy to produce electricity.

The Robotiacs are coached by Mrs. Alicia Madeka, a third grade teacher at Kenwood Elementary School. Mrs. Madeka, who has coached the team for the past 4 years, is a shining example of what it means to be a teacher. She is dedicated to educating tomorrow's leaders, and she encourages these students to realize that through hard work and self-sacrifice, they can make a significant contribution to the future.

Mrs. Madeka and these amazing students are truly an inspiration to their school and the community. The Robotiacs' commitment to furthering their knowledge in math, science, and technology, and then using this knowledge in ways that can benefit society is truly remarkable. The tireless efforts of all involved in such endeavors are a source of pride for the community and the First Congressional District.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to offer a word of praise to all of the faculty, administrators, and supporters who play a special role in enriching these young lives with the desire to learn and succeed. Finally, special recognition is due for the parents and guardians of these gifted students. It is clear that these individuals have been raised in an environment where character and work ethic are instilled at an early age, and for that, they are to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the Kenwood Robotiacs, Mrs. Alicia Madeka, and Principal Mary Beth Nickolaou on their success, and I wish them continued success as they go on to participate in the State competition this weekend. These gifted young students possess the work ethic and dedication that will make them successful leaders and contributing members of society throughout their lives. I hope that the rest of my colleagues will join with me in applauding the Kenwood Robotiacs for their commendable efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR KATHY HICKS FOR HER SEVENTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mayor Kathy Hicks who is retiring after prominently serving the City of Walnut Creek for 17 years.

A resident of Walnut Creek since 1969, she has served on the City Council since November 1994, the City's Planning Commission and the Park, Recreation and Open Space Commission from 1990 to 1994, for which she served as chair. She also served as vice chair of the Walnut Creek Bicycle Advisory Committee, a member of the Boundary Oak Golf Course Advisory Committee, and the Creek Restoration Plan Task Force. She is past vice president of and current City Council liaison to Friends of the Creek, a non-profit organization supporting the creek restoration plan in downtown Walnut Creek.

Mrs. Hicks represents the City as board member for the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, for which she served as chair in 1995 and negotiated a historic reduction in garbage collection rates as part of a new, longterm contract. Additionally, she serves on City Council subcommittees focusing on the library, youth and schools, community outreach, and economic development. Mrs. Hicks is also the City liaison to the Transportation Commission and serves as vice chair of the League of California Cities Community Services Policy Committee.

Mrs. Hicks other community activities include membership in the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation, the Friends of the Library, the Diablo Regional Arts Association, Ruth Bancroft Garden Conservancy, the Gardens at Heather Farm, the Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council, the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, American Association of University Women, the National Women's Political Caucus and the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. Mrs. Hicks is also a 1994 graduate of the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce ''Leadership Contra Costa.''

For the 17 years Mrs. Hicks has served the city of Walnut Creek, her hard work and dedication has proved to be a great asset to the community. Today, I am proud to commend her for her service to the community, her dedication to duty and her commitment to the people of Walnut Creek.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF DR. MARK H. COLLIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. Mark H. Collier, a distinguished leader and man of rich faith and vision whose unparalleled commitment to the Baldwin-Wallace College community, especially the learning, growth, and development of its student body, has touched the lives of all at B-W.

Dr. Collier, the seventh president of Baldwin-Wallace, has served in this capacity since 1999. Prior to assuming this role, he served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College for 18 years. He guided the curriculum and instruction, enrollment, continuing education, and multicultural affairs with strength, passion, and vigor. Dr. Collier came to B-W in 1974 as chaplain and professor of religion, before serving as pastor of the North Olmsted United Methodist Church. His academic expertise and contributions are equally significant.

During his time leading Baldwin-Wallace, he led multiple planning efforts, including a campus-wide master plan, which have enhanced Baldwin-Wallace's ability to continue to achieve its mission in the future. He continued to shape the culture of Baldwin-Wallace to reflect values of diversity, expression, global interconnectedness, and spirituality. His numerous accomplishments are not only reflected in the success of the college and campus atmosphere, but perhaps most important, in the societal contributions of its students and graduates.

In addition to serving Baldwin-Wallace, Dr Collier's considerable commitment to the Cleveland-area community and beyond is evident in his volunteer work with the United Way, Leadership Cleveland, the Greater Cleveland Roundtable, and groups.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Mark H. Collier, as he leaves the post of President of Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, an academic institution which I know has benefited in tremendous ways through his time, effort, and leadership throughout the past 31 years.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR PAT KUHN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pat Kuhn for her exceptional service on the Oakdale City Council from 1992 to 1994 and as Mayor of Oakdale from 1994 to 2006.

During her tenure as Mayor, Miss Kuhn set an example for surrounding communities with her emphasis on public safety, education, and anti-graffiti laws. In 1996, Mayor Kuhn was appointed by then Governor Pete Wilson to the California Commission of Teacher Credentialing, a position that required Senate Confirmation, and was responsible for accrediting state colleges and setting education criteria for the teaching professionals for the State of California.

Mayor Kuhn has been honored for her contributions by the State of California and her community through her designation as ''Woman of the Year'' by the California Assembly and by receiving the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mayor Pat Kuhn for her many years of commitment and dedication. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing her years of continued happiness and success.

IN HONOR OF NANCY ANN BUDDEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Nancy Ann Budden as she transitions to a new career. She currently serves as Associate Provost for Strategic Development at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and as of December 1, 2006 she will become the Director for Counter Terrorism Technology under the Secretary of Defense.

Nancy graduated from Carmel High School with the highest honors, earned her Bachelor of Sciences in Earth Sciences from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1974, went on to get her Master of Sciences in Marine Geology from Oregon State University's School of Oceanography in 1977, and also took an M.B.A. at California Lutheran University's Graduate School of Business in 1982, again with highest honors. From earth science to counter terrorism seems like a big step, but it's not at all surprising for those of us who know Nancy.

In 1977 Ms. Budden joined Union Oil Company of California, (UNOCAL), as an exploration geologist and oceanographer. There she conducted research and wellsite geology, and served as chief scientist on research vessels conducting exploratory cruises off the shore of California.

In 1983 she joined the National Science Foundation in Washington D.C. as a White House Placement in the Reagan Administration, where she worked in Science Policy and Planning for the Assistant Director for Geosciences.

Nancy began a long career with NASA in 1988 at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where she was Manager of the Office of Science Integration within the Lunar and Mars Exploration Program Office. During those years she participated in mission planning for human missions to the Moon and to Mars, published technical papers in professional journals and books, spoke to professional and government audiences around the world, and appeared on television programs and films dealing with the human exploration of space. She accepted several special assignments: Project Scientist for the NASA and NSF Antarctic Space Analog Program, and Acting Deputy Director of NASA's Mission Development Office. Nancy continues her association with NASA to this day as Acting Chair of NASA Headquarters Advisory Committee on Planetary Protection, and as Visiting Scientist to the Lunar and Planetary Institute. She is also an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

In 1999 Nancy's husband, R. Terrance Budden, President of UNOCAL, was transferred to Dhaka, Bangladesh with UNOCAL Bangladesh, Ltd. Nancy and their son, Spencer, accompanied him on this assignment. Nancy worked two years there as Director of the Office of External Affairs. In that short period of time Nancy was instrumental in building the first tuberculosis hospital in Bangladesh, four regional libraries, and seven schools. She was a team leader for the regional joint USAID and UNOCAL Polio Campaign, and in 2000 she coordinated national flood relief efforts with CARE and Shell Oil Company.

After Bangladesh she returned to the Monterey Bay area with her family and began yet another career at the Naval Postgraduate School as Associate Provost for Strategic Development. In this capacity she worked with various directorates within the defense, intelligence and academic realms to advance the mission and accomplishments of NPS. These included the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Combatant Commands, Combating Terrorism Technology Task Force, OSD Office of Stabilization and Reconstruction, Departments of Homeland Defense and Homeland Security, the Office of Naval Research, NASA, the National Science Foundation, and advisory bodies such as the Defense Science Board, National Research Council, and the Naval Research Advisory Committee.

I have known and worked with Nancy over a number of years, but especially in helping save the NPS and DLI from base closure efforts. Her inside work was most helpful and in the end, successful.

Mr. Speaker, I join her colleagues, friends, and family in congratulating her on this well-deserved promotion.

RECOGNIZING BUSINESSWOMAN AND ENTREPRENEUR KATHLEEN M. BALUS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of western New York's business leaders. Kathleen M. Balus will be honored tomorrow, Friday, November 17, by her corporation, Pioneer Credit Recovery, for her lifetime of achievement.

Ms. Balus founded Pioneer Credit Recovery while a senior at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She graduated with a B.S. in business administration. Following graduation, Ms. Balus incorporated Pioneer and built it into the industry-leading collection agency that it is today.

Ms. Balus has, throughout her career, been recognized as one of western New York's most distinguished business leaders. She has been awarded four Entrepreneurial Excellence Awards from Working Women Magazine. She has also been awarded the 1999 Better Business Bureau's Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics; the Wyoming County Business Development Corporation's Retail/Service Business of the Year; U.S. Small Business Administration's 2000 Small Business Person of the Year for the State of New York; Buffalo Niagara Partnership's ATHENA Award; MDA's 2005 Humanitarian of the Year; and in 2006, she was named a New York State "Woman of Distinction."

Ms. Balus has also affected her community through her efforts in the public sphere. She has served as a Sardina town board councilmember; Sardina town supervisor; member of the Small Business Administration Advisory Board and the board of Wyoming County Business Development Corporation. She is a past president of the New York State Collector's Association as well as serving two terms on the board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize the work of Kathleen M. Balus, a business leader and admired community member of the western New York region.

TRIBUTE TO EULA HALL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Eula Hall, an exceptional Kentuckian. On October 27, 2006, friends and colleagues of Eula Hall gathered at the Mud Creek Clinic on Kentucky Route 979, KY 979, in Grethel, KY, to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a brave mountain woman. As a result of a resolution passed unanimously by the Kentucky General Assembly, KY 979 will be renamed Eula Hall Highway.

For the past 40 years, Eula Hall has probably traveled Kentucky Route 979 more than anyone else. She was a woman with a mission—to bring quality health care to people who had no medical insurance and could not afford to pay for things like visits to the doctor, shots, prescription medicine, much less surgery, physical therapy, and other more expensive treatments and procedures. She's made it her life's work to make sure that no one within her reach goes without the basic health care they need to live full, productive lives.

Born on Greasy Creek in Pike County, Eula didn't start school until she was 9 years old. She remembers crying on her last day of the eighth grade because she knew she couldn't continue her education. The closest high school was about 20 miles away, and school buses did not travel that far out in the county. She had six brothers and sisters; her parents didn't own a vehicle and as farm workers they couldn't afford to send her to boarding school or college.

In 1973, as a young mother raising five children on her own, she realized the terrible toll that lack of proper health care took on people without money or insurance. She organized screenings using medical students from the University of Kentucky and Vanderbilt as well as volunteer nurses and physicians. They found undiagnosed tuberculosis, pneumoconiosis—black lung, diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure. Shortly afterward, Eula managed to get a clinic licensed to operate on Mud Creek in Floyd County. The Mud Creek Clinic opened in a rented house on Tinker Fork, which it quickly outgrew. Hall moved the facility to her own home on Mink Branch. Her house was bigger and easier to get to. But it meant moving her family into a mobile home. Eula Hall picked up patients and took them home because many of them had no means of transportation.

By 1977 the clinic merged with Big Sandy Health Care, which remains its parent organization today. Today, there are 24 employees, including two full-time physicians, a full-time certified physician assistant, and a part-time doctor. The clinic is housed in a modern brick building with another facility behind it that houses a dental clinic and food pantry. Now she even works to get people their rightful Social Security and other benefits. Eula Hall is 78 years old but still goes to work at 8 o'clock every morning.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank Eula Hall for her sacrifices and service on behalf of the people of Floyd County, KY. Her dedication and integrity are an inspiration to us all.

KATHRYN OPPERMAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathryn Opperman on her installation as the President of the Montgomery County Association of Realtors.

Kathryn will now lead a group of 300 local real estate agents committed to outstanding ethical and professional service to the community. The organization, formed over 85 years ago, is the local arm of both the Pennsylvania and the National Association of Realtors. Kathryn was inducted as president at a ceremony on Friday, December 1, 2006.

Kathryn is an agent with the Century 21 Alliance in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. She joined the Central Montgomery County Association of Realtors in 1986 and rose to various leadership roles before it merged with several local real estate groups to form the current association in 1998.

Kathryn has shown her commitment to the associations by serving on several committees, including the Technology, Finance, Grievance, Education and Professional Standards Committees. She was also appointed to the Board of directors in both organizations.

Kathryn currently holds the position of Vice President for the local group, and she serves as a Director and a member of the Standard Forms Committee for the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors.

In addition to the dedication she shows to her organization, Kathryn, a former nurse, volunteers her energy and time to the community through numerous church, civic, and charitable organizations. She balances all of her community commitments with caring for her two daughters and husband in Norristown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Kathryn Opperman on her installation as the President of the Montgomery County Association of Realtors and extending best wishes for a successful tenure in leading this outstanding professional organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 523, H. Res. 1078, congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PANTEGO BIBLE CHURCH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pantego Bible Church for 100 years of service and involvement in the Fort Worth and Pantego communities. Pantego Bible Church is located in the 26th District of Texas.

Since opening the doors of a small, thatched shelter in 1906, Pantego Bible Church has encouraged the ministry, fellowship, and outreach of its members. Pantego Bible Church has grown through the years and now conducts services in a beautiful campus. Under the faithful guidance of their five senior pastors, Pantego Bible Church has flourished as a cornerstone of worship in our community for the past century.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent this congregation. I congratulate Pantego Bible Church as they celebrate 100 proud years of cultivating a commitment to ministry. I look forward to many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO NORMA R. HAGENOW

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Norma R. Hagenow as she is honored by the Boy Scouts of America Tall Pine Council. The Tall Pine Council has named Norma their Distinguished Citizen of the Year and held a banquet on November 30 to express their appreciation for her support over the years.

Norma Hagenow is a graduate of the Trinity Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing, received a bachelor of science in nursing from Milton College, and has a master's degree in business administration from Indiana State University.

After serving as the vice president of Care with Carondelet Health System in Tucson, AZ, Norma also was vice president of operations for the Mercy System in Des Moines, IA. She came to Genesys Health System in January 1999 as the executive vice president and chief operating officer and assumed the presidency in May 2001. In addition to her position with Genesys, Norma is also the president and senior partner of CenterPoint, LLC, a healthcare consulting firm in Arizona; serves as adjunct faculty with several universities; and has written course curriculums at these schools.

She has had several articles published in national journals, contributes to the National Public Policy dialogue at the Brookings Institute, serves as chair of the Certificate of Need Program for the State of Michigan, was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the State of Michigan Council for Labor and Economic Growth, and was a health care expert on the United States Secretary of Labor's Committee on Changing Demographics in the Workforce from 2002 to 2004. As a member of the national level Clinical Excellence Team for Ascension Health, Norma has direct input into the operations of the largest non-profit healthcare delivery system in America.

Since her arrival in the Flint, MI, area she has been very supportive of the Tall Pine Council, the Boy Scouts of America and the Annual Friends of Scouting Campaign. The Tall Pine Council serves over 16,000 youngsters in Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties.

Mr. Speaker please join me in congratulating Norma Hagenow upon receiving the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award from the Tall Pine Council. I commend her for her service to the community and wish her the best in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES H. HORRELL, JR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Federal employee, Mr. Charles H. Horrell, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of the Navy after 38½ years of dedicated service to our country.

During his career, Mr. Horrell's contributions to the Navy have varied, ranging from naval gun ammunition to aircraft carriers. He has specialized in multiple career fields including engineering, logistics, and program management. From this diverse portfolio he has risen through the ranks from junior project engineer to senior leadership.

Mr. Horrell began his career in 1968 as a project engineer for air launched weapons at the Naval Ordnance Station in Indian Head, MD. Relocating to the Naval Weapons Support Center in Crane, IN, in 1970 he served for 10 years in various design and in-service engineering positions, completing multiple overseas TDY tours in Southeast Asia and South America, and working independently with both deployed U.S. naval forces and foreign navies.

In 1980, he was selected for a position in the Naval Sea Systems Command responsible for the program and life cycle management of conventional naval ammunition. In 1986, he was selected as director of program management in the Mine Warfare Ships Program Office where he oversaw program, logistics and business/financial management operations.

In 1994, he was selected as the director of logistics in the Aircraft Carrier Program Office. He later served in various leadership positions in the Aircraft Carrier Program including deputy program manager and director for in-service carriers. Most recently he was elevated to the position of assistant PEO in the Aircraft Carrier Program Executive Office where he served as the director for strategic planning and alignment and director for human capital planning and management.

Beyond undergraduate studies in physics, his academic pursuits include graduate work in public administration, program management, executive leadership, and business management. He has studied at American University, Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, Darden, and Duke University, Fuqua School of Business. He is widely recognized

for his expertise in program management; he has achieved membership in the DoD Acquisition Corps and is certified in multiple acquisition career fields.

Throughout his career Mr. Horrell has distinguished himself and earned the respect of his subordinates, peers, and superiors. His contributions have been recognized through the award of both the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, two awards, and the Navy Superior Civilian Service Medal, two awards. He has been a loyal and dedicated civil servant who has contributed unselfishly and with pride to the defense of our Nation. It is my pleasure to acknowledge his distinguished career.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. JOHN WITHERS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a venerable public servant and retired veteran, Dr. John L. Withers, born on September 18, 1916, in Greensboro, North Carolina and now living in my congressional district.

Dr. Withers served as a first lieutenant during World War II, commanding a segregated African-American quartermaster company, and received an honorable discharge in 1947. Despite strict Army regulations and the difficulties imposed by segregation, Dr. Withers always performed bravely and with the highest moral and ethical standards. Indeed, during the war, Dr. Withers courageously rescued two Polish Jewish orphan boys from the Dachau concentration camp. Thanks to his heroic efforts, one of those boys became a successful businessman in Connecticut. Dr. Withers stayed in touch with that young man all of his life.

After serving as a professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Dr. Withers devoted his life to international development efforts. He was stationed in Laos, Thailand and Burma before serving with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Seoul, Korea in 1960. Later, he worked as a USAID representative in India before becoming Director of USAID's regional services office in Nairobi, Kenya. His primary responsibility included supporting the operations of various USAID missions in nine African countries, including Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. His last duty before retiring was to serve as USAID Mission Director for Ethiopia.

Dr. Withers recently celebrated his 90th birthday with his devoted wife Daisy and his sons John Jr. and Gregory. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join with me in honoring Dr. Withers on this wonderful occasion and to recognize him as a man of good deeds, a sharp wit, gentle sense of humor and outstanding accomplishments. I am delighted to wish Dr. Withers a year of good health and happiness and to thank him for his extraordinary contributions to our country.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR SHEILA YOUNG

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Sheila Young upon her retirement as Mayor of the City of San Leandro, California. Mayor Young has served from 1998 to 2006 and is the only female mayor in the city's 135-year history to serve two complete terms of office.

Mayor Young's distinguished public service is noteworthy. She served two terms as Chair of the Women Mayors of America within the U.S. Conference of Mayors Caucus, has represented all of the cities in Alameda County as a Director/Commissioner with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and has served as President of the Alameda County Mayors Conference. In June 2006, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

As the first elected Co-Chair of the Oakland Airport Noise Forum, Mayor Young served for 8 years and is currently Ambassador to the Forum working nationwide on issues of importance in aviation and community involvement.

Mayor Young is actively involved as a speaker and expert in disaster preparedness for Alameda County. She is a charter member of Sundance Summit, a Mayor's Gathering on Climate Protection, and was a participant in the 2003 Jerusalem Conference of Mayors in Israel.

Her other accomplishments during her exemplary tenure as mayor included the creation of the Mayor's Community Fund in San Leandro to assist nonprofit organizations as well as her oversight over the largest building period in the history of the city of San Leandro, including the development of the new Marina Auto Mall, the rebirth and rebuilding of Bayfair Center, the creation of the new U.S. Postal Service Distribution Center, as well as an increase in new quality housing.

Mayor Young has received numerous awards and certificates for her outstanding contributions locally, statewide and nationally. She is engaged in a host of community and civic activities and is active on the speaker circuit sharing her knowledge about city government, environmental and transportation issues and public policy.

A retirement event will be held in the Mayor's honor on January 19, 2007. I join the city, her friends, colleagues and admirers in thanking Sheila Young for her dedication and commitment. She leaves an indelible mark of positive change.

A TRIBUTE TO ALTON A. BURTON, PE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alton A. Burton, PE, a distinguished member of the New York City community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

During the course of history there have been a select few people known as visionaries. Mr. Burton is one these visionaries that view our world not as it necessarily is, but as it can be.

Alton A. Burton was a U.S. Air Force lieutenant, serving as bombardier, navigator, and pilot during World War II. After distinguished service in our Armed Forces as a Tuskegee Airman, Mr. Burton pursued the power of ideas through higher education by obtaining a Bachelor of Science and Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering. He also obtained a license as a Professional Engineer, PE, in the State of New York. Soon after receiving his degrees and license, Alton A. Burton, PE, joined the staff of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in design engineering. Mr. Burton's assignments included contract plans for various facilities, including marine terminals. Little did Mr. Burton know that he was being positioned by the hand of destiny for something more. During the 1950s and 60s, Mr. Burton toiled in the eye of the storm of civil and political unrest, a time of cultural, human and civil rights crisis. Against all odds, Alton A. Burton was able to understand the situation and conditions of a racially charged environment and era that would have been deemed impossible. In 1962, the late Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, appointed Mr. Burton the Chief Civil Engineer in charge of the planning phase of the multi-billion dollar project known as the World Trade Center.

In the minds of most Americans, the deeply disturbing images of the inferno that engulfed the Twin Towers and then the crumbling to the ground after being hit by two hijacked commercial airliners 5 years ago on 9–11–01, will never be forgotten. Most of us are unaware that over 40 years ago, Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton designed and fortified the infrastructure, which accounted for the reliability of the Twin Tower structures to withstand tremendous force, including that of an earthquake. Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton and his team of civil engineers had no idea that some 40 or so years later, terrorists would fly jets into the towers. Because of the fortification of the infrastructure, due to Mr. Burton's vision and preparation for the unexpected, the towers as damaged as they were, managed to hold—giving our first responders, EMS, NYPD, FDNY and other emergency units a grace period to do what they do best, save lives. If not for Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton's vision of a fortified infrastructure, the World Trade Center's Twin Towers would have immediately toppled to the streets below. With steel beams heating to over 3000 degrees F, the infrastructure still managed to endure. The North Tower held for 1 hour 42 minutes and the South Tower for 56 minutes before the total collapse. We note with regret that approximately 3,000 lives were lost that infamous day and we offer our sincere condolences to their families. However, keeping in mind Mr. Burton's efforts to fortify the infrastructure with the best materials known to architectural and civil engineering at that time, between 10,000 and 20,000 individuals were safely evacuated from the towers and surrounding areas, so many more lives were saved.

Chief Alton A. Burton's prolific civil engineering work carries with it profound moral and

philosophical insight, possessing power without arrogance, bringing redemptive clarity whose truths have never been more necessary, as we honor the lives of those that were lost and their legacy by how we live. Alton A. Burton, PE has risen at the age of 82 years-old to become a Great American Hero, and we claim him as one of our own, both in title and in spirit. As our Nation moves forward with a unified purpose, we realize that purpose is perhaps more significant than outcome. It is what we all become in the process to embrace all of the opportunities this country has to offer is the real purpose. Alton A. Burton continues to live his life with purpose. The people of the City of New York, the United States of America and the world became a better place because Mr. Burton has given us all his best; and he has created a mark in American history and the world that cannot be erased.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there are no words too magnanimous to fully describe our gratitude; we thank former Chief Civil Engineer Alton A. Burton for inspiring modesty, selfless devotion of the advancement of humanity, through his devoted service to the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize that in Alton A. Burton, PE, we have an outstanding citizen worthy of the highest respect and esteem, from his community, the City of New York and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JERRIS LEONARD, A GREAT AMERICAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a great American, outstanding public servant, and an esteemed colleague and good friend, the Honorable Jerris Leonard, whose sudden passing on July 27, 2006, was mourned by his family and countless friends whose lives he touched. Jerris's life was devoted to God, family, country, and his fellow man, and he leaves a legacy of integrity and service that will long be remembered and appreciated.

Jerris received his undergraduate and law degrees from Marquette University, where he was president of the Marquette student body and was elected to Alpha Sigma Nu, the National Jesuit Honor Society. Following graduation from Marquette University Law School in 1955, Jerris began his career in Wisconsin. He was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1956, representing the North Shore suburbs of Milwaukee. In 1960 he was elected to the state Senate and became Senate majority leader in 1967. In 1968 he was the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate, but lost to incumbent Senator Gaylord Nelson.

In 1969 Jerris moved his family to Washington, D.C., when he was appointed by President Nixon and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He served in that capacity until 1971, when President Nixon appointed him the first Administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, a position he held for the next two years. Jerris remained in Washington, where he has been actively engaged in the practice of law and advocacy. Most recently, in 2005, he launched The Leonard Group to focus on legislative and lobbying activities. He also served on the Bush-Cheney Transition Department of Justice Advisory Committee, which helped the Administration find key candidates for the agency.

In recognition of his considerable accomplishments, Jerris was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquette University Law School in 2000. In 1969 he received the Belle Case LaFollette Outstanding Professional Award from the Wisconsin Law Foundation. He is the author of numerous articles and was frequently invited to speak to groups throughout the United States.

Jerris was one of the original true conservatives, who championed core conservative values throughout his career and through his service in various organizations, such as Free Congress. His intellect and experience were invaluable to advancing the conservative agenda, and his engaging personality and enthusiasm for policy and politics were contagious. Jerris was a true statesman who made friends on both sides of the political aisle.

His friendships extended well beyond the realm of politics and career, however. He made friends in all walks of life. ''He treated everyone the same, and that is what I think made him special,'' said his daughter Kate Leonard. On the day he was to be sworn in by President Nixon as an assistant attorney general, Jerris gathered his children and instructed them that they were going to meet the President, but they were to remember that the man who parks the car is just as important and just as deserving of respect.

Jerris was devoted to his wife, Mariellen, to whom he was married for 52 years, and to his family. He took an active interest in the lives of his six children and attended countless sports events and other activities in which they were involved. In addition to Mariellen, he is survived by his children, Mary Leonard Ralston and husband David, Gib Leonard and wife Joni, John Leonard and wife Jeannine, Kathleen (Kate) Leonard, Francis Leonard and wife Kelly, and Daniel Leonard and wife Kelly, 16 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was greatly loved.

Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues in the House of Representatives knew and admired Jerris Leonard. I valued his friendship and advice, as did so many others, and we will greatly miss him. It is impossible to fully grasp the breadth and depth of a life of someone like Jerris, who gave every project or responsibility his very best effort and who lived his life with boundless enthusiasm and compassion. He was a role model and mentor to so many, and he leaves a powerful legacy that will last for generations to come. As we adjourn today, let us do so in tribute to this great American, dedicated public servant, and truly great man—Jerris Leonard.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHIL WELLAND

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Phil Welland for his endless kindness to those members of our community who are less fortunate.

Phil spent hours dedicating his life to providing various items to charity organizations to help those in need. He sewed blankets, handbags, smocks for kindergarten students for finger painting, and even some graduation gowns for grade school students.

Phil was born on March 27, 1913 and worked for 40 years as a lithographer for National Can in Maspeth, NY, where he worked as supervisor. Under his direction, the company honored a contract to make bomb shells and other can items during World War II. In 1988, he and his family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada.

When he was a young man, Phil learned to sew and, from that, his passion grew, reaching the lives of hundreds of less fortunate people through various charity organizations. After he retired and his wife passed away, Phil moved in with his daughter and her family where he purchased two separate sewing machines to accomplish his work. He began making bags and smocks for young people for Paragon Pools, his son-in-law, Joe Vassallo's company, which was doing charity work for Street Teens at the time. Over the years, he donated at least 500 bags to Street Teens. Other charity organizations that he donated his handiwork included Child Focus, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, St. Jude's Ranch for Children, CCSD Title 1 HOPE education resource organization for homeless students, NECHN Partial Care—a New Jersey hospital servicing the mentally challenged—and New Jersey's St. Thomas preschool/kindergarten.

What made Phil's work unique, though, was the tag he placed inside each finished product. Each little tag read, ''Made Especially for You by Phil Welland.'' He always thought ahead and, even though he recently passed away, his final donation of bags and blankets will be this Christmas to Child Focus.

Mr. Speaker, I gladly rise today to honor a selfless citizen who dedicated his life to helping others. His warmhearted acts of kindness will truly be missed by those he touched.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. (RET.) JAMES M. GRECO

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of retired Lieutenant Colonel James M. Greco of Canon City, Colorado—a beloved husband of 37 years, father of two, corrections official and veteran, who passed away on November 27th.

It was a privilege to know Jim and I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Jim was born in Pittsburgh and graduated from Immaculate Conception High School in Washington, PA. After graduation, Jim enlisted as a United States Marine and served in Vietnam in 1965.

Jim earned his B.A. from Northwestern Oklahoma State University, an M.A. from Oklahoma City University, and an M.A. from the Army Command and General Staff College. He received an Army Reserve Commission in 1974 and retired in 2004, after having served a decorated and distinguished military career.

Jim worked as a corrections official with the Federal Bureau of Prisons for 25 years, holding various assignments throughout eight states.

Prior to his death, he worked as a defense contractor and was scheduled to deploy to Africa later this month in support of ongoing military operations worldwide.

But Jim will be remembered most as a kind and gentle soul, whose charisma and caring nature endeared him to his many friends and family members.

Although Jim left us at far too young an age, he made the most of every day that he spent on this earth. We can all learn from his example.

For his dedication, courage and service to our nation, he will be greatly missed. But he will live on in the memories of the many people whose lives he touched.

May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS. DAVID AND NANCY GROSS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I take this time to honor Dr. and Mrs. David and Nancy Gross of Schererville, Indiana. On Sunday, December 3, 2006, David and Nancy were honored for their years of service and many contributions to the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana and the community it serves. The Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana honored David and Nancy at the 2006 Northwest Indiana Israel Dinner of State, which was held at the Jewish Federation Community Building in Munster, Indiana.

David Gross, originally from Canton, Ohio, has always proved himself to be a dedicated member of the Jewish community. From a very young age, David realized the need for community participation in causes aimed at supporting the State of Israel. As a fourth grade student, David's abilities in this regard began to emerge, as he organized an event that would raise over one thousand dollars for the Jewish United Fund (JUF). Throughout his youth, David was committed to the goals of the JUF, to help provide for the survival and welfare of the Jewish people and to benefit all mankind. Since relocating from Chicago to Northwest Indiana, following completion of his residency in Ophthalmology, David has continued to spend much of his spare time working with the Jewish community. He has served on numerous committees with the Congregation Beth Israel (CBI), and he has also contributed a great deal of time working on the Jewish Federation's annual fundraising campaign.

Nancy Gross, a native of Highland Park, Illinois, has always shared the same compassion and willingness as her husband to serve. Nancy has made her commitment to the Jewish community known through her contributions to several organizations, including ORT, which strives to educate communities with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in an ever-changing environment and to foster self-sufficiency. Nancy has also served on and chaired several committees, including programs of the Jewish Center Youth Camp and K'ton Ton, where her children attended, not to mention her many contributions to the CBI, where she currently serves on the school board. Like David, Nancy has seen the importance of the Jewish Federation's annual fundraising campaign, even serving as co-chair for the campaign. Nancy's commitment to youth and her willingness to share her time and talents with her community is truly remarkable, and for this, she is most deserving of the honors bestowed upon her.

While they remain truly committed to the Jewish community, David and Nancy's greatest enjoyment is the time spent with their three beautiful daughters: Samantha, Rachel, and Elly. David and Nancy's commitment to improving the future for the youth and the entire Jewish community is surely an extension of their commitment to their daughters.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. and Mrs. David and Nancy Gross as they are honored for their service and dedication to the Jewish community. Their years of service have touched and improved the lives of all whom they have served. Their unselfish and lifelong dedication is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Grand Opening of the new Fairfield Cordelia Library in the City of Fairfield, California.

On December 14, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., the new Fairfield Cordelia Library, located on 5050 Business Center Drive, in Fairfield, will open its doors to the public.

Constructing a library in the Cordelia and Lower Green Valley area of Fairfield was identified as a top priority in the Solano County Library's 20-year Facilities Master Plan that was developed in 2000 and was also listed as a top priority of the citizens in the area.

The new library will provide access to the residents of the Cordelia and Green Valley areas of Fairfield, which due to their location and traffic conditions are far removed from convenient library access.

The two-story, building will provide a civic presence that includes a library and city offices for residents in the area.

The City of Fairfield partnered with the County of Solano and the State, to build the $14.5 million, two-story 29,000 square foot facility.

As the lead agency, the City of Fairfield will be the owner of the facility and the County of Solano through the Solano County Library will provide library services.

The Solano County Library's mission statement reads: The Solano County Library offers professional, innovative, cost-effective service by providing library materials, resources, information, entertainment and life long learning opportunities to enrich the lives of the people of Solano County.

The City of Fairfield will continue to partner with the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, Solano County Office of Education, and Friends of the Fairfield and Suisun Community Libraries to provide educational services the library and meet the goals as envisioned by the Solano County Library.

As the citizens of Fairfield open their new library, I would like to recognize the City of Fairfield and their partners for this achievement and extend my congratulations.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM ROKAKIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the efforts of Mr. Jim Rokakis, who has dedicated his life to public service in Ohio. Mr. Rokakis has improved life for all residents of Cuyahoga County as he initiates sweeping reform from the treasurer's office. He has been dedicated to both economic development and job creation and retention. .

Mr. Rokakis has served diligently both Cuyahoga County and Ohio. Mr. Rokakis represented Cleveland's Ward 15 as councilman for 19 years, the final seven of which he served as Chairman of the Finance Committee. As councilman, Mr. Rokakis aided in upgrading Cleveland's bond rating, improving the city's investment returns, was a leader in developing the Gateway Sports Complex, responsible for Cleveland's gun buy-back program, the Indoor Clean Air Act, the creation of Cleveland's Housing Court, and a law aimed at fighting car thefts. Since 1997, Mr. Rokakis has excelled as Cuyahoga County Treasurer where his innovative ideas have revolutionized the county's investment and collection procedures.

Mr. Rokakis has significantly improved Cuyahoga County's investment function, increasing the county's return and the diversification of the portfolio, while significantly reducing the fees spent on advisory services. He worked successfully to pass several Ohio House bills to better serve the state. In addition, Mr. Rokakis' work has earned him the recognition of The Cleveland Plain Dealer who in 1999–2001 awarded the county's portfolio as having the best performance among those evaluated for the period; as well as being honored by the State of Israel Bonds for his values and ideals rooted in democracy and the inalienable rights of working men and women. Specifically, Mr. Rokakis developed the Home Enhancement Loan Program, the first of its kind in the country, which has received the Community Impact Award from Dominion East Ohio/Inside Business Magazine, an award from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, and won the 2003 EPA Smart Growth Award. As treasurer, Mr. Rokakis has aided in developing numerous programs to better all residents from students to seniors.

Mr. Rokakis is a proud graduate of Oberlin College and Cleveland-Marshall School of Law. He serves the important role of husband and father to his wife Laurie and their three children.

Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues, I ask you to rise with me in recognition of Mr. Jim Rokakis' contributions within Ohio. I anticipate seeing what great accomplishments Mr. Rokakis holds in his future.

RECOGNIZING HUTTON HOUSE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hutton House, a State-licensed youth shelter, for providing 30 years of steadfast commitment to troubled teens and their families in Central California.

Hutton House began in 1976 with the goal of providing a safe, temporary shelter for runaway, homeless. and youth in crisis. In addition to providing the shelter, it is also a goal of Hutton House to provide resources aimed at keeping these youth off the streets, out of the criminal justice system and to aid in mending relationships with their families.

For the past 30 years, Hutton House has made great strides to meet and expand its original goals. The center has been remodeled to accommodate up to eight youth, and some of the services they now offer are: individual, group and family counseling; meals and snacks for both residential and non-residential clients; bus passes and transportation to medical appointments; coordination of medical, dental and counseling services; youth development activities; reunification planning so that youth can return home or to another permanent housing situation; substance abuse intervention; and parent education. Hutton House is currently the only facility helping youth from Stockton to Fresno and from the foothills to the Bay area.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Hutton House for 30 years of dedication and philanthropy to troubled youth and their families. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Hutton House years of continued beneficence and success.

IN HONOR OF TED BURKE AND BOB MUNCEY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generosity of the co-owners of the Shadowbrook Restaurant in the city of Capitola, Ted Burke and Bob Muncey. The Shadowbrook is known as one of the best restaurants in Santa Cruz County. But I am not here to commend them on their wonderful cuisine. I stand here today to thank them for their humanity and kindness to those in need.

Since 1982, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County has created one-on-one mentoring relationships between children and responsible, caring, and dependable adult volunteers. These volunteers provide guidance and friendship to children in need. Many times these adults act as role models to children who lack this type of support system in their homes. The vast majority of the children live in very low-income, single-parent households. The mentoring services of Big Brothers Big Sisters have proven effective in preventing juvenile delinquency and decreasing school drop out rates. It also improves self-esteem, as well as peer-family relationships. By exposing children to new opportunities, the volunteer mentors show that options do exist; no matter how difficult the child's situation or life experience.

In 1986, Ted Burke and Bob Muncey began a tradition of closing down the Shadowbrook Restaurant to host a luncheon for the little brothers and sisters and their mentors. Ted Burke has carried on this tradition. During the past 20 years, over 1,000 children and volunteer mentors have shared the warmth of the holiday season at a restaurant many of the children may never have had the pleasure to dine at. Not only do the co-owners provide an amazing festive meal to the children, but the staff of the establishment volunteer their time to serve the children and volunteers.

Ted is no stranger to the challenges of raising a family. He has been a single parent and knows the value of mentoring in a child's life. He values those who take their time to spend with children, and he is aware that many of these children neither expect nor ask for anything in return. For many of the children, the holidays serve as an additional reminder of the hardship they face, as there may be very few if any gifts beneath the tree. Ted and his staff kindly share the holiday spirit with these children. This annual luncheon is a way to not only thank the mentors for their dedication and service, but to bring joy to the children during the holiday season.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons it is with gratitude that I acknowledge the Shadowbrook Restaurant during this holiday season for 20 years of unselfish giving.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW ERA CAP COMPANY ON THE OPENING OF THEIR NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of western New York's premier local corporate citizens, New Era Cap Company.

New Era began producing hats in Buffalo in 1920 and has been one of the local communities most stable companies ever since.

While the production and corporate facilities moved to the rural region surrounding the city of Buffalo, New Era has always remained loyal to western New York.

New Era is and will always be a western New York company, and they proved that point once again when their new corporate headquarters opened in the heart of downtown Buffalo, Saturday, November 25.

For their investments made into the community and their commitment to excellence, I pay tribute to the New Era Cap Company as they embark on another chapter in their marvelous history.

TRIBUTE TO CLYDE A. THOMAS, SR.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay to pay tribute to an exceptional Kentuckian, Judge Clyde Thomas. After serving 16 years as Rowan County Judge Executive, Judge Thomas is retiring and embarking on a new stage of life. I want to express my deepest gratitude for his many contributions and years of public service.

Clyde Thomas' service in Kentucky began almost 50 years ago as a dispatcher for the Kentucky State Police. In 1964 he graduated from the Kentucky State Police Academy and 6 years later was promoted to Detective Sergeant after earning the highest test score in the history of the Kentucky State Police. Clyde Thomas was later promoted to Lieutenant and graduated from the FBI National Academy. Before his retirement in 1984, Clyde Thomas made many positive changes and contributions to the Kentucky State Police, including serving as the first president of the Kentucky State Police Professional Association.

With this keen law enforcement background and a commitment to our community, Clyde Thomas was elected Rowan County Judge Executive in 1989. During his tenure, Judge Thomas has been a strong leader for various job creation and community development projects transforming this rural county into a formidable, regional economic engine. Judge Thomas has championed countywide sewer and infrastructure improvements including the recent expansion of the Morehead Wastewater Treatment Facility. Through his efforts, more than 1,500 homes and businesses have adequate sewer. Another 100 sub-standard road bridges have been upgraded, and over 250 miles of roadway paved all under his careful watch.

Judge Executive Thomas has kick-started several long-term growth initiatives including securing a new Army National Guard Readiness Center, expanding regional healthcare and educational facilities, and working with county neighbors to construct industrial development zones. I particularly want to acknowledge the Judge's strong backing of the new airport in Rowan County which will be a general aviation hub and important gateway to eastern Kentucky. By bringing local leaders together and working with the State and federally elected leadership, including myself. Judge Thomas has brought a first-rate, 5,500 foot, safe and secure airport to our region. This project will bring economic benefits and a robust aviation industry well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Judge Clyde Thomas for his sacrifice and service on behalf of the people of Rowan County, KY, and the entire Commonwealth. Although his days as Rowan County Judge Executive are drawing to a close, I know his contributions will live on for many years to come. I want to wish him and his family all the best for this new chapter in life.

HARRY P. MIRABILE, SR.

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry P. Mirabile, Sr., who was named the Man of the Year Award at the Sicilian Businessmen of Norristown Luncheon on Monday, December 4th.

Harry was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania in 1935 to an Italian immigrant mother and a

local Norristown businessman. The youngest of six children, Harry grew up with a strong sense of family, faith, philanthropy. Harry left school at the age of 16 to join the family beverage business. However, before leaving school, Harry met Seda Scoma, his wife, in the 7th grade at Rittenhouse Junior High School. The couple was married on November 4, 1956 and have three children, Joseph, Susan, and Harry Jr., as well as a growing number of grandchildren.

Harry's strong Catholic faith has been a guiding light throughout his life. Harry has dedicated his life to serving his church and community. He was the chairman of the Holy Saviour Church Building Committee fundraiser, chairman of the Columbus Monument Elmwood Park fundraiser, and participated in the Bishop Kenrich, Centennial Capital Committee of Holy Saviour Church, Sacred Heart Hospital and Montgomery Hospital fundraising efforts. Harry is also the chairman of the Norristown Police Athletic League fundraiser, chairman of the Invest in a Cop initiation, and a trustee for the Plymouth Township Police Department fundraiser. Additionally, Harry served for 6 years on the East Norriton Township Board of Supervisors and was chairman for 2 of those years.

When not serving others, Harry enjoys golfing at area golf clubs and he continues to honor his family's Italian heritage by co-founding and participating in the Italian American Heritage Club and Camelot Club in Norristown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Harry P. Mirabile, Sr. on being selected the Man of the Year by the Sicilian Businessmen of Norristown and for his years of exemplary service and commitment to the Norristown Community.

MEDICAL CENTER OF LEWISVILLE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Medical Center of Lewisville, located in the heart of the 26th district of Texas.

The Medical Center of Lewisville provides state-of-the-art medical services in its beautiful new facility, and is administered by a truly supportive and caring staff. Beyond saving lives, the Center has been very active in promoting comprehensive health initiatives and participating in a wide variety of local programs to benefit the community for the past three decades.

After working and serving at the Medical Center of Lewisville, it is particularly heartwarming to know that it is celebrating its 30th year. The staff, physicians, and nursing personnel truly make the Medical Center of Lewisville a unique institution. It provides exemplary, cutting-edge medical care without losing its sense of humanity and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Medical Center of Lewisville on its 30th anniversary. I am proud to have this facility in my district and look forward to many more years of quality health care and service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD GROVOM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Richard Grovom as he prepares to donate his 307th pint of blood to the American Red Cross.

Richard began donating blood in 1945 when he was in the U.S. Army. One of his fellow soldiers needed emergency surgery and Richard stepped forward and donated blood. He continued donating on and off over the next 10 years until 1955. At that time his oldest daughter was born with a peptic ulcer. She was 2 days old, bleeding, and was given donated blood. The kindness of that anonymous person inspired Richard and he decided to make donating blood an ongoing part of his life. His motto is "It is better to give than receive."

When Richard had donated his 36th gallon of blood the Red Cross presented him with a case to hold the gallon pins he had earned over the years. He has now earned both his 37th and 38th gallon pins and the blood he donated when stationed at Camp Roberts in California is not included in this amount. A resident of Grand Blanc, Michigan, Richard is a retired tool and die foreman with Chevrolet. He is part of the elite group of Americans that donate blood. The American Red Cross estimates that 5 percent of our population donates blood, but 95 percent of Americans will need blood at least once in their lifetime.

Mr. Speaker please join me in congratulating Richard Grovom for his immense achievement and may God bless him for his generosity to his fellow citizens.

HONORING SPENCER COUNTY STUDENTS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six remarkable students from the Spencer County School System for their participation and high achievement in the National History Day Competition held last month at the University of Maryland.

National History Day is an innovative history education program for students in grades 6–12 who are interested in improving their historical knowledge in a fun and challenging environment. Each year, students choose a topic congruent with an annual theme, conduct research, then synthesize and analyze their findings into a paper, exhibit, documentary or performance. These projects are then evaluated at the local, state, and national levels. Finalists from each level advance to the next round of competition.

This year's theme was "Rights and Responsibilities in History." Ten Shelby County students, who placed first or second at the state contest held at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort last April, traveled to Washington, DC. to compete in the national contest at the University of Maryland, June 15–19. Together, they demonstrated great academic prowess, teamwork and sportsmanship before a regional audience, representing competitive values that make Kentucky proud.

I would like to commend Maureen McCoy, Paige Walls, Joel Fickel, Ashleigh Steever, Chase Thomas and Breisa Baker for their accomplishment. I would also like to recognize the effort and support of their coaches. I am very proud to represent these students, educators and their families.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these students for their achievement and wish them continued success in their promising future years.

IN RECOGNITION OF POLICE CHIEF RANDAL MICHAEL ULIBARRI

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Randal Michael Ulibarri, Chief of Police of the Union City, California Police Department. Chief Ulibarri is retiring after 30 years of exemplary service on the force.

Chief Ulibarri grew up in Fremont and first worked at the Pacific States Steel Mill in Union City and joined the police department in 1976. As an officer, he served as a member of the Department's Specialized Enforcement Response Team (SERT) and held the positions of Detective and Field Training Officer.

He rose through the ranks and was promoted to Sergeant on October 16, 1986. As a sergeant, Chief Ulibarri served as the SERT team leader. His other assignments included Personnel and Training Manager, Crime Prevention and Research Analysis Supervisor, and patrol watch commander. He is a graduate of the Herman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute.

On October 25, 1995, Chief Ulibarri was promoted to lieutenant and was assigned as the SERT team commander and in addition was assigned to the Administrative Division and Field Operations Division. He is credited with developing and implementing the Community Policing Program for the Department.

Chief Ulibarri was promoted to captain on December 15, 1997 and was responsible for administrative oversight over both the Support Services Division and the Field Operations Division. He attended the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia and graduated with the 192nd class. He is a member of the California Police Chief's Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

On July 20, 2000, Chief Ulibarri was promoted to the position of Chief of the Union City Police Department. During his long and distinguished career, two of his most noteworthy accomplishments are the development of the Volunteer Program and the Police Chaplain's Program.

Chief Ulibarri's colleagues, friends, family and admirers will come together on January 13, 2007 to honor his illustrious career as he retires after years of dedicated law enforcement service. I join in thanking him for a job well done.

A POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO ERNESTINE THOMAS MORRISON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Ernestine Thomas Morrison. Mrs. Morrison was a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York community. It behooves us to pay tribute posthumously to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Ernestine Thomas Morrison was born on June 8, 1935 in Birmingham, Alabama to Virginia Kirkland Allen Thomas and Ernest Thomas. During her early childhood years, she lived in Birmingham and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania after the death of her father, who passed away when she was just 2 years-old. At age 12, her mother passed on and Ernestine went to live in Brooklyn, NY with her sister and brother-in-law, Cleopatra Allen Riley and Clifford Riley. Although her sister was just 22 years-old, Ernestine recognized her not only as her sister, but as a mother. Ernestine attended P.S. 41 and graduated from the old Girls High School in Brooklyn. She married the late Roscoe Morrison, a Korean War veteran and later they had three children, Ruth, Lavinia and Charles.

Mrs. Morrison more than loved her children; she doted over them, as they were her life. While they were in elementary school, she worked part-time in the schools that they attended to be certain that her children had the best teachers and received the best services that the schools had to offer. All who knew her, knew that her love for children went beyond her own children, as she adopted her friends' children, her children's friends, her clients, her clients' kids etc., and she had the pictures to prove it.

She was elected president of the Parent Teachers Association at P.S. 243 and JHS 210; and in those roles she served as a member of the local school board for Districts 16 and 17. Additionally, she managed a summer recreation program for the youth of Albany Houses, which included several athletic teams that competed against other teams from the housing developments around New York City. Mrs. Morrison coached the Albany Houses Girls' Volleyball Team and as a first-time coach, her beloved team brought home the city championship trophy.

Mrs. Morrison was a strong voice for African-American studies in schools and open enrollment. She compelled the principal of her children's elementary school to not only order more black history books, but to allow the children to borrow those books that were already in the library. She worked with Reverend Milton A. Galamison on open enrollment for New York City public schools, a tumultuous issue of that time. Mrs. Morrison's activism in the NYC school system presented her with the opportunity to meet on several occasions with the late Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. Open enrollment in New Yark City went from a concept to a reality and children all over the city were now able to attend schools outside of their neighborhoods. It was no surprise that Mrs. Morrison's activism led her to politics. She was a very active member of Unity Democratic Club. She worked on the campaigns of the then Assemblywoman Shirley Chisholm, who later became the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Other elected officials she worked with included the late Assemblyman Thomas R. Fortune; District Leader Narcissus Frett; Judges Thomas R. Jones, James Shaw and James Hutchinson; Assemblyman Edward Griffith and Congressman EDOLPHUS ''ED'' TOWNS.

She was also a member of Community Planning Board 5, which covers East New York, Spring Creek and Cypress Hills.

As her children grew older, she started a career in social work with the New York City Human Resources Administration. After her retirement in 1992, she went back to live in her birth home of Birmingham, Alabama, the place that she loved so dearly and longed to go back to. After being away for 50 years, Mrs. Morrison was in for a rude awakening. She was a New Yorker, no longer a Southerner and she didn't quite fit into the Southern lifestyle. Consequently, in 1999, she returned home to Brooklyn.

On Friday, August 22, 2003, God called home one of his best soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Mrs. Ernestine Thomas Morrison as she spent many years offering her love, talents and services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ernestine Thomas Morrison's selfless service continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY WILLIAMS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and service contributions of Larry Williams, Veterans Services Coordinator for U.S. VETS–Las Vegas.

Mr. Williams has risen above the challenges of life and has triumphed over adversity to become a leader in the ranks of the U.S. VETS and as a 2005 AmeriCorps alum. AmeriCorps is the only national service collaboration serving homeless veterans. Before his service with AmeriCorps, Larry was a recipient of their charity. On July 29, 2003, an AmeriCorps member reached out to him, providing guidance and service. Larry attributes this simple act of compassion from Ron Bass as his turning point from hopelessness to a renewed life and future.

Just 3 months later, in October 2003, Larry was able to begin his journey of recovery upon entering the U.S. VETS–Los Angeles program. It was here over a 10-month period that he started to regain his independence and embark upon his own service within the Compensated Work Therapy Program. During this time he began to dream of helping other people in the way he had been helped by becoming an AmeriCorps member himself. Within a year, after being reunited with his wife and children in Las Vegas, Nevada, that dream of helping others came true.

Larry's service in AmeriCorps Outreach allowed him to meet with homeless veterans and non-veterans alike on the streets of Las Vegas, in shelters and in desert camps. It is estimated by the Veterans Administration that there are 4,300 homeless veterans in Las Vegas alone. With one in every three adult homeless males being classified as a military veteran, Larry's personal journey has made the time and attention he renders a priceless contribution in helping to alleviate these unfortunate statistics. As Veterans Service Coordinator for U.S. VETS in Las Vegas, he provides clinical support services to approximately 450 veterans in a given year while also providing the support needed to help them plan for successful and stable living. Larry also provides residential and moral support for formerly homeless Veterans living at U.S. VETS.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Larry Williams for his shining example of hope and service. He truly is a success story that deserves to be told. I applaud his service and dedication and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING RETIRING SUISUN CITY MAYOR JIM SPERING

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Suisun City mayor, Jim Spering, who after serving 20 years as the mayor of Suisun City will be stepping down to assume his newly elected position as the Solano County supervisor for District Three in January.

Under the leadership of Jim Spering, the city of Suisun constructed a new city hall on the waterfront, symbolizing Suisun City's transformation from what the San Francisco Chronicle rated as ''the worst city to live in'' to what is now considered a jewel on the water. City hall, which for many years was located in a trailer, was ''the only city hall in California that was registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles.'' The city now contains some of the best public spaces in the county, has a vibrant downtown, the quality of housing has improved tremendously, and the city's crime rate has dropped dramatically.

Similar to Billy Beane, the general manager of his favorite team, the Oakland Athletics, Jim has been creative in finding innovative solutions during times of fiscal stress.

In addition to his leadership position on the Suisun City council, Jim Spering has assumed a leadership role on regional transportation issues. This has earned him the reputation as Solano County's ''go to guy'' on transportation matters. Jim Spering has been past chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the 9-county San Francisco Bay area region and is currently on the board. At the MTC, Jim helped found the Transportation for Livable Communities Program which provides incentives for pedestrian and transit-oriented developments that strengthen the link between transportation, land use and community goals.

Jim Spering has also represented Suisun City or Solano County on several boards and commissions including the City Housing Authority, the Solano Transportation Authority,

and District, and Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board. Jim has been a tremendous asset to the city of Suisun and Solano County as one of their most experienced and valued mayors. His efforts earned for him the high esteem of his associates and the appreciation of the public.

As Jim Spering steps down as mayor of Suisun City, I would like to thank him and his wife Pam for their commitment and service to the community of Suisun City. I wish Jim the best of luck in his new leadership role on the Solano County board of supervisors.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD W. DURST

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Richard W. Durst, as he assumes the role of president of Baldwin-Wallace College, an extraordinary institution of higher learning in Berea, OH.

Mr. Durst comes to the Cleveland area after 6 years as dean of the College of Arts and Architecture and executive director of University Arts Services at the Pennsylvania State University. He will undoubtedly succeed in continuing to build Baldwin-Wallace's academic recognition, especially in the areas of arts, music, and theater as an international expert in theater set design and the role of the arts in academic training.

His creative work has been featured in group exhibitions in Beijing and Seoul, and he was invited to design the world premiere of The Belltower for the Paris Opera. He also was the codesigner of the United States' exhibit for the 1999 Prague Quadrennial, the world's largest and most prestigious exhibition of theater design and theater architecture.

He brings to B–W demonstrated strengths in curriculum development and review, administration, recruitment and retention planning, fund raising and facilities construction and management. He has already received distinction for receptiveness, presence, and academic stature which has connected with all of the portions of the college community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition and welcome to Mr. Richard W. Durst, an individual with both significant academic accomplishments and a record of community involvement which will positively add to the campus community of Baldwin-Wallace and the Cleveland area in general, and I look forward to working with him to further enrich the College and all elements of higher education.

HONORING BETTY ORTEN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Mrs. Betty Orten, a great Coloradan who passed away on November 24, 2006, the day after a spirited Thanksgiving celebration with her family. She demonstrated great leadership and social conscience in civic affairs and will be missed by friends and loved ones.

Betty Orten grew up on military posts as her father's career as an Army officer took his family across the country, overseas, and finally to Colorado. Betty graduated from high school in Colorado Springs and then went on to receive a degree in history and sociology from the University of Colorado. While at the University of Colorado, she met her future husband, Russell Sage Orten. In 1951, they married and made their home in Westminster, Colorado.

After graduation, Betty began a career as a social worker and also became involved in the Democratic Party. She served as a precinct committeewoman, Democratic State vice chairperson, Adams County Democratic chairperson, and Democratic National Committee member. In 1974, after all of her hard-earned experience in social work and politics, she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives.

Betty served as a representative for four terms, as well as one term as the House caucus chairwoman. Throughout her career, she concentrated on issues concerning the disadvantaged. She focused on dental care for the elderly, help for battered women and displaced homemakers, housing for single-parent families, and child care for single moms.

Those who knew Betty have fond memories and undoubtedly recognize her remarkable impact on them and fellow Coloradans along with Colorado politics. Betty was a role model and an example for women as she took leadership roles and worked tirelessly for the disadvantaged. Betty was always thoughtful, honest, and persuasive in work and politics.

In 1997, I had the privilege to be a representative in the Colorado House of Representatives where inspiring stories of Betty's labors and personality still resound. She was a true pioneer who broke new ground throughout her political career and in her numerous leadership positions.

If the measure of a life well-led is the impact that a person has on others, then Betty's impact is broad and deep. We all owe her a debt of gratitude and respect, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and remembering a life of service while expressing our deepest sympathies for her family's loss.

IN HONOR OF ALFIE TEWFICK KHALIL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a good friend and great American who passed away tragically on November 18, 2006. Alfie Tewfick Khalil was a native of Egypt who came to this country in the late 1960s. In 1979, Alfie joined the faculty of the Monterey-based Defense Language Institute (DLI) where he taught Arabic to U.S. military personnel. He soon stood out as a leader among the DLI faculty. In 1980, he became a shop steward with AFGE Local 1263, the union representing the DLI faculty. By 1987, he was elected president of Local 1263.

In the post 9–11 world, foreign language is a national security tool. In 2005, General John Abizaid, Commander of U.S. Central Command, testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, that the ''ability to cross the cultural divide is not an Army issue. It is a national issue. We have to be able to deal with the people in the rest of the world as the globe shrinks in terms of communication and problem solving and sharing.'' DLI plays an indispensable role in moving this defense strategy forward. But DLI can't do it without its faculty. They are native speakers of their mother languages who, like Alfie, come from the distant places all over the globe to help our Nation better defend itself.

Alfie understood this and made the advocacy for DLI faculty and staff his life's work. After my first election to Congress, I learned quickly that there were two people I needed to know at DLI: the commandant, a Colonel so and so who would retire or move on in a year or two, and Alfie, who would always be there. Alfie made his presence felt in so many ways.

One of the best examples of this was his hard work on behalf of ''locality pay''—the small salary boost for Federal workers based in particularly high cost areas. Alfie pointed out that Monterey County was, indeed, one of those areas, but that the Federal Government still considered it rural so DLI faculty were paid at much lower rates. Alfie and I worked together for more than 3 years to secure a decision by the Office of Personnel Management that Monterey County-based civil service workers deserved locality pay. This hard work on Alfie's part has helped DLI attract and retain the best language teachers in the world.

Alfie was about more than pay at DLI, however. He was about professionalism. That became clear in the recent fight to keep DLI off the base closure list. Alfie was a never-ending resource to my office and the BRAC Commission. He provided information and statistics on the level of expertise and depth of training of the DLI faculty. With this information it was easy to make the case that DLI could not be recreated anywhere else—that it was dependent on and unique to the talent of the Monterey area. Alfie was a key player in keeping DLI open and in Monterey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the entire House in sharing our most sincere condolences to Alfie's family both here in the United States and in Egypt and to his extended family of students and colleagues throughout the DLI community.

HONORING NYS ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER PAUL A. TOKASZ

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the career in public service of an outstanding representative of the residents of Western New York—retiring New York State Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz.

Paul Tokasz served honorably as Member of Assembly in the 143rd District from the time of his initial election in a special election in 1988 to this very day. Paul will end his service in the State Assembly at the end of this year.

A graduate of Hobart and Buffalo State Colleges, Paul began his career in public service as a Buffalo Public School teacher. After teaching elementary school for several years, Paul was elected Clerk of the Erie County Legislature, and later accepted appointment as a Deputy County Clerk in the administrations of the late Genevieve Starociak and current County Clerk David J. Swarts.

In early 1988, following the November 1987 election of then-Assemblyman Dennis T. Gorski as Erie County Executive, Paul became a candidate for the open seat in the 143rd Assembly District. Paul handily won election in 1988, was re-elected later that year, and never again faced a serious challenge for re-election.

We know why he never faced a serious challenge—because Paul was and is an outstanding public servant, a capable and effective Member of ''the people's house,'' who steadfastly defended Western New York while in service in Albany.

Over the years, Paul earned several important committee posts, including the chairmanship of the Assembly's committees on Election Law, where under Paul's leadership a state constitutional amendment was adopted to implement the 1993 federal ''Motor Voter'' law. Paul also chaired the Assembly's committee on Tourism, Arts and Sports Development, where he emerged as a statewide leader and an advocate for cultural tourism, particularly as it impacted Western New York, and his advocacy in increasing opportunities for cultural institutions to gain access to State capital funds as a means of expanding economic development in local communities.

The apex of Paul's Assembly career coincided with his ascension into the Assembly's formal leadership structure, culminating in his January 2001 appointment by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver as Majority Leader. As Majority Leader, Paul assumed responsibility for directing the day-to-day operations of the legislative session in the Assembly chamber, serving as floor leader, setting the daily agenda, and overseeing debate and voting on all legislation coming before the house. As someone who served under Paul as a rank-and-file member for 4 of my 6 years, I was witness to the tremendous skill and dignity he displayed in that role. Simply put, Paul performed remarkably in that role.

Speaking on a personal level, when I came to the State Assembly as a freshman member in 1999, Paul was someone I sought out immediately as a person with a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge—as someone with 10 years of seniority, Paul clearly had knowledge of the institution of the State Legislature that I did not myself possess. Paul was a tremendous help to me as I gained an understanding of the inner workings of Albany, and I have always credited his help and guidance as of critical importance.

In 2004, when New York's 27th District seat in Congress suddenly came open, Paul and I were both potential candidates. As days wore on, Paul and I met, and he soon offered me his unconditional support. Paul co-chaired my successful election campaign in 2004, and has been an ally and a friend as I have sought to effectively represent Western New York in Congress.

Paul has a great many accomplishments about which to be proud, but knowing him as I do, Paul takes no greater pride in any of his personal accomplishments than that which concerns his family. Paul and his Sylvia are parents of three outstanding adult children, Kristie, Jennifer, and Andrew. Paul and Sylvia also rightly take tremendous pride in their three grandchildren, Jacob and Bradley Kantor and Sydney Tokasz. To his immense credit, Paul's decision to retire from public service at such a relatively young age was undertaken out of his sincere desire to spend more time with his family.

Paul Tokasz is a tremendous example of a dedicated, effective public servant, and I was and remain proud to call him a governmental colleague. More to the point, I am prouder still to call Paul Tokasz my friend. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in wishing Paul, Sylvia and their entire family good luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF JANET FITZGERALD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Janet Fitzgerald as the Denton Parks and Recreation Director. Ms. Fitzgerald will be retiring from 15 years of service to the city of Denton in the 26th District of Texas.

Ms. Fitzgerald joined the city of Denton as a park planner in 1991. After demonstrating years of leadership and dedication to the city of Denton, Ms. Fitzgerald became the parks and recreation director in 2003. Under her visionary direction, Denton's parks have received national recognitions and awards, including Excellence in Aquatics, the Gold Medal for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management, and the Texas Gold Medal, the highest award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society.

Ms. Fitzgerald has the enriched lives of Denton community citizens through comprehensive recreation initiatives and a wide variety of local programs. Denton Mayor Perry McNeill noted that the city will miss her presence in the city of Denton.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Janet Fitzgerald for her service and leadership in the Denton community. Retiring to spend more time with her daughter and volunteer at her church, I wish Ms. Fitzgerald the best of luck in her future endeavors. Her contributions and commitment to the city of Denton should inspire us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate 100 years of worship. The church is holding a banquet on December 9 to kickoff a yearlong celebration of the centennial anniversary.

In 1902 several members of Flint, Michigan's African-American community gathered with the Reverend William Lyons at the home of Mrs. Sarah Howard and held worship services. They aspired to organize an official church and in 1907 their dream was realized. A church home was established on Ward Street, now Twelfth Street, and Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church was born.

Over the years the church moved twice until it found a permanent home at 424 Kennelworth Street in 1950. Under the guidance of Reverend Robert T. Turpin the church grew. Reverend Turpin led the congregation for 33 years and made many improvements to the property including the construction of Turpin Fellowship Hall.

Reverend Roy I. Greer became the pastor in 1972. Reverend Greer has directed the sanctuary renovations, installed a new baptistery, refurbished the offices and classrooms. In 1999 the Family Life Center was constructed. The basketball court, kitchen, and classrooms are the cornerstone of the community outreach spearheaded by Reverend Greer. The recreation center has provided a place for young people to gather in a safe, loving environment.

As the first African-American Baptist Church in the Flint area, Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church has fostered many persons that went on to become ordained ministers of the Word of God. It has stood as a beacon of light for every social justice movement over the past 100 years and continues to provide solace and help for the most vulnerable in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate 100 years of consecrated service to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. May they continue to act in the Name of the Lord for another 100 years.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN LEANDRO PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of the San Leandro, CA, Public Library. San Leandro's first free public library was established in January 1906 and was located at the old City Hall on Davis Street.

On January 31, 1906, the Library Board of Trustees appointed Mary Brown as San Leandro's first official librarian. Her starting salary was $12.50 a month and she served as librarian from 1906 to 1938.

In 1907, plans were made to construct a library building. Library Trustee Talcott P. Cary donated the 35-acre plot and wealthy steel magnate Andrew Carnegie donated $10,000 towards its construction. William H. Weeks, an architect famous for designing Carnegie libraries, was selected. The library's dedication ceremony was held on May 14, 1909.

The old Carnegie library was demolished to make way for a new 1½-story library building. The architect was Francis Joseph McCarthy. The new library, dedicated on January 15, 1961, was over 44,660 square feet and had a

capacity for 120,000 books. Its features included two garden courts, a lecture hall, several meeting rooms and an art studio.

Retrofitting and renovation of the 1961 main library began in 1997. The library was expanded to a two-story building and 75,000 square feet. Its grand opening was on December 16, 2000 and showcased its impressive features, which include 75 public computers, an electronic learning center, lecture hall, art gallery, 6 meeting rooms as well as a gift shop, café and book store. There are currently over 219,000 books in the San Leandro Library's collection and the library serves an average of 50,000 patrons a month.

I applaud the city of San Leandro and the administrators and staff of the San Leandro Public Library for their exemplary efforts to keep the library functioning with enhanced technology and outstanding patron services.

Happy 100th birthday and best wishes for continued success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT KEVIN M. DAVIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor MSG Kevin M. Davis for his courageous valor in Operation Enduring Freedom, OEF, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, OIF, and his continued voluntary service in support of the mission.

Master Sergeant Davis is the first sergeant assigned to the Joint Air Ground Operations Group at Nellis Air Force Base, NV. He is a qualified joint terminal attack controller and a tactical air controller/instructor as well as a qualified military freefall jumpmaster, static line jumpmaster, Army pathfinder, and Army air assault. He has been deployed four times in support of OEF and OIF, where he has always been the first to volunteer to serve his country. For his combat heroism, Master Sergeant Davis received the Bronze Star with Valor.

In addition to the Bronze Star, Master Sergeant Davis has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize MSG Kevin M. Davis for his admirable service in defense of democracy and freedom. He is truly an American hero. I wish him luck with all his future deeds.

IN RECOGNITION OF LETHA ADAMS CANNON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of a woman who is not only an example of strength to her family, but to all of us as well.

Born in Hartville, OH, December 11, 1906, Letha was the second-born of 10 children to Alvin and Jesse Adams. The family of 12 resided in Ohio until 1915, when they moved west, on what she describes as "a very long train ride." The family settled on a farm in French Camp, just outside of Stockton, CA.

Letha married Wilfred Cannon in 1928. They raised two children, Ruth and Wilfred, Jr., in the Stockton area.

After Wilfred passed away, Letha persevered, and even began a new career as a nurse. She spent 11 years at St. Joseph's Hospital.

In addition to her roles as a nurturing mother and nurse, Letha has made time for her community. She has been active in the PTA, Grange, Escalon Presbyterian Church, French Camp Vaqueros, and Dixon Community Church.

As if her plate was not full enough, Letha is a prize-winning gardener. Her African Violets took first place at the Dixon May Fair.

Letha also takes pleasure in travel. Even at her age, in the past year, she has flown across the country to New Jersey and Wisconsin.

Letha is blessed with 5 surviving siblings, 2 children, 8 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and 29 nieces and nephews.

Her family and friends have gathered together to celebrate her remarkable age of 100 and to thank her for being their "foster mom," as many fondly call her.

Letha Adams Cannon has spent her life enjoying travel, gardening, and most of all, her family. I wish Letha and her family the best on this momentous occasion.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TIMOTHY M. SATOLA AND RECOGNITION OF THE SATOLA FAMILY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Tim Satola. A model citizen throughout his life, Tim's enthusiasm, motivation, and personal drive to help people is echoed in his accomplishments.

A leader all his life, Tim was high school linebacker for the Garfield Bulldogs. His energy and spirit was an inspiration to his teammates and anyone who knew him. On the football team, his passion and energy earned him a reputation as "the light of the team." Tim went on to graduate from nursing school and began his career as a registered nurse shortly before his untimely passing.

Tim's commitment to helping people continues even after his death with the establishment of the Tim Satola Scholarship Fund. His parents, Donna and Dennis Satola, set up the scholarship fund to help students of Garfield Heights High School with the financial burdens of attending college. Already, the fund has awarded two $500 scholarships.

The Tim Satola Memorial Scholarship Fund honors students who share Tim's zest for life and his commitment to helping others. The fund continues the tremendous compassionate spirit that Tim would have wanted to inspire in the students of his high school alma mater.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Tim Satola and the continuing inspiration he brings through the Tim Satola Scholarship Fund to the students of Garfield Heights High School.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. GILBERT F. WHITE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Dr. Gilbert F. White, the "Father of Floodplain Management," who died October 5, 2006 in his home in Boulder Colorado. He will be missed by friends and loved ones, yet the legacy of his social and environmental vision will long continue in communities throughout the world.

Gilbert F. White was born on November 26, 1911 in Hyde Park, Illinois and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Chicago. As a graduate student in the late 1930s, he studied the Mississippi River Basin for the federal government when many planners followed a flood control policy based on the construction of dams. White questioned the impact of such projects and suggested alternatives that protected people, as well as floodplain ecosystems. He served as president of Haverford College in Pennsylvania from 1946 until 1955 and taught at the University of Chicago from 1956 to 1969. He was a visiting professor at the University of Oxford in 1962–63, and he chaired the American Friends Service Committee from 1963 to 1969.

In 1970, White joined the faculty of the University of Colorado at Boulder as a Professor of Geography and Director of the Institute of Behavioral Science, remaining active in academic work well into his 90s. He founded the University of Colorado's Natural Hazard Research and Applications Information Center in 1974 which has become the nation's leading repository of knowledge on human behavior in disasters. White's work in natural hazard mitigation changed the way people addressed their surroundings and made the world safer for its inhabitants in the process. In his doctoral dissertation of 1942, White wrote, "Floods are acts of God, but flood losses are largely acts of man." So significant was this work that it has since been called the most influential book ever written by an American geographer.

In an era characterized by the construction of bigger and stronger flood control devices, Dr. White pioneered effective models of flood management that promoted public safety while preserving rivers and waterways. He was a true humanitarian, making extraordinary contributions toward educating governments on the most effective actions available in managing floodplains and alleviating flood losses. Dr. White's persistence convinced the nation to take a broader view in reducing flood risks, culminating with the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program. This program encouraged responsible floodplain management at the local level and created stronger, safer communities for generations of Americans.

Among White's numerous honors are the National Geographic Society's highest honor, the Hubbard Medal; the United Nation's

Sasakawa International Environmental Prize; and the Association of American Geographer's Lifetime Achievement Award. He was also presented with an honorary doctorate from CU-Boulder in May of 2006.

Dr. White's legacy derives from the programs he helped implement. His contributions will continue to keep communities safer and protect the environment while making smart investments in mitigation activities at all levels of government. We all owe this great man a debt of gratitude and respect. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating and remembering this life of service.

IN HONOR OF GENE ARDEN VANCE, JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Army SSG Gene Arden Vance, Jr. Staff Sergeant Vance was tragically killed in action while serving in Afghanistan in 2002. Though I never had the honor of meeting Staff Sergeant Vance, I am saddened by his loss and want to share my own condolences and those of this House with his family, friends, and comrades.

Staff Sergeant Vance, Jr. was born on 30 November, 1963, in Frankfurt, Germany, the son of an Army Special Forces officer. He enlisted in the Army in 1981, after graduating from Oceana High School in Oceana, West Virginia. He served in a variety of posts from Germany to Monterey, finally leaving active duty in 1990. In 1992, he enlisted in the West Virginia National Guard, and graduated from the Defense Language Institute's (DLI) Persian-Farsi Basic Course in 1998. He reentered active duty immediately following September 11th, 2001, and he deployed to eastern Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in February 2002.

On 19 May, 2002, Staff Sergeant Vance's patrol was ambushed by Taliban fighters in the province of Paktika, Afghanistan. Although critically wounded in the initial attack, Staff Sergeant Vance continued to translate battlefield intelligence for Afghan forces in the area, directing them out of danger. His calm actions and command of the situation saved the lives of two fellow Americans and as many as 18 Afghani soldiers, and helped to defeat the enemy ambush. For his actions, Staff Sergeant Vance was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" for valor in combat, the Purple Heart Medal, and the West Virginia Distinguished Service Medal.

His actions in combat represented the highest level of bravery and professionalism of the American soldier. His actions also represent the unique heroism of the military linguist. In the conflicts that our nation now finds itself in, languages and their key role in understanding and influencing the cultures that they speak for, are essential to our national security. That is why I feel it is so fitting that the Army has dedicated a new barracks building at the DLI in honor of Staff Sergeant Vance, where his service can stand as an example to the current generation of linguists who are the key to prevailing against the terrorism and instability that threaten America.

On a personal note, I am doubly touched because as the Member of Congress who represents California's Central Coast, I worked hard to secure the funding to construct the barracks building that will bear Staff Sergeant Vance's name. At the time, I was simply working with the DLI leadership to help improve the living conditions for their students. I can't overstate now how proud I am that this building will now bear witness to the heroism Staff Sergeant Vance and in his name, all military linguists who will serve in the global war on terrorism.

HONORING BARB MILES

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Barb Miles for her years of service as the Carroll Town Clerk. Ms. Miles served her community well during her tenure in office.

Public Service is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Miles traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face throughout her tenure. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the constituents of Carroll.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong and dedicated public servants with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Miles is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.

STAFF TRIBUTE

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, in the closing days of the 109th Congress, Members will rise to acknowledge the departure of their colleagues. Some are retiring of their own volition while others, such as me, are leaving as a consequence of the November elections.

While my colleagues deserve all of the accolades they will receive, I would like to devote just a few minutes to the loyal and capable men and women who have made my six years here in Congress so productive and rewarding. I would like to thank my wonderful staff.

My staff has shared in every success and victory we have had over the past six years. They have also shared in the personal disruption and professional disappointment of leaving this place before our important work is done.

They are as follows:

Todd Mitchell, Chief of Staff, and my alter ego on all issues and decisions, whose steady hand and wise counsel allowed us to assemble and manage a dynamic and productive staff over the past five years;

Erik Heilman and Lise Lynam, Legislative Directors, who energetically and faithfully pursued an aggressive legislative agenda in three committees, eight subcommittees and twenty caucuses, as well as for the District Office;

Justin Bernier, Senior Legislative Assistant, whose acute insights and dynamic energy were largely responsible for saving Naval Submarine Base New London, which in turn saved Connecticut over 31,500 jobs and $3.5 billion in annual revenues;

John Goodwin, Press Secretary and Jonathan Martin, Legislative Assistant, whose hard work and respect for America's working families won me accolades as a "pro-labor Republican" from The Wall Street Journal;

Leigh Hightower, Senior Legislative Assistant of Mansfield, Connecticut, and Amy Pellegrino, Legislative Assistant from Westerly, Rhode Island, whose diligence and sympathy helped us to "keep the promise" to our veterans and improve health care for all Americans;

Meghan Curran, Legislative Assistant from Bolton, Connecticut, whose commitment to the education of our Nation's children resulted in important legislative initiatives, and whose respect for Teachers resulted in her eventually leaving our staff to teach;

Shauna Hewes, Legislative Assistant of Ledyard, Connecticut, whose persistent efforts and negotiating skills were instrumental in passing the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act;

Dan Hartnett, Legislative Assistant, who received, processed and helped answer over 100,000 pieces of mail and countless e-mails so that our constituents were never out of touch with their Congressman;

Emily Cantin, Scheduler of Marlborough, Connecticut, who ran a tight but happy front office, and kept me on time and on message through many busy weeks in Washington, DC;

Will Cox, Staff Assistant of Mystic, Connecticut, whose cheerful demeanor and helpful habits made every visitor to the Washington Office feel welcome and important;

Mr. E.J. Chubbs, my personal Transportation Advisor, who loyally and faithfully ensured that I arrived, departed and moved about the Nation's Capitol in a safe and congenial fashion for six wonderful years;

John Bradley, former Staff Director, Veterans Affairs Health Subcommittee, whose dynamic leadership and concern for the health of our Nation's veterans resulted in a 40 percent increase in funding and numerous legislative improvements in veterans' health care;

Deron McElroy, Staff Director, Homeland Security Intelligence Subcommittee, whose insights and legislative skill were responsible for establishing a productive agenda for this important new subcommittee;

Jane Dauphinais, District Director of Groton, Connecticut, whose management skills and knowledge of municipal government made the Norwich and Enfield offices vital resources to "help the people" of the Second Congressional District's sixty five towns;

Jeff Nelson, Deputy District Director of Groton, Connecticut, who managed and implemented a hectic and sometimes hysterical schedule with calm aplomb, and shared many hours and 120,000 miles on the road in the district;

Joe Bell, Communications Director of Mystic, Connecticut, our office intellectual, who read much and wrote more than was considered humanly possible, all in an effort to educate me and to enlighten the people of the region and the Nation;

Betty Wagner, Constituent Services Director of Colchester, Connecticut, whose organizational skills and caring attitude brought aid and

comfort to the many constituents of the district, and provided tenacious advocacy for our farmers and union members;

Linda Camelio, Event Coordinator and Constituent Services Representative for Immigration of Pawcatuck, Connecticut, who helped those in need around the district and around the world, and provided an extra measure of organization and excitement to all our public events;

K. Robert Lewis, Military and Veterans Constituent Services Representative of New London, Connecticut, whose diligent and dedicated work brought medals, benefits, aid and comfort to those who had or were serving our Nation in uniform, as well as to their families, widows and orphans;

Paula Ferrara, Constituent Services Representative and ''Grant Goddess'' of Westbrook, Connecticut, who coordinated a highly successful effort to bring millions of our tax dollars back from Washington, DC, for the benefit of Fire, Police, Emergency Workers, Schools and all 65 towns in the district as well as helping thousands of Medicare eligible constituents with their Prescription Drug coverage and Social Security issues; and

Al Powell, Executive Office Assistant of Waterford, Connecticut, who was the smiling face and cheerful voice of the Norwich Office, who welcomed visitors and protesters alike, answered tens of thousands of calls, and processed all mail, in and out, without fail for six wonderful years.

I also thank those loyal and devoted professionals who labored long and hard in the Mystic Office: Eric Janney, Esq., of Stonington; Susan Bessette of Pawcatuck; Chris Healy of Wethersfield; Diane Generous of Sprague; Aaron McGarry of Thompson and Heath Fahle of Pawcatuck, Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, I owe a debt of gratitude to these loyal workers for helping me to help others. They gave life to my vision of a congressional office that truly ''helps people'' with case work, grants and positive legislation to benefit the Second District, Connecticut and the Nation.

I thank them for a record of accomplishment, and I say thanks for the memories. Working together in a bipartisan fashion with a ''gung ho'' attitude, we did our best and we did well.

HONORING DR. JUDITH RODIN

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judith Rodin, a native Philadelphian and former President of the University of Pennsylvania, and to congratulate her on receiving the 2006 Gold Medal Award from the Pennsylvania Society. In her decade long tenure leading the University, Dr. Rodin demonstrated a strong commitment to the Greater Philadelphia region and the West Philadelphia neighborhood in which the University is located. She has proven herself not only an asset to the academic community but more broadly to the City of Philadelphia.

As an established social psychologist, Dr. Rodin has contributed much to our knowledge of pressing social issues and has been instrumental in bringing women's health concerns and behavioral health issues more generally to the forefront. The first female president of an Ivy League institution, she has opened doors for young women across the country and it is with Dr. Rodin's leadership that Penn saw a period of remarkable growth and development strengthening and transforming the University's academic core.

In keeping with her commitment to the common good, she currently serves as President of the Rockefeller Foundation and works to advance that organization's mission of alleviating global poverty. It is a privilege for me to recognize Dr. Rodin and her work. I congratulate her on the receipt of this prestigious honor.

TEMPORARY DUTY SUSPENSION FOR UMBRELLAS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a temporary duty suspension for certain umbrellas. These include golf umbrellas and fashion umbrellas with non-collapsible shafts for use by men, women and children. The current duty rate on these umbrellas is 8.2 percent, while the duty rate on similar umbrellas with collapsible shafts is 0 percent. There appears to be no purpose for this disparity; and yet it drives up the cost of the non-collapsible umbrellas for U.S. consumers.

This measure is supported by Essex Manufacturing, Inc. whose headquarters are in my district. It also is supported by other leading umbrella producers, including Peerless Umbrella Co. in Harrison, New Jersey; Shedrain Corporation in Portland, Oregon; and Totes in Cincinnati, Ohio. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this measure next year.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIC VOIGHT

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House Eric Voight who was recently awarded Hometown Radio's Employee of the Year honors for his extraordinary servIce.

Hired straight out of college, Eric Voight had a dream of being in radio programming one day. In just four short years, Voight worked his way up the ladder of success at Hometown Radio, first as a member of the sales team, to sales manager, and now as operations manager. In fact, because of his hard work, Voight is now responsible for the sound of the entire four station cluster operated by Hometown Radio.

Those who know Eric Voight appreciate the little things that make him so deserving of the Employee of the Year award. His motivation, proud Wisconsin work ethic and dedication got him where he is today and I'm sure this is just the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Voight on receiving this outstanding honor, and wish him continued success in the years to come.

HONORING DR. TED VICK FOR 55 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP THROUGH EDUCATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Ted Vick, a longtime public servant who is retiring after a 55-year career in leadership through education.

Dr. Vick has proven his dedication to educational pursuits by earning his bachelor's degree in elementary education at the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Ph.D. in Education from the University of California at Riverside. His desire to serve in public education led to his service as a principal and vice principal in various school districts throughout his career, including 12 years spent as the superintendent of Adelanto School District. His proven leadership led to 20 years of service on the San Bernardino County Board of Education, and his enthusiasm was quickly noticed by other local organizations. While Dr. Vick dedicated his time to the county board of education, the Needles Unified School District asked for his service when they required another member to join their local district board.

Aside from teaching, Dr. Vick strove to influence others by holding several leadership positions in educational and community organizations. His list of distinguished posts includes the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly, and the board of directors on the California County Boards of Education. His interest in the needs of the local community is prevalent through his time with the Adolescent and Family Service Center, and while serving on the board of directors for Desert Communities United Way. Dr. Vick's remaining time has been spent devoted to the First Christian Church in San Bernardino, serving as chairman of the board, elder, and deacon.

This relentless involvement in the lives of his fellow citizens has made Dr. Vick an important influence in the community, earning him the well-deserved San Bernardino County School Board Association's 2005 Distinguished Service Award. Although the appreciation of the community is shown on the faces of those whom he has instructed, it was most notably visible in 2005 when Adelanto School District named a local school in his honor; the Theodore Vick Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, after 55 years of public service, Dr. Vick will retire from his teaching and leadership posts. Although Dr. Vick's presence in the community will be greatly missed, his zeal for leadership and education will continue to inspire the students and adults who have crossed his path. On behalf of the people of San Bernardino County, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Vick for his work and in wishing him well in his future pursuits.

A TRIBUTE TO OFFICER SCOTT WERTZ

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I seek to pay tribute to a true hero of Pennsylvania's 16th Congressional District, Reading Police Officer Scott Wertz.

On Sunday, August 6, 2006, Officer Wertz made the ultimate sacrifice carrying out his duties to serve and protect the people of Reading, Pa.

Officer Wertz's exemplary service is a stark reminder of the valor and honor that our public safety personnel display every single day. When danger arises, these brave men and women run to answer the call. Officer Wertz was no exception, and I honor his great courage and sacrifice.

His 9 years of dedicated service to the Reading Police Department have made the Reading community a safer place to live and work for thousands of families, and we all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

On behalf of a grateful community, I offer my heartfelt condolences to his wife and two sons. They will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF IVY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an institution in my hometown of Newport News. On December 1, 2006, the members of Ivy Baptist Church celebrated their 100th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to highlight the rich history of this church and its contribution to our community.

In 1906, Rev. James Carr, along with Shaddy Clark and J.B. Peyton founded the first ancestor of the Ivy Baptist Church of today. It was called the First Baptist Church Dawson City. First Baptist Dawson was a blessing in a community plagued by crime in a city nicknamed ''Blood Field.'' In 1915, under the leadership of Reverend Carr, the First Baptist Church Dawson City building was purchased for $350 in cash.

Rev. Samuel Brown, the second pastor, moved the church to the 500 block of 18th Street in Newport News and renamed it the 18th Street Baptist Church.

In 1923, the church elected its third pastor, Rev. James M. Bray. After 27 years of growth, witnessing and fellowship under Reverend Bray, the church sold its building at 18th Street, and a new church was built at 1612 Ivy Avenue at the cost of $60,000. Based on this change of location, the church was renamed Ivy Avenue Baptist Church in 1952.

In 1958, the Reverend D.L. Charity became the fourth pastor of Ivy Avenue Baptist Church. The church continued to experience substantial growth with new programs implemented by Reverend Charity, who served for 8 years.

On February 4, 1968, Rev. Dr. W. Henry Maxwell was selected as the fifth pastor of Ivy Avenue Baptist Church. Three years later, a new house of worship located at 50 Maple Avenue was purchased, and the first worship service was conducted there in February 1972. In order to maintain the heritage of the church, but to reflect the church's location change, the name was shortened from Ivy Avenue Baptist, to the Ivy Baptist we know today.

Under Reverend Maxwell, Ivy Baptist continued to flourish. A church day care center was established in 1974, and a multipurpose annex named the W. Henry Maxwell Family Life Center was opened in 1999. After 36 years of faithful service to Ivy Baptist Church, Reverend Maxwell retired.

After a year-long search, Rev. Kevin G. Swann was elected the sixth pastor of Ivy Baptist Church. The church has already experienced significant growth in membership under Reverend Swann, and I believe he will live up to the legacy left to him. Over these 100 years, pastors at Ivy have licensed nine other pastors, and ordained nine pastors to the ministry. The day care program is popular throughout the community, and the Family Life Center is a community asset under constant demand as a venue for various church, civic and social programs.

I would like to once again congratulate Reverend Swann and the members of Ivy Baptist on their centennial and I wish them another century of continued service to their community.

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church for 50 years of service and involvement in the Fort Worth Community. Mount Sinai is located in the 26th District of Texas.

Since opening its doors in 1956, Mount Sinai has encouraged the ministry, fellowship, and outreach of its members. Under the faithful guidance of Bishop B.C. McPherson II, Mount Sinai has flourished as a cornerstone of worship in our community.

The event will be celebrated with a Mass Choir Musical, and a service the following day by guest Pastor Carl Woodard. Current and former Mount Sinai members and prominent members of the community will be on hand to celebrate the anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent this congregation. I congratulate the Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate 50 proud years of commitment to ministry, and look forward to many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ARTHUR LEE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pastor Arthur Lee of the Rock of Asia Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Lee and his pastoral staff will be honored by the congregation at a celebration on December 10th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

After serving in the United States Army from 1963 to 1975, Pastor Lee was honorably discharged and worked as an offshore oil rigger in Singapore. He moved to Michigan in 1986 and served as a deacon at 1st Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church. He became an assistant pastor acting together with his brother, Pastor Henderson Lee. Arthur Lee was called to the ministry in 1990 and was ordained at 1st Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church in 1993.

He became the pastor of Rock of Asia Missionary Baptist Church and has faithfully served the congregation for the past 12 years. In addition to Sunday morning worship services, Pastor Lee also holds Sunday School and a Wednesday Bible Class. In keeping with the church's motto, 2nd Corinthians 5:7 ''We walk by faith, not by sight,'' the congregation goes out once a month and witnesses to the community. They distribute food to the needy at the holidays. During the past 12 years the congregation has grown from 8 members to 80 members. Pastor Lee organized the drive to extend the sanctuary and install new pews to accommodate the growing number of faithful. During this time Pastor Lee also worked at MTA, and was a loving husband and father. He retired from MTA in 2001 to assume fulltime pastoral duties.

Taking his ministry beyond the church walls, Pastor Lee is active in several local and national groups. He has served with Concerned Pastors for Social Action since 1993 and is a member of Concerned Pastors of Genesee County. For 20 years he has served as a chaplain at Hurley Medical Center and he took on the role of chaplain at Genesys Hospice 18 months ago. He is the spiritual coach for Hamady High School Athletic Department. As a veteran, Pastor Lee understands the problems of veterans in our community and has worked for the past 7 years tending to the spiritual needs of the disabled veterans at the DVA Post 122. Pastor Lee has attended Mott Community College and continues to find new ways to improve his ministry. He recently completed a series of enrichment classes sponsored by Genesys Health Systems.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pastor Arthur Lee, his pastoral staff and his congregation for 12 years of consecrated service to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. I wish them the best as they continue to spread the Gospel through the Flint area.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF WILLIAM J. (BILL) McCAMMON

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the First Chief of the Alameda County Fire Department, Bill McCammon. Chief McCammon is retiring after 28 years of exemplary service to the County of Alameda, California.

The district and contract service areas that Chief McCammon serves are approximately 460 square miles with a population of over

250,000. He was born and raised in Oakland, California and received a B.S. degree in Agricultural Science and Management from the University of California at Davis.

After completing his education, he sought a career in the fire service working first for the Dublin San Ramon Services District Fire Department where he spent two years before moving to the San Leandro, California Fire Department. During his fourteen years in San Leandro, he held the ranks of Firefighter, Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal prior to becoming the Fire Chief.

When Alameda County consolidated its unincorporated fire protection responsibilities into the Alameda County Fire Department, McCammon became the first Fire Chief of the newly formed department in 1993. The Department has doubled in size since 1993 with the addition of contracts for service with several local cities and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Chief McCammon has introduced and implemented programs that include retrofitting and expansion of the public buildings and fire stations as well as new construction of several fire stations. He also implemented a water rescue, heavy rescue and HazMat Response Team that provides mutual aid to the entire County of Alameda and served as a key negotiator representing Alameda County for an ambulance contract for citywide services.

An advocate of regionalization, Chief McCammon fostered and promoted the idea of creating a regional fire dispatch center within the County. Since its creation in 1999, six jurisdictions receive dispatch services from the center at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, with countywide fire and emergency medical services mutual aid coordinated through the center.

Chief McCammon's list of involvement addressing fire and emergency medical services issues at the local, state and national levels is impressive. He has served on numerous boards, commissions and associations, and has been appointed by several governors for leadership positions to address incident management, homeland security, fire service and other issues relevant to his expertise.

On January 5, 2007, Fire Chief Bill McCammon's friends and family will gather at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, California to honor his achievements in his profession, to thank him for his years of dedicated service and to wish him well on his retirement. I am honored to recognize him on his special occasion.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ED GUTHRIE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Guthrie for his exemplary work with Opportunity Village, a laudable organization that provides vocational training and advocacy for the disabled.

Under Ed's leadership, Opportunity Village has improved the lives of hundreds of people with severe disabilities and their families. Opportunity Village has grown to become one of the top 5 custodial firms in southern Nevada. Opportunity Village serves 500,000 meals each year to the servicemen at Nellis AFB and owns the 2nd largest document destruction firm in Las Vegas. Ed has also developed a number of leading edge rehabilitation programs during the last 10 years, including the Job Discovery program, the P.R.I.D.E. program and a down payment assistance program to assist people with disabilities to purchase their own homes.

In addition to his work with Opportunity Village, Ed also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH). Prior to joining NISH, Ed was the Western Region representative of the National Council of Work Centers and represented the 100+ community rehabilitation programs in Nevada, California, Hawaii, Arizona, and Utah for 6 years. Ed has also served the State of Nevada on the Nevada Governor's Council for Rehabilitation and Employment of People with Disabilities and served as Chair of the Nevada Rates Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ed Guthrie. His hard work on behalf of Nevada's disabled population and their families is commendable. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF LOREE SOGGS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the contributions of Mr. Loree Soggs to both Cleveland and Ohio. Mr. Soggs has been a member of and advocate for unions since he entered the workforce over 40 years ago. He has also serves the community diligently through his extensive civic participation.

Mr. Soggs entered his union as an operating engineer, and he has served his IUOE Local 18 as a business agent, apprenticeship coordinator, steward director, officer and fringe benefit fund trustee. In 1994, Mr. Soggs was elected to the office of executive secretary for Cleveland's Building and Construction Trades Council, being the first operating engineer to hold this office in the council's history. He has successfully negotiated numerous contracts fighting for the betterment of working men and women within the community. He further supports the realm of labor by serving as president of the North Shore Federation of Labor, vice president of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council, executive director of the Northern Ohio Building Trades Real Estate Investment Program, trustee of the Union Construction Industry Partnership, and serves as a board member on four other labor related organizations.

The civic realm has benefited equally from Mr. Soggs' years of dedicated work. As an advocate for senior citizens, he strives to improve the quality of life of the elderly, specifically focusing on housing efforts. He is very politically involved, serving on the executive committee of the Cuyahoga Democratic Party and as a board member of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. Due to his civic dedication, Mr. Soggs is being honored by the State of Israel Bonds for his values and ideals rooted in democracy, and the inalienable rights of working men and women.

Mr. Soggs' work is rooted in his bachelor of arts degree from Defiance College, as well as the support from his wife, Barbara, and their five children.

Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues, please join me in celebration of the efforts of Mr. Loree Soggs to the labor and civic communities in Ohio. His contributions have not gone unnoticed, and will surely multiply and reach new levels of excellence in the upcoming years.

HONORING MR. TIMOTHY NECKERS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Timothy Neckers for his years of service as the French Creek Town Supervisor. Mr. Neckers served his community well during his tenure in office.

Public service is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Neckers traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face throughout his tenure. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the constituents of French Creek.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong and dedicated public servants with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Neckers is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

MINERAL WELLS VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and commend an innovative partnership between the Mineral Wells, Texas Independent School District and several veterans' organizations in that community. For each of the past 24 years, citizens of Mineral Wells have come together on Veterans Day to honor those who have served our Nation in the military with a special ''Day of Remembrance'' program.

Every year, the program draws over 3,700 youth, community leaders, and area residents to pay tribute to those who embody the American spirit. Working together as a community has helped promote pride and patriotism among students while honoring veterans. Members of the American Legion Post 75, the Sons of the Legion Squadron 75, and Farris Anderson Unit 75 of American Legion Auxiliary, Mineral Wells, along with school leaders and students help plan and participate in an event that features a parade, music, displays of military power, and much camaraderie among generations.

Throughout our history, men and women have answered the call of a Nation in need, and on Veterans Day, we are especially mindful of their service, sacrifice, and that of their

families. I appreciate what the city of Mineral Wells does to honor those most responsible for our freedom, and I am hopeful they will continue to serve as an example for years to come.

HONORING JOHN CASE, CHAIRMAN OF THE PACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank John Case for his 8 years of service as Chairman of the Pace Board of Directors. Under John's leadership, numerous improvements were instituted to North America's 6th largest bus system, resulting in better service for millions of Americans living in the Chicagoland area.

It is no surprise that John was chosen to serve as Chairman of the Board—he has a long history of serving his community and nation. As a retired United States Air Force Major with 20 years of service, including the third bomber wing during the Korean War, he brought many valuable skills to his role as Chairman. His experience is evident in the many improvements he instituted. These include developing Board Committees to handle specific decision areas, implementing use of biodiesel in the Pace bus fleet, doubling the size of Pace's vanpool program, ensuring that retirement funds are being adequately funded, and implementation of the Intelligent Bus System, which provides real-time information on bus locations, ridership and on-time performance.

John is a dedicated public servant. For more than 40 years, he has served his community in many public roles. He began his public career in Lisle Township—located in the 13th District of Illinois, which I represent—and, since then, has held the position of Township Trustee and Supervisor for Lisle Township. In DuPage County, in which Lisle Township resides, he has served as a DuPage County Board Member, County Board Chairman, and Forest Preserve President.

Once again, I would like to congratulate and thank John Case on his eight successful years as Chairman of the Pace Board of Directors and for all he has done for his community.

RECOGNIZING THE GENEROUS ACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICAL AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generous actions of National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, following the damaging affects of Hurricane Katrina on our nation's liquid hydrogen infrastructure.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Gulf Coast Region of the United States. In addition to the devastating impact that Hurricane Katrina levied on the residents and municipalities of the Gulf Coast Region, the storm also severely damaged numerous business and manufacturing establishments, including the world's largest liquid hydrogen manufacturing facility located in New Orleans, LA.

For 40 years, NASA has been a major user of liquid hydrogen for many of its programs, including its Space Shuttle program. Today, NASA remains a significant and preferential customer of the New Orleans liquid hydrogen facility and, as such, is entitled to preferential supply due to its Defense Priority rating.

Liquid hydrogen is essential in many commercial manufacturing applications including the production of metals, float glass and electronics products that are, in turn, critical resources for other major American manufactures.

In anticipation of the Space Shuttle launch scheduled for March 2006, NASA had accumulated a considerable amount of liquid hydrogen in its spheres at the Kennedy Space Center, and had also planned significant testing of the Space Shuttle engines at Stennis Space Center prior to the March launch.

Upon learning of the severe shortage of liquid hydrogen supply in North America due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the facility located in New Orleans, NASA voluntarily agreed to transfer back to the facility a total of 391,220 pounds of liquid hydrogen and agreed to "stand down" its engine testing requirements at Stennis Space Center until liquid hydrogen production was resumed in November 2005.

NASA's generous actions allowed for the continued, albeit reduced, supply of liquid hydrogen to most commercial customers across the United States and prevented the shutdown of numerous manufacturing facilities and commensurate job losses throughout the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing NASA for its exceptional response and efforts in support of the U.S. manufacturing base by unselfishly committing its liquid hydrogen resources immediately following Hurricane Katrina's devastation ofthe Gulf Coast liquid hydrogen production capacity on August 29, 2005.

CAPITOL HILL MOURNS THE PASSING OF THE COSTUME LADY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lola Beaver, a longtime Capitol Hill resident who owned and operated The Costume Shop for 34 years after an equally long and successful career as a dancer, choreographer and dance instructor. She died at home in her sleep on Tuesday, November 28. When she died at 96, Lola's sharp wit, sparkling intelligence and high-spirited spunk had not deserted the woman whose loyalty and love were treasured by countless friends, customers and neighbors.

Born Luola (Lola) Murchison Hurkamp in Fredricksburg, Virginia, on July 5, 1910, she moved to the Washington area after her mother committed suicide when Lola was four years old. After five long years as a boarding student at the National Cathedral School, she graduated in 1929, came into her inheritance and promptly hopped on a Holland American liner headed for Europe. At summer's end, she returned to the States and arrived in New York City in a Chevrolet roadster that boasted a rumble seat and an item she had picked up in a Paris flea market and screwed onto the outside of her car: a French horn.

The 1929 stock market crash forced Lola, a student at NYC's Grand Central Art School, to earn a living as a dime-a-dance girl. She met and married a struggling actor, Andy Beaver, who was sharing an apartment with Henry Fonda and Burgess Meredith. When her husband joined the Marine Corps, the couple moved to Washington, DC. After twin boys died within two months of their birth, Lola opened the Lola Beaver Dance School in downtown Washington.

While her husband was fighting overseas, she performed for the troops at Washington's Stage Door Canteen and with the USO, traveling from the Caribbean to the Arctic with dancers from her school. A White House request that Lola create handmade bow ties to match President Lyndon Johnson's navy blue tuxedo marked her career move into costume design and rental. She moved to Capitol Hill in 1972 and converted a dry cleaning shop at the corner of 8th and A streets NE into The Costume Shop. "I liked Capitol Hill," she told an oral historian. "It had a nice small-town atmosphere. The people on the Hill are people you wouldn't mind knowing." Donna Brazile, my former chief of staff, moved across the street from Lola about 10 years ago. They became fast friends, and Lola knew that Donna was a friend to have. Donna virtually adopted Lola, cooking for her and nurturing Lola with friendship until the end.

Along with the city's most prestigious live theaters and Halloween revelers of all ages, members of Congress and burlesque queens, Lola's customers included every president from Johnson to Bill Clinton. During the height of the Watergate scandal, the lifelong Democrat took particular glee in outfitting then Indiana Sen. Birch Bayh as a burglar and his wife as a bug for Halloween. The ever-slim beauty with a thick mane of white hair never hesitated to render her opinion on a customer's choice of costume or actual weight. "You're too fat for that dress" or "You should be a pirate/princess/clown—you look like one" were the price of rental at The Costume Shop. Regarding the elegant turn-of-the century cutaway Bill Clinton rented, Lola recalled, "He was bigger than I thought he was. He must've worn a corset when he had his picture taken."

It was considered a high honor to be invited to join Lola, a grandmother figure for countless Hill residents, children and adults alike, for a bourbon-soaked "teatime" that lasted until the wee hours of the morning. Many a glass of Jim Beam will be raised in her honor at a luncheon that will immediately follow a memorial service to be held December 9 at Christ Church, noon, 620 G St., SE.

In lieu of flowers, Lola, a lifelong animal lover, asked that contributions be made in her name to the Washington Humane Society (washhumane.org) and The Elephant Sanctuary (elephants.com).

STATEMENT HONORING SALLY LILIENTHAL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, with deep admiration and affection I pay my respects to a great San Franciscan and global citizen, Sally Lilienthal, who died on Oct. 24 at the age of 87. I join my constituents in honoring her vision, her courage, her leadership and her immense contributions to building a safer and more peaceful world. A magnificent role model, she lived her conscience and practiced her ideals each and every day.

In 1981, at the height of the Cold War—as superpowers stockpiled nuclear weapons, the international arms trade boomed and intercontinental ballistic missiles grew more lethal—Sally Lilienthal founded the Ploughshares Fund. Based in her living room and driven by her determination to inform the public about the issues and the danger, it became an enormously influential foundation dedicated to the prevention of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of war.

She supported researchers, policy activists, and scientists in the United States and overseas who were trying to change government policies and was a vital figure in shaping the anti-proliferation agenda during the Cold War. As of now, the fund has given away more than $50 million, mostly for startup research and is the largest grant-making foundation in the United States focused exclusively on peace and security issues.

Sally Ann Lowengart was 12 when her family moved to San Francisco. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College and returned to San Francisco in 1940. During the 1950s, she studied sculpture at the San Francisco Art Institute. Elegant and artistic, she could have spent her life comfortably moving in San Francisco's art and social circles. Instead, she turned her attention and her might to the issues of war, peace, and social justice.

Together with her husband Philip Lilienthal she founded the Northern California Committee of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund in 1970. She served on the regional ACLU board. She co-founded Amnesty International Western Region and was an early supporter of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines that, while she was vice chair, resulted in a global treaty and a Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. In 1990, the United Nations Association bestowed to her its Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award.

In addition to her work for peace, for social justice, and the arts, Sally Lilienthal was an active member of our community supporting progressive policies and politicians. For 30 years I was blessed with her support, her advice, and her friendship.

I extend my deepest sympathy to her family; Laurie Cohen, Liza Pike, Thomas Cohen, Matthew Royce, Steven Cohen, Sukey Lilienthal, Andrea Lilienthal, and her 11 grandchildren. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people mourn her passing and will hold Sally in their hearts forever.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AT TULE LAKE SEGREGATION CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague, Representative JOHN DOOLITTLE of California, to introduce legislation which is important to California, to Japanese-American communities all across the country, and to our collective understanding of history as Americans. This legislation will initiate a resource study of Tule Lake to determine whether or not it should be included as a unit of the National Park System. However, it represents so much more than just another government study.

Indeed, the information which will be produced from the examination of Tule Lake's potential for inclusion in the National Park System will begin to ease the wrongs of the past and point the way toward a future devoid of prejudice and fear. Passing this bill will help ensure that current and future generations of Americans learn from and avoid repeating the wrongs that were committed during the internment of Japanese and Americans of Japanese descent during World War II.

It has been nearly sixty-five years since President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. From Poston, Arizona—where I was born—to Minidoka, Idaho, productive and loyal Japanese Americans were interned under this executive order in camps which robbed them of their dignity, denied them the opportunity to build their lives, and undercut the very freedom which had attracted these individuals and their ancestors to America in the first place. Few can imagine such an episode occurring in a nation such as ours, which was in the midst of fighting to defeat the forces of tyranny and evil abroad.

Over the more than six decades which have passed since that fateful decision was made to imprison so many innocent people, much progress has been made to analyze, redress, and commemorate the crimes perpetrated against Japanese Americans during this dark period.

My late husband, Representative Robert T. Matsui, for example, was integral in passing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which represented a first step toward healing the wounds suffered by those who were interned. But righting the wrongs of our forebears does not absolve us of our duty to guard against their recurrence, no matter how much we may have increased our tolerance and respect for the many diverse cultures which comprise this great tapestry of a country.

Indeed, as the time of the internment becomes more and more remote, our responsibility to learn its lessons falls ever more squarely upon our shoulders. We can accomplish this solemn task by preserving the locations and structures which stood at places like Manzanar, Heart Mountain, and Tule Lake, so that our children and grandchildren can learn these lessons of tolerance, understanding, and loyalty.

Including Tule Lake Segregation Center as a part of the National Park System will add a critical element to the federal government's inventory of Japanese internment sites. Tule Lake was a camp like any other until the fall of 1943, when it was converted into a maximum-security detainment center for those Japanese Americans who were deemed to be exceptionally disloyal and dangerous. The vast majority of the 18,000 internees at Tule Lake Segregation Center were there because of their answers to one of two questions on a government loyalty questionnaire, which caused them to be categorized as "disloyal." Having been uprooted from their homes in 1941, their lives were upended for a second time when they were transferred from one internment camp to the even more remote installation at Tule Lake, near the California-Oregon border.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, it is crucial that Tule Lake join sites like Manzanar and Minidoka as units of the National Park System. As a segregation center, Tule Lake embodies some of the most wrenching aspects of the internment. It was there that the unfair choices between heritage and current loyalties were most harshly forced on Japanese Americans. As such, Tule Lake represents an additional perspective to be added to the historical record of the internment. Including it as a unit of the National Park System will ensure that the historical narrative which is unique to Tule Lake is never lost, but instead learned and understood by current and future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which will help marshal the resources of the federal government to ensure that the experiences of World War II and of the internment do not simply contribute to further resentment and anger. With this legislation, we will continue to convert the pain and regret of the internment into a positive force for change in the future.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MRS. JOSEFA CRUZ CERTEZA TO THE GUAM COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Josefa Cruz Certeza, known affectionately to her family and friends as Tan Pai, on the occasion of her 90th birthday, which she celebrates today, Monday, November 27, 2006.

Tan Pai was born and raised in the village of Piti, Guam, and currently resides in the village of Agat. Her parents are Enrique Santos and Josefa Perez Cruz. She was married to the late Delfin Quenga Certeza and has six children, 21 grandchildren and 40 great grandchildren.

On this special occasion we recognize Tan Pai's many contributions and her selfless service to our community over the past 60 years. Tan Pai is a strong Chamorro woman, and she is respected by our community as one of the eldest and few surviving Suruhanas (Traditional Healer) on our island today.

Tan Pai's life and vocation as a Suruhana began when her youngest son fell ill, and when she went to seek help for him from a Suruhana in a nearby village. That Suruhana was too busy and told Tan Pai to come back

the next day. Tan Pai felt that it would be too late for her son to wait, so she decided to find a cure herself.

Tan Pai learned the techniques of massage and herbal (the Chamorro) medicine from her mother, Josefa Perez Cruz, and from her husband's grandmother, Vicenta Quidachay Quenga.

Mrs. Vicenta Quidachay Quenga had learned the practices of a Suruhana herself firsthand from her mother. Mrs. Quenga was a gifted teacher who divulged the recipes to Tan Pai. There were many known Suruhanas at that time of Tan Pai's youth, but Tan Pai did not pay close attention to their practices and gifts until the incident befell her son and her strong interest in the tradition took root.

Raised in the Chamorro and Catholic traditions, Tan Pai is strong in her faith and believes that God has granted her a special gift, the power to cure, and that she should use this gift to help others in need. Since the age of 30, Tan Pai's specialty as Suruhana was in treatment of those illnesses which were considered ailments of children (chetnot famagu'on) and she has cured (Guiya uma amte) children of many illnesses which were traditionally treated by a Suruhana, and those of which modern medicine has no remedy. She uses massage, making medicines (using "lommock"), massage with applications of medicine, and massage with consumption of medicine.

Tan Pai was one of the Suruhanas mentioned in a manuscript, entitled, "I CheE'Cho Suruhana Yan Suruhanu (The Use of Traditional Medicine and Healers on Guam)." It was written, for review only, by three students working on a documentary at the University of Guam. The manuscript represents work over 10 years of research which began in 1981 as a student project. This project has evolved to include indigenous participation in cultural preservation and education, and has become a scholarly and scientific endeavor for the benefit of our island community.

Tan Pai has been featured as one of "The Last of the Suruhanas" in the Guahan Magazine and has received, on various occasions, local exposure from KUAM news and Guam Cable Television for her traditional Suruhana methods.

On behalf of a grateful island community, I join her children, Abeline, Bertha, Adelbert, Galo, Joseph, and Franklin, her family and friends, and all of the people of Guam, in extending a heartfelt "Dangkulo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase" to Mrs. Josefa Cruz Certeza for all of the good work she has done for our people, and for her continued selfless service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD STONES

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to bring to the attention of the Members of the House a recent tribute to Harold Stones, of Topeka, KS, that was published in the Topeka Capital-Journal.

The longtime former executive director of the Kansas Bankers Association, since retiring from that position in 1997, Harold Stones has served as special projects director for Kansas Senator PAT ROBERTS. As the Capital-Journal article details, at the age of 75, Harold continues to work diligently in the service of his fellow Kansans, working on economic development issues and serving as a liaison with Kansas military families.

I commend Harold Stones to my colleagues and encourage all to take his example to heart!

[From the Capital-Journal, Nov. 28, 2006]

STILL A "POLITICAL JUNKIE"

(By Jan Biles)

Harold Stones retired as executive vice president of the Kansas Bankers Association in 1997 after 30 years of service. But instead of taking it easy, he embarked on a second career—Kansas special projects director for Sen. Pat Roberts.

Stones, 75, of Topeka, said he had known Roberts for several years before the senator asked him to join his staff to work in the areas of economic development and military affairs.

"I will do this job as long as he wants me to," he said.

Stones grew up in a Smith County farming family who taught him the importance of voting and never shied away from politics.

"My great-grandfather was a probate judge. My grandfather was a county treasurer, and my dad was a township committeeman," he said.

After attending Fort Hays State University for a year, Stones taught in a county school for a year before joining the U.S. Air Force. When his four-year stint was over, he returned to Fort Hays State University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees. He was hired by the university to teach speech and coach the debate team and then became director of alumni affairs and student placement.

About a decade later, in 1967, he joined the Kansas Bankers Association. When he celebrated his 25th year there, the association set up a scholarship fund in his name at Fort Hays State University. Each year, four students are awarded scholarships.

"It's a general scholarship for a child of someone who works at a Kansas bank," he said.

Stones' experience at the bankers association gave him the opportunity to learn more about the ups and downs of the Kansas economy. The 1980s were particularly hard on the state's farming, energy and banking businesses.

"Every time a farmer went (under), an ag bank went with it," he said.

Stones tapped into that experience when Roberts tapped him for a staff position. He traveled throughout Kansas to meet with local chambers of commerce and economic development groups. He now is advising Roberts on how to build a high-tech job base in the state.

When the Iraq war started, Roberts asked Stones to act as the senator's liaison with Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth and McConnell Air Force Base. He has attended dozens of deployment and welcome-home ceremonies at the military bases, as well as memorial and funeral services.

"Senator Roberts writes a letter to each family (who has lost a loved one in the war) and I hand deliver the letter and talk to them," he said.

One of the highlights of his years with the senator was traveling to Bosnia in October 1997 as a volunteer to assist in organizing a multi-ethnic, democratic Bosnia Bankers Association.

"It was a slow process, but 18 to 24 months later Bosnia established a Bosnia bankers group," he said.

Stones said he exercises on a regular basis at a local fitness center and continues to be a "political junkie"—something that would please his office-holding ancestors.

Above all, he is optimistic about where the country and state are going.

"The past is gone," he said. "Our best days are yet to come."

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM B. GOULD IV

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to place into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the words of William B. Gould IV, former Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board and professor emeritus at Stanford University Law School. He recently wrote an article advocating changes to the National Labor Relations Act which merits inclusion in our Nation's RECORD. The following article was published in the San Francisco Chronicle on November 21, 2006, and was titled Why Labor Law Is Not Working.

America's labor law system and much of the workplace environment surrounding it are dysfunctional. But proposals about reforming the National Labor Relations Act, initially enacted as a "Bill of Rights" for workers to join unions and bargain collectively, have been bandied about without action for at least four decades. Most Americans who care about good labor-management relations have seen this movie before. Yet the Sept. 30 decision by the National Labor Relations Board that excludes many hospital charge nurses from labor law coverage as supervisors and its potential for doing the same to other professionals as well as skilled workers, is part of a new dimension to the story's plot.

For more than a half century, each new president's appointees have made the pendulum shift. But the changes, as most recently illustrated by the charge nurse decisions, take it up more than a notch; prominent management labor law firms are quickly providing Web postings about how to change the duties of employees so that they qualify for statutory exclusion. Well before this decision, the appointees of President Bush busily reinterpreted the law so as to deny many workers the opportunity for representation at the workplace.

For example, graduate teaching assistants at private universities, who function as both students and employees, were written out of the law two years ago. Prohibitions against fraternization amongst employees during non-working hours, a major avenue for self-organization, were viewed as lawful. The same applied to employer and NLRB denial of union protests in shopping malls. The collective-bargaining process was impaired by virtue of NLRB rulings that employers did not have an obligation to open their books to unions, contrary to Supreme Court mandate when the employer claims an inability to pay.

True, the law is a secondary factor in the precipitous decline in union membership to less than 13 percent of the workforce and to 7.8 percent in the private sector. Other factors—globalization, deregulation in transportation, vulnerable contingent and part-time employees, including illegal immigrants—are more significant as an explanation for labor's near-demise than the law's many weaknesses.

However, for the past 35 years, the inability of the law to provide an expeditious resolution to worker and employer complaints—

and thus assurance that justice will not be denied through its delay as well as inadequate remedies, have made reform necessary long before the Bush-appointed NLRB began to work its mischief. The newly elected Democratic-led Congress should address labor-law reform.

Notwithstanding the subordinate role the law plays in the workplace malaise, respect for the law and its function are an important element in the democratic process.

This time around, however, the discussion must take into account a need for more sweeping changes which affect the agency itself. More formidable than one-sided statutory interpretations is a lack of production of cases. Ironically, as the number of cases filed with the NLRB has dropped, in part because unions lost confidence in its rulings, the resolution of those cases remaining declined. The reason for NLRB lethargy is not only Bush's hostility to collective bargaining, but also the appointment process: the past decade and a half has witnessed the emergence of partisan appointees and a greater reliance on Washington insiders from Capitol Hill, who, having no place to return, cling to office while they fail to decide cases which, they fear, will interfere with their reappointment process.

The consequence of this is a politicization of decision-making, an ever-deeper NLRB ideological divide and the unwillingness of Congress to approve any presidential nominees without ''batching'' the appointments, i.e. providing for at least two appointments at a time, one with the blessing of labor, the other with the blessing of business. This means no more appointments like those made in labor law's early and halcyon days of the 1940s and '50s, when genuine impartial neutrals were appointed by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.

One answer to the production problem and its denial of the prompt relief to which both workers and employers are entitled is longer terms and a prohibition against reappointment. The number of board members should be reduced to three members rather than five. This year, the board is at full strength, and its production is worse than ever. It is obvious that politically anxious prevarication is exacerbated when there are a greater number of cooks standing around the cold soup. The denial of collective bargaining to the overwhelming majority of the American workforce is one of our democracy's great failings. While changing our labor law and those who administer it will not remedy all that ails us, it would be a step forward.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th birthday of the city of Spokane, Washington. Known as a ''tough'' town when Spokane was first developed, it quickly became known as the City of Wonder as tourists and sightseers flocked to the Inland Northwest to enjoy the beauty of its natural resources.

In their publication about Spokane, E.P. Charlton and Company wrote in 1909 that ''Nature seems to have ordained that Spokane, the City Beautiful and Prosperous, should endure without a rival, and it may well be called the keystone in the arch of states which span the western country between the Rockies and the Puget Sound.''

Today, Spokane continues to be a beautiful and prosperous city. And when we look at the current and future state of Spokane, we see a city of innovation, success, and growth. Not only is Spokane surrounded by wonderful natural resources, but it is home to innovative small businesses that are changing the world of technology, educational institutions that are ensuring a strong future for our students, and a thriving health care industry that is revolutionizing the way we receive and deliver health care.

I commend the city for its efforts to grow the economy while still maintaining its historical roots. Through the revitalization of downtown and the restoration of key historical landmarks, Spokane has grown into a wonderful community that has an incredible amount to offer both residents and visitors. The restoration of historic landmarks such as the Davenport Hotel, Steam Plant Grill, Old City Hall and Fox Theater help keep the spirit of Spokane alive while serving as new centers for high quality accommodations, restaurants, and entertainment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate with the citizens of Spokane, Washington as we mark 125 years of success as a city. Eastern Washington has become a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family because of the incredible people that reside here. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work of the citizens of Spokane, Washington as we commemorate our 125th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NICHOLAS MORABITO

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, with great pride and delight I rise today to honor a dedicated and respected community member, family man and veteran upon his 50th anniversary of exceptional service in the East Rochester School District.

Mr. Nicholas Morabito has led a life deeply connected and committed to his hometown of East Rochester, New York. Through his distinguished professional career and his spirit to make his community a better place, Mr. Morabito has left a lasting mark since graduating from East Rochester High School in 1943. Ten years later, Mr. Morabito would become the first graduate of East Rochester to be admitted to the New York bar, and in 1956 he would start his tenure as school attorney to the East Rochester School District, the position he still holds today. In this role for more than a half-century now, Mr. Morabito's priority and personal charge has been to serve educators and students, providing incomparable expertise and counsel to his Alma Mater.

That sense of dedication and service has defined Mr. Morabito his whole life, in East Rochester and beyond. In 1943, in the midst of World War II, Mr. Morabito joined the Navy after graduating from high school. Serving at Pearl Harbor and the Midway Islands through 1946, Mr. Morabito would return home a proud yet humble veteran who fulfilled his duty with honor and defended his country in the neediest of times.

After the war, Mr. Morabito began his distinguished legal career, which would be marked by his service in the New York State Assembly and Senate. From 1955 to 1960, Mr. Morabito served as counsel to the Military Affairs Committee in the state assembly, and from 1960 to 1963 served as counsel to the Labor and Industry Committee in the state senate. His civil service continued as Village Justice in East Rochester from 1960 to 1967, all the while fulfilling the position he so dutifully serves to this day as school attorney in East Rochester.

Mr. Morabito, through it all, has first and foremost been a devoted family man: husband to wife Patricia Ann for well over 50 years, father to 7 sons, and grandfather to 23 grandchildren. Born to parents Antonio and Angeline who emigrated from Italy, Mr. Morabito was instilled with the belief that family comes first. For Mr. Morabito, it does, and it always will.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his 50 years of tremendous service to the East Rochester School District and his courageous service to his country, and for his sense of community and his sense of family, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Mr. Nicholas Morabito.

RESOLUTION HONORING RUTH BROWN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this resolution today honoring the life of Ruth Brown. I join my colleagues Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member CHARLES RANGEL in recognizing the accomplishments of rhythm and blues singer Ruth Brown and her efforts to reform copyright royalty payments for recording artists.

On a sad day for the music community and myself, Ruth Brown passed away on November 17, 2006. She was a rhythm and blues singer known as Miss Rhythm and her talent rocketed her to become one of Atlantic Records' first recording stars. Her voice made her a hit from the 1940s and onward with such songs as ''So Long,'' ''Teardrops from My Eyes,'' and ''He Treats your Daughter Mean.'' Richard Harrington of the Washington Post said ''there was a world of hurt in those songs and an insistence on some justice, a boldness of voice that Miss Rhythm reached for as Miss Righteous.''

Ruth Brown's peers recognized her talent, as well. She won a 1989 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical in Black and Blue; a 1989 Grammy Award for her album ''Blues on Broadway;'' and 1993 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and a 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award from The Blues Foundation. Her autobiography, Miss Rhythm, received the Ralph Gleason Award for Music.

Aside from her own singing career, Ruth Brown became a tireless advocate for the rights of other rhythm and blues singers. She worked with Congress to advance the cause of copyright royalty reform so that rhythm and blues artists could receive the royalties they deserved from their music. She also helped found the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in 1988 to recognize, promote, and preserve

rhythm and blues music. The important work of the Foundation continues to this day.

The resolution we introduce today acknowledges these important contributions to American culture, recognizes Ruth Brown for her efforts to reform the royalty system, and expresses the House's deepest condolences to Ruth Brown's family and friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMMITMENT AND COMPASSION OF FAITH ELLIS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements and commitment of Faith Ellis to the people of the 26th Congressional District of Texas. Faith has been a trusted employee and friend of mine for several years, and her expertise, humor and true love for north Texas and her local Fort Worth community will be sorely missed.

Faith was invaluable in her outreach role within Fort Worth. Her experiences growing up and assisting her father, Reby Cary, in the Texas State House provided her a unique training ground to understand the intersection and balance of community representation and the legislative process. It also provided her with a very early exposure to elected officials at all levels within the State that afforded her a professional comfort to associate with them in her outreach and representative capacity.

This experience, followed by her role as a loving mother, and her community efforts, make her an inspiring role model. She always brought the best out in people and gently guided us all to a better understanding of the world around us. Her compassion was evident to all, and she searched for practical solutions to any stumbling blocks that ever arose.

Combined, these life experiences allowed Faith Ellis the unique skill set needed to carry with credibility the commitment I have offered to southeast Fort Worth to actively represent their needs, and put forth the effort and leadership needed to identify and address their economic challenges at the federal level.

In a community harboring partisan wounds resulting from Texas, this was no small challenge. Faith faced the challenges with determination, professionalism, and hard work and there is no question that she will be impossible to replace. The community will likely never fully appreciate her impact, but she has clearly laid the foundation for the efforts of me and my staff. Her work, both personal and professional for her fellow man, will bring outstanding long-term benefits.

I only hope that Faith knows how much she is loved and how much she meant to all of us. The outreach model she set forth in southeast Fort Worth and indeed, throughout the 26th District, will certainly stand the test of time. Thank you Faith, for all you are and all you have done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LINDA SMITH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Smith for her tireless efforts as a fundraising specialist for Opportunity Village, a laudable organization that provides vocational training and advocacy for the disabled.

Linda has been a major force at Opportunity Village in planning and developing fundraising strategies, most notably the privately-funded, multi-million dollar capital campaigns to build the Opportunity Village campuses and training centers that have served thousands of disabled people. Linda oversees the Opportunity Village Resource Development Department, which generates millions of dollars annually for programs for people with profound disabilities through special events and annual giving programs she has largely pioneered.

Her tenacity and dedication have resulted in the involvement of vocalist Celine Dion in the Opportunity Village mission, culminating a performance at a benefit concert on the Las Vegas Strip in honor of Opportunity Village's 50th birthday. Linda has also initiated capital campaigns totaling more than $48 million including the Leid Opportunity Campus on West Oakey Blvd., the Walters Family Campus in Henderson, the Culinary Training Center on the Opportunity Village main campus and the Southwest campus at Buffalo and Patrick.

For her efforts, Linda has received numerous accolades, including: being named the ''Fundraising Executive of the Year'' by the National Society of Fundraising Executives, receiving the Woman of Achievement Award from the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, being named an honorary member of the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, and being named ''Nevada Woman of the Year'' in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Linda Smith. Her hard work has allowed Opportunity Village to grow exponentially and enrich countless lives. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING DALE ROBBINS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dale Robbins for his years of service as the Busti Town supervisor. Mr. Robbins served his community well during his tenure in office.

Public service is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Robbins traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face throughout his tenure. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the constituents of Busti.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong and dedicated public servants with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Robbins is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

MARINE PVT HEATH D. WARNER

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, it is with both sorrow and pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated Marine and citizen from my district in Ohio who gave his life defending our country while serving in Iraq.

Marine PVT Heath D. Warner was killed on Wednesday, November 22, 2006, while conducting combat operations against anti-Iraqi forces in Haqlaniyah, in Al Anbar province. He was 19 years old. With his entire life before him, Heath risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway round the world.

Heath was a gunner on a Humvee when he, LCpl James Davenport, 20, of Danville, Indiana, and LCpl Joshua Alonzo, 21, of Dumas, Texas, were killed while conducting combat operations. The three were part of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, and were based in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

He was born on Friday, January 2, 1987, in Massillon, and was a lifetime resident of Canton. He was a 2005 graduate of McKinley High School. He had been a Boy Scout, taught break dancing at Living Fountain Dance Company, and was a member of the McKinley Young Republican Club. He enjoyed reading, martial arts, and was teaching himself Japanese and Arabic.

Even at the young age of 5, Heath dreamed of someday serving in the military. Following his high school graduation, Heath's dream of joining the Marines became a reality. His father, Scott, shared memories of Heath with the Canton Repository, recounting that his son was committed to the Marines, and had been intent on joining since childhood, even more so since September 11, 2001.

''He always had a desire to serve,'' he said. ''I was from a family with the core values of 'God, family and country.' I instilled that in Heath. It was natural that he would join the service.''

Heath was known for his deep faith, his dedication to his family, and his love of country. Today and always, Heath will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Ohioans as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

It is my honor to enter the name of Heath D. Warner in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. As I search for words to do justice in honoring Heath's sacrifice, I am reminded of the words of Jesus when He was comforting his disciples:

> Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Heath. Our Nation extends its heartfelt condolences to his family.

To his father, Scott, his mother, Melissa, and his brothers, Chandler and Ashton, we extend our profound gratitude for sharing this outstanding Marine with us, and we offer our prayers and support.

IN THE MINUTES OF OUR LIVES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, upon learning of the tragic death of United States Marine Corps Major Trane McCloud, the following poem was penned by Albert Carey Caswell, United States Capitol Tour Guide.

''In the minutes of our lives,
In these our short times, what of our true worth in the moments we're alive. . .
In what we've all so done!

''For it's how we've so lived and died,
All within these our short lives, are all of those magnificents who've so strived!
As did you Trane, as for America's fine son we now so cry!

''For Trane, your splendid life. . . will always be one of great meaning and sacrifice!
Yes, you America's True Son. . . of Liberty the one. . . shall so ever shine into that night!
Yes, Trane you were such the one!

''For a Gallant Hero who goes off to war,
Who so leaves their most precious loved ones behind, all for our freedom to ensure!
Is but The Brightest of All Sons!

''Trane, To Make A Difference with it all. . .
As You would not fail, as you would not fall. As what you so fought for, as what you saw!
Until, your fine life was done!

''In life, we all must make choices!
But it's only from the heart, so comes uncommon valor. . . from deep down these inner voices!
To do what must be done!

''To Heaven now rise my son!
You are but a Hero in our Lord's eyes. . . yes you are the one!
For only those brave of heart, who so play their part. . . souls up to Heaven shall so run!

''In these the moments of our lives,
Only in these, all of what we've so fought for. . . lived and died!
Shall take us To Heaven's Sun!

''And when there comes a gentle rain,
Trane's tears from up in Heaven shall wash down upon you to ease your pain. . .
Until, up in Heaven you so meet again. . . once again!''

TRIBUTE TO MAX H. DODSON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the exemplary service of Mr. Max Dodson. Mr. Dodson will be retiring from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 8 office in Denver, Colorado, this coming January.

For over 35 years, Mr. Dodson has been at the forefront of EPA's initiatives and programs. His career at EPA is marked with many firsts and a tireless dedication to the Agency and its mission. Since joining EPA in August 1971, Max held numerous positions in the Denver, Colorado, and Helena, Montana, offices. These include: Director, Montana Operations Office, Helena, Montana; Director, Water Quality Management Division, Denver, Colorado; and Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation, Denver, Colorado. He holds a B.A. in Geography and two masters' degrees, one in Geography and one in Public Administration.

In addition, Max served 4 years as an intelligence officer with the U.S. Department of Navy and spent more than 20 years in the Naval Reserve where he was the Regional Commander of a District Office for several years. On top of his service to our country, Max has been a past member of the South Platte River Commission, and the Red River, Poplar River and Souris River Boards of the International Joint Commission (a binational United States-Canada organization established under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909) and the Steering Committee for the American Water Resources Association.

In the early 1970s, Max was a major contributor to EPA's very first wastewater facility plan and the first ever basin-wide water quality management plan. Both of these plans guided the development and management of wastewater treatment systems within Summit County, Colorado, and Weber County, Utah. As the first of their kind, these plans were used as models for the rest of EPA and to this day, provide a guide to development and citing of wastewater treatment facilities in these two counties. Likewise, Max worked with the State of Montana to develop the first State/EPA agreement which provided the basis for environmental work within the State and enabled EPA to award millions of dollars in grants to the State in support of that work.

While a member of the Poplar and Red River International Boards, Max was instrumental in the development of some of the earliest agreements between Canada and the United States detailing how each country would manage activities in the river basin to minimize water quality impacts that each country's activities had on the other country. Another first for EPA, which Max initiated and cultivated from the 1980s through now, was bringing together the Superfund and Clean Water Programs to address serious water quality problems in the Western United States due to historical mining activities. As a consequence of Max's leadership, EPA Region 8 was the first region in the country to list mining sites on the Superfund National Priorities List. Today, several mine cleanups have been completed and many others are underway using Superfund resources to pay for the cleanup. Through his efforts the very first ''Good Samaritan'' agreement was developed for an abandoned mining site located in the American Fork Canyon in Utah. This agreement is serving as a model for others and has informed the Congressional deliberations related to new ''Good Sam'' legislation.

Another example of Max's leadership is the development of a Response Support Corps and Regional Response Center for EPA Region 8 during the early 2000s. Due to his foresight, Region 8 was able to contribute more than its proportional share of the EPA staff who worked on the Katrina recovery efforts. Max also served as a ranking officer during the initial response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Max was an important asset in the early days of the Katrina recovery efforts to get all of the disparate parties to work together and to ensure that the work done in the field was responsive to the needs identified.

For the last 11 years of Max's career he has been the Senior Manager overseeing the Region's Superfund, Brownfields, Emergency Response/Preparedness and National Environmental Policy Act programs, as well as several parts of the Agency's Clean Water Program. In all, his office of over 200 personnel has responsibility for implementation of six environmental statutes: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (a.k.a., Superfund); Oil Pollution Act; Brownfields Revitalization Act; National Environmental Policy Act; Clean Water Act; and Safe Drinking Water Act. Additionally, his office oversees cleanup of the Department of Defense sites under its Base Realignment and Closure, and Defense Environmental Restoration programs.

Region 8 has the distinction of being the home to some of the country's largest and most complicated Superfund sites and projects: Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Rocky Flats, Clark Fork Watershed, Clear Creek Watershed, and Libby Asbestos cleanups to name a few. The capstone of his many Superfund accomplishments was the work Max performed related to the final cleanup of Rocky Flats in 2006, enabling most of it to be converted to a wildlife refuge. Max served on the governing board that directed and oversaw the cleanup of Rocky Flats. Through his leadership and guidance, the $6.7 billion project was completed 14 months ahead of schedule and over $550 million under budget. Since 1980, 61 sites in the region have been listed on Superfund's National Priorities List—a list of sites representing the greatest risk to human health, welfare and the environment. By the end of 2006, 44 of the 61 sites will have been cleaned up, all but 4 under Max's tenure. Of the 44 cleaned sites, 11 have been deleted from the NPL.

Region 8 is a leader for the country in terms of the number of acres and cleanup projects restored to beneficial uses. For example, since April, 2004, over 13,000 out of a possible 17,000 acres of Rocky Mountain Arsenal have been converted from weapons and pesticides manufacturing to a National Wildlife Refuge, the largest urban refuge in the Nation. Revitalization projects which have received national recognition or awards under Max's watch have been:

1. Prairie Gateway—an over 900 acre project involving recreational and commercial uses Northeast of Denver, Colorado, including a world class soccer stadium and practice fields and a new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service visitor center for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge.

2. SLC Gateway—former 650 acre railyard that was converted to mixed retail, hotel, and residential use in Salt Lake City, Utah. The redevelopment was integral part of the 2002 Winter Olympics and was selected as a Brownfields Showcase Project.

3. Murray Lead Smelter—142 acre former lead smelter that was converted to a public transit station, hospital, and commercial/retail space located in Murray, Utah.

4. Colorado Bioscience Park and Health Sciences Center—the former property that

housed the Fitzsimons Army Hospital has been redeveloped into a $4.3 billion ''square mile of life science projects'' and is the focus for the biotechnology industry in the Rocky Mountain Region. The Colorado Bioscience Park located in Aurora, Colorado is the first university-affiliated ''biopark'' to be developed west of the Mississippi. It is adjacent to the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Hospital Complex, the Children's Hospital, and the Fitzsimons Commons town center, all of which make up the new development at the former Fitzsimons Army Hospital

5. Lowry Redevelopment—the former 1866 acre Lowry Air Force Base has been converted to 4500 residential properties, 4 college campuses, a town center with shopping and commercial space, and 800 acres of open/recreational space. Lowry has been so successful that it received the Governor's Award for Smart Growth and is a model community for urban-infill projects across the country.

Throughout his career, Max has been the recipient of many honors and awards, including two bronze medals, a U.S. Forest Service award, the prestigious 4Cs award from the Bureau of Land Management, a Department of Defense Award for work on Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and. several special SES service awards. In 2004 Max received the coveted Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive. The Presidential Rank Award recognized, among several other things, his leadership in setting up the first ''one stop'' funding process for Clean Water Act programs which was subsequently adopted by the Agency; reinvigorating and streamlining the Regional National Priorities Listing efforts which resulted in the addition of 12 new sites located in Region 8 to the National Priorities List; and evaluating the impacts of wastewater point and non-point sources of contamination on a watershed basis instead of the traditional discharge by discharge basis. Through Max's leadership, the EPA changed several of its approaches for addressing environmental problems and managing different aspects of the Clean Water and Superfund programs.

Max has contributed 40 years of service to the people of this nation and especially the communities encompassed within EPA's Region 8 area. His ''can do'' approach and personal style of working with people make him a role model for public servants in all aspects of government. I want to personally thank him for his work on the clean up of Rocky Flats and mine waste issues—especially ''Good Samaritan'' concepts—two issues that are especially important to my Congressional District. He has laid the foundation for all of us to continue his great work for the benefit of the environment, our quality of life and effective public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Max for his contributions and wishing him the very best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HIGGINS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Charles Higgins, in honor of his work and accomplishments for the Lincoln Park Board of Education.

Mr. Higgins has lived in Lincoln Park since the age of 5, and throughout his life he has been committed to making it a better place to live. Charles was first elected to the Board of Education in 1967 and he made it his goal to improve subjects that, from his time in high school in Lincoln Park, he felt were lacking. Such areas included vocational education and the math curriculum. Mr. Higgins' dedication to parent-teacher associations while on the Board granted him the Distinguished Service Award for his efforts with the students. His time on the Board earned him the recognition of the longest-serving board member in the district of Lincoln Park and in the state of Michigan, and the honorable position of Board President.

Mr. Higgins served as a liaison to the Michigan Association of School Boards, the City Council of Lincoln Park, to the City Recreation Commission. He has been deservingly honored with tributes such as the Book of Golden Deeds Award from the Lincoln Park Exchange Club and Award Merit and Award of Distinction from the Michigan Association of School Boards. He also served with dedication as one of 28 board members from the state as a Michigan Ambassador for Public Education.

Before his time on the Board, Mr. Higgins worked for General Motors and was a deacon at the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church. He is deeply involved in his community, and some of his current commitments include the Lincoln Park Athletic Club, Little League Baseball, Girl Scouts, and the Lincoln Park Democratic Club. He is also active with the senior community, delivering baked goods to the Lincoln Park Senior Center Towers.

I wish Mr. Higgins, his wife Marilyn, and their three children many good years filled with family, friends, and good health. The Southeast Michigan Community deeply appreciates his fantastic devotion and loyal service. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in wishing Charles Higgins a happy and relaxing retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRANDON BYERS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Airman First Class Brandon Byers for his courage and dedication to his comrades and his country by serving in Iraq.

On November 6th, 2006, Brandon returned home from serving at Camp Bucca, Iraq, as a Combat Convoy .50 Cal Gunner for ASO Missions and Commonly Remote Operated Weapons System (CROWS). He was greeted at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada by his unit, the 99th Security Forces Squadron with his wife and 5-year-old daughter by his side and his wounds healing.

On October 16th, 2006 Brandon experienced a terrifying ordeal that nearly cost him his life. While on active duty, Brandon's Humvee was hit with a bomb detonated by Iraqi insurgents. The improvised explosive device wounded him and two of his comrades while they were returning to camp in Southern Iraq from a mounted patrol mission. Brandon was manning a .50-caliber machine gun in the Humvee's turret when the bomb went off. Shrapnel peppered his body and two large pieces struck him—one in the right wrist and another in the upper left thigh.

Following the attack, Brandon was airlifted to a military trauma center in Kuwait to undergo extensive emergency surgery to remove the shrapnel and stabilize his injuries. Colonel Paul Curlett, commander of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, presented Brandon with a Purple Heart medal before his return to the U.S. to receive additional treatment at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

In addition to his Purple Heart, Brandon has received a number of other awards and decorations, which include the National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Air Force Small Arms Expert Ribbon with cluster award.

After his wounds heal and his rehabilitation complete, Brandon will have to go before a medical review board to determine his eligibility to return to duty. Otherwise, he plans to return to his previous post as an Installation Patrolman and Security Response Team Leader for the 99th Security Force Squadron. Brandon feels as if he has let down his ''brothers and sisters down range'' because he cannot be with them, fighting in the fields.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Airman First Class Brandon Byers for his undaunted demeanor and courageous conduct in defense of democracy. He is a true patriot who serves the United States with valor and courage; I commend him for his service and I wish him luck with all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION'S INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Democratic Pacific Union's (DPU) upcoming international symposium on democracy and congress this December 8 through 10 in Taipei, Taiwan. DPU, a non-governmental organization was founded in 2005 in Taipei to enhance dialogue and exchanges among members of parliaments from countries around the Pacific Rim.

This year's symposium will feature a number of panels on democracy, parliamentary procedures, presidential and congressional elections with participants from Mexico, Canada, the United States, Honduras, Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of China. I encourage my colleagues to attend this important symposium.

Taiwan has a special relationship with us. Our commitment to Taiwan's security, as stated in the Taiwan Relations Act, has enabled Taiwan to serve as a beacon of democracy in the Pacific region and beyond.

I also offer my congratulations to Taiwan Vice President Annette Lu for putting this symposium together.

COMMENDING THE ABBOT SHI YONGXIN OF THE SHAO LIN MONASTERY IN CHINA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on November 15th Abbot Shi Yongxin of the Shao Lin Temple in China visited Washington, DC to meet with Members of Congress and other U.S. Government officials. I had the privilege to meet this remarkable man and his traveling companions all of whom are expert practitioners of a specialized form of the martial arts commonly known as Kung Fu.

The Abbot leads one of the most ancient and most respected monasteries of its type in China, where he and his colleagues teach a synergistic philosophy based on the Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist traditions. Thousands of Americans have traveled to the Shao Lin Temple over the years in order to advance their spiritual lives; and upon their return to the United States shared what they learned with their friends, family, and neighbors. I firmly believe that these types of person-to-person exchanges are and rightly ought to be a critical component of our foreign policy strategy. These types of exchanges inevitably break down old stereotypes and foster deeper understanding between the United States and other countries. Although my conversation with Abbot Shi Yongxin was all too brief, I was impressed with the Abbot's unique insight into China and Chinese culture. As our nation struggles to cope with the rising power and influence of China, these are the kinds of insights and perspectives we will need in order to understand what motivates China's leaders.

The Abbot's visit to the United States, specifically, Alabama, New York, and Washington, DC, was facilitated by Dr. Thomas J. Rosandich, the president of the United States Sports Academy. The Academy is a unique degree-granting institution of higher education, focused primarily on sports management, sports medicine, and sports education. In fact, Abbot Shi Yongxin recently received an honorary degree from the United States Sports Academy to coincide with the launch of a cooperative agreement between the Temple and the Academy to teach Shao Lin Kung Fu in various locations around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of the Abbot and the other monks of the Shao Lin Temple—as well as the parallel efforts of the United States Sports Academy—to use their teachings to help foster international peace and understanding deserve our deepest appreciation and respect. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in commending Abbot Shi Yongxin and his colleagues for their outstanding work, and wishing them a safe and pleasant journey back home to China.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT WEST

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, Albert Caswell wrote the following tribute to my constituent, Scott West, who was injured while serving the United States in Iraq.

GO WEST YOUNG MAN

Go West Young Man!
Scott You are but The Very Best Young Man, as you are nothing less Young Man!
As oh how our Nation You So Bless Young Man!

A Brave Heart who went off to War . . .
Who so walked through The Valley of Death, all so our Freedom could be insured!
A Patriot who gave his most precious of all gifts, his legs! But came back home with far much more!

A Heroes Hero . . . This Army Man . . .
Such Strength In Honor . . . As such a Magnificent Hero, before us now so stands!
Who can defeat terror and death, who with but only his courage left . . . to new heights so ran!

For his new battle has just begun,
From Sun-up to Sunset, as This Magnificent Heroes quest shall never be done!
For there is no quit, for This Champion Is! Is the stuff of which movies are made of my son!

Just look at His Heart, Just look into His Eyes!
For in This Splendid Man of Courage and Faith, you'll find No Missouri Compromise!
He's not giving up! He's not giving in! As before us, The True Fine Definition of Where Courage so Lies!

And our time here upon this Earth, is but such a short time's worth!
Most people lead such useless lives, for only those of such splendid faith . . . shall so to Heaven rise!
As they teach us, as they so reach us . . . the ones in our Lord's Heart who so come first!

For We All must Walk This Road of Life,
Could we, in such dark moments in time . . . to somehow the courage find, as Scott to not think twice?
With head up high, with no pity to find . . . how we love you Scott! As to our World You bring Your Light!

Our Country Tis Thee, this our Sweet Land of Liberty . . .
Where our fine Nation, was so built upon such Heroic Heroes all throughout her history!
Go West Young Man, You Are America's Best Young Man . . . if I have a son, I pray like you he'd be!

Dedicated to Scott West and his family, and all those like them. Who teach us so much!

May our Lord Bless you, and he will!

HONORING NEW YORK STATE SENATOR MARC COPPOLA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform the House of the effective and faithful service in the New York State Senate of a great son of North Buffalo, New York State Senator Marc A. Coppola.

Marc Coppola's career in elective public service began with his appointment and subsequent election to the Buffalo Common Council's Delaware District seat in 2000. In that capacity, Marc and his office staff developed a reputation as one of the most effective and efficient constituent service operations in city hall. Constituents from throughout the city came to know that their problems and concerns could be addressed in Councilman Coppola's office.

In 2004, following an election cycle that saw the Common Council successfully downsized from 13 to 9 members, Marc was chosen by his council colleagues to serve as Majority Leader of the Common Council. Marc's leadership resulted in a number of important reforms in city hall and opened up city government to the people in greater numbers than ever before. I recall watching sessions of the Common Council in those days—I began my career as a Buffalo Councilman back in the 1980s—and I remember being struck by the professionalism that Marc displayed in serving as floor leader for the council at that time. Gone was the infighting and the grandstanding that marked floor debates years ago; Marc's steady hand and patient leadership brought dignity and honor to that legislative body.

Early in the year, after the election of then-Senator Byron Brown to the office of Mayor of the City of Buffalo, Marc Coppola won a special election as State Senator. In only several months in office, Marc developed a formidable record in the State. As a veteran of the New York State Legislature myself, I know well how partisan that institution can be, and as a Democratic senator in a Republican-dominated Senate, Marc demonstrated time and again his ability to reach across the aisle and work with the party in power. In so doing, Marc was able to see important legislation pass and become enacted into law, and he was able to best represent his constituents in Buffalo, Tonawanda, Grand Island and Niagara Falls.

Although Marc won't be returning to Albany in January 2007, the impact of his brief service in Albany will be felt long after his senatorial career concludes. The people of Buffalo and Western New York were well served by Marc Coppola, and as a young leader in our area, his service to our community is not complete. My personal best wishes go out to Marc, his wife Denise and their three sons, and I hope that you, Mr. Speaker, will join with me in extending to the Coppola family our best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. FRANK LUCAS ON BECOMING THE CHANCELLOR OF FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my good friend Mr. Frank Lucas on becoming the Chancellor of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

Frank founded LS3P Associates Ltd. in 1963 and built the firm to its present level of success where it employs over 160 people in Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina and Charlotte, Raleigh, and Wilmington, North Carolina. LS3P Associates Ltd. provides architecture, interior architecture, and land planning

services for clients throughout the Southeast. During its history LS3P Associates Ltd. has designed over $7 billion worth of construction projects.

LS3P was the recipient of the Outstanding Firm Award and for Distinction in Design by the Tau Sigma Delta Architectural Fraternity of Clemson University. In 1990 LS3P received the South Carolina Arts Commission's Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award for community service in the arts. In 1995 the firm was honored with the 25 Year Distinguished Service Award for firms by the American Institute of Architects South Carolina. Mr. Lucas has also received Clemson University's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1992 and the American Institute of Architects South Carolina's highest honor, the Medal of Distinction, in 1997. He was recognized as Architect of the Year by the Charleston Contractors' Association. He is a past president of the Hibernian Society and is involved with numerous civic, professional, and business organizations.

Mr. Lucas and his wife, Edith, both native Charlestonians, have three daughters and five grandchildren. LS3P and Frank Lucas proudly and strongly believe in giving back to the community, working for the betterment of the architecture profession, and serving his fellow man.

Frank Lucas has been a great success story, but he has not let that success change him. Frank has continued to give back to the community that he grew up in and I am very proud to congratulate him on achieving such a prestigious achievement as becoming the Chancellor of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MGM MIRAGE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the MGM Mirage for its laudable treatment of its Reserve and National Guard employees.

Under the leadership of Terri Lanni, Chairman and Chief Executive of the MGM Mirage, employees who are also serving in the armed forces as either Reservists or in the National Guard receive their full pay and benefits when they are deployed. This program has been in effect since 2003, and has so far covered 113 employees. Recently, the MGM Mirage, Nevada's largest casino operator, was honored by the Department of Defense with its Employee Support Freedom Award, the highest award that the military can bestow on employers.

In a time when many Reservists and National Guard troops are getting deployed and having to leave their primary sources of income, this program shows an acute awareness of the needs of those individuals and their families. When asked how much this program costs the company, Mr. Lanni responded, ''I literally don't care . . . it was the right thing to do, its just that simple.''

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the MGM Mirage and its Chairman, Terri Lanni. The program they instituted truly shows a dedication to the well-being of employees of the MGM Mirage and their families. I applaud them for their dedication and congratulate them on their recent honors by the Department of Defense.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MAX MAYFIELD

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of the works and accomplishments of Dr. Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL. Mr. Mayfield has played a key role in hurricane forecasting and has helped protect the lives and property of millions of people in the United States.

Since taking the helm of the National Hurricane Center in 2000, Director Mayfield has overseen a team of hurricane forecasters, specialists, and technical personnel at the center's headquarters in Miami. Mr. Mayfield strives to improve the warning lead times and increase the center's understanding of the tracks and intensity of hurricanes. As dangerous storms approached our Nation's coastal shores, Director Mayfield personally contacted governors and state officials stressing the importance of preparation and timely evacuation. He has spent countless hours providing warnings and valuable information to all those Americans located in the potential path of a hurricane.

Mr. Mayfield and his wife, Linda, celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary over the weekend of October 21, 2005. What was initially supposed to be a weekend get-away in Duck Key, just south of Miami, turned into another working weekend for Mr. Mayfield. Once again, a Category 3 hurricane, Wilma, was headed towards South Florida and Mr. Mayfield provided calm and clear hurricane forecasting.

Just a few days after the landfall of Hurricane Wilma, on October 27th, President Bush received a tour of the important hurricane facility and thanked Mr. Mayfield for his notable service to our Nation.

After more than 30 years of distinguished service to weather and hurricane forecasting, Mr. Mayfield will be retiring in January 2007. I know that the residents of South Florida will miss his calm and clear voice as approaching hurricanes threaten our coast. His pending retirement will mark the end of an exceptional career, and finding a worthy successor will undoubtedly be a difficult endeavor.

South Florida and our country are grateful for Mr. Mayfield's dedication in preparing and assisting the people of our community. Through his guidance and skilled predictions, Director Mayfield and his staff closely watched the path of countless hurricanes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Director Max Mayfield's numerous accomplishments and his dedication to weather forecasting. The citizens of South Florida and the United States as a whole have benefited from this man's service, and we owe him our gratitude. As Mr. Mayfield and his wife prepare to spend more time with their families and enjoy retirement, I know that my colleagues will join me in wishing them well.

COMMENDING MR. MAX MAYFIELD, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE NATION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced that Mr. Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida would be retiring in January 2007.

I want to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and all the Democratic Members of the Committee on Science to thank Mr. Mayfield for his service to our nation and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

Mr. Mayfield will be missed. He has served our nation with distinction for over 30 years. Mr. Mayfield is well known to all of our citizens, especially those in hurricane-prone areas. Mr. Mayfield's leadership of his forecasting team at the National Hurricane Center, his clear presentation of hurricane forecasts, and his abilities to coordinate and communicate with local emergency management personnel resulted in countless saved lives and better informed communities.

Prior to the tragic events resulting from Hurricane Katrina, the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center—under the Directorship of Mr. Mayfield—did an excellent job of predicting the track of the storm and issuing watches and warnings that permitted state and local officials to evacuate many of the people who were in the path of this devastating storm.

The active hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005 demonstrated the tireless dedication of Mr. Mayfield and his team, each of whom worked tirelessly to refine and deliver forecasts of the tracks and intensities of the storms that threatened our coasts.

Max Mayfield has set a high standard for future Directors of the Hurricane Center. I suspect he will continue to be involved in meteorology through his membership in the American Meteorological Society, and I can think of no better mentor and teacher for current and future meteorological professionals.

Thank you again, Mr. Mayfield, for your work at the National Weather Service. Your knowledge, experience and sound direction have been assets to the safety of our nation and the security of our citizens.

TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF MR. BRITT ''MAX'' MAYFIELD'S RETIREMENT FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Britt ''Max'' Mayfield on an exemplary career of service to his fellow citizens, and to wish him well in his much-deserved retirement. In his 34 years of service to the nation, Max Mayfield has personified the

dedication and excellence that make the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service one of the crown jewels of the federal government. Since he began forecasting weather for the Air Force in 1970, and over more than three decades with the National Weather Service, Max has helped push forward the science of forecasting to help make our nation a safer place. But just making better forecasts has never been enough for Max, because a forecast does no good if nobody hears it. Mr. Mayfield has also dedicated his career to making sure that his always-improving forecasts get out as quickly as possible to the people who need them. For example, he has worked tirelessly to make more educational opportunities available to emergency managers so that they have the tools they need to interpret and respond to hurricane and severe weather forecasts quickly and intelligently.

There is no doubt in my mind that Max Mayfield's exemplary efforts, and those of his hard-working staff at the National Hurricane Center's Tropical Prediction Center, have helped communities prepare for impending disasters and have saved lives in communities across the country and around the world.

I am not alone in my esteem for Mr. Mayfield. The American Meteorology Society, the National Association of Government Communicators, ABC Television, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the National Hurricane Conference, the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and President George W. Bush have all presented Max with formal awards for his outstanding achievements and service to his craft and to society. And those are just the formal awards—they do not include the many personal ''thank-you's'' that he has received from the very people he has spent his life serving, and from the people whose lives he has helped save.

So I am pleased to express my deepest gratitude to Max Mayfield, and to his endlessly supportive family for sharing him with us for this time. God bless you and the work you have done; I wish you calm weather and smooth sailing in your retirement.

MAX MAYFIELD RETIREMENT

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding public servant, Mr. Britt ''Max'' Mayfield, Director of the National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center. Since 2000, Mr. Mayfield has been the face and voice Americans trust for information about hurricane forecasts and warnings. He led the National Hurricane Center tirelessly during a time of many intense hurricanes hitting our highly populated coasts, including the record-breaking 2005 hurricane season that saw 28 named tropical storms.

For each tropical storm or hurricane, Mr. Mayfield and the staff of the National Hurricane Center work around the clock gathering information about the storms and constantly improving the projection of the storm's track. As a storm nears the U.S. coast, they often spend days at a time at the National Hurricane Center making sure that the public continues to receive vital forecast and warning information, even as their own families and properties may be in the storm's path.

Mr. Mayfield has served our Nation for 34 years, beginning in 1970 as a meteorologist for the Air Force before joining the National Weather Service in 1972. He is internationally recognized for his expertise in forecasting hurricanes. But, Mr. Mayfield also goes above and beyond his responsibility as a hurricane scientist. He dedicates much of his time to educating communities about the risks of hurricanes and making sure that the public understands the information in hurricane forecasts and what they need to do to protect themselves from these dangerous storms. Both his forecasting efforts and community service have been recognized with awards from many prestigious organizations.

I thank Mr. Mayfield for his more than three decades of service to this country and for the countless lives his hurricanes forecasts and warnings have saved. I also thank his family for the sacrifices they made to support him in this demanding job and wish him a long and relaxing retirement.

One final note. My wife, Marianne, contends that Max Mayfield is her favorite federal employee—and that, alas, probably includes me.

HONORING DR. EDWARD S. BENTLY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a celebrated colleague of mine in the health profession. Dr. Edward S. Bentley has been selected as the 2006 Physician of the Year by the Santa Barbara County Medical Society. His countless accomplishments truly warrant him the prestige associated with this award.

Dr. Bentley began his medical career at the University of Nevada and the University of Oklahoma Medical School. He then moved to California, where he worked for the University of Southern California Medical Center, serving as Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine and Chief Resident.

In 1986, Dr. Bentley established a private practice in Santa Barbara, specializing in gastroenterology. Over the past 20 years, he has proven to be a tremendous asset to our community. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Barbara County Medical Society from 1999–2005 and was president of the organization in 2004. Additionally, Dr. Bentley served as Vice President of the Santa Barbara Select I.P.A., member of the Santa Barbara Consortium on Continuing Medical Education, and delegate for the California Medical Association. He is also a member of the Santa Barbara County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, the American Medical Association and the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease, among numerous other organizations. In addition, Dr. Bentley holds numerous affiliations with many hospitals across Southern California.

Mr. Speaker, clearly I could stand up here all day and list Dr. Bentley's impressive achievements. He is a truly extraordinary doctor, citizen and esteemed member of the medical community. I am proud to serve as both his representative and colleague in health care. I would like to extend to him my most heartfelt congratulations and sincere wishes for continued success in both his personal and professional endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO DARA MARCOZZI AND MARYELLEN ''MIMI'' YURKOW

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two courageous New Jersey residents and cancer survivors, who have transformed their personal pain into an opportunity to bring hope to others. Dara Marcozzi and Maryellen Yurkow are inspirations to their communities, and it is my privilege to honor them today.

Dara Marcozzi and Maryellen ''Mimi'' Yurkow, both ovarian cancer survivors, have worked tirelessly to promote ovarian cancer awareness. They co-founded Teal Magnolias, the south Jersey chapter of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, to raise funds for ovarian cancer research and to bring together others suffering from the terrible disease—the fifth leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States.

Dara and Mimi are inspirations to us all, and their stories remind us that while we might face difficulties in our own lives, we have the power to overcome. These two remarkable survivors not only overcame their own challenges but now support others in their times of need. Their tireless efforts make our community, and our Nation, a better place.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHEAST POLK HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southeast Polk High School's football team, which made a run for the Class 4–A Iowa State Football Championship. With an 11–2 record for the season, this football team placed second in the State championship. This was the first time the Rams had ever advanced to the State championship. All of central Iowa is very proud of the team's achievement.

In addition to this achievement, four young men on the team received the First Team All State Honors while the head coach, Denny Muller, was named Coach of the Year in the Central Conference.

As Vince Lombardi once said about teamwork: ''The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.'' This great season was undoubtedly the result of tireless dedication by the coaches and the players.

Congratulations go to each member of the team, the coaches, the managers and the cheerleaders for an outstanding football season:

Players: Zach Ballard, Ethan Bass, Drew Behrens, Josh Bell, Jacob Bergeson, Kenny Berry, Jon Bianchi, Travis Bos, Jake Boston, Drew Bower, Taylor Bowie, Sam Bricker, Tony Burrows, Ben Burzacott, Seth Churchill, Adam Davis, Tanner Farley, Andy Fisher, Chris Foster, Avery Gaston, Dustin Hickman, Mike Hoburg, Andrew Host, Brett Hughes, Kody Ingle, Brian Johnson, Kyle Johnson, Tyler Johnson, Andrew Khounchanh, Ty Knowler, Brad Lamberti.

Brian Lathrop, Kevin Leffler, Scott Lusk, Jordan Mallicoat, C.J. Massey, Kyle McClain, Nick McGinn, Ryan Medina, Mike Medina, Chris Medina, Seth Negrete, Andrew Rojas, Stephen Saunders, Cody Shepherd, Jacob Slings, Stephen Smith, Nate Snead, Jeremy Snead, Billy Sowder, Jake Stewart, Tyler Underwood, Jared Vandewall, Jake Viggers, Tyler Walsh, Jordan Wells, Brett Wilkin, Harrison Williams, Tyler Wilson, Shane Wong, Jeff Woody, and Zoran Zailac.

Managers: Lexi Armantrout, Amanda Backous, Beth Denning, Amanda Johnson, Jen Larson, and Tommi Music.

Coaches: Nate Ballagh, Jake Bartels, Adam Booth, Eric Hendricksen, Bob Knipp, Kelly Knowler, Mark Martin, Randy Mehrl, Lou Mooney, Denny Muller, Troy Schwemm, Don Starcevich, Craig Wilkin, Pat Wilson, and Brad Zelenovich.

Cheerleaders: Caitlin Bair, Marissa Brehm, Callie Buck, Cassey Guldner, Kris Kaufman, Macie Kingery, Chelsea Kisner, Samantha Lynn, Mindy Roney, Marissa Rouse, Chelsea Sigmund, Ashley Sowder, Kim Sparks, Whitney Stewart, and Abby Vance.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Opportunity Village for over 50 years of service to Nevada's disabled population.

Since its founding in 1954, Opportunity Village has greatly improved the lives of countless disabled persons and their families. Through vocational training, community job placement, advocacy, and social recreation programs, Opportunity Village serves more than 3,000 people with intellectual disabilities annually.

Opportunity Village does far more than serve those with disabilities; this organization has a profound impact on the entire Southern Nevada community. Opportunity Village operates two work center campuses and one thrift store. It also operates a vehicle donation program, trains and places hundreds of disabled adults in jobs throughout the community, and hosts some of the most popular special events in all of Las Vegas, including the annual Magical Forest.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Opportunity Village. Their tireless advocacy on behalf of those with intellectual disabilities has enriched countless lives. I applaud Opportunity Village for their mission of encouraging its clients to follow their dreams, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING DON HILLMAN

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the late Don Hillman of Tulare, California, who died Oct. 19, 2006 at the age of 86.

Don was known as Mr. Tulare. His life exemplified the character traits of integrity, humility, public service and love of family and community. He represented the community he loved on the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for 20 years, twice serving as its chairman. From that position of trust, he helped shape a county that has become one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world.

He was recently remembered by friends as the man every community needs and so few communities have. As a personal friend of Don's, I wholeheartedly agree with that statement.

Don was part of the Greatest Generation, serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, rising to the rank of lieutenant commander.

Born May 17, 1920, in Glendale, Hillman's family moved to Tulare a few a months later. He graduated from Tulare Union High School in 1938. He was the student body president and, years later, he was on the organizing class reunion committee and the Tulare Community Auditorium Restoration Foundation.

He is also credited with helping revitalize downtown Tulare, which remains a vibrant and welcoming business district to this day.

He is survived by his wife, Laverne, his son, Dave, and two grandchildren. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great American.

HONORING THE DETROIT TIGERS, 2006 AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Detroit Tigers, winners of Major League Baseball's American League Championship. This October, for the first time in 22 years, my city of Detroit, Michigan was represented in the World Series. After years of setbacks, 2006 marked a turning point in the fortunes of my beloved home team.

Just three years after the club suffered through a 119 loss season, the Tigers surged to the top of the major league standings in May, a position they did not relinquish until late September. Thanks to the play of veterans like left-hander Kenny Rogers and closer Todd Jones, the emergence of previously unestablished players Curtis Granderson, Brandon Inge, Craig Monroe and Marcus Thames, and the significant production from erstwhile All-Stars Ivan Rodriguez, Magglio Ordóñez and Carlos Guillén, the Tigers completed an extraordinary season by facing the St. Louis Cardinals in the Fall Classic. While our Detroit boys fell short in the series, finally losing to St. Louis in 5 games, they made all of Michigan proud with their sportsmanship and hard work.

Every great team needs a great leader and the Tigers are no exception. Last October, after a disappointing late season fade the Tigers hired Jim Layland to right the club's ship and under his brilliant leadership the Tigers roared to life. Layland, who spent the first 18 years of his professional baseball career in Detroit, guided the Tigers to a 95–67 record, the Tigers' best season since 1987. In doing so, he also became the seventh manager in history to win pennants in both the National and American Leagues. Due to his achievement this year he was recognized with the 2006 Manager of the Year award for the third time in his career. Leyland also became the third person to win the award in both leagues.

Even though the Tigers did not ultimately win the World Series, in winning the American League Championship Series they demonstrated a spirit and determination that rekindled memories of the great Tiger teams of the past. I join both the citizens of Detroit and the great state of Michigan in congratulating the Detroit Tigers for their remarkable 2006 season.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN MAJOR OWENS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Congressman MAJOR OWENS on the occasion of his retirement after 12 terms of service in the United States Congress.

Born in Collierville, Tennessee in 1936, Congressman OWENS' commitment to education began at an early age with his own scholastic achievements. He received a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College, a Master of Science degree from Atlanta University, and later went on to serve as a librarian before entering the political arena. Congressman OWENS also served as a Community Activist and Ivy League Professor.

As Ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee for Workforce Protections, OWENS defended workers' rights by supporting minimum wage increases and strong protections of overtime payment. OWENS promoted the benefits of integrating technology and education, and fought to expand access to classroom technology for disadvantaged students.

The ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of Congressman OWENS' district—including constituents of Hasidic, Caribbean, and Eastern European backgrounds—is largely reflected in the multiplicity of his success within Congress. Congressman OWENS' influence has extended beyond our nation's borders: As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, he fought vehemently to restore the democratically-elected President of Haiti. His dedication to Africa and the Caribbean has shaped American foreign policy, including HIV/AIDS legislation and the African Growth and Opportunities Act.

The hard work and enduring legacy of MAJOR OWENS should be applauded. Mr. Speaker, I invite all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Congressman OWENS on his retirement, and sending him our best wishes for the next chapter of his life.

IN MEMORY OF DR. GEORGE MEETZE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in loving memory of Rev. Dr. George Elias Meetze. Dr. Meetze died Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2006, after a brief illness. He was born June 24, 1909, in Columbia South Carolina. He was the son of the late Narvie Elias and Fannie Belle Leitzsey Meetze. On June 30, 1936, he married Margaret Allen who predeceased him.

Dr. Meetze was Columbia High School Valedictorian class of 1927. He was a graduate of the University of South Carolina, A.B., cum laude, 1930; the N.Y. Theological Seminary, N.Y., S.T.M., 1933; the Lutheran Southern Seminary, Columbia, 1934; and received his Honorary D.D. Degree conferred at Newberry College Centennial Convocation, Nov. 28, 1956.

Dr. Meetze served as Pastor to St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, Charleston (was ordained there July 8, 1934), 1934–37 and Grace Lutheran Church, Prosperity, 1937–42; Retired Pastor Emeritus, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, June 1942–1974. He was elected Chaplain of the S.C. Senate January 10, 1950, serving until his death. His 57 years of service established him as the longest serving Chaplain of a legislative body in the history of the world.

Dr. Meetze's 97 years consisted of numerous activities, honors and services, included were serving on the boards of Social Missions Lutheran Synod of S.C., S.C. Synod Lutheran Church of America, Junior League Speech and Hearing, Salvation Army and S.C. Chapter of the American Cancer Society, where he was a past president. He enjoyed his memberships in Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, the Columbia Rotary Club, Heptagon Club, the Palmetto Forum, The Friday The Thirteenth Club, and the S.C. State Guard, where he was a Colonel and Chief Chaplain. He received the Service to Mankind Award by the Columbia Sertoma Clubs, the Paul Harris Fellow Rotary International award, the Order of the Palmetto, the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award, and the 2000 U.S.C. Alumni Award. Dr. Meetze was the author of The Development of Dr. Martin Luther's Doctrine of the Lord's Supper. He was listed in Who's Who in the South & Southwest, S.C. Lives, Dictionary of Intl. Biography & Royal Blue Book.

Surviving are his sons and daughters-in-law; George Allen and Suzanne Meetze of Marion and William Dagnall and Toby Meetze of Columbia; grandsons, Michael Allen Meetze and wife, Tracy, William Vickery Meetze, all of Marion, George Seabrook Meetze and wife, Alston, William Dagnall Meetze Jr. and wife, Sheri, all of Columbia. Also surviving are his beloved infant great-grandsons, Elias Shaw Meetze and twins, William Seabrook Meetze and Joseph Alston Meetze; and nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces. He was predeceased by sister, Thelma Meetze Frick.

Dr. Meetze loved his God, his family, the South Carolina Senate, his state and his country. He enjoyed helping people and was always ready "to send up a prayer" as he said "for those who needed one." He will be greatly missed by his thousands of friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the NATO—Parliamentary Assembly, I traveled to Quebec, Canada, from Sunday, November 12 to November 15, 2006 to participate in the assembly meetings. Due to the timing of the meetings and return travel, I was unable to participate in votes on Monday and Tuesday, November 13–14. I am requesting my absence for this date. I would also like you to note that, should I have been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

"Aye." H.R. 3085—Amending the National Trails System Act (Roll no. 517).

"Aye." S. 819—Reallocation of funds for the Pactola Dam (Roll no. 518).

"Aye." H.R. 5602—Authorizing the Extension of Nondiscriminatory Treatment to the Products of Vietnam (Roll no. 519).

"Aye." H.R. 6314—Extending provisions within the Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program (Roll no. 520).

"Aye." H.R. 864—Sober Truth in Preventing Underage Drinking Act (Roll no. 521).

"Aye." H.R. 5585—Financial Netting Improvements Act (Roll no. 522).

"Aye." H. Res. 1078—Congratulations to 2006 World Series Champions (Roll no. 523).

CONGRATULATIONS TO LUCRETIA JACKSON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lucretia Jackson of Alexandria, Virginia, on being awarded the Washington Post's Distinguished Education Leader Award for 2006.

As principal of Maury Elementary School in Alexandria, Ms. Jackson has led the school's dramatic turnaround. In the four years since Maury was "accredited with warning" in four content areas, Ms. Jackson has worked tirelessly to improve all aspects of school life. Since joining the school in 2004, she has spent endless hours recruiting a "dream team" of teachers for the school, revamping the entire licensed and support staff with dedicated and inspiring new staff who were ready to work hard and turn the school around.

Standards of Learning test scores at Maury have improved drastically due to Ms. Jackson's work. Every student at Maury passed the science SOL in 2006, compared to only fifteen percent in 2003. Similar improvements have been seen in math and reading SOL scores: Ninety-three percent of students passed their reading SOLs compared to only forty-five percent in 2003, and eighty-three percent passed the math portion compared to only thirty-eight in 2003. Ms. Jackson encouraged teachers to work closely with students to improve these scores, even instituting a "Secret SOL Supporters" program to help encourage students through difficult study periods with notes and gifts hidden at students' desks.

Maury Elementary is now a model example for underperforming schools thanks to the hard work of Ms. Jackson and her staff. Despite an early drop in enrollment after the poor test scores of 2003, enrollment has risen right along side test scores at Maury. I am sure that under Lucretia Jackson's leadership, the school will continue to see immense improvements in the years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Jackson on this award and her tremendous success.

TRIBUTE TO M. ATHALIE RANGE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great sadness to memorialize the late M. Athalie Range, who, at age 91, died on Tuesday, November 14, 2006. I join our community, now saddened by the passing of this great civil rights icon, who represented all that is decent and honorable about our common humanity.

A genuine legend, this eloquent and courageous lady held our disenfranchised community together when access to equal justice was denied to us. She led the struggle of reason and conscience in righting this wrong.

She was barely 5 feet tall, but she stood indomitable against the forces of segregation and racism. She was a pioneer in forcing equal opportunity and justice for all. M. Athalie Range was a beacon who showed the way for us in fighting for the rights of others. The magnitude of her courage and the strength of her heart defined her will to end inequality and discrimination everywhere she found their evil vestiges.

A native Floridian, Ms. Range was born in Key West, was educated in Miami, and graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School. Her achievements were numerous, but a prominent accomplishment was her election as the first African-American to the Miami City Commission. She was the first Black woman ever to head a State agency, appointed by then-Florida Governor Reuben Askew as Secretary of Community Affairs, and she was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Board of AMTRAK. Her humanitarianism was duly recognized when she was given the Silver Medallion Award by the Florida chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, followed by the Spirit of Excellence Award by The Miami Herald.

"She knew more about politics than anyone I knew," said former U.S. Rep. Carrie P. Meek. "She taught me humility, first and foremost. She taught me to go out and talk with the little people in the community, who no one else thought about."

Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to write these statements on behalf of this "Grande Dame of Public Service" without thinking of my many wonderful memories of her. The most appropriate way I can describe her was that her life was as gentle as her words were gracious, purposeful and elegant. Her descriptions of our challenges as a people were insightful—so

simple and yet so impeccable that no one doubted that we were in the presence of an awesome leader whose promise of liberation was inspiring.

This is the legacy left by M. Athalie Range. With humble faith, we will now consign her back to the God she loved and served. I am glad that leaders like M. Athalie Range never have to say goodbye, because she will truly live on with us.

TRIBUTE TO H.B. PLANT HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the H.B. Plant High School girls' volleyball players, a powerhouse team who just this weekend won its first Class 5A state volleyball title since 2003.

With a 28–2 record, the number one ranked Panthers defeated Fort Meyers 25–16, 25–23, 25–19 in the championship match at The Lakeland Center. The team was led by senior Christine Williamson's 14 kills, five blocks and 12 digs.

Last season, the Panthers' march to victory was cut short by a heartbreaking loss to Venice during the state regional semifinals. At the beginning of this season, the Panthers made their intentions clear by wearing warm-up t-shirts that read ''Unfinished Business.'' ''Unfinished,'' however, was printed on a strip of Velcro, and on Saturday, the team proudly tore off ''Unfinished'' to announce their completed mission—''Finished Business.''

The Panthers' victory could not have been possible without the tireless efforts of coach Leanna Taylor. The team's final win gave Taylor her first state championship medallion as head coach.

Saturday's victory marked the culmination of countless hours of practice, the team members' unwavering dedication and unmatched skill. On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I commend all the Panthers for their championship win. We are all looking forward to your next season.

GEORGETOWN HONORS FATHER ROBERT DRINAN

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on October 23 one of the most accomplished and distinguished people to serve in this House was the recipient of a wholly deserved high honor from one of the leading law schools in this country—Georgetown Law School. On that day, Georgetown Law School, where Father Drinan has taught since leaving the House twenty-six years ago, established the Robert F. Drinan, S.J., Chair in Human Rights. The establishment of this Chair—a very significant honor in academia—recognizes the pioneering work that Father Drinan did as a Member of this House for ten years, and his continued commitment to that great work. Few people in our history have had as great a dedication to the cause of human rights and have been so consistently effective in advocating for this cause. Unlike many who have tried to make this a partisan issue, Father Drinan was equally fierce in his objection to human rights violators of the left, right and center, and accepted no excuses from those who would deny the basic rights of others.

Mr. Speaker, Father Drinan served here in this body for ten years as one of its intellectual leaders, having been elected in 1970 as one of the most effective opponents at that time of the war in Viet Nam. He also played a very significant role in the impeachment of President Nixon, insisting that appropriate legal standards be applied in that matter. He was also a leader in matters that did not divide the House on either partisan or ideological lines, for example in the field of copyright, where he made contributions during that period that remain important foundations of our law today.

Mr. Speaker, when Father Drinan declined to run for reelection in 1980 at the direction of Pope John Paul II, I was elected to succeed him. While I had been aware previously of the great respect and affection in which he was held by his colleagues, I came to appreciate that even more fully when I took the seat he had so ably filled in 1981.

In the years since leaving this body, Father Drinan has continued to be a leader in the application of religious teachings to important moral issues; in lecturing and teaching about the law; and of course in continuing his great work in the field of human rights. Georgetown Law School deserves recognition, Mr. Speaker, for establishing this Chair in Father Drinan's name. I congratulate Professor T. Alexander Aleinikoff, who will be the first holder of the Chair, and I ask that the discussion of Father Drinan's work included in the program announcing the event be printed here so that people will understand how important his impact has been on the best traditions of our country.

ROBERT F. DRINAN, S.J., CHAIR IN HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Today, Georgetown Law proudly announces the creation of the Robert F. Drinan, S.J., Chair in Human Rights. Priest, scholar, lawyer, politician, activist, ethicist, and one of the nation's leading advocates for international human rights, Father Drinan has dedicated his life to humanitarian causes and to improving the legal profession.

A member of the Law Center's faculty since 1981, Father Drinan teaches courses in international human rights, constitutional law, civil liberties, legislation, legal ethics, and professional responsibility. During his tenure at Georgetown, he has taught over 6,000 students.

Father Drinan earned his B.A. degree in 1942 and his M.A. degree in 1947 from Boston College and his LL.B. in 1949 and LL.M. in 1951 from Georgetown University Law Center. He entered the Society of Jesus while at Boston College, and in 1953, he was ordained a Jesuit priest. From 1956 to 1970, he served as Dean and Professor of Law at Boston College Law School. During the ten years between his deanship and joining the Georgetown Law faculty, he served in the United States Congress as a Representative from Massachusetts, where he was a member of various committees and chair of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice of the House Judiciary Committee.

Throughout his career, Father Drinan has stood as a leading voice in the human rights movement. He serves on the boards of numerous organizations devoted to the furtherance of human rights, including the International League for Human Rights, Human Rights First, the Council for a Livable World Education Fund, Americans for Democratic Action, and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. He was a founder of the Lawyers' Alliance for Arms Control and the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry. Father Drinan has traveled the globe, both as a member of Congress and as a private citizen, on human rights missions to Chile, the Philippines, EI Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Argentina, France, and Vietnam to document human rights abuses and to work for their eradication. He is the author of several notable works on human rights, including The Mobilization of Shame, of which Elie Wiesel said, ''Anyone interested in human rights will read Robert Drinan's informative, passionate and challenging book with deep concern and hope.''

In 2004, Father Drinan joined such American legal luminaries as Oliver Wendell Holmes, Thurgood Marshall, and Sandra Day O'Connor when the American Bar Association awarded him its ABA Medal—the organization's highest honor—which recognizes exceptionally distinguished service to the cause of American jurisprudence. The award citation notes, ''For more than half a century, Father Robert F. Drinan has been an esteemed and beloved leader of the bar and a fearless advocate for the powerless and oppressed around the world. . . . Throughout his career, Father Drinan has heeded the call for human rights and social justice. With unparalleled passion and dedication, he has strived to improve the plight of the disadvantage and oppressed, and to advance the rule of law throughout the world.''

Through the generosity of alumni and friends, Georgetown now recognizes and honors one of its greatest sons, Robert F. Drinan, S.J., L'49, L'51, with the creation of the Robert F. Drinan, S.J., Chair in Human Rights. This meaningful and lasting tribute will enable the Law Center to attract teachers, advocates, and scholars who share Father Drinan's passion and concern for liberty, equality of opportunity, and human dignity and who will inspire the next generation of Georgetown Law students to become leaders, protectors, and defenders of human rights.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. MIRIAM AND SHELDON G. ADELSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor longtime philanthropists and community supporters, Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson for their generous contributions to the Las Vegas community with the endowment of the Adelson School.

The Adelson School is the first and only Jewish High School in the Las Vegas area. The Adelson School will provide these students the opportunity to further their educational ambitions by combining rigorous academic standards with a strong foundation in morality and ethics. Opening during the 2007–08 school year, the Adelson School will provide students with state-of-the-art classrooms with integrated technology, a performing arts center, full-service dining facilities, and a full physical education facility. The physical education facility will include the only indoor, competitive-size swimming pool in Las Vegas. Dr.

Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson donated a charitable $25 million gift to establish this institution.

Sheldon is the Chairman of the Board and principal owner of Las Vegas Sands Corporation which is the parent company of The Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Venetian Macao Limited in Macao, China. Throughout his career as a financial consultant, Sheldon has created and developed over 50 different companies, including COMDEX, a tradeshow he developed for the computer industry. In 1989, Sheldon purchased the Sands Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas and then imploded it in 1991 to develop and build the Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino, which has become known as one of the finest hotels in the world. Throughout the years, Sheldon has received numerous honorary degrees and other illustrious awards in recognition of his business and philanthropy achievements and success.

Born in Tel Aviv, Israel, Dr. Miriam Adelson has devoted her life to the medical profession and helping others in need. Miriam specializes in internal and emergency medicine, specifically chemical dependency and drug addiction. She heads both the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Clinics in Tel Aviv, Israel and Las Vegas, Nevada, which have successfully treated thousands of individuals suffering from heroin and cocaine drug addictions. She has authored several scientific papers about the effects of drug addiction on the human immune system and she continues to serve on the faculty of Rockefeller University as a guest researcher. I applaud her commitment to providing access to quality healthcare and education to the residents of Southern Nevada.

In addition to education and healthcare, Dr. and Mr. Adelson are dedicated supporters of Yad Vashem and other causes in Israel and Jewish communities abroad. As a result of their generous support, the Museum of Holocaust Art at Yad Vashem was established in memory of members of the Zamelson and Farbstein families as well as Dr. Adelson's parents, all of whom perished in the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson for their unwavering kindness and generous donations to the communities they strive to improve. They are dedicated to improving the quality and the availability of education. The Adelson's enthusiastic commitment to education will help students reach new heights of achievement with the opening of the Adelson School. Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson have made a profound difference in our community and we are most fortunate to have such wonderful and caring supporters of education and health care. Their heartfelt dedication is commendable and I wish them luck in all their future endeavors.

ANIMAL ENTERPRISE TERRORISM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2006

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with S. 3880, The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act.

I believe that individuals and groups cannot resort to intimidation, vandalism or violence in the advancement of a cause. Protests must be lawful and disagreements respected. But, this bill, as drafted, could criminalize lawful and constitutionally protected activists.

This bill criminalizes conduct that ''intentionally damages or causes the loss of any real or personal property,'' however, the bill fails to define what ''real or personal property'' means. As a result, legitimate advocacy—such as a boycott, protest, or mail campaign—that causes an animal enterprise to merely lose profits could be criminalized under S. 3880.

It also fails to adequately define the term ''animal enterprise.'' Nothing in the current definition requires that an enterprise be lawful. Therefore, investigations into unlawful animal enterprises, such as animal fighting organizations or illegal puppy mills, could be deterred as employees, citizens, and legitimate animal activists may be afraid to cooperate or provide information to law enforcement agencies for fear of prosecution under the terms of this bill.

I am a strong supporter of research, but I also believe that animal rights need to be vigilantly enforced. In order to achieve that goal, I have been working with the Humane Society on amendments to the Animal Rights Act, which is the law that governs the humane care, handling, treatment and transportation of animals in laboratories and dealers who sell animals to laboratories and animal exhibitors. My bill would provide two keys changes to this law. First, it doubles the fine for violations (from $5,000 to $10,000) and increases the number of annual inspections at laboratories.

I will be introducing this measure when the House comes back for the 110th Congress, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in providing these additional animal protections.

HONORING PATRICIA THOMPSON OF NAPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Patricia Thompson for many years of visionary leadership as the city manager of Napa, CA. Pat has been an outstanding leader for all of us over the 17 years she has been with the city, and her hard work and dedication will be felt in the many projects and improvement she nurtured and brought to fruition during that time.

Mrs. Thompson was born in San Diego and attended San Diego State University, where she received first a bachelor's degree and then her Masters of Public Administration with highest honors. She held a number of jobs with cities in Nevada, culminating in 7 years as the city manager of Sparks from 1981–1988. In 1988, Mrs. Thompson was honored by the American Society of Public Administration as the organizations National Administrator of the Year.

The city and people of Napa have benefited immensely from Mrs. Thompson's arrival in 1989. Among the numerous projects that she has spearheaded are infrastructure improvements like the new Highway 29-Trancas interchange, new parks, walking paths, and a fire station. She has been a leader in attracting businesses to the Napa area through a series of development projects that have restored and expanded commercial spaces in the city. On numerous occasions when a decisive leader was needed, she has stepped in as a temporary Director of Emergency Services to meet the city's needs during floods, drought and the earthquake. She was the main force behind the city of Napa's effort to pass the Measure A Flood Control Sales Tax, and this facilitated ongoing developments and improvements to Napa County's flood control project.

In addition to her busy roll as city manager, Mrs. Thompson has found time to serve on numerous local governance and non-profit boards. Her participation in these forums has allowed the various governments of Napa County to better coordinate their efforts. She has also served as an Advisory Member to the board of the Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Patricia Thompson for her invaluable service to the city of Napa, and for the numerous projects she has overseen and led to completion. Her exemplary leadership has left a legacy for our community that will extend far into the future.

HONORING BARRY BUCEY AS THCA'S NASHVILLE DISTRICT CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Certified Nursing Assistant Barry Bucey as Tennessee Health Care Association's Caregiver of the Year, representing the Nashville District.

Barry began working at Woodbury Nursing Center 24 years ago as a janitor. After holding additional positions in housekeeping and as a dietary aide, he wanted to be more involved with the patients, so he became a certified nursing assistant. In a job that can be physically and emotionally demanding, Barry helps people with the basic tasks of living while giving them respect and dignity.

Barry's inclination toward helping people is not limited to the patients he assists. He is always more than willing to help other departments as needed, and his previous positions in the facility give Barry valuable understanding of these departments.

I thank Barry for his commitment to helping others, and I commend him on this award.

THE USS ''INTREPID''

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express may deep admiration for the work done by the Intrepid Foundation and the great Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum.

The Museum, the world's largest naval museum, is housed on the historic and battle-scarred USS *Intrepid.*

The Museum pays homage to the valiant efforts of the U.S. Armed Forces in defense of our liberties.

Commissioned in 1943, the USS *Intrepid* is a unique educational resource that promotes public awareness of the history and future development of the sea, air and space sciences.

The *Intrepid* fought valiantly in World War II, was a primary recovery vessel for NASA and then was sent to Southeast Asia where it launched the jets that supported our ground forces in Vietnam.

During World War II, the carrier was hit by five Japanese Kamikaze suicide planes in separate incidents that killed dozens of crewmen and injured many others.

Nonetheless, the ship exacted its toll on the Japanese air force, downing 43 planes and 4 kamikaze planes in one day.

During the post-World War II period the *Intrepid* exemplified the United States' leadership and devotion to freedom.

Unfortunately, despite its glorious past, there came a time when the ship was due to be scrapped.

Zachary Fisher, founder of the Intrepid Foundation, rescued the ship in 1978 and arranged for it to be brought to Manhattan where it opened as a Museum in 1982.

Visitors can explore some of the innovative aircraft that made America's air force the strongest in the world, from vintage World War II planes to the latest supersonic jets.

The *Intrepid*'s unique educational programs reach 40,000 school children each year, while the Foundation's Vocational-Technical program has helped hundreds of at-risk youth develop work and life skills.

The Nation's men and women still serving in uniform are always at the forefront of the Foundation's activities.

Its Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund provides financial support for the families of United States military personnel who have been lost in the line of duty, while Fleet Week is a celebration honoring those who are currently serving in our nation's military.

Other Fisher Foundations serve the military in numerous ways.

Zachary Fisher established the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Armed Services Foundation, which has provided funding to numerous military families who have lost loved ones under tragic circumstances.

His Armed Services Foundation provides scholarship funds to active and former service members and their families.

In 1990, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher began the Fisher House program, dedicating more than $20 million to the construction of 26 comfort homes for families of hospitalized military personnel.

Since the program's inception, more than 35,000 families have stayed in Fisher Houses while their loved ones are receiving treatment.

Thus, the Intrepid Museum is merely the most visible symbol of a enterprise entirely dedicated to serving our nation's men and women in uniform.

Unfortunately, this great symbol of support for our armed forces is aging.

During the past 24 years, the *Intrepid* has resided at Pier 86 in Manhattan, where she has been subjected to the storms, the vicissitudes of the Hudson River and a vast buildup of silt. All of that has taken a toll, and the Foundation has arranged for the ship to receive some loving care.

The ship will spend 18–24 months in Bayonne, New Jersey being refurbished, while the pier is completely rebuilt. At the end of that period, the ship will return, better able to pursue its mission of honoring our Nation's heroes, educating the public and inspiring youth.

As Robert Burns famously wrote, "The best-laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley."

Like many visitors to New York, the *Intrepid* simply did not want to go.

Despite spending $1.6 million to dredge 15,000 cubic yards of mud and silt that had built up over the past 24 years, the ship could not be budged in the first try.

With the support of my office and others, and under the leadership of Chairman YOUNG, we have reached out to the Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy, who has agreed to spending $3 million to free the ship from New York harbor. We are deeply grateful to him and to the Navy for their help with this effort.

I would also like to thank and recognize, Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense who has responded quickly and professionally to our requests and continues to keep us updated.

Given the enormous support the Intrepid Foundation gives to our armed forces, and the extraordinary education visitors to the *Intrepid* receive, this is money well spent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Fisher family, the Intrepid Museum, the Intrepid Foundation and the remarkable men and women who have made the *Intrepid* an extraordinary public resource.

HONORING ROBERT PAUL LOSEY, MD, OF NAPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous contributions Dr. Robert Paul Losey has made to the lives of infants and families in Napa County. As the founder of Healthy Moms and Babies, Dr. Losey has created a successful, non-profit community health initiative that has yielded tangible results in children's health.

Dr. Losey was born in Pasadena, California, where he attended high school before serving in the Marine Corps from 1957 to 1959. After leaving the Marine Corps, he attended college in southern California where he earned degrees from Pasadena City College and the University of California, Riverside. He earned his medical degree from Creighton University in Nebraska in 1966 before returning to California to complete his internship and residency in Los Angeles.

Dr. Losey moved to the Napa Valley in 1986 when he was hired as the medical director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Queen of the Valley Hospital. His work has further developed Napa County's only facility for the care of premature or critically ill infants. Through his successful private practice at Harvest Pediatrics, Dr. Losey has continued to serve the families of the Napa Valley.

Mr. Speaker, Healthy Moms and Babies was founded in 1988 with the vision to provide comprehensive healthcare for low-income and uninsured women in order to guarantee that every baby is born healthy. By educating expectant women about their own health during pregnancy, Healthy Moms and Babies has brought a dramatic increase in infant health to the Napa Valley. Healthy Moms and Babies has also made special efforts to develop bilingual resources and do outreach into communities that have traditionally been medically underserved. Napa County has the healthiest babies in the State of California, and Dr. Losey and Healthy Moms and Babies have greatly contributed to this achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to thank Dr. Robert Paul Losey for his many contributions to the community and families of Napa County. He has been active in a variety of health care- and youth-related causes, and his work as the founder of Healthy Moms and Babies has brought a new standard of care to all who live in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE NOAA WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE IN LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the NOAA Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Lake Charles, Louisiana. In September 2005, as Hurricane Rita was approaching the coast of Southwest Louisiana, the WFO Lake Charles developed a life saving partnership with elected officials and emergency managers that was instrumental in minimizing deaths from the storm. While Rita destroyed critical infrastructure and forever changed the landscape of Southwest Louisiana, WFO Lake Charles lived up to the motto of the National Weather Service by "Working Together to Save Lives."

With up-to-date storm-tracking information, elected officials, law enforcement and emergency response personnel were able to lead a safe and thorough evacuation. In recognition of their heroic efforts, the staff of the WFO Lake Charles was recently awarded the Bronze Medal from the U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as a special award from the American Meteorological Society.

Although Hurricane Rita has changed the coast of Southwest Louisiana, it has also reinforced the belief in all of us that preparation is the key to ensuring our families, and our homes, are safe from future disaster. To that end, I commend the WFO Lake Charles for their outstanding job and dedication to the people of Southwest Louisiana.

HONORING THE SMYRNA BULLDOGS ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the championship season of the Smyrna Bulldogs. On Saturday night, the Bulldogs capped their football season with a convincing win in the 2006 TSSAA Class 5A BlueCross Bowl.

My father taught science and coached girls basketball at Smyrna High. As a result, I feel a special connection to the purple and gold.

With their victory over the Ravenwood Raptors, the Bulldogs secured their first ever football title and finished the season with a school record 13 wins. While it was their first appearance in the BlueCross Bowl, Coach Philip Shadowens and the Bulldogs left no doubt that they belonged on the field. They overcame a 14–6 deficit against the defending champs, scoring 29 unanswered points on their way to victory.

During their playoff run, the Bulldogs avenged their two regular season losses to Riverdale and Ravenwood. In the quarterfinal round, they defeated the Riverdale Warriors for the first time in school history.

I commend the Bulldogs and their head coach, Philip Shadowens, for a fine season and an outstanding championship win. Steve Carson, Jason Pitts, Shawn Middleton, Kent Pippenger, Will Hawkins, Will Forkum, Scott Keasler, Travis Schrimsher, Alex Robbins, Luke Shepherd and Justin Morton serve as the team's assistant coaches. Robert ''Bud'' Raikes is Smyrna High School's principal.

I congratulate all the talented members of the 2006 5A State Champion Bulldogs: Sonny Gray, Antoine Hendricks, Rod Wilks, Orlando Martin, Will Martin, Tyler Slater, Kyle Frazier, Andrew Wiggins, Eddie Lalap, Joseph Butler, Sam Youree, Josh Crouch, Cleave Shaw, David Sanders, Jonah Hendricks, Maceo Harris, Cody Williams, Tony Windrow, Lonnie Turner, Tony Alexander, Quentin Burford, Cotie Dickson, Chris Yoder, Cordarious Johnson, Donovan Craig, Reuben Shadrake, Jarvis Hicks, Justin Martin, Sean Mckay, Michael Hosford, Michael Bolton, Singleton Garrett, Johnathan Vaughn, Laith Al Tamimi, Kelly Thomason, Brandon Hendricks, Josh Day, Karrar Al Hassan, Dawson Wooten, Reese Haywood, Tony Carr, Cody Sutherland, Cody Gower, Johnathan Wilcox, James Hudson, Matt Rofrano, Quentin Allen, Kyle Carter, Josh Prewitt, Bradly Folds, Alex Hill, Keith Martin, Westley Cadena, Darrell Goad, Tyler Eady, Anthony Khamphenphet, Pham Trungtin, Nathan Cantrell, Keiton Hendry, Kassidy Spence, Brandon Jaradat, D.J. Johns, James Williams, Davion Baxter, Tyler Montgomery, Jordan Bell, Cody Hagar, Daivid Pierre-Paul, Mickey West, Jeremy King, Jesse Torres, Blair Willis, Tre Tunstill, Richard Maynard, Nick Richardson, Harrison Gill and Nathan Torres.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''STUDY OF WAYS TO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF THE COLLECTION OF FEDERAL OIL, CONDENSATE, AND NATURAL GAS ROYALTIES ACT OF 2006''

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the ''Study of Ways To Improve the Accuracy of the Collection of Federal Oil, Condensate, and Natural Gas Royalties Act of 2006.'' I am pleased to be joined by Representatives HINCHEY (D–NY), GRIJALVA (D–AZ), and CONYERS (D–MI) in introducing this legislation. On May 7, 2006, the Washington Post reported allegations that American taxpayers are being shortchanged by oil and gas companies in the royalties that they are paying to the Federal Government (''Firms Harvesting Energy from Public Lands May Owe U.S.''). Jack Grynberg, a plaintiff in a false claims action against seventy-three energy and pipeline companies, was featured in the article. Based on his expertise, the legislation I am introducing asks the National Academy of Engineering to conduct a study regarding improving the accuracy of collection of royalties on production of oil, condensate, and natural gas under leases of both onshore and offshore Federal lands and onshore Indian lands.

These valuable resources are owned by the American people, who should be fairly and accurately compensated. I believe that this study would prove invaluable in accomplishing this important goal and will tell us if there is a problem, including the extent of the problem, with the collection of royalties from Federal lands and Indian lands.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF POINT ARENA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of St. Paul's Community United Methodist Church in Point Arena.

St. Paul's was the first Protestant church on the rural and relatively isolated south Mendocino coast. It started out with 24 parishioners and was led by Rev. David H. Haskin as its first pastor. In 1906 it was consecrated as a Methodist church.

Tragically, on April 18th, 1906, a fire occurred in the aftermath of the San Andreas earthquake and destroyed the original St. Paul's Church and elementary school. With the support of its community, the church and elementary school were quickly rebuilt.

Three items were rescued from the fire: the organ, two rectory chairs and the pulpit, all of which still grace the sanctuary. The most interesting item rescued was a unique, handcarved pulpit made of three simulated Bibles. Mr. Ole Jensen, a church member and immigrant from Denmark, who was trained to make figureheads for ships, created it.

St. Paul's Church has enriched the lives of its parishioners and fellow community members through weekly religious services and an elementary school. The church is a pillar of the community on the coast.

Mr. Speaker, we honor this church for its contributions to the community and the continued resilience of its parishioners. It has been a welcoming haven and example of community strength since its original founding. It is appropriate at this time that we recognize St. Paul's Community United Methodist Church on its 100th anniversary.

FREEDOM FOR EFRÉN FERNÁNDEZ FERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Efrén Fernández Fernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Fernández is a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and an opponent of the tyranny in Havana. In March of 2003, Mr. Fernández was arrested as part of an abhorrent island-wide crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists who were calling for the most basic of human rights for Cuba. His participation in a collection of signatures in support of a call for some elemental rights for Cubans was all that the communist regime needed to incarcerate him.

In a sham trial, Mr. Fernández was sentenced to 12 years in the totalitarian gulag. He has endured numerous prison transfers and solitary confinements based only on his captors' whims and arbitrary reasons. Since his ''sentencing'', he has managed to survive against all odds in the most deplorable of human conditions. Mr. Fernández' bravery and commitment to freedom has not wavered even though since his unjust incarceration he has lost more than thirty pounds and suffers from frequent fits of vomiting and chronic intestinal problems.

According to Carta de Cuba, on September 7, 2006, Mr. Fernández was administered antibiotics intravenously for an unidentified bacterial infection affecting his kidneys. Immediately following that treatment, Mr. Fernández fainted and complained of experiencing severe heart palpitations and arterial tension.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Fernández is languishing in the totalitarian gulag simply for believing that every Cuban citizen has the fundamental right to live in freedom with the most basic of human rights and protections of their individual liberties. He suffers the consequences, no matter how brutal or at what risk to his health, and continues his dignified struggle for freedom on that oppressed island.

It is unconscionable that a mere ninety miles from our shores, men and women are suffering in the darkness of totalitarian repression. Mr. Speaker, this constitutes a crime against humanity. Mr. Fernández's only crime is to demand that basic human rights be restored to the people of Cuba.

It is incumbent on all of us who serve in this great democratic body to recognize and remember the terrible plight of those brave men and women like Mr. Fernández who suffer the living nightmare of despotic totalitarianism. Let us all join in demanding the immediate release of Efrén Fernández Fernández and all political prisoners in Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. EEVE LEWIS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, together with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, I

rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Mrs. Eeve Lewis, the County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor-Public Administrator for Sonoma County. Mrs. Lewis has worked for Sonoma County for over 35 years, rising from her starting position of Clerk Typist to win 6 elections and serve a total of 7 terms as the County Clerk, during which time she has overseen and led numerous structural adjustments to the division of responsibilities in the county offices.

Mrs. Lewis was born in West Germany, the daughter of an Estonian woman living in a displaced person's camp. Her family immigrated to the United States in 1950, and she cites the welcome and opportunity they found here as one of her primary motivations to enter a life of public service. She graduated with Bachelor's and Master's degrees trom Chico State and Sonoma State University, respectively.

Mrs. Lewis was hired by Sonoma County in 1971, and transferred to the Clerk's Office in 1974. A swift series of promotions followed. She was appointed the Acting County Clerk 1977 when her predecessor died in office. She won her first election in a runoff and has since won 6 more terms in office. During almost 30 years as the elected Clerk of Sonoma County, Mrs. Lewis has presided over expansion and refinement of the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the office of the Clerk. By always approaching jurisdictional matters with an open attitude and a concern for the relevant statutes, Mrs. Lewis has guided a series of changes that have greatly benefited the government and people of Sonoma. By working closely with court staff, Mrs. Lewis straightforwardly organized the reapportionment of duties and streamlined costs when it became necessary to create a separate office to administer the county's court system. Similar structural adjustments in 2001 saw the Clerk's Office absorb the County Recorder's responsibilities and then the County Assessor's role. Through all of these changes Mrs. Lewis has carefully studied the new responsibilities assigned to her, and maintained the high standard of performance for which the Clerk's Office is known.

In addition to her work in Sonoma County, Mrs. Lewis has been active in professional organizations around the state helping other counties emulate the success of Sonoma in developing and maintaining an effective Clerk staff. She is responsible for the development of a series of workshops to help train staff around the state, with the first of these meetings scheduled to take place this coming March. Additionally, she participated in a legal taskforce mandated to update confusing or outdated portions of California Code related to the duties of County and Court Clerks. All of these activities greatly contribute to a higher quality of governance throughout the State of California and represent a service to the people every bit as important as her work in Sonoma County.

Mr. Speaker, we rise today to congratulate Mrs. Eeve Lewis on the occasion of her retirement after 35 years of service to Sonoma County, including a remarkable 28 years of capably guiding that office as the elected County Clerk. She will leave behind the finest organization in the state and a legion of admirers who valued the insight and care with which she approached her work.

HONORING EEVE LEWIS OF SONOMA COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Ms. Lewis was born in West Germany, the daughter of an Estonian woman living in a displaced person's camp. Her family immigrated to the United States in 1950, and she cites the warm welcome and opportunity they found here as one of her primary motivations to enter a life of public service. She graduated with Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Chico State and Sonoma State University, respectively.

Ms. Lewis was hired by Sonoma County in 1971, and transferred to the Clerk's Office in 1974. A swift series of promotions followed. She was appointed the Acting County Clerk in 1977 when her predecessor died in office. She won her first election in a runoff and has since won six more terms in office. During almost 30 years as the elected Clerk of Sonoma County, Ms. Lewis has presided over expansion and refinement of the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the office of the Clerk. By always approaching jurisdictional matters with an open mind and a concern for the relevant statutes, Ms. Lewis has guided a series of changes that have greatly benefited the government and people of Sonoma County. By working closely with court staff, Ms. Lewis successfully organized the reapportionment of duties and streamlined costs when it became necessary to create a separate office to administer the county's court system. Similar structural adjustments in 2001 saw the Clerk's Office absorb the County Recorder's responsibilities and then the County Assessor's role. Through all of these changes Ms. Lewis has carefully studied the new responsibilities assigned to her, and maintained the high standard of performance for which the Clerk's Office is known.

In addition to her work in Sonoma County, Ms. Lewis has been active in professional organizations around the State helping other counties emulate the success of Sonoma in developing and maintaining an effective Clerk staff. She is responsible for the development of a series of workshops to help train staff around the State, with the first of these meetings scheduled to take place this coming March. Additionally, she participated in a legal taskforce mandated to revise confusing or outdated portions of California Code related to the duties of County and Court Clerks. All of these activities greatly contribute to a higher quality of governance throughout the State of California and represent a service to the people every bit as important as her work in Sonoma County.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Ms. WOOLSEY to congratulate Ms. Eeve Lewis on the occasion of her retirement after 35 years of service to Sonoma County, including a remarkable 28 years of capably guiding her office as, the elected County Clerk. She will leave behind the finest organization in the State and a legion of admirers who valued the insight and care with which she approached her work.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I salute the Democratic Pacific Union which was formally inaugurated in Taipei, Taiwan on May 14, 2005, the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Notable guests at the inaugural ceremony included presidents of Taiwan, Costa Rica and Guatemala as well as vice presidents of Taiwan, Nicaragua and Palau. The goals of the Union are to integrate resources in the pan-Pacific region for joint development and regional cooperation and to promote democracy, peace and prosperity among DPU member democracies.

Since May of 2005, the Union has established a Secretariat, published its first quarterly, planned West Pacific regional meetings, formed a Pacific economic advisory group, and initiated the Pacific Congressional Caucus project. The project seeks to bring congressional and parliamentary members of DPU together to promote exchange and cooperation among lawmakers throughout DPU member countries. The Taiwan Chapter of the Pacific Congressional Caucus was inaugurated on May 20, 2006 and convened by the Speaker of Taiwan's Legislature Yuan.

My commendations also to the Taiwan Chapter of the Pacific Congressional Caucus. The Chapter will sponsor a symposium on congressional reforms December 8–10, 2006, in Taipei, Taiwan. Legislative members of the DPU, member states and U.S. Members of Congress have been graciously invited to attend this symposium either as participants or observers. I hope that my colleagues will find time to attend this very important event in Taipei and lend our encouragement and support to The Pacific Congressional Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I also commend the Union for its goals, achievements, and initiations which include a training program on hazard mitigation on typhoon-related disasters held May 8–12, 2006 in Taiwan. The DPU has also established a 2006 fellowship and scholarship program providing funds for students from DPU member states to attend universities in Taiwan. Another significant achievement for this young organization is an invitation to distinguished women from member states to attend meetings in Taiwan to identify and address gender issues and problems women face in the Pacific region. The DPU has also invited political experts to observe elections in Taiwan; and established the Pacific Center for Disaster Reduction in Taipei.

HONORING MICHAEL REX DICK OF CALISTOGA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Michael R. Dick who is retiring as Police Chief of Calistoga. Mr. Dick has been a member of the Calistoga Police Department for 31 years, during which time he has served Calistoga honorably and conscientiously in many roles.

As a graduate of Calistoga High School, Mr. Dick grew up familiar with the area he eventually served. He studied at Napa Valley College, where he worked for his Associate of Science Degree in Law Enforcement. His constant residence in and around Calistoga has made Mike especially well attuned to the needs of his community. Throughout his career he has made an extra effort to encourage young people from Calistoga to follow his path by becoming cadets with the police force.

Mr. Dick became an Officer on the force in 1975. He has earned a reputation as a thorough officer whose tenacity and initiative helped him obtain convictions in tough investigations. Beyond his conventional duties as an officer, he served for many years as the Juvenile Officer and liaison to the schools of Calistoga. His connections to the community served him well in this regard, and he developed numerous local programs targeting drug-use prevention and children's safety. For all of his hard work, Mr. Dick has 3 times been recognized as Police Officer of the Year, and in 1996 he was the City of Calistoga's Citizen of the Year.

Beyond his work as a police officer, Mr. Dick has been a model citizen for the City of Calistoga, serving in numerous local volunteer capacities. He has been the Chairman of the St. Jude's Children's Hospital Bike-a-thon and served several terms as President of the Calistoga Police Officer's Association. Demonstrating once again his commitment to the children of our community, he has for many years been the Cub Scout Master for the Silverado Chapter of the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the long and active career of Mr. Michael R. Dick, who served his hometown of Calistoga as an officer of the greatest distinction. I join the many members of his community in extending my appreciation for all of his hard work, and I wish him all the best in the future.

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LANE EXCHANGE AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 2006

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, in regard to the three site visits that I have made to the mining location and the recreation area, in regard to the over 20 meetings that I have with former president of Resolution Copper, their current president, their lobbyists and employees, and in regard to the over one dozen meetings with the San Carlos Apaches, I re-introduce this refined legislation today.

I recognize that a portion of the land being conveyed to Resolution Copper in the vicinity of the Oak Flat Campground is used by the Apache people for traditional acorn gathering and other cultural purposes. My staff and I have discussed this matter with Resolution Copper on several occasions, and Resolution has assured us that upon conveyance of the land to them, the company will make every effort to allow such traditional uses to continue. As much of the land in question lies immediately adjacent to Arizona Highway 60, Resolution Copper believes that it is unlikely the bulk of the area in question will be significantly disturbed by exploration or mining activities in the foreseeable future.

In addition, Resolution has assured me that they will establish job training and employment opportunities for potential Apache employees. As such, it is with great hope that I introduce this legislation for the future prosperity of the region.