

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### THE STUDENT LOAN SUNSHINE ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Student Loan Sunshine Act, and to congratulate Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member McKEON for moving quickly on this critical issue.

The recent investigation by New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has brought attention to serious problems in our student aid industry. While it is unfair to malign all schools and all lenders, it is clear that in large part due to lax oversight by the Department of Education, there have been many instances of actions intended for profit—rather than for improving student access to education. It is time to put an end to the conflicts of interest and corrupt practices that increase costs for students and taxpayers.

This legislation is an important first step in improving oversight of the student loan industry and in ending inappropriate relationships between lenders and colleges and universities.

H.R. 890 will ban loan arrangements that include benefits to higher education institutions, prohibit lenders from serving as staff in campus financial aid offices, and ban gifts from lenders to campus officials and their families. It allows the continuation of preferred lender lists but requires that these lists include at least 3 lenders and that the institutions explain their choices. This bill includes civil penalties for companies that violate the new regulations and increases the Department of Education's authority to regulate the private loan market. The Student Loan Sunshine Act also makes it clear that lenders who are transparent in their processes and advocate on behalf of students continue to be an important part of the student aid system.

Mr. Speaker, the recent scandals in the student loan industry illustrate the Department of Education's failure to adequately regulate the student loan industry and the conflicts of interest too often noted in this administration. As the New York Times reported, Department officials were alerted to inappropriate lender subsidies in 2003 and failed to act. This week a top ED official, who formerly worked for Sallie Mae, has resigned. It has also been noted that a recently investigated lender was a top contributor to the Republican party. It is time to refocus higher education policy where it should be—on the student.

This Congress has made access to higher education a priority. It is critical to the future of students, our communities and our Nation. With more and more students and parents relying on student loans and with student debt burden increasing, clearly we must do all we can to ensure the integrity of student aid pro-

grams. The Student Loan Sunshine Act is an important first step. I also look forward to working with Chairman MILLER and the other members of the Education and Labor Committee to pass a strong Higher Education Act Reauthorization that protects students, increases access to higher education, and improves our Nation's global competitiveness.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 890.

### RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF DOCTOR SUSAN A. COTA

#### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Susan A. Cota, as she retires from the Chancellorship of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

Dr. Cota was the first Hispanic female Chancellor in the 43-year history of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. She was also the first Hispanic female Chancellor appointed in the California Community College system.

Dr. Cota has held various positions in the California Community College system, such as counselor, director, and dean of student services. She has also served as the Statewide Administrator of Disabled Students Programs and Services.

Dr. Cota holds a doctorate in organization and leadership from the University of San Francisco, a Master of Science degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling from San Francisco State University and a bachelor's degree in English from Immaculate Heart College.

Dr. Cota is active in a wide variety of national, state, and local organizations. She was elected to the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), and currently serves on the Executive Board and as Chair of the Community College Futures Committee and on the Board of the Community College Leadership Development Initiatives Foundation at the University of San Diego.

In 2006, she received the Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award from the Community College Administrators. She has also received the Community College League of California's Courageous Leader Award, and the Outstanding Educator in Administration Award.

Under her leadership, a \$498M facilities construction bond was approved, to provide for the complete build-out of Las Positas College in Livermore, and full renovation of the Chabot College campus.

As Dr. Cota retires, I thank her for her steadfast leadership of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, and her commitment to the continuing education of our com-

munity. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

### COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACME RIGGING & SUPPLY COMPANY IN UKIAH, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Acme Rigging & Supply Company in Ukiah, California, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Acme has been locally owned and operated for the past 50 years, and for the last 18 years has transitioned into a wholly employee-owned business while continuing to expand its operations and the markets it serves.

Acme Rigging started out in 1957 as the vision of Pete Dunnebeck, when five rigging shops went out of business on the northern California coast. Initially, as the sole employee, he took orders, performed the assembly, and then delivered the final product to customers. Thirty-two years later Mr. Dunnebeck was getting ready to phase out of the business when he learned about Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOP).

In 1989, Mr. Dunnebeck sold forty-nine percent of the business to his employees. By 1997, the employees had fulfilled the payoff on their shares and approached the Savings Bank of Mendocino County to borrow money to purchase the remaining 51 percent. This was the first loan of its kind for the local bank, and they put the deal together and agreed on a ten-year payback. The employees met that obligation in nine years, one year earlier than expected.

Upon the retirement of Mr. Dunnebeck, John Peaslee took the reins of the company and has guided an impressive expansion. In 1997, Acme Rigging had less than three million dollars in sales. By 2006 that number had tripled. The company grew from eight employees to a total of 29 today. A second location was opened in Sacramento in 2000. Acme Sacramento started with four employees and now has 10.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, there are more than 10,000 ESOP companies employing nine to ten million employee/owners in our country. Acme Rigging & Supply Company is a superb example of how well employee stock ownership plans can work. It is appropriate that we honor the successful transformation and expansion of this local, employee-owned business on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

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

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

IN HONOR OF MR. JOSE SANTOS  
AS THE 2006 RECIPIENT OF THE  
ESTEEMED FULBRIGHT AWARD

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to Mr. Jose Santos, an outstanding individual from Dallas and recent recipient of the Fulbright award. Mr. Santos was chosen to receive the prestigious award to study, lecture or conduct research abroad during the 2006–2007 academic year after demonstrating high academic achievement studying Anthropology at Southern Methodist University.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, the Fulbright Award is America's leading international exchange program. Congress established the Fulbright Program in 1946 with the intention of fostering mutual understanding between United States citizens and the rest of the world. The Fulbright Program has since provided avenues of academic exchange with over a quarter of a million people in more than 150 countries worldwide. Surely the recipient of such an esteemed award does not lack merit.

Mr. Santos was chosen for his high academic and professional achievement, as well as his exemplary leadership in his field. Mr. Santos' accomplishments thus far have been truly impressive and for that I wish to recognize him here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Santos as the recipient of the Fulbright award, and I know I speak for all of Dallas when I say that we are very proud of his successes. I wish Mr. Santos the very best in all of his endeavors both at home and abroad.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND RESPONSE TO THE EMERGENCY WORKERS WHO HELPED ELIZABETH FORWARD HIGH SCHOOL ON MAY 3, 2007

### HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in times of crisis, all too often those who risk their own safety and go beyond the call of duty remain unknown and unrecognized. Today I want to recognize those who have helped in a moment of need. On May 3, 2007, tragedy befell Elizabeth Forward High School and in their moment of need, their guardian angels responded in the form of emergency rescue workers from the police and five different hospitals.

On what was supposed to be an exciting and memorable trip, 29 students, seven parents and four staff members from the school were traveling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike about 30 miles outside Philadelphia on their way to a band competition in Wildwood, NJ. At around 4:30 on a peaceful morning, as most of the students slept in their seats, a slow

moving tractor trailer moved into the way of the bus.

The bus could not stop nor move out of the way in time and the two collided. The accident awoke the students to the sight and sound of a nightmare as the truck and bus stuck together and skidded out of control for over 400 feet before finally coming to a stop.

Emergency rescue workers raced to the scene to find the two vehicles had become stuck together in one giant jigsaw puzzle of twisted steel, a site that closed the turnpike until the situation could be fully assessed. By the grace of God, none of the students were critically injured; however, all needed thorough examination to treat wounds and help those needing medical treatment. The students, parents, and staff members were sent to 5 hospitals in the area.

An unexpected tragedy occurring in an unfamiliar area far away from home is a nightmare, and for Elizabeth Forward High School, this nightmare became reality. But their guardian angels went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure their safety, treat the injured, and communicate to the families the situation each of their children faced while assuring their safety.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt thanks and praise to all of those involved in the protection of our students. I would like the Congressional Record to reflect that the emergency workers in these organizations are truly heroes deserving of our most sincere appreciation: The Pennsylvania State Police, Brandywine Hospital, Chester County Hospital, Paoli Hospital, Reading Hospital and Medical Center, St. Joseph Medical Center, TA Nelson Bus Line.

### ON THE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE OF FRANK LEONE

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Frank Leone on the occasion of his 80th birthday for his extraordinary public service.

Frank Leone's service to his country, his community, and his neighbors dates back to World War II when he was drafted into the U.S. Navy. He served as a flight deck crewman on the aircraft carrier USS *Kearsarge*, a ship his father had helped to build during the war. He remains an active member of the Oakland American Legion and Franklin Lakes VFW.

In 1954, Frank Leone moved to Oakland and became an active part of that Bergen County community. He ran for mayor in 1960 and was elected to the Borough Council in 1963. He served as the president of the Chamber of Commerce for 12 years. Frank Leone also served as Civil Defense Director and Emergency Management Coordinator. His long record of extraordinary service to his community was honored in 2001 as the Grand Marshal of Oakland's Memorial Day Parade.

In 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson appointed Frank Leone as Oakland Postmaster. Today, he is the last active postmaster in the Nation appointed by the President of the United States. He has served in

various State and national offices of the National Association of Postmasters.

Frank Leone is a shining example of citizenship and dedication to your community. It is an honor to share in the celebration of his 80th birthday.

### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL SUFFRAGISTS DAY

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 105, to honor women suffragists with a National Suffragists Day.

On July 19, 1848, at the Seneca Falls Convention, now famous suffragists, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton made one of the first public appeals for women's right to vote. This convention launched a more than 70 year fight for suffrage, which culminated with women gaining the right to vote in 1920 with the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Without the dedication, commitment, and hard work of women suffragist pioneers like Mott, Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and Alice Paul, our country would not have the first female Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives or more women elected to Congress than ever before.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 105, to honor the women suffragists who changed this country. Their bravery continues to inspire young women today to take an active role in government and to use their voices to make a difference.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideals of a National Suffragists Day.

### HONORING THE CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION (CAP) PROJECT OF SOUTH FLORIDA

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Project of South Florida, whose efforts on behalf of so many families in my Congressional district should be applauded. This program has partnered with local schools in Miami-Dade County, Florida, the fourth largest school district in the country, to address the growing number of social issues affecting our children.

Many social challenges facing students today are felt away from home, oftentimes in the classroom. By offering interactive workshops at local schools, students gain an understanding of how to deal with situations they have already faced or may soon encounter. These circumstances range from instances of bullying and peer aggression to cases of sexual harassment and abuse. Often times, these topics are not comfortable for students to deal with, making CAP's role vital for the social well-being of our children.

As a mother of two girls currently attending college, I understand how important these programs can be in making parents and loved ones feel more comfortable about their children's education. With enrollment at schools growing, classroom sizes have increased nationwide at our public schools. This has made it more difficult for teachers to enforce respectable and cordial behavior. Therefore, it is imperative that schools and teachers receive proper support from outside specialists like CAP.

CAP's range of expertise extends beyond the classroom. Counseling can be crucial for children in the unfortunate circumstance of neglect and abuse at home. In cases of sexual harassment and abuse, counseling at school is sometimes the only outlet for children. This makes CAP's role even greater in South Florida's schools.

Since 1984, CAP has provided abuse prevention strategies to over 270,000 children, families and teachers in Miami-Dade County. Abuse prevention workshops oftentimes provide children with the tools necessary to protect themselves from conflicts, either at school or at home. The Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Project of South Florida provides a great example of community organizations working together with schools to improve learning environments for our children.

Once again, I commend CAP for its efforts on behalf of so many in my community.

#### TAIWAN IN THE WHO

##### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, today in Geneva, Switzerland the 60th annual meeting will commence of the World Health Assembly, the supreme decision making body of the World Health Organization. This year the government of Taiwan is applying for membership to the WHO and Taiwan has been applying to participate in the activities of the WHO since 1997 but they have been rejected due to various political pressures.

I think it's important that Taiwan be granted membership in the WHO. Taiwan is struggling to participate in the WHO not only for the sake of its 23 million citizens but also for the welfare of the 1.3 billion people in mainland China. With expansion of travel and trade between Taiwan and mainland China, contagious diseases can spread rapidly. Successful monitoring and prevention of infectious diseases requires cooperation from all nations.

Taiwan has a modern, world-class health care system and has lent its talents and resources to peoples in need throughout Asia and around the world. Such capabilities are particularly important in this era of globalization, and as apprehensions continue to grow about the emergence of dangerous illnesses such as SARS and the Avian Flu. For example, when the Avian Flu pandemic struck parts of Asia in 2004, Taiwan undertook a number of preventive measures to combat the outbreak and protect its population and those of other countries. As a result of this swift and innovative work, Taiwan has not experienced an outbreak of the avian influenza and has deterred its proliferation elsewhere.

The WHO plays a critical role in safeguarding and improving the health of the world population, and I support its admirable record of achievement as a guardian of international health. A glaring deficiency in the WHO's global program, however, is the fact that the 23 million people of democratic Taiwan are not allowed to contribute to, participate in, or benefit from its important initiatives.

I urge my colleagues to join me in my support of Taiwan's bid for membership in the World Health Organization. For the sake of Taiwan's citizens as well as their neighbors and partners in Asia and around the world, granting membership is the wise and equitable thing to do.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF SPECIALIST MATTHEW BOLAR

##### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, Specialist Matthew Bolar, 24, of Montgomery, Alabama, died on May 3, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq. Specialist Bolar was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, and was stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Specialist Bolar graduated from Canterbury High School in 2002 at the top of his class and joined the Army in 2004. His friends and family remember him as a bright young man eager to serve his country.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Specialist Bolar, like other brave men and women who have served in uniform, died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty. Indeed, like those who have served before him, he was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve our Nation.

#### HONORING STATE DELEGATE VINCENT F. CALLAHAN, JR.

##### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to the retirement of State Senator Vincent F. Callahan, Jr., who has represented Virginia's 34th District in the Virginia General Assembly for nearly 4 decades. I want to take this opportunity to salute Vince for his dedication to a lifetime of public service representing those in the McLean area of Fairfax County.

A native of Washington, D.C., and McLean resident since 1960, Vince holds a B.S. degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and by profession is an editor, publisher, and author. He served as a Marine in the Korean War from 1950-52 and later as a reserve officer in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Elected to the House of Delegates in 1967, Vince is the longest serving Republican in the

Virginia General Assembly and dean of the Northern Virginia Delegation. As chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Vince can point to a long list of legislative achievements in service to the Commonwealth of Virginia. He will be sorely missed. In honor of his work for higher education, Vince was awarded an Honorary Degree in the Humane Letters from the Northern Virginia Community College and the Lord Botetourt Award from the College of William and Mary. I have inserted for The RECORD a recent Sun Gazette article which details his unparalleled career.

Perhaps more important than the well deserved awards and recognitions Vince has accrued over the years is the way he conducts himself. He is a man of his convictions, and of the highest moral character, a true Virginia gentleman, family man, and loyal friend. Vince and his wife Yvonne have eight children and 19 grandchildren between them and I suspect that Vince is looking forward to spending more time with family as he retires. I ask that my colleagues in the House rise today and join with me in recognizing the outstanding public service career of Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.

AFTER 40 YEARS IN PUBLIC LIFE, DEL.

CALLAHAN TO RETIRE

(By Brian Trompeter)

Forty years is enough: Del. Vincent Callahan (R-34th), a McLean resident who is the second-longest serving member of the Virginia House of Delegates, announced March 5 that he would not seek reelection in November.

"You get to a certain stage in life where you've done what you want to do," he said. "It gets old after a while." Callahan, 75, entered politics early in life. After being defeated in a 1965 bid for lieutenant governor, he first was elected to the House of Delegates in 1967. He was one of only 14 Republicans in that body then, versus 86 Democrats. Unlike today, when legislators have offices and a professional staff to help them, delegates then operated out of hotel rooms or their desks in the House of Delegates during General Assembly sessions, he said. Callahan credited former House of Delegates Speaker John Warren Cooke (D-Mathews) for teaching him proper legislative decorum. "He was born in 1915 and his father was an officer in the Confederate Army" who was in his 70s when Cooke was born, Callahan said. "You talk about somebody from the old school. He was the epitome of a Virginia gentleman."

Republicans achieved parity in the House of Delegates in 1998 and Callahan was named co-chair of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. When Republicans became the majority in 2000, he became the committee's sole chairman. Callahan, who lost a bid for Congress in 1976, has seen Virginia's biennial budget grow from \$3 billion when he first joined the General Assembly to \$75 billion today. Gov. Kaine called Callahan on Monday to congratulate him on the latest budget, which passed unanimously.

Callahan said his key accomplishments in office include strongly supporting George Mason University, Northern Virginia Community College and other higher-education institutions; securing \$500 million to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay; and bolstering mental-health services around the state. He's also "tilted at a few windmills," championing a higher minimum wage and a ban on smoking in public places. These bills have been defeated so far but likely will pass in the near future, he predicted. Virginia has tremendous colleges, enjoys a AAA bond rating and consistently is ranked one of the best-managed states in the nation, he said.

Only Del. Lacey Putney (I-Bedford), who has served since 1962, has spent longer than Callahan in the House of Delegates. Callahan's tenure has not always been smooth. Legislators have had to go into special sessions several times in recent years because of budget disagreements. And in 1998, he apologized after making remarks that some female legislators found offensive. "They jumped on me and I haven't done it since," he said. "It wasn't meant to be demeaning to women."

Democrats already were actively targeting Callahan's seat, with candidates Margi Vanderhye and Rip Sullivan contending for the nomination in the June primary. Callahan has about \$85,000 in unspent campaign moneys and will use them to pay office expenses for the remainder of his term. Left-over funds will be given to other political campaigns or donated to charity, he said. The 34th District always has been a swing district and has been represented for many years by a Democratic state senator, Callahan said. The district's voters sided with U.S. Senate candidate James Webb (D) during his victorious campaign in November 2006, but also re-elected longtime U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th), he said. A Republican candidate seeking the district's seat must take a moderate approach on issues, Callahan said.

"Moderation is the essence of conservatism," he said. "I think there's two sides to every issue. You don't do immigrant or gay bashing to get headlines. You have to look at the whole picture." Callahan will spend the rest of his term overseeing 400th-anniversary celebrations of the Jamestown Colony's founding. He will be among dignitaries who will greet Queen Elizabeth II on May 3 when she visits Richmond and addresses a joint General Assembly session.

Callahan was born in Washington, D.C., and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve from 1959 to 1963, retiring as a lieutenant. Callahan has been a staple of Veterans Day celebrations at McLean High School, where he traditionally recites from memory John McCrae's World War I poem, "In Flanders Fields."

Fairfax County Supervisor Joan DuBois (R-Dranesville) credited Callahan with championing Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, trails in Great Falls, sound barriers along Interstate 495 in McLean and the status of Georgetown Pike as a Scenic Byway. "He was a gentleman of the 'old school' who knew that partisanship had no place in efforts to improve his community," DuBois said in a statement released Monday. "He will be greatly missed by many of us who knew him as a go-to leader in the General Assembly for longer than I have lived in Northern Virginia."

Vienna Town Council member Michael Polychrones said Callahan's departure will mark the end of an era in state politics and a loss for Northern Virginia. "It will be a big blow to the area," Polychrones said. "Vince has definitely done a yeoman's job over the years."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ENERGY CONSERVATION THROUGH 'SMART METERS' ACT"

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Energy

Conservation through "Smart Meters" Act. No one can deny the fact that we are in the midst of an energy crisis where supply has outstripped demand. There are many avenues we can pursue to resolve this situation, one of which I have introduced today.

I believe the future of our Nation's electricity grid needs to be smarter and more efficient. While it is a vast issue that needs to be tackled in a multi-level and multi-year plan, we can take a step now to put consumers in control of their personal electricity usage. We can do this by incentivizing, through the tax code, the deployment of energy management devices—known as "Smart Meters." A "Smart Meter" is an automated electronic electricity metering device that will replace the existing meters on homes and businesses.

The first electricity meter was invented in the 1930s at the dawn of electrification in the United States. The meter is based on small wheels turning inside the unit to count kilowatt hours used at a flat price. If you look at your meter today, you will see fundamentally the same device using technology that is more than 70 years old. These meters were invented prior to the development of computers and have no intelligence, memory, or ability to communicate. Certainly if we can place a call on a cell phone that is as thin as a pack of gum, then we can invest in advanced metering technology for home energy use.

Because of the advanced age of our metering technology, neither the consumer nor the utility has the kind of real-time information they need to make necessary decisions to best use the available electricity. "Smart Meters" change this by harnessing the power of computers and digital communications to create intelligent and connected energy systems. The revolution in technology behind today's "Smart Meters" is equivalent to the change from typewriters to a personal computer connected to the Internet. These systems empower consumers to use electricity wisely and help utilities forecast and manage energy loads more efficiently and accurately—quickly reducing electricity outages.

The use of new technology will allow customers who reduce consumption when prices are high to save more on their bills. In fact, according to GAO and FERC studies, the widespread adoption of smart metering technologies would save American consumers billions of dollars in avoided electricity costs. While consumers get a better deal on their power, society as a whole will benefit. Consumption will be reduced during peak hours which will reduce greenhouse gases because power companies will no longer have to rely on inefficient and dirty peaking generators to meet the high demand.

Madam Speaker, now is the time to deploy 21st century technology to conserve energy and put consumers in control of their electricity bills.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 254

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 254, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act

of 2007. This legislation makes a profound statement that this country will not tolerate bigotry and ignorance that results in violence against its citizens.

My first vote as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives was for equal rights on housing and employment for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered (GLBT) community. As a Member of Congress, including this important vote today, I will have proudly voted for this legislation three times. It is time for this bill to become law so that all Americans can fully participate in and enjoy the rights of a democratic society.

Since 1991 the FBI has received more than 113,000 reports of hate crimes and we know that this crime is underreported. The message of this bill is clear. The country does not tolerate crimes committed against individuals based on their sexual orientation. Crimes of hate are unlike other violent acts of randomness. Targeting people because of their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or disability is a form of domestic terrorism that sends chilling messages to communities that they are not welcome and that intolerance and ignorance is alive and well.

Some have inaccurately suggested that this bill legislates against thoughts and ideas. That is absolutely untrue. The focus of this bill is to provide local authorities a greater means by which to prosecute violent acts of hate, not thoughts. Not only does this bill not legislate against thoughts and speech, it explicitly includes First Amendment free speech protections for persons accused of acts of hate.

Current law limits federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to violent acts committed against citizens based on religion, race, color and national origin if they are targeted while they are participating in federally protected activities, such as voting. H.R. 254 will strengthen federal law by expanding federal jurisdiction and allocate the necessary resources and tools to local law enforcement officials and prosecutors to go after individuals who act on their bigotry and ignorance with violence. The needed prosecution of hate crimes can stretch crucial state and local resources thin. This legislation authorizes the Attorney General to make grants available to law enforcement agencies that have acquired astounding expenses investigating and prosecuting hate crime cases.

This bill is needed to protect the civil rights of all Americans who have been targeted based on their differences and it utilizes the resources of this government to ensure fairness and justice. I commend the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, for bringing this legislation to the Floor and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING VOLKER EISELE OF  
NAPA, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Volker Eisele who is being presented the Earl Thollander Award from the Napa Sierra Club. This award is given annually to acknowledge the work of an individual on behalf of the environment.

Mr. Eisele was born in Muenster, Germany, and followed family tradition by attending high school at the Gymnasium Paulinum, founded over 1,200 years ago. He came to the United States to attend graduate school at UC Berkeley for sociology and history. It was at Berkeley that he met his wife Lisele, and they married in 1968.

From the planting of his first cabernet vines in 1975, Mr. Eisele has maintained an entirely organic vineyard, making him the first vintner to do so in the Napa Valley. He has been a leader in encouraging sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices, including the maintenance and restoration of riparian corridors and stream-side habitats. In 1991 he joined the growing movement to forever protect beautiful and vital areas of the Napa Valley by donating an open space easement to the Napa County Land Trust.

Mr. Eisele has had a long and successful career as a political activist campaigning on behalf of greater environmental protections for the Napa Valley and its agricultural heritage. He was among the leaders who helped pass Measure A limiting growth and development in unincorporated areas of Napa County. He was also instrumental in passing Measure J which has promoted further protections for agricultural lands around the county.

In addition to his political leadership, Mr. Eisele has been a leader in the local community through his service on numerous boards and committees. He served as President of the Napa County Farm Bureau, the Napa Valley Grape Growers, and the Greenbelt Alliance, which has promoted the extension of environmental protections around the Bay Area. He also was honored by his peers when he was elected to serve as director and Vice Chair of the California Association of Wine Grape Growers. These positions have allowed Mr. Eisele to express his love of grapes and winemaking while working for the benefit of not just the wine industry, but the greater community.

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Volker Eisele for his decades of leadership and environmental stewardship and as a superb spokesman for the wine industry. He is well-deserving of the honor being bestowed on him by the Napa Sierra Club, and we thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF  
KAREN E. HALLIDAY

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Karen Halliday, as she retires as Las Positas College president, after nearly 35 years of teaching and serving students in the California Community College System.

Karen Halliday began teaching as an adjunct faculty member in Learning Disabilities and Special Education at various Bay Area universities. As a faculty member and Learning Disabilities Specialist at De Anza College in Cupertino, she helped develop the first Learning Disabilities program in higher education in California. She later became the director of the Educational Diagnostic Center at De Anza College.

In 1987, Karen Halliday was the first faculty member to receive the Foothill-De Anza Community College Teacher of the Year Award. In 1988, she joined the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office in Sacramento, as the Specialist for the Disabled Students Program and Services.

In 1989, Karen Halliday became the Vice President of Student Services at Las Positas. In 2002, she was named president of Las Positas College. During her tenure, she successfully led the college through the passage of Measure B, a \$498 million district facilities bond.

In 2003, thanks to her encouragement and guidance, the Las Positas College Foundation was created to "foster growth and success, both in its students and in the communities it serves." Later that year, the foundation was granted 501(c)3 status.

Karen Halliday has been a member of the Executive Board for the Association of California Community College Administrators and the Chair of the Legislative Commission for the California League of Community Colleges. She has authored several publications, along with numerous Board of Governors Agenda Items related to Matriculation, DSPS, and Student Services.

As Karen Halliday retires, I would like to thank her for her dedication to higher education in our community, and her contribution to the field of disabled students' services. I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

IN CELEBRATION OF ALICE  
BERNICE HILL

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the life of a remarkable woman, who despite all her illnesses lived a wonderful life. Alice Bernice Hill was afflicted with asthma and other diseases early in her life, yet through all her ailments lived past 85.

Born in Harlem Hospital on December 1, 1919, Alice was sent to the West Indies for "two years, one month and eight days" due to her severe illnesses. She never had a lot of money, and had even less when on disability, and still she was able to support herself.

In her early years, Alice was forced to join the workforce to support her family, as required by the welfare program. She later rose through the ranks and became a union administrator, with groups like the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the United Auto Workers. Through union courses at Cornell University, she obtained a bachelor's degree in labor relations.

Her efforts to refuse to let her ailments cripple her saved her life. Surviving a stroke, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and arthritis, lived on to watch her brother Arthur, six nieces and nephews, two grandchildren and one grandnephew grow.

Truly a woman of great dignity and honor, Alice is deserving of this recognition for her strength, intelligence, and compassion. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the life of Alice Bernice Hill and her relentless strength.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER'S DAY

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, yesterday, mothers from across the Nation were besieged with flowers, candy, homemade cards, and gifts in celebration of Mother's Day. As we all take a moment to honor the women in our lives, it is important for Congress to do the same. For the past several years, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act has been stalled in the Congress. This critical legislation would authorize a research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. It would also include consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process. While it is generally believed that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, the extent of that role remains a mystery. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors, which means that up to 70 percent of those who suffer are still searching for answers.

As with other cancers, if we know what causes it, we can do so much more to prevent it from ever occurring. On this Mother's Day, let's pass the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act for our moms, for our daughters and future moms-to-be, and for everyone who has ever been touched by a loved one with breast cancer. It is time to celebrate the women in our lives with more than pink flowers and pajamas; it is time to celebrate them with the honor and commitment to medical research that will soon save their lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE MERRITT ES-  
TATE WINERY FOR ITS CONTIN-  
UED EXCELLENCE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Merritt Estate Winery, located in Forestville, NY. Merritt Estate Winery recently was awarded a gold medal for their Bella Rosa at the San Diego International Wine Competition. Their Chautauqua Niagara vintage was awarded a silver medal in the competition.

Merritt Estate Winery is run by a father and son duo that have dedicated themselves to their small vineyard and their fruit which has resulted in their award winning wines. The winery was created in 1976 by William Merritt, who has had the estate in his family since the 1800's. Merritt Estates Bella Rosa was awarded the gold medal at the 24th annual San Diego International Wine Competition. The awards won by Merritt Estate are the result of hard work and dedication that have resulted in wines that rival some of the best in the world.

Western New York is home to the largest continuous acreage of concord grapes in the world. The regional grape industry contributes \$3.3 billion in economic value to the New York State economy each year. As a member of the Wine and Grape Caucus, I am proud that

such outstanding products come from the grapes and hard work of local growers in western New York.

CLARIFICATION OF LEGISLATIVE  
INTENT ON SANTA ROSA ISLAND

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, after reading an opinion from the Department of the Interior Solicitor, I feel compelled to clarify the intent of Section 1077 (c) of P.L. 109-364. While others may misinterpret and even distort the actual impact of this language upon the healthy Kaibab Mule Deer and Roosevelt Elk herds that are currently living on Santa Rosa island, I want to make clear this section's intent is to protect both herds from extermination. It is just that simple and it does not do anything more narrow or broad. Nothing could emphasize this intent more clearly than Conference Report 109-702's explanation that Section 1077 was intended to "prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from exterminating or nearly exterminating the deer and elk on the island."

Clearly, when this provision became law, it directed the National Park Service (NPS) to allow the deer and elk that have thrived on Santa Rosa Island to remain on the island beyond 2011—the last year of the term within the settlement agreement. The use of helicopters is included within the settlement agreement and referenced by Section 1077(c) as it is likely the most effective way to conduct an extermination program. Section 1077(c) was not intended to prohibit only that method of extermination. These beautiful and healthy animals should remain on the island for visitors to enjoy. They should not be ruthlessly and systematically destroyed for some ill-conceived notion of native versus non-native, as others advocate.

The Solicitor has acted inappropriately by pulling a theory of congressional intent out of the air. Clearly, the intent of the language was not to "preclude the Department of the Interior from participating in any plan approved in the settlement agreement." In fact, the language, which is now law, was intended to do what it clearly states: (1) vitiate the settlement agreement with respect to the deer and elk draw-down and eradication plan and (2) allow the elk and deer to remain on Santa Rosa Island indefinitely. I want to highlight the intent of allowing the deer to remain on the island and make it clear that means these herds must be left to live on Santa Rosa Island. The congressional intent of this section was not to protect them only from slaughter, but also to protect them from relocation.

I must add, I find it deeply troubling that the administration, when testifying against the same provision before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on May 16, 2006, testified that this provision would, "... require the Secretary of the Interior to stop the plan to remove the deer and elk from the island as required by a court-ordered settlement agreement. This provision would effectively overturn the 1998 settlement agreement, that the NPS is legally bound to, that requires the phase-out of non-native deer and elk over

several years and their complete removal from the island by the end of 2011." I am bewildered why such an about-face has been made on a provision that is identical to the current law provision, having just passed the House of Representatives.

In closing, I hope this statement clarifies the intent of both P.L. 109-364 and the accompanying Conference Report 109-702. Both are clear on their face, but as the lead House negotiator of the Conference Committee of H.R. 5122, I felt it important to clear up any uncertainty brought forward by interpretations following a short-sighted agenda. This important conservation provision must stand and be properly interpreted so that the elk and deer are not slaughtered. Simply restated, it would be a tragedy to have these healthy populations of elk and mule deer exterminated from public lands to forward a misguided agenda of what belongs on Santa Rosa Island. Section 1077(c) is intended to prevent such eradication carried out by NPS or other parties to the settlement agreement.

My intent was clearly for the elk and deer herds to remain on Santa Rosa. This intent was clearly manifested in my numerous floor and committee statements in which I described my intent that wounded veterans are to be allowed to hunt these animals following the transfer of Santa Rosa from private ownership. My committee and floor statements regarding Santa Rosa Island, particularly floor statements made on December 16, 2005, and May 10, 2006, demonstrate this intent.

I also discussed the Santa Rosa provision with CNN's Anderson Cooper on June 13, 2006. A transcript of the interview follows:

JOE JOHNS, CNN CORRESPONDENT: 25 miles off the coast of Santa Barbara, more than triple the size of Manhattan, the crown jewel of the Channel Islands National Park. The remote and largely untouched Santa Rosa Island. Canyons, coastline, chaparral and pines and you own it. Taxpayers pay \$30 million for Santa Rosa Island. A treasure trove of ancient artifacts.

TORREY RICK, ARCHAEOLOGIST: It's incredible. I mean you don't get this kind of stuff anywhere else in the world, really.

JOHNS: Human bones found here date back 13,000 years. It's also unique for its inhabitants. The little island fox, endangered but so far not extinct. With all this at stake and more, the question before Congress is whether this park should be protected and open to all Americans year-round. Or should it also be used as a place where disabled veterans can come to hunt deer and elk? Which means tourists have to be kept safely out of the crossfire. Congressman Duncan Hunter, the powerful chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has been pushing for months to give the vets special privileges on Santa Rosa.

REP. DUNCAN HUNTER, (R) CALIFORNIA: I was driving south with a bunch of marines, some guys fresh back from Iraq and one of them said, there's Santa Rosa Island and they're going to close it and they're going to wipe out the entire deer and elk herd.

JOHNS: But the idea of handing over hunting rights on an island that's supposed to be for everybody has infuriated some Democrats from California, who say it's like telling the public you bought it, now keep out.

REP. LOIS CAPPS, (D) CALIFORNIA: It's outrageous and I told him so. This is a Republican leadership that wants to kick taxpayers off a national park that they paid \$30 million for. Makes you wonder, first it's Channel Islands National Park, is it going to be Yellowstone, is it going to be the Shenandoah's?

JOHNS: It's not that disabled veterans aren't important. It's just that there are plenty of good hunting spots that aren't in national parks. For instance, military bases in remote areas. It's a battle playing out all over America but especially in the west, over how best to use national parks. In this case whether to restore the park to its pristine condition or to allow other uses.

Much of this is about the animals. The park service only wants animals here that are native to Santa Rosa. So the deer and elk shipped in nearly a century ago by the family that used to own the land must now go. So what about a compromise? Why not allow both hunting and tourists full-time? Well hikers and bullets are not a great trail mix. So long as there's hunting here, the park service has to keep the public out. The park service says the game needs to go.

RUSSELL GALLIPEAU, U.S. PARK SERVICE: I'm not against providing access to anybody. I just think that hunting and public use of this island are not compatible. And it's not a purpose for which this park was set aside.

JOHNS: So as taxpayers you paid for a remote national park, but now a powerful congressman says it should be managed as a place for disabled war vets to hunt deer and elk. For \$30 million, Santa Rosa may well be the biggest game trophy out there. Joe Johns, CNN, Santa Rosa Island, California.

COOPER: Well as Joe just mentioned Congressman Duncan Hunter is the force behind the move to keep the elk and deer on the island for hunting. We spoke earlier.

COOPER: So Congressman Hunter, you know your critics say look, taxpayers spent \$30 million to buy Santa Rosa Island. But as long as there's hunting there, 90 percent of it's closed to non-hunters for about half of the year. They say that's unfair.

HUNTER: Well, let me—let's put this in context. My son, who's a marine, did a couple of tours in Iraq and when he came back, he and I started taking wounded marines and soldiers hunting. We went to Arizona, Colorado, lots of good places. We had one hunt we took a person with a spinal disability. That is, a paralyzed veteran into Colorado, into the big national forest. And it's very difficult for them to have a real quality experience. Now, this island, Santa Rosa Island, which is off the California coast, which is 52,000 acres, has a very small number of public visitors. About 15 a day from the statistics I've seen.

COOPER: But the reason that there are only 15, the national park says about 5,000 people a year visit Santa Rosa Island. The reason more people aren't able to do it is because they can only visit about 10 percent of the island for half the year because of this hunting. If you close down the hunting, then the whole island basically would be open to visitors and to taxpayers who paid for it.

HUNTER: Listen, here's all we want. All we want is about two weeks a year for the paralyzed veterans to come over. I would be happy to stipulate that no congressman come over, no VIPs. Only people who are paralyzed veterans, who are very disabled veterans. And actually the reason most people don't go over to Santa Rosa Island is because it's a major boat trip or a plane trip. And tourists who are driving down the coast of California don't want to take a plane or a boat to simply get to another island. So we could easily accommodate the paralyzed veterans, they could have a great time. They could have the adventure of a lifetime.

And you know something, they may be wheelchair-bound but their spirits are free, they like adventure. This is a great place to take your family. And this could be a special niche for those people. And you know something else, the people of the United States, if the taxpayers knew that this was going to be used by paralyzed veterans, they'd say fine.

This is the park service that says, we want to wipe out this deer and elk herd because they're not native. They just want to do it because they've got the power to do it. They could easily accommodate our veterans.

COOPER: Is this the role of a national park? The national park service which runs this, basically would be subsidizing a hunting program. They say and critics say, look, there are other places for people with disabilities to hunt. We talked to the Paralyzed Veterans Association they say you know some states even allow those with disabilities to hunt from their cars.

HUNTER: Listen, the reason the national park people have their nice jobs and the reasons we as members of the American public get to enjoy national parks is because of people who wear uniforms who go out in dangerous parts of the world and secure our freedom. So let in some paralyzed veterans, many of whom have been injured in combat, to come have a small piece of this island that almost nobody goes to anyway, is a small repayment for their service to our country. I think the taxpayers would appreciate that.

COOPER: Congressman Hunter, appreciate you joining us, thanks.

Lastly, a letter provided by the Wounded Warrior Project reaffirms discussions and the intent to allow wounded and disabled veterans to enjoy Santa Rosa Island. The letter follows:

AUGUST 28, 2006.

Hon. DUNCAN L. HUNTER,  
Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HUNTER: On behalf of the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), I am responding to your legislation that will cease the elimination of all elk and deer on Santa Rosa Island in California and could provide unrivaled hunting opportunities for severely wounded veterans.

The Wounded Warrior Project applauds any effort that supports our endeavors to assist severely injured military personnel. WWP has reached thousands of wounded service men and women, providing assistance in the transition from a hospital bed to an independent and productive life and we believe that Santa Rosa could offer the wounded another chance to participate in meaningful and enriching recreational activities such as fishing, hunting and camping.

This legislation is consistent with Wounded Warrior Project's adaptive sports and outdoors programs like hunting and fishing, snow and water skiing, canoeing and diving. For that reason we encourage the House of Representatives to pass this provision to potentially allow the use of the island for disabled service members.

We hope that together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal organizations, a viable and sustainable daily operations system for the management of Santa Rosa Island can be developed and that our nation's wounded warriors will be able to enjoy the world class hunting that the island has to offer.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

JOHN MELLA,  
Executive Director.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1678

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support

for H.R. 1678, The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007. This legislation continues and improves a much needed and valuable safety net to help victims of torture recover from their trauma and rebuild successful lives.

Every member of this body knows that torture is a tool used to enforce a level of terror among preyed upon people. Not only can the physical scars of torture last forever, the emotional pain experienced by victims can last a lifetime. Frequently, the aim of brutal torture is not to kill the victim, but to break their will. Victims are humiliated, crippled, traumatized and then returned to their communities as a brutal message of intimidation to others. In many instances, doctors and medical personnel participate during torture sessions to ensure the victim will not die. Groups that sanction, sponsor and commit torture focus on inflicting terror, intimidation and fear on entire communities.

But through appropriate help, services and intervention, victims of torture can heal. The Torture Victims Relief Act provides critical funds to improve access to the health, legal and social services critical to victims and their families through domestic treatment centers for rehabilitation and research and training for health care providers. H.R. 1678 also makes grants available to foreign countries to carry out projects that work to treat the psychological and physical effects of torture.

Treatment is critical, but there is more that can be done. This legislation also creates a partnership by increasing funding for foreign treatment centers and strengthening our commitment to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. This bill sends a strong message to the international community that treating victims of torture is a priority for Congress, and that we welcome the support of our like-minded friends around the globe.

This issue is important in my district. Minnesota is a new home for a growing number of immigrants and refugees and the late Senator Wellstone was a true champion for victims of torture. In addition, Minnesota is proud to be home to the Center for Victims of Torture—a world renowned center for the treatment and healing of torture victims. When the center opened in 1985, it became the first of its kind in the United States and only the third treatment center in the entire world. Today, with centers in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Washington, DC, Sierra Leone and Liberia, CVT is helping thousands of torture survivors from 60 countries.

Madam Speaker, torture is a crime against humanity and unacceptable at any time, by any nation. Any nation that tortures or tolerates torture is truly not free. I strongly encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation and commend the gentleman from New Jersey for his commitment to this issue and his work on this bipartisan legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 10, 2007, my vote on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions to

H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (rollcall vote 340) was recorded as a "yes" vote when I intended to cast a "no" vote. I wish to clarify on the record my miscast vote and my strong support for the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC).

As the Nation's principal center for strategic domestic counterdrug intelligence, the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) in Johnstown, PA, provides critical information on national drug trafficking and abuse trends in the United States. I was pleased to support funding for the NDIC in the Intelligence Authorization bills in both the 108th and 109th Congress.

Not only does the NDIC serve a vital role in our nationwide effort to combat drug trafficking, this center is critically important to the southwestern Pennsylvania region. Having these resources readily available in close proximity to the district I represent in Congress is a tremendous benefit to my constituents. NDIC field representatives on average have more than 30 years' experience in Federal, State, or local drug law enforcement and stand ready to assist my local law enforcement agencies and provide necessary intelligence and training. We are fortunate to have the Center in our backyard and look forward to benefiting from its work in the future.

The NDIC's comprehensive annual report on national drug trafficking and abuse trends within the United States is one of the key tools for the Federal Government to respond to the threat posed by drugs to our families, schools and communities. Formulated in partnership with Federal, State, and local agencies with information from more than 3,400 State and local law enforcement agencies as well as thousands of personal interviews with law enforcement and public health officials, this report is one of the most comprehensive and detailed reports that our Federal Government receives on both domestic and foreign drug threats to our country.

I look forward to continuing my support of the critical intelligence work of the NDIC to protect our families and the Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE DEVOLUTION OF GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join my colleagues here in the House in congratulating the people of Northern Ireland on the formation of their own duly elected government.

This remarkable achievement, the formal implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, sends a message of hope to the entire world. In Martin McGuinness's words, "This marks an end to 800 years of conflict." Surely if the Irish can reach a peaceful conclusion to their differences other troubled places around the world should celebrate the possibilities for themselves.

Much credit goes to the political leadership of Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness showed great courage in leading their Nationalist side. Rev. Ian Paisley, noted for saying no, said yes to an agreement he helped construct. British Prime Minister Blair and Irish

Prime Minister Ahern never lost focus or patience.

For America it was a wonderful foreign policy success. President Bush and Clinton played important and constructive roles. In the Congress, both houses linked arms and worked together. It was a case of everyone sticking together with one purpose.

But the most credit should go to the people of Northern Ireland who expressed their hope for the future, first by supporting (as did the Republic) the Good Friday Agreement and most recently by giving Sinn Fein and DUP leaders a mandate to proceed. Optimism was expressed in the vote and the leaders need to move forward and do the hard work of governing.

I know all Americans join together with our Irish friends in celebrating this miraculous achievement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on May 7, 2007, due to a family illness, I missed the following recorded votes: rollcall vote No. 302, on H.R. 407—The Columbia Pacific National Heritage Area Study Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye”; rollcall vote No. 303, on H.R. 1025—The Lower Republican River Basin Study Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye”; and rollcall vote No. 304, on H. Res. 371—In Observance of National Physical Education and Sports Week. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

#### VIETNAMESE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise because May 11 is Vietnamese Human Rights Day, and my conscience will not let me stay quiet on this very troubling issue. I also rise today to applaud the efforts of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom on their recent report on the status of religious freedom in the world.

I am deeply troubled by the findings of the Commission, but I can't say that I'm surprised. The Commission made the same recommendation last year: Vietnam should be placed on the State Department's list of Countries of Particular Concern because of government repression towards many religious believers.

The Vietnamese government's campaign to force people to renounce their faith, their detainment of dozens of religious prisoners, and the harassment and physical mistreatment of some believers and their families amounts to inexcusable human rights violations.

In Vietnam's quest to gain Permanent Normal Trade Relations with the United States, and access to the WTO, the Vietnamese embarked on a disingenuous public relations campaign to cleanse its image as a human rights violator.

Secretary Rice caved in to the campaign of their communist government and removed Vietnam from the Countries of Particular Concern list.

But some of us in Congress were not fooled by this advertising campaign.

My constituent, Cong Thanh Do, a United States citizen, was unjustly arrested in Vietnam last August while on a family vacation. Mr. Do is no criminal. He is nothing more than a peaceful democracy and human rights activist who wrote articles that he then posted on the internet while he was living in the United States.

Vietnam held Cong Thanh Do imprisoned for over a month before he was released after we pressured the Vietnamese government.

Because of the evidence suggesting that Vietnam made little progress on human rights—especially given the detention of my constituent, Cong Thanh Do—I told the administration it would be a mistake to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations with Vietnam and I voted against it.

Three of Mr. Do's supporters in Vietnam were tried and sentenced yesterday for 3 to 5 years of prison each. Their crime? Promoting a multi-party democratic system in Vietnam through peaceful means and sending email communication to my constituent.

After Vietnam joined the WTO, I think it is obvious that the conditions of religious freedom in Vietnam did not improve. They have worsened severely.

The Vietnamese government removed Father Nguyen Van Ly from his parish and on March 30th sentenced him to 8 years in prison for allegedly conducting propaganda activities to harm the security of the state. His sentence is an outrage.

Vietnamese police, on March 6, 2007, arrested a pair of human-rights lawyers, Nguyen Van Dai (“Die”) and Le Thi Cong Nhan (pronounced “Lay Tee Kohng Nhun”), for organizing training sessions for political activists in the capital. There are many other dissidents who have been imprisoned simply for expressing their thoughts and attempting to practice their faith freely and openly. Nguyen Van Dai has since been charged with disseminating propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. Their trials and sentencing are scheduled for this Friday in Vietnam.

Le Quoc Quan (“Lay Kwook Kwun”) and his law colleague Tran Thuy Trang (“Truhn Twee Trahng”) were arrested on the day Mr. Quan returned to Vietnam from his congressionally-sponsored National Endowment for Democracy fellowship in the United States. His arrest is not only a human rights violation, it is a calculated insult to America and specifically to the United States Congress.

With all of the human rights problems in Vietnam, the question we must ask is, “What can we do to help?” The United States has the power to influence Vietnam on these important moral issues through the use of our many diplomatic and economic tools—if only we have the political will and moral courage to use these tools.

One tool is the Countries of Particular Concern list.

I believe it was a mistake to take Vietnam off the list. I agree with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom that Secretary Rice should redesignate Vietnam a Country of Particular Concern.

I believe the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Michael Marine, should provide financial support to the loved ones of the political detainees, using the Human Rights Defender's fund. The wives of many of these political prisoners are left without any financial support. We have a moral commitment not just to these people who have been imprisoned unjustly; we have a moral obligation to relieve the financial burden that these arrests have caused for the families of the brave.

Vietnam claims it has made significant progress in allowing more freedom of religion under its Ordinance on Belief and Religion, but this is simply untrue. Under this law, affiliated organizations of recognized churches may “register for religious operation.” In practice, however, only 2.5 percent of all house churches have been approved for registration. And of the one hundred house churches that actually have been registered, only five have been registered for religious operation. No real progress has been made.

Until Vietnam makes real progress on religious freedoms and human rights, instead of paying lip service in order to get trade agreements, I will continue to press this administration to stand up for the rights of the Vietnamese people to speak their minds and practice their faith.

#### SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1429, IMPROVING HEAD START ACT

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1429, the Improving Head Start Act. Having had the opportunity to serve on the Education and Workforce committee for 6 years, I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to finally vote for a Head Start reauthorization bill that will improve on the success of this critical program.

Head Start is one of the most successful programs funded by Congress. Research shows that children who attend Head Start enter school better prepared, are less likely to need special education services, and are more likely to graduate. The Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank reported a few years ago that there is actually a 16 percent rate of return on investment in quality early education. In my opinion, funding education for our youngest children is the most efficient and important investment we can make.

The biggest challenge facing Head Start has been lack of resources. In Minnesota, less than half the children eligible for Head Start are served due to funding shortages. And nationwide, only 2 percent of children eligible for Early Head Start receive services. We can do better. Increasing access to Head Start is good for children, for families, for communities and for the federal budget.

The Improving Head Start Act will expand and improve Head Start. It will allow access for 10,000 more children and prioritize expanding Early Head Start. It increases teacher qualifications and helps to attract quality teachers by improving salaries. It will also improve coordination with other early education programs, ensure that parents continue to play

an important role in governing Head Start and strengthen the focus on health, mental health, and obesity prevention.

Equally important are the things this bill does not include. It prohibits further use of the National Reporting System—high stakes testing that was inappropriate for 4-year olds and was draining time and dollars from Head Start programs. It does not include block grants to the states which would have diluted Head Start's high standards and comprehensive programming. And finally, I join with faith groups in Minnesota and around the country in applauding the successful efforts to defeat a provision to allow discrimination in hiring with Head Start dollars.

I congratulate Chairman MILLER and Speaker PELOSI for making our children's education a priority for the 110th Congress. I am pleased to support H.R. 1429 and look forward to continuing to put the interests of our children and our families first.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEVIN IRWIN

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Clark County Firefighter Kevin Irwin for his selfless role in saving nine of his fellow firefighter's lives.

On February 17, 2007, Clark County firefighters were dispatched to a fire in a large commercial warehouse in Las Vegas, Nevada. On this particular day, Firefighter Kevin Irwin arrived on the scene with the crew from Station 15, and served as an acting Engineer for the day. As the firefighters were battling the flames, Kevin noticed one of the exterior walls in the warehouse was giving in. In a rush to save the rest of the crew, Kevin quickly alerted the other men of their imminent danger and subsequently prevented their deaths.

Humbled about being referred to as a hero, Kevin says it is all a part of the job. He has served with the Clark County Fire Department for four years and has been under Captain Christian Grimes in Station 15 for the last two years. Kevin has been a resident of Nevada since 1991 and is married to wife Debora with two children, Jacob and Ashlyn.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Kevin Irwin for his heroism and his quick approach that saved nine fellow firefighters' lives. The service firefighters like Kevin provide, to save lives while risking their own is truly commendable. I applaud Kevin for his leadership and wish him continued success in his career.

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IN MEMORY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE MENDEL DAVIS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, when Mendel Davis came to Congress, he had some big shoes to fill. His namesake and predecessor, Mendel Rivers, had chaired the House Armed Services Committee at a time when committee

chairmen were powerful, and he had ruled the roost. He had secured for Charleston military installations, ranging from the Navy Yard, home port to surface ships and submarines, to Charleston Air Force Base, which boasted the first of the C-5As.

After Mendel Rivers died, Mendel Davis ran an impressive race, won a special election, and obtained a seat on the Science Committee and then on the House Armed Services Committee. He served there effectively and with distinction, and had he served long enough, he would have matched his namesake in influence and output.

Mendel Davis served ten years and never quite matched Mendel Rivers' seniority, but he worked every bit as hard, if not harder, for his constituents. From his seat on Armed Services, Mendel Davis never forgot where he came from or who sent him here, and he cared for his constituency. He helped bring the USS *Yorktown* to Patriot's Point, and with Senator Hollings' help, he helped fund and keep in place all that Mendel Rivers had brought to Charleston.

I came to Congress shortly after Mendel Davis had left, but I found that everyone who knew him remembered him and highly respected him. I did not see him often, but always enjoyed the opportunities we did encounter. Like all of his friends and acquaintances, I will long remember him and his great service to our country and to the House. His wife, Jane, and all his family have my deepest sympathy.

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IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM F. "BABE" MARCELLINO

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dear friend and former member of my staff, William F. "Babe" Marcellino. The Babe passed away on May 9, 2007, after 90 glorious years. While I am saddened by his passing, I can't help smiling when I think about his life.

Babe Marcellino was an American original in every sense. He was a well respected political sage on Beacon Hill and in Boston City Hall. He served as a close advisor to Governor Foster Furcolo, Senate President Maurice Donahue and Mayor Kevin White. He came to work for me later in life and stayed with me into his 80s. He was the essence of wisdom and quiet elegance. When constituents walked through the door to my office, the Babe would greet them with a wink and a smile. When they broke down in tears under the weight of their problems, Babe would tell them he was on their side. And he always was. He helped hundreds of constituents solve their problems with the federal government. I especially relied on Babe to help with particularly difficult constituent matters, because of his incredible ability to put people at ease.

I will never forget his mastery of policy and his generosity of spirit following a terrible fire that ravaged an entire block of businesses right across from my Medford, MA, district office in February of 1994. Together, Babe Marcellino and I worked with the Small Business Administration and others in the federal

government to bring relief to devastated business owners in Medford Square and to rebuild the downtown. Babe Marcellino was an exemplary public servant.

Babe also was a wonderful teacher. He eagerly took younger staff members under his wing to impart his wisdom. Many of those former staffers have told me over the years that their experience in public service was richer for having known and learned from the Babe.

He dearly loved his alma mater Holy Cross, and devoted a large portion of his time ensuring that Holy Cross became a national educational treasure that could be enjoyed by all students, regardless of their socio-economic condition.

Babe was blessed with an extraordinary family for which his love was strong and enduring. He was remarkable for having two wonderful marriages. With his beloved first wife Maudie, he produced six incredible children—William Marcellino Jr., James Marcellino, Mary Zuberis, Richard Marcellino, John "Jocko" Marcellino, and Sister Noella Marcellino. After Maudie passed away, the Babe married the fabulous Marie, herself a widow. He "inherited" five terrific step-children—Cathy Doran, Jane Driscoll, Stephen Doran, Mark Doran and the late Daniel Doran. Babe leaves 21 grandchildren, each with their unique and special memories of their grandfather.

Watching Babe and Marie was like watching Fred and Ginger—they made a marvelous couple full of grace, style and class.

When you were in Babe's presence, you could not help but to feed off of his optimism and his incredible inner strength. He was the quintessential gentleman. He often remarked after an enjoyable time or conversation together that the experience had been "like a chunk of heaven."

Babe, it was an honor to have known you and worked with you—and I am proud to honor your exemplary public service, your extraordinary love of family, and your unwavering faith in God and the United States of America. Your whole life was a chunk of heaven and all of us who love you will miss you dearly.

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A TRIBUTE TO SUE SARILYN WASHINGTON

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness and deep regret that many of us in this body rise to pay tribute to a wonderful lady and a close friend of mine—Mrs. Sue Sarilyn Washington. The words most often associated with her are "grace" and "compassion," and with those I wholeheartedly agree.

Just a quick glimpse of her professional life attests to her unselfish spirit. Sue Sarilyn Washington was an inspiration to those around her, and dedicated her time and spirit to many outstanding local and national organizations, including: the VA Medical Center of Dallas; Jack & Jill of America; Links, Inc. Dallas Chapter; Carrousel, Dallas Chapter; Board of Trustees, Lutheran High School; the

Board of Directors, Children's Theater of Dallas; Deacon, Royal Lane Baptist Church; and the St. Marks Boy Scouts. Through these organizations, Sue touched the lives of countless individuals.

A devoted mother of three, Sue also consistently showed her love for God and others. She delicately balanced the rigors of professional life with the demands of caring for their family; yet, she still made time for friends.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to a lady who faithfully served her community with dedication and integrity. Sue Sarilyn Washington will be sorely missed in North Texas.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE ALS  
REGISTRY ACT OF 2007

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**HON. LEE TERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the introduction of The ALS Registry Act of 2007 by my colleague ELIOT ENGEL of New York and myself. A similar bill introduced in the 109th Congress, H.R. 4033, garnered the support of 215 of our colleagues, nearly 50 percent of the members of the House of Representatives. Today, we are joined by 80 additional original cosponsors in this effort.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal, progressive, neurodegenerative disease affecting motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Approximately 5,600 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, each year. It is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease. The average life expectancy for a person with ALS is 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis. There is no known cure for ALS.

There is currently no single national patient registry which collects and stores information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS in existence in the United States. The establishment of a national registry will help identify the occurrence and frequency of ALS and other motor neuron disorders and collect data which is badly needed for ALS research, disease management and the development of standards of care in order to significantly enhance the nation's efforts to find a treatment and cure for ALS.

All diseases bring hardships on those afflicted, but ALS is particularly cruel in the quickness of the onset, the severity of the symptoms and the fatal nature of the condition. The provisions in our bill creating a nationwide registry for persons afflicted with ALS are important steps forward in strengthening the efforts to understand, treat and one day eradicate this terrible disease. I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor the ALS Registry Act and I am proud to join my friend Mr. ENGEL in bringing forward this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall votes 337 through 341 held on Thursday, May 10, 2007, beginning with Rollcall 337.

Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have cast the following votes on H.R. 2082: to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes. On passage Passed by recorded vote: 225-197 (rollcall No. 341). I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the motion to recommit with instructions, rollcall No. 340, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the Schiff amendment rollcall No. 339, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the Rogers (MI) amendment rollcall No. 338, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, had I been present for the Hoekstra amendment rollcall No. 337, I would have voted "no."

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOYCE  
HOLLAND

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**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Joyce Holland, a registered nurse, who is a distinguished and devoted professional in her field.

In 1992, Joyce earned her associates degree in Nursing. She later joined the nursing staff of Boulder City Hospital as a registered nurse/medical decision support coordinator in 2000. Joyce served as RN/MDS Coordinator for 6 years before retiring in 2006. After a brief retirement, Joyce returned to Boulder City Hospital in 2007 as the long term care director, the position she holds today. Throughout her career at Boulder City Hospital, Joyce's high degree of professionalism and enduring compassion have earned her the respect of her colleagues and have made her invaluable to her patients.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Joyce Holland. Her passion and her love of nursing have improved the lives of countless patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE ALS  
REGISTRY ACT OF 2007

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**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to reintroduce the ALS Registry Act of 2007 with my

good friend, LEE TERRY of Nebraska. We are proud to have the support of over 80 other bipartisan members of Congress today as original co-sponsors of this important legislation.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. While the great baseball player, Lou Gehrig, put a national face on ALS over 65 years ago, my own family was personally affected when my grandmother, Dora Engel, was diagnosed with the fatal disease and passed away when she was only in her 50s. Unfortunately, families across the Nation face the challenges and experience the suffering associated with ALS every single day. 5,600 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS each year, and it is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time. The average life expectancy for a person with ALS is two to five years from the time of diagnosis. The causes of ALS are not well understood and there is no known cure. We must provide hope to change this tragedy today.

Surprisingly, a single national patient registry which collects and stores information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS does not currently exist in the United States today. The legislation I am re-introducing with Congressman TERRY, would build on a fiscal year 2006 Congressional appropriation which directed the Centers for Disease Control to evaluate the science to guide the creation of a national ALS Registry. The Engel/Terry legislation will create an ALS registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and will aid in the search for a cure to this devastating disease. The registry will collect data concerning: the incidence and prevalence of ALS in the United States; the environmental and occupational factors that may contribute to the disease; the age, race or ethnicity, gender and family history of individuals diagnosed; and other information essential to the study of ALS. The information gained from the ALS registry will also strengthen a disease clearinghouse's ability to put patients in contact with scientists conducting clinical trials and scientists studying the environmental and genetic causes of ALS.

We need to provide our Nation's researchers and clinicians with the tools and information they need to make progress in the fight against ALS. The data made available by a national registry will potentially allow scientists to identify causes of the disease, and maybe even lead to the discovery of new treatment, a cure for ALS, or even a way to prevent the disease in the first place. This is good public policy.

The establishment of a registry will bring new hope to thousands of patients and their families that ALS will no longer be a death sentence. I strongly urge the swift consideration and passage of the ALS Registry Act of 2007.

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RECOGNIZING JEREMY ALLEN  
PATANIA FOR ACHIEVING THE  
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

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**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremy Allen Patania, a

very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 857, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeremy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Jeremy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremy Allen Patania for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2206, the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Act." This legislation includes the important funding that has already passed this chamber to provide resources for servicemen and women, for military and veterans' health care, and for valuable programs like LIHEAP and SCHIP.

This bill ensures accountability. H.R. 2206 provides 3 months of funding for the war in Iraq but requires the president to report back to Congress about whether certain goals are met before the rest of the funds will be released by subsequent legislation.

It is time for the president to listen to the American people and support this reasonable legislation to help bring an end to this war.

STUDENT LOAN SUNSHINE ACT

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the most important goal of the Student Loan Sunshine Act is to protect students and parents and help them receive the most affordable loan possible. With that in mind, I would like to mention that recently, a number of my colleagues and I sent a letter to Secretary Spellings regarding the urgent need to reopen the national student loan database for students and parents to receive low interest consolidation loans before the rates are changed on July 1st.

Although, we fully support new and better safeguards to protect student privacy which many student loan companies advocate, it is crucial that both students and lenders have safe and secure access to this information.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH A. DART, PRESIDENT OF MASSACHUSETTS BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a good friend and tremendous labor leader, Joseph A. Dart. Joe has dedicated his life to improving the lives of working men and women throughout Massachusetts.

Joining Local 257 Painter & Allied Trades in 1974, Joe's hard work and leadership skills propelled his rise through the ranks. In 1980, Joe became a Business Agent and the following year advanced to Business Manager. By 1985, Joe held the position of President of the Pioneer Valley Building Trades Council. Joe's ability to advance his union and provide the fellow members of his trade with employment exemplifies the characteristics in which all members of the Building Trades should strive.

Between 1994 and 1996, Joe added three new positions to his impressive list of accomplishments, all of which he holds to this day. In 1994, Joe became President of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council, an organization which is comprised of 72 local unions and 10 Local Building Trades Councils representing 75,000 construction trades men and women in Massachusetts. In 1995, Joe became Co-Chair of the Labor-Management Construction Safety Alliance, where he succeeded in passing the OSHA 10-Hour Law requiring all construction workers on public projects to be trained in safety. In 1996, Joe became the Executive Vice President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

Throughout his career in the Building Trades, Joe has been an advocate for workers rights and fought to provide his fellow brothers and sisters of labor with fair wages and skilled training. Joe has negotiated dozens of Project Labor Agreements to guarantee good wages, hours, and working conditions on massive construction sites. These agreements have also guaranteed employers access to a skilled workforce and eliminated labor relations problems. In 1988, Joe was instrumental in defeating a ballot question, which was intended to remove Prevailing Wage Laws in the state of Massachusetts. Ten years later, Joe was essential in the passage of an amendment to the Massachusetts Payment of Wages Law, which increased penalties on employers who willfully and intentionally violated payment rights of employees.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with Joe's family, friends and brothers and sisters of labor to thank him for his incredible dedication and commitment to the fight for workers' rights and service to the American Labor Movement. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Joe's distinguished career and wishing him good health and success in all his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE LICHNER

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Suzanne Lichner, a licensed practical nurse, who is a distinguished and devoted professional in her field.

Prior to joining the nursing staff at Boulder City Hospital, Suzanne worked as an LPN in home health care and hospice care. Suzanne began her career at Boulder City Hospital in 2000 with the Skilled Nursing Facility, where she quickly demonstrated her ability, talent, dedication, and compassion towards her patients. During the past 7 years, Suzanne's strengths as a health care professional have earned her the respect of her peers and colleagues. In 2006, Suzanne transferred to the Medical/ Surgical Unit at Boulder City Hospital, where she serves as a medical surgical nurse.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Suzanne Lichner. Her passion and her love of nursing have improved the lives of countless patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF SIGNATURE LEARNING CENTER

**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 14, 2007*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Signature Learning Center in Evansville for being recognized as one of the top charter schools in the nation by the Center for Education Reform (CER). The Center is one of only 53 schools to receive the National Charter School of the Year Award and was selected based on student achievement, satisfaction of parents, and its policies and programs.

The Signature Learning Center has approximately 275 students with an average class size of 20. Its students excel academically with 100 percent enrollment in advanced college preparatory courses and 100 percent graduation rate. For these reasons and others, the school was listed by Newsweek as one of the top 100 High Schools in the nation in 2006.

Signature Learning Center joins nearly 4,000 charter schools nationwide in educating over 1 million American children.

Children are our nation's greatest resource. The quality of education they receive has a direct impact on the strength of our economy, the safety of our communities, and the ability of our nation to compete in the world. The Signature Learning Center is providing children in southern Indiana with the tools they need to meet their full potential and make a difference in our world. I am proud to recognize them for their accomplishments today.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks* section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 15

10 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the short-term energy outlook for summer 2007, focusing on oil and gasoline.

SD-366

## Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine green buildings, focusing on benefits to health, the environment, and the bottom line.

SD-406

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine equal representation in Congress, focusing on providing voting rights to the District of Columbia.

SD-342

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence.

SD-226

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

## Retirement and Aging Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Alzheimer's disease, focusing on current and future breakthrough research.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

## National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 553, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 800, to establish the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 916, to modify the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, to establish the Minidoka National Historic Site, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and improvements of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Project, Idaho, S. 1057, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the New

River in the States of North Carolina and Virginia as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1209, to provide for the continued administration of Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands National Park, in accordance with the laws (including regulations) and policies of the National Park Service, S. 1281, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain rivers and streams of the headwaters of the Snake River System as additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System, H.R. 161, to adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial in Bainbridge Island, Washington, H.R. 247, to designate a Forest Service trail at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon as a national recreation trail in honor of Jim Weaver, a former Member of the House of Representatives, and H.R. 376, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefields and related sites of the First and Second Battles of Newtonia, Missouri, during the Civil War as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a separate unit of the National Park System.

SD-366

MAY 16

9:30 a.m.

## Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled "Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007", an original bill to make technical corrections to Title III of SAFETEA-LU; H.R. 1675, to suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors, H.R. 1676, to reauthorize the program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for loan guarantees for Indian housing, S. 254, to award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi, and the nominations of David George Nason, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions, Mario Mancuso, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, Michael W. Tankersley, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank, Robert M. Couch, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Janis Herschkowitz, of Pennsylvania, and Nguyen Van Hanh, of California, and David George Nason, of Rhode Island, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

SD-538

## Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the National Institutes of Health: A New Vision for Medical Research.

SD-116

## Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the explosive costs of elder care and determine if

they are hurting family finances and business competition.

SH-216

10 a.m.

## Environment and Public Works

## Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of mercury regulation, science, and technology.

SD-406

## Appropriations

## Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to receive testimony from sundry public witnesses.

SD-192

## Finance

To hold hearings to examine the efficacy of United States preference programs.

SD-215

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine rogue online pharmacies, focusing on the growing problem of internet drug trafficking.

SD-226

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-562

10:30 a.m.

## Aging

To hold hearings to examine Medicare Advantage marketing and sales, focusing on who has the advantage.

SD-106

2 p.m.

## Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to markup S. 1256, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act.

SR-428A

2:30 p.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

3 p.m.

## Appropriations

## Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

SD-192

MAY 17

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the United States European Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

## Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine law enforcement in Indian Country.

SR-485

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

## Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the federal government's security clearance process, focusing on evaluating progress and identifying obstacles to improvement.

SD-342

10 a.m.  
 Judiciary  
 Business meeting to consider S. 1027, to prevent tobacco smuggling, to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, S. 221, to amend title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to livestock and poultry contracts, S. 376, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, S. 1079, to establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, S. Res. 138, honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez, S. Res. 132, recognizing the Civil Air Patrol for 65 years of service to the United States, and S. Res. 130, designating July 28, 2007, as "National Day of the American Cowboy", and possible authorization of subpoenas in the connection with investigation into the replacement of U.S. attorneys.  
 SD-226

2:30 p.m.  
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
 Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine consolidation of National Association of Securities Dealers and the regulatory functions of the New York Stock Exchange, focusing on working towards improved regulation.  
 SD-538

Intelligence  
 Closed business meeting to markup an original bill authorizing funds for fiscal year 2008 for the intelligence community.  
 SH-219

MAY 18

10:30 a.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine growth trends in health care premiums for active and retired federal employees.  
 SD-342

MAY 21

2 p.m.  
 Appropriations  
 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
 To continue hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the National Institutes of Health: A New Vision for Medical Research.  
 SD-116

MAY 22

9 a.m.  
 Armed Services  
 SeaPower Subcommittee  
 Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
 SR-222

10 a.m.  
 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
 Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine the progress of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act (Public Law 109-236).  
 SD-628

Judiciary  
 To hold hearings to examine restoring habeas corpus, focusing on protecting American values and the Great Writ.  
 SD-226

Armed Services  
 Personnel Subcommittee  
 Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
 SR-232A

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine rail safety reauthorization.  
 SR-253

12:30 p.m.  
 Armed Services  
 Airland Subcommittee  
 Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
 SR-222

2:30 p.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine improving air service to small and rural communities.  
 SR-253

4 p.m.  
 Armed Services  
 Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee  
 Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
 SR-222

5:30 p.m.  
 Armed Services  
 Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee  
 Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
 SR-232A

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.  
 Veterans' Affairs  
 To hold hearings to examine health legislation.  
 SD-562

10 a.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 To hold hearings to examine communications, taxation and federalism.  
 SR-253

11:30 a.m.  
 Armed Services  
 Strategic Forces Subcommittee  
 Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
 SR-222

2:30 p.m.  
 Armed Services  
 Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
 SR-222

MAY 24

9:30 a.m.  
 Armed Services  
 Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
 SR-222

10 a.m.  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael E. Baroody, of Virginia, to be Chairman and Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Charles Darwin Snelling, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.  
 SR-253

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe  
 To hold hearings to examine Russia, focusing on the reemergence of Russia as a major political and economic power.  
 B318RHOB

3 p.m.  
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
 Disaster Recovery Subcommittee  
 To hold hearings to examine issues relative to residents of Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita, focusing on the goals, costs, management and impediments facing Louisiana's Road Home Program.  
 SD-342

JUNE 13

9:30 a.m.  
 Veterans' Affairs  
 Business meeting to markup pending legislation.  
 SD-562

10 a.m.  
 Rules and Administration  
 To hold hearings to examine nominations to the Federal Election Commission.  
 SR-301

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.  
 Veterans' Affairs  
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, focusing on cooperation on employment issues.  
 SD-562

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 15

Columbia, to be General Counsel of the  
Central Intelligence Agency.

SD-106

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine violence in  
the media.

SR-253

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Business meeting to consider pending  
military nomination.

SR-222

MAY 17

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Employment and Workplace Safety Sub-  
committee

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomina-  
tion of John A. Rizzo, of the District of

To hold hearings to examine the efficacy  
of the United States Department of  
Labor, focusing on enforcing the law.

SD-628