

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JEAN PICKER
FIRSTENBERG, AMERICAN FILM
INSTITUTE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a great American pioneer, Jean Picker Firstenberg, the outgoing President and CEO of the American Film Institute. Her 27-year tenure has marked AFI as one of America's greatest national cultural and educational resources. Under Jean Picker Firstenberg's visionary leadership, AFI has fulfilled its mission of excellence in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media.

From the moment she joined AFI in 1980, Firstenberg was effective from the start, acquiring an 8-acre campus in Los Angeles, and accrediting the AFI Conservatory through the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

In the 1980s, Firstenberg incorporated television and video into AFI's work, and established the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival, AFI FEST, which has become a world-renowned annual event.

In the 1990s, she embraced the digital revolution, starting with the AFI-Apple Computer Center for Film and Videomakers, and adding the AFI Media and Technology division, the AFI Digital Content Lab, and Virtual AFI Web sites (AFI.com, AFIFEST.com, and SILVERDOCS.com).

Firstenberg has brought the art and science of storytelling to children through the AFI K-12 Screen Education Center that utilizes the advantages of digital and Internet technology to teach core subjects in America's schools, and to the general public through the AFI Showcase at the Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park in Orlando, Florida that depicts AFI programs and projects to millions of guests each year.

Firstenberg has celebrated the diverse talents and creativity of American filmmakers in the innovative AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Movies series she began in 1998. Millions of Americans have revisited old favorites and discovered new classics with the AFI series, which includes 100 Years . . . 100 Stars (1999), 100 Years . . . 100 Laughs (2000), 100 Years . . . 100 Thrills (2001), 100 Years . . . 100 Passions (2002), Years . . . 100 Heroes & Villains (2003), 100 Years . . . 100 Songs, (2004), 100 Years . . . 100 Quotes (2005), and 100 Years . . . 100 Cheers (2006).

Another milestone, reached in 2003, was the opening of the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, MD, a state-of-the-art center for the moving image arts. It hosts SILVERDOCS, a film festival for aspiring documentary filmmakers, and anchors a revitalized community.

Firstenberg has continually embraced new media and blazed a trail for others to follow.

She is rightfully proud of 27 years of funding the Directors Workshop for Women. Most of the women directors working in the film industry today come from this program.

As she prepares to take leave of her day-to-day responsibilities at AFI, she will continue her service in her capacity as a lifetime trustee and through her legacy as a mentor, entrepreneur and role model. She will do so with the love and support of her family, particularly her daughter, Debra and her husband Michael Kusma, and their children Rachel, Sarah, and Christopher; her son Doug, his wife Suzanne, and their children Samantha, Drew, and Lindy; and her brother David Picker, and his wife, Sandy. Firstenberg's commitment to excellence and ethics in filmmaking is best captured by her AFI Conservatory graduates who describe her this way: "She has made AFI a place committed to the notion that television and film are more than commerce or technology—they are our investment in the future; in fact, our legacy. That we are to be held responsible for the images we perpetuate in the culture. And that one institute would take on the task of encapsulating the hard truths and dreams of a nation by preparing the storytellers of its future."

Madam Speaker, I ask the Congress of the United States to recognize the vision, talent and contributions that Jean Picker Firstenberg has made to enrich our cultural heritage and to encourage future generations to capture the imagination and innovation of the American people.

IN HONOR OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN LAKES, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, the people of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey and their neighboring communities throughout Bergen County will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Borough. A full day of rides, demonstrations, music, and great carnival food will mark the birthday celebration, which culminates in a fireworks display.

From as far back as the 17th Century, people have been drawn to this picturesque area. The Lenape Indians first traveled here to fish and make winter camp. Later as Dutch settlers pushed west, they, too, made what we now know as Franklin Lakes their home.

In 1876, the Walker Atlas shows that the community had grown from its first business—Daniel Youman's Grist Mill on Franklin Lake—to a thriving community of shops, schools, mills, hotels, and about 100 residences. In years to follow, rail and road expansion would bring even more people to the Franklin Lakes area. And, in 1922, Franklin Lakes officially incorporated, detaching itself from Franklin

Township and electing its first Mayor, William V. Pulis.

Between 1876 and 1980, Franklin Lakes grew to a whopping 8,500 people. And, today, nearly 10,500 people live there. Though it has grown in size and stature, it has always maintained its sense of neighborly quiet. The sense of friendship and community is evident in every nook and cranny of Franklin Lakes. It is my hope that the people of Franklin Lakes will maintain this vision for another 85 years into the future and then some, and I congratulate them all on this milestone occasion.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE SENFRONIA THOMPSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend of mine, a maverick, a community visionary, a leader, and a true Texan who has achieved an extraordinary milestone this year.

Senfronia Thompson set history this year by becoming the first woman and the first African-American legislator in the state of Texas to serve for 34 years. This milestone is an accomplishment for all Texas women and all Texas African-Americans.

In 1973, Senfronia Thompson was elected to the Texas State House of Representatives from Houston. She has continued to serve her constituents in honor ever since. She now ranks as the longest-serving woman and the longest-serving African-American in Texas State legislature history.

I had the pleasure of serving beside Senfronia Thompson, a native Houstonian and a champion of civic participation, when we were both freshman legislators together in 1973. It was an honor to serve with her then and it is an honor for me to be able to celebrate her accomplishment today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, September 27, 2007, I missed three rollcall recorded votes due to unforeseen circumstances.

On rollcall vote No. 914, on a Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted "No." On rollcall vote No. 922, on a Motion to Recommit with

• 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.

Instructions, I would have voted "No." On roll-call vote No. 923, on Final Passage of the Small Business Investment Expansion Act of 2007, I would have voted "Aye."

**TMA, ABSTINENCE EDUCATION,
AND QI PROGRAMS EXTENSION
ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill allows the extension of some important programs, specifically Transitional Medical Assistance and the Medicare Qualifying Individual Program.

But it unfortunately ties these necessary provisions to yet another ill-considered extension of the federal abstinence-only program.

Keeping federal abstinence-only programs in the form they've taken for the past ten years is an embarrassment to Congress, an insult to taxpayers and a disservice to the health of American young people.

We all support promoting abstinence as the healthiest choice for young people. But the abstinence-only programs we've been funding are a mistake. They contain serious misinformation and, most importantly, are not effective in improving adolescent health.

In 2004 a report I released looked at federally-funded abstinence-only programs and found that the vast majority of the most popular curricula had significant scientific and medical errors. Kids were being taught that HIV can be spread by tears and sweat, that condoms don't help protect against STDs, and that pregnancy occurs one in every seven times a couple uses condoms.

In 2006, GAO found that HHS still wasn't reviewing the medical accuracy of curricula used in the biggest federal abstinence-only programs. GAO also said there was no reliable evidence that these programs improve participants' health.

In 2007, HHS released the results of an evaluation it had commissioned itself on the effectiveness of federally-funded abstinence-only programs. In this randomized, controlled study—the gold standard of research—the abstinence-only programs had no impact on whether teens had sex. They had no impact on the age of first sex. They had no impact on the number of partners. And they had no impact on rates of pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease.

It's not surprising, in light of all this, that eleven states have decided they'd rather not receive federal abstinence-only money at all.

This program is broken. We've given abstinence-only programs one billion dollars in the past decade. \$500 million of that has been through this program. And that doesn't include the matching money states have put in. And for all that money, all we've been able to show the taxpayers are glaring medical errors and zero impact on adolescent health.

Language passed by the House in August would have required programs to contain medically accurate information; mandated that programs be based on models proven effective in improving adolescent pregnancy, HIV, or sexually transmitted disease rates; and

given states the option of offering more comprehensive health information.

I want to be clear. I do not think we should fund any abstinence-only programs. I don't think that we should be funding federal programs that are specifically premised on withholding crucial and age-appropriate health information from young people.

But I am heartened by Chairman DINGELL's statement that he will continue to fight for the House changes, because I believe they will move us closer to a responsible federal position on sex education. I offer Mr. DINGELL my full support in ensuring that federally-funded programs actually improve the health and well-being of American youth.

**IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE HOUSE OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD**

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 125th anniversary of The House of the Good Shepherd retirement community in Hackettstown, New Jersey. For over a century, this community has provided seniors with a place to call home.

In 1882, five Episcopal Congregations founded The House with a 20-room rental building in Orange, New Jersey, rented for the sum of \$400. Less than a decade later, they had outgrown that building and a new home was built in Orange housing three dozen women. In the 1960s, they expanded their offering to 175 residences on a wooded, 15-acre site in Hackettstown. The Musconetcong River and Stephens State Park offer a serene and quiet atmosphere. And, the excellent staff offer a loving and friendly environment for the seniors who live there.

The House of the Good Shepherd is equipped to offer its residents a variety of care options from independent apartments to assisted living suites to skilled nursing residences. It is an active community where seniors to go live their golden years to the fullest.

This year's anniversary is somewhat bitter-sweet for the residents of this community as their Executive Director of more than ten years has announced his retirement. Fred Heleine has ministered to and served the needs of these seniors admirably and with love and compassion since 1995, and as he said in announcing his retirement to his extended family of The House of the Good Shepherd, "I leave The House with much gratitude for the privilege of having been there." I know that the gratitude is mutual, and I join the community in thanking Fred for his fine service.

This Sunday, at a gala celebration fitting of such a momentous milestone, the residents and staff of The House of the Good Shepherd will be joined by members of the extended community. To mark this special anniversary, they will present their first annual "Distinguished Friend of The House" award to Claudia Conway, a longtime resident of Hackettstown and supporter of The House.

Ms. Conway's service has been remarkable, particularly her participation on the Foundation Advisory Council, and she was a natural

choice for this first award. But her dedication to The House not only speaks volumes of her goodness and compassion, but also of the worthiness of her cause. The House of the Good Shepherd is a phenomenal community and I wish it the best for another century of service.

HONORING GOLDY LEVI

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Goldy Levi, on his eightieth birthday. Not only is Goldy Levi a wonderful man who is greatly liked, he is an upstanding citizen and a pillar of the Dallas community. He is a true Texan who has achieved an extraordinary milestone this year.

Longevity is a cause for celebration, especially when it has been accomplished with such great ease. Goldy Levi has been a long time Dallas resident and I am honored to be blessed with his friendship. It is a true pleasure for me to be able to celebrate this milestone with him today.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASTER WAN
KO YEE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Master Artist Wan Ko Yee, a distinguished scholar who resides in the 9th District of California. His areas of expertise include literature, painting, sculpting, calligraphy, music, martial arts, and traditional medicine. As a professor at Auburn University, Master Yee is a well renowned author, researcher, and philosopher. He has created exceptional work exhibited throughout the world. His work reflects Buddhist themes and the ideas of tolerance and peace between nations. He is recognized as a pioneer in creating multi-colored sculptures.

In 2003, the United States Congress displayed selected work from Master Yee during an art exhibition held in the Gold Room in the House Office Building. He has been recognized by the Royal Academy of Arts of the United Kingdom, and the Organization of American States.

I commend Master Wan Ko Yee's artistic contributions and his efforts to promote peace through the arts and cultural exchange.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN McCUE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative MIKE THOMPSON of California in honor of John McCue, who is retiring as CEO of the non-

profit organization Becoming Independent, after 21 years of work on its behalf. Mr. McCue has been hugely influential in establishing and expanding the programs that Becoming Independent offers, and this hard work has been reflected by the remarkable success of participants in the program.

Mr. McCue was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and received his Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton in 1971. He has 36 years of experience in disability services, and has a credential in adult education. Mr. McCue joined Becoming Independent in 1981 as a program director before becoming CEO in 1986. In 1991 he received his Master of Public Administration degree from Sonoma State University.

During Mr. McCue's tenure as CEO, Becoming Independent has dramatically expanded the range of services available to persons with disabilities in Sonoma County, while retaining a high quality of service and satisfaction among program participants. Becoming Independent focuses on helping provide individuals with the skills they need to live fulfilling lives through community living support services, which enable individuals with disabilities to live on their own with dignity and responsibility. Vocational education is also a major emphasis in the organization, and with the assistance of Becoming Independent's employment services, hundreds of participants have found rewarding jobs all over Sonoma County. This success has been reflected in the annual gains they have charted in participant employment and earned wages.

In addition to his leadership at Becoming Independent, Mr. McCue has been active in local and state organizations, focusing on benefiting individuals with disabilities. He has been a longtime member of the California Rehabilitation Association, and served as Chair of the Board of Directors from 2004–2005. He is also a board member of the Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California. He is active in Sonoma County and beyond as a member of the North Bay Housing Coalition, North Bay Developmental Disabilities Services, and Leadership Santa Rosa, among many others.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we thank John McCue for his many years of service to the people of Sonoma County and his work with Becoming Independent. His leadership has been instrumental in providing superb services to individuals with disabilities to help them gain their independence.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF
THE MEN AND WOMEN VOLUNTEERS
AT THE RAMSEY AMBULANCE
CORPS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the men and women who volunteer their time, skills, and energy to the people of Ramsey, New Jersey through their dedicated service to the Ramsey Ambulance Corps.

Since 1953, when the Ramsey Ambulance Corps got its first ambulance and responded to its first calls, the faithful volunteers of this

organization have been an integral part of the community. From its birth more than 50 years ago, the Corps has blossomed to a strong and steady group that today responds to more than 1100 calls for help a year.

And, the Ramsey Ambulance Corps volunteers do far more than respond to calls for ambulance assistance. They also loan important medical equipment, like wheelchairs and crutches, to people in need. They operate a bike corps for special events. They train people in emergency medical services, like CPR. And, they help with important search and rescue efforts.

This weekend, I will join these fine public servants and their neighbors at the dedication of two new ambulances. One will be dedicated to Mr. Lawrence R. Inerra, Sr. His family, a pillar of the community, generously donated the funds to purchase one of these new ambulances. The Inerra Family is in its third generation running a local supermarket chain of more than 20 stores in North Jersey and nearby New York. They have used their wealth to make North Jersey a better place to work, live, and raise a family, including through an endowed chair in Italian and Italian American Studies at my alma mater, Montclair State University.

The other will be dedicated to one of the committed leaders of the Ambulance Corps, Michael F. Adams. In addition to being a life member of the Ramsey Ambulance Corps, the Ramsey Police Reserve, and the Ramsey Rescue Squad, he is also completing his thirty-third term as the Borough of Ramsey's Emergency Management Coordinator. As a CERT Program Manager and Instructor and head of the Ramsey Citizen Corps Council, he is one of the Borough's leading advocates for citizen preparedness.

I commend these fine citizens for their commitment to their community and the example of service that they demonstrate daily.

HONORING JOHN MCCUE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative WOOLSEY in honor of John McCue, who is retiring as CEO of the non-profit organization Becoming Independent, after 21 years of work on its behalf. Mr. McCue has been hugely influential in establishing and expanding the programs that Becoming Independent offers, and this hard work has been reflected by the remarkable success of participants in their programs.

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Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we thank John McCue for his many years of service to the people of Sonoma County and his work with Becoming Independent. His leadership has been instrumental in providing superb services to individuals with disabilities to help them gain their independence.

TRIBUTE TO SKIP RICH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize the extensive career of Skip Rich. Mr. Rich spent over 30 years serving Cole County as its Collector of Revenue, but will retire on October 3, 2007.

Skip Rich was first appointed as collector in 1977, and he was re-elected to that position every term thereafter. His record as collector has been outstanding. He has presided over notable increases in county collections and he was instrumental in starting the Cole County employee retirement system.

Skip Rich has also honorably served our country in uniform. He is a Marine who served a tour of duty in Vietnam and who later joined the Missouri Army National Guard. In that position, he held the rank of command sergeant major for over 14 years and received over twenty awards and service medals.

Having devoted his life to public service, Mr. Rich's leadership will indisputably be missed. He plans to spend his retirement traveling with his wife, Eva, and spending time with his three children and four grandchildren. I trust that Members of the House will join me in wishing Skip Rich and his family the best of luck in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS BENSON

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I would first like to acknowledge everything that the National Heritage Fellowship has meant to this country over the past 25 years. It has been a vital inspiration for those who practice traditional arts and Americans owe so much of our nation's artistic diversity to the Fellowship.

I also speak today to honor the achievements of Nicholas Benson. In Rhode Island, a place where there is no shortage of history, the contributions of Mr. Benson's family stand out for their beauty, charm and authenticity. Mr. Benson oversees a stone carving shop that has been in his family for three generations and has been operating continuously for over three hundred years.

Thankfully, the contributions of Nicholas Benson and his family have not been limited to Rhode Island. From the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama to the World War II Memorial here in Washington, DC, his work is a part of our history. In a country where so much of our history is recorded through art, I am reminded of something John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail in 1780,

"I must study politics and war, that our sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. Our sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history and naval architecture, navigation, commerce and agriculture in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry and porcelain."

Nicholas, in producing three generations of outstanding artists, your family has surpassed even the dreams of John Adams himself. I would like to congratulate you once again. It is my hope that this fellowship allows you to further your craft and to continue the work of your family. You are an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF BERGEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL'S PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE FARM TO PROMOTE SAFE TEEN DRIVING

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the faculty, staff, and students at Bergen Technical High School who have partnered with State Farm to promote safe teen driving.

Far too many young people lose their lives senselessly to motor vehicle accidents, largely because of their youth and inexperience behind the wheel. In fact, 14 percent of all motor vehicle deaths are teen drivers and car crashes is the number one killer of teens today. State Farm has developed a phenomenal program called Project Ignition, committed to reversing this trend and saving teens on the road. This popular program partners with local schools to develop ad campaigns to promote safe driving in ways that really speak to young people.

Bergen Technical High School is one of only 25 schools nationwide chosen to participate in this program. Their visual graphic design pro-

gram is creating a series of public service announcements for television, posters, and more to speak to teens about the importance of driving responsibly and safely. Streetwise, the name of their program, promotes six character education pillars—respect, responsibility, citizenship, fairness, caring, and trustworthiness—in ways that really resonate with their target audience.

Today, the participants in this innovative program celebrated their work while trying to break the Guinness Book of World Records record for the longest message/graffiti scroll using their Streetwise message. They will be joined by fellow students from other Bergen County High Schools and supportive parents and citizens throughout the County. All of Bergen County is proud of their efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VILLA JULIE COLLEGE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Villa Julie College in Stevenson, Maryland on its Founder's Day which recognizes the accomplishments of the remarkable women who helped establish the College and honors those who have since contributed and continue to contribute to Villa Julie's vitality.

Villa Julie has developed from a one-year women's secretarial college into a four-year, co-educational liberal arts institution offering career-focused Bachelor's and Master's degrees in a variety of programs. It has transitioned from a local commuter college to a regional residential institute of higher learning. Enrollment has increased more than 45 percent in 7 years; revenues have doubled and the endowment has increased by more than \$11 million since 2000.

Today Villa Julie is Maryland's third largest independent college and it has earned recognition as a "best value" by several national news sources including U.S. News and World Report which ranked it in the top quarter for its classification. Villa Julie's distinct approach of blending liberal arts with a career focus continues to attract terrific students from around the region. Students have benefited significantly from Career Architecture, an award-winning process developed to assist them in building a career plan based on individual values, skills, and interests. More than 70 percent of incoming freshmen over the past six years say the College's reputation of preparing students for rewarding careers was "very important" in their decision to attend.

As the College continues to expand, it has stayed true to its mission of increasing access to higher education. Student surveys indicate that about 60 percent of Villa Julie students are the first in their family to attend college.

Madam Speaker, Villa Julie is a special place. The College, its founders and supporters can take enormous pride in how it has successfully adapted over time and in the difference it has made in the lives of so many in this area. I take this opportunity on Founder's Day to congratulate Villa Julie for its commitment to higher education over the past 60 years.

TRAVEL BAN ON SYRIAN ACTIVIST RIAD SEIF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the Syrian human rights activist Riad Seif. Mr. Seif is a former Member of Parliament and a prisoner of conscience held by the Syrian Government, one of hundreds like him who are prohibited from leaving Syria to see family, pursue education, or seek medical care. Mr. Seif desperately needs medical attention and should be allowed to leave Syria to seek this care.

I call upon the Syrian Government to immediately lift the travel ban against Mr. Seif and others who are prevented from leaving Syria because of their stand for freedom and human rights. Mr. Seif should be released to seek the medical care that he so urgently needs.

IN HONOR OF THE MILL CREEK FIRE COMPANY AND ITS LADIES' AUXILIARY; HONORING: JOSEPH H. MULLINS, SR., LAWRENCE MERGENTHALER, AND CATHERINE W. JENKINS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Mill Creek Fire Company and its Ladies' Auxiliary for providing the people of Delaware with 80 years of outstanding service. The importance of emergency fire and medical services within our communities cannot be underscored enough. I am proud to represent a state that is home to such selfless and dedicated firefighters, EMTs, and service volunteers as those at the Mill Creek Fire Company here in Delaware.

The Mill Creek Fire Company was born from a tradition of strong community involvement and has kept that tradition alive through the years. The fire company had its humble beginnings in the Social Room of the Marshallton United Methodist Church back in 1927, when seven community members each chipped in one dollar to start the Mill Creek Fire Company Treasury. From that point on, it has steadily grown into a pillar of strength within the community. Residents within its 17 square mile response district have come to rely on the company not only for safety, but also for the social role it plays in bringing the community together. The Mill Creek Fire Company's unique, green fire trucks have become a source of pride, and serve as a reminder of the dedication and spirit which enable the company to excel.

On this special anniversary, I would like to recognize three individuals for their unprecedented dedication to the Mill Creek Fire Company; Joseph H. Mullins, Sr., Lawrence Mergenthaler, and Catherine W. Jenkins. They have each put forth tremendous effort to make the organization what it is today.

Joseph Mullins joined the company in 1938, from which point he went on to serve as Chief

for 25 years and president for two terms. Lawrence Mergenthaler joined the company in 1953 and assumed the position of Chief after Joseph Mullins in 1976. He has served several terms on the board of directors and among his many accomplishments, he was voted to be a fireman of the year. Catherine Jenkins was president of the Ladies' Auxiliary for 4 years, served on the board of directors, and still remains active in many community organizations.

This brief list of distinctions does not do these honorees justice for all the hard work and sacrifices they have made for the ends of bettering our community. Their efforts will inspire others and I am happy to call attention to the positive influence they have had throughout Delaware and beyond.

I would also like to commend the Mill Creek Fire Company and its Ladies' Auxiliary for its 80 years of exceptional service. The bravery and hard work of all those involved with this outstanding fire company are responsible for making Delaware a safer place to live.

TRIBUTE TO ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND AND PINNEBERG, GERMANY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rockville, Maryland and Pinneberg, Germany on the 50th anniversary of their outstanding "Sister City" relationship.

In 1983, the first official delegation from Pinneberg visited Rockville, and participated in a White House ceremony commemorating the 300th anniversary of German immigration to the United States. Over the past 50 years, individuals and groups from both cities, including police officers, students, politicians, sports teams, choruses and concert bands, have participated in exchanges that have left both sides richer in knowledge and understanding. I know these participants will never forget their experiences and the lessons they have learned from each other.

We here in Rockville and our friends in Pinneberg should be proud that our cities were among the first in the United States and Germany to engage in this relationship, after its proposal in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as part of a people-to-people citizen diplomacy initiative. Our sister city relationship is a cornerstone of a program that for many years has worked to achieve peace and prosperity through cultural understanding and exchange among countries all over the world. Even during turbulent times, our two cities have reached towards one another in friendship and set an example for others to follow.

In celebration of this anniversary, a delegation from Rockville, including its Mayor, Larry Giammo, visited Pinneberg this past June. This week, beginning on October 2nd, the City of Rockville will formally welcome a 40-member delegation from Pinneberg, including its current Mayor. They will spend time with our local elected officials, tour the City and other sights in Maryland, dedicate a commemorative plaque, and conclude the week's festivities with "An Evening of Celebration" in Rockville's new Town Center on October 7th.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rockville, Maryland and Pinneberg, Germany for their meaningful and productive collaboration over the past 50 years. We all look forward to another 50 years of friendship between these two great cities.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL DAVID MCCONNELL

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal David McConnell of Altoona, Pennsylvania. CPL McConnell is currently serving in Iraq as part of the United States Marine Corps. He has served our country since 2005 when he first enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Corporal McConnell was deployed to Iraq on December 31, 2006, initially serving as an Infantryman. He was stationed in Fallujah as part of the Regimental Combat Team 6 Security Platoon, where he acted as convey security. Promoted to corporal in August, McConnell is currently stationed in Fallujah to provide protection services for the team directing leader engagement with Iraqi diplomats.

A dedicated and enthusiastic leader, Corporal McConnell is committed to furthering the cause he believes so much in. He is proud of the work of his unit and believes that the contributions and sacrifices they have made are well worth it to be able to assist in expanding freedom in Iraq.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize David and the rest of our troops for their efforts in serving our military. He and his unit should be very proud of the work they are doing in Iraq and the sacrifices they have made for their country. Their courage and devotion do not go unnoticed, and they are all in our thoughts and prayers for a safe return home.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF PIGEON, WIBC, INDIANAPOLIS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an icon of the Indiana airwaves, Jeff Pigeon. After serving Hoosiers for 27 years at WIBC in Indianapolis, IN, Jeff bid a bittersweet farewell this morning during his final broadcast.

Jeff Pigeon has never been anything but upbeat and positive and for nearly 20 years on the WIBC Morning News and that is how he helped Hoosiers wake up and start their day. It's hard to imagine WIBC or Indiana without him.

Jeff's energy touched the hearts of Hoosiers far beyond Indianapolis as people in Muncie, Anderson, Columbus, New Castle and areas throughout Indiana cherish Jeff and his ebullient personality.

His heart for people stretched beyond the airwaves and is attested to by his work for Crossroads Rehabilitation Center, Gleaners

Food Bank and the Indianapolis Police Department.

Jeff Pigeon started working at WIBC in 1981 as host of the 7 p.m.–midnight shift. He took over the morning drive-time show in 1988.

His radio background stretches across the country, from stations in Minneapolis, Denver and Chicago. An espouser of Midwestern values, Jeff graduated from the University of Illinois before launching his radio career.

Hoosiers of Eastern Indiana congratulate Jeff Pigeon on 27 great years of service to our State and a voice they have come to know, respect and love. He will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR JANE SWIFT

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions and achievements of Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift, a woman whose record of leadership in our State is matched by few.

When Jane Swift became Chief Executive of Massachusetts in April 2001, she became the first woman Governor of the Bay State, one of only five women Governors at the time, and one of only 19 women Governors in history. These numbers are far too low, and Governor Swift deserves credit for being a trailblazer and an inspiration to what hopefully will turn out to be many more women chief executives in the future.

During her tenure, Governor Swift oversaw a budget that had reached the \$23 billion mark, directed 13 cabinet agencies and executive divisions, and enacted numerous reforms. In policymaking as well as in example, she established herself as an advocate for women and families. Her efforts on behalf of foster children and working parents garnered praise across the political spectrum. And, when Governor Swift delivered twin girls while in office, she achieved yet another remarkable first.

Also while in office, Governor Swift continued her work as a strong supporter of the cultural development of our State, which included championing the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. Her efforts to bolster Mass MoCA continue to be greatly appreciated by everyone who cares about the economic development of the north Berkshires.

Governor Swift counts 12 total years of official public service in her career. Elected to the Massachusetts State Senate at age 25, she was the youngest-ever woman member of the legislature. She also has spent many more years personally working in her community to create opportunity and improve the quality of life for local residents.

Today, Governor Swift serves on a number of key boards and steering committees, including the board of the Williamstown Elementary School Endowment and the Community Outreach Board of Mass MoCA. She remains active in politics and is engaged in a wide variety of public policy issues. Drawing on her diverse experiences, Governor Swift shares her perspectives as a sought-after public speaker, imparting wisdom to and inspiring the next generation of women and men leaders.

It is my honor to commend her years of public service and pay tribute to Governor Swift's enduring leadership. National Women's Business Week is an important occasion to celebrate women leaders, and Governor Swift has been a groundbreaker since the beginning of her career. She is, indeed, a "Woman of Achievement," and I join the Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women in honoring her this month.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 24, 2007 and as a result I was not present to vote on rollcall No. 893. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 1400, THE IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian government continues to defy the international community in its pursuit of nuclear weapons. In the past, it denounced United Nations Security Council Resolutions imposing sanctions as "illegal" and "invalid." And just this week, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke before the U.N. General Assembly and announced that the nuclear issue in Iran was closed.

It is obvious to all of us that Iran's nuclear development programs are a concern for our Nation. Our Nation's security would be greatly affected by Iranian control over any nuclear weapons. However, we must not forget that, in addition to its disregard for the international community, the regime in place has abhorrent civil liberties and human rights practices within Iran. In the past 5 years, hundreds of newspapers have been closed, hundreds of pro-reform websites have been blocked, and innumerable people have been unjustly imprisoned. Just this year, Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, an Iranian-American, was jailed for months for unsubstantiated accusations that she was trying to set up networks of Iranians to start a revolution to bring down the government. In fact, she has long been an advocate for building bridges between the United States and the Middle East. While Dr. Esfandiari has been released, countless others have not, and it is clear that we must work to stop these baseless and ruthless actions.

While we address our ongoing concerns, we must be vigilant in ensuring that the United States works with the international community and approaches the Middle East diplomatically. As our Nation has learned, we must be willing to do everything that is necessary to protect our Nation and its people; however, we must not preemptively strike other sovereign nations because of incomplete and questionable information. What we must all agree on is that Iranian nuclear capability must continue to be investigated, discussed, and debated—throughout this Congress, the Nation, and the world.

Nonetheless, while we attempt to address these situations diplomatically, these actions must be backed by strong sanctions against the regime in Tehran. It is with this knowledge that I support H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007. This legislation, first and foremost, declares the support of diplomatic and economic means to resolve the Iranian nuclear situation, calls for enhanced U.N. Security Council efforts, and explicitly states that nothing authorizes the use of force in Iran. Additionally, the bill expands bilateral sanctions against Iran, prohibits the Presidential waiver of these sanctions, and increases oversight of the Administration's efforts.

While critics of this legislation may consider these actions to be inflammatory, I instead see it as a necessary and diplomatic step that must be taken. Iran has long flouted its disregard for the international community and it must understand that it cannot pursue a nuclear weapons program and ignore international law without facing international political and economic repercussions.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA CHAVEZ-THOMPSON

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise today to honor Linda Chavez-Thompson, executive vice president of the AFL-CIO, on the occasion of her retirement. Elected to this post in 1995, Chavez-Thompson became the first woman and person of color to be chosen for one of the federation's three highest offices.

As a second-generation American of Mexican descent, Chavez-Thompson personifies the American dream. Born in Lubbock, TX to cotton sharecroppers, Chavez-Thompson toiled the fields to help supplement her family's income. After making 30 cents an hour picking cotton, Chavez-Thompson rose through the ranks of the labor movement, beginning her career as a union secretary at the local AFSCME chapter, the labor union to which her father belonged.

In her capacity as executive vice president of the labor federation, Chavez-Thompson has worked tirelessly to strengthen State and local labor movements and has served as a strong voice on behalf of civil, human and immigrant workers' rights. She serves as vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee, and serves as the president of the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers, ORIT, which is the Western Hemispheric arm of the International Trade Union Confederation.

In retirement Chavez-Thompson will continue to pioneer new territory as the first AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Emeritus. In this capacity, she will continue to provide her leadership to state and local labor councils and communities throughout the country, and will continue her important international work. Her determined work on behalf of all workers, especially women, people of color, people with disabilities and immigrants will continue.

In making this difficult decision to retire after more than 40 years of service to the labor movement, Chavez-Thompson expressed, "You . . . have given me the opportunity of a lifetime, which was to go where I never dreamed I could go, and do more than I ever dreamed I could do."

For lending her talents, passion and vision to the effort of bringing justice to workers, we are all thankful to Chavez-Thompson. She has marched and spoken on behalf of those who often labor without a voice and has inspired us all to continue this important work for workers across the world.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE DEMOCRATIC RECORD

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, on Friday, Majority Leader STENY HOYER spoke to the National Press Club regarding fiscal responsibility and the Democratic record. I recommend his speech to all of my colleagues.

The speech sets out the clear differences between the current Administration's harmful fiscal policies and the strong track record of fiscal responsibility that the current 110th Congress has established. Indeed, the new House majority has already passed and adhered to the Pay-As-You-Go rule and passed a budget resolution that returns to balance by 2012.

The speech also establishes some helpful context for the Administration's pending veto threats on the appropriations bills. Most of the funding difference consists of Congressional efforts simply to restore harmful cuts proposed by the President, and the rest of the difference represents a responsible level of increase that will enable us to fund key priorities. Our appropriations level was accommodated within our fiscally responsible budget resolution, which returned the budget to balance by 2012.

MAJORITY LEADER HOYER'S ADDRESS AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

SEPT. 28.—I first want to thank Alan Greenspan for putting the issue of fiscal responsibility back on the political map. This is a very healthy development, even though it embarrasses the Administration.

In his new book, the former Federal Reserve Board Chairman writes: "Most troubling to me was the readiness of both [the Republican-controlled] Congress and the Administration to abandon fiscal discipline." And this: "'Deficits don't matter,' to my chagrin became part of the Republicans' rhetoric. . . . Deficits must matter."

I was tempted to come here and deliver the shortest speech of my professional life. Eight words in all. "Chairman Greenspan is correct. Are there any questions?"

But the bar is higher today. So, I intend to convince you of four main points: First, this Administration has pursued the most fiscally irresponsible policies in American history.

Second, the Democratic Party is the party of fiscal responsibility today—which is a very under-reported story.

Third, the President needs to put down his veto pen and pick up the telephone. Our differences on funding levels for domestic appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008—which begins on Monday—are relatively minor. We need to work out those differences, rather than engage in political posturing.

And finally, we must not allow our disagreement on appropriations to distract us from the ominous, long-term fiscal challenges that confront our nation. The United

States of America is on an unsustainable fiscal path—and the longer we wait to address our challenges, the more difficult it will be to avert a fiscal crisis.

THE REPUBLICANS' FISCAL TRAIN WRECK

There's no other way to say it, the Republicans' fiscal record is like a decades-long train wreck. For 18 of the 26 years that I have served in Congress, a Republican has occupied the White House.

And, in every single year of those Republican Administrations, the federal government ran a budget deficit. The cumulative deficits under Presidents Reagan, George Herbert Walker Bush, and George W. Bush total more than \$4.1 trillion.

In contrast, the Clinton Administration had a cumulative surplus of nearly \$63 billion over eight years. Under President Clinton's stewardship, the federal government reduced the deficits he inherited and recorded four consecutive surpluses—the first time that had happened in 70 years.

So, forgive me for dismissing the Republican Party's claim that it is fiscally responsible.

Forgive me for rejecting the Republicans' repeated assertion that supply-side tax cuts pay for themselves—an assertion that has been challenged by the Treasury Department, the Congressional Budget Office, and the current Chairman of the Federal Reserve, who told the Senate in 2005: "I think it's unusual for a tax cut to completely offset the revenue loss."

In fact, revenues have grown by just 3.6 percent since the President's 2001 tax cut was enacted—less than half the 8.4 percent annual growth during the Clinton Administration.

And forgive me for being somewhat amused by the Administration's defensive push-back on Alan Greenspan's recent comments.

The President claimed last week that his fiscal record is "admirable and good." Does he really believe this? He came to office inheriting a projected 10-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion, and proclaimed, "We can proceed with tax relief without fear of budget deficits, even if the economy softens."

But then, the Republican-controlled Congress passed and the President signed the largest tax cuts in a generation—tax cuts disproportionately skewed toward the wealthiest citizens—while increasing spending at a rate (7.1 percent) nearly twice that of the Clinton Administration.

As predicted, these irresponsible policies turned surpluses into massive deficits: \$158 billion in Fiscal 2002, \$378 billion in Fiscal 2003, \$413 billion in Fiscal 2004, \$319 billion in Fiscal 2005, and \$248 billion in Fiscal 2006.

On Sunday, when we close the books on Fiscal 2007, we'll record another \$158 billion deficit. The President will crow that he is reducing the deficit, ignoring the fact that, but for his policies, we would not even have deficits. And consider: The Administration projected a budget surplus of \$573 billion this year when it took office. So, Fiscal 2007 really represents a swing of three-quarters of a trillion dollars, virtually all of it the result of policies enacted by a Republican Congress and signed by President Bush.

The exploding national debt is equally disturbing. Today, the debt stands at more than \$9 trillion, a 56-percent increase (or \$3.3 trillion) under President Bush. That's \$29,728 for every man, woman and child in our nation.

All these figures can be mind-numbing. So, let's put them in perspective:

In 2007, the interest payments on the national debt—the fastest growing major category of spending in the budget—are a projected \$235 billion. That's more than Congress appropriates in discretionary spending for any government department or agency

other than Defense. It's four times more than we spend on education, and seven times more than we spend on the Department of Homeland Security.

In other words, these interest payments—which increasingly are paid to foreign governments that hold our debt—cannot be used to build roads and bridges; to invest in research and development; to improve education, to protect our nation, or, yes, to provide tax relief.

The Republicans' record of fiscal irresponsibility speaks for itself. As Republican Congressman Jeff Flake of Arizona said last year: "Whether we want to admit it or not, the Republican Congress's failure to discipline itself is sending us all down a flower-strewn path to fiscal insolvency."

DEMOCRATIC MAJORITIES WORK TO RESTORE FISCAL DISCIPLINE

The truth is, Democrats are the party of fiscal discipline in Washington today.

In one of our first acts after regaining the Majority, we reinstated the pay-as-you-go budget rules (or PAYGO) that are widely credited with producing record budget surpluses during the Clinton Administration. In a nutshell, PAYGO means the federal government must offset tax cuts or spending increases elsewhere in the budget. It's a common-sense rule that millions of American families apply to their own personal budgets.

Adopted on a bipartisan basis in the 1990s, PAYGO was even rhetorically supported by President Bush in his first three budgets—although he exempted his 2001 tax cuts from the rule and Republicans allowed it to expire in 2002.

The President's new Director of OMB, former Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle—who supported PAYGO in the '90s—later had a change of heart, explaining: "We don't believe you should have to pay for tax cuts."

And so Republicans didn't. They just kept on billing the costs of tax cuts and spending increases to future generations through higher deficits.

Today, Democrats are fighting to restore the fiscal discipline that has been sorely lacking since 2001. Why? Because we believe deficits and spiraling debt threaten our future prosperity and national security. And because we believe that it is simply immoral to force our children and grandchildren to pay this generation's bills.

That's why we passed a budget for Fiscal 2008 that would bring the budget back to balance by 2012. Last year, the Republican Congress failed to even pass a budget.

And, that's why we have honored our commitment to PAYGO. We have not violated the PAYGO rule once in the approximately 30 bills with direct spending or revenue provisions of more than \$1 million, as will be detailed in a report next week by John Spratt, Chairman of the House Budget Committee.

If you examine the four major House bills with mandatory spending increases—children's health insurance, the farm bill, higher education and energy—you'll see that approximately 80 percent of the spending increases have been financed by spending cuts.

For all their talk about being tough on spending, our Republican friends in the House actually have opposed the spending cuts that we have put forward. House Democrats, for instance, paid for our SCHIP bill by, among other things, cutting subsidies for insurers—cuts Republicans opposed. We have made the tough decisions with respect to spending priorities that Republicans never made when they were in power.

And, as we enter the final stages of this session of Congress, I want to make one thing clear: The House will not waive PAYGO for any tax cuts or entitlement spending increases that are not offset.

Today, we are examining different proposals to permanently reform the alternative minimum tax, as well as a temporary AMT fix that would be offset by closing tax loopholes and cracking down on special interest tax breaks. In either case, simply waiving PAYGO is not an option—even if some members of the other body prefer that we do so.

THE CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS FIGHT IN CONTEXT

Now let me focus on the current disagreement between Democrats in Congress and the Administration over domestic appropriations. Don't be fooled. This is not a fight about spending. This is a fight about our priorities as a nation—and about the Administration's desire to posture for its base.

Let me say, I am not pleased that we have not completed our appropriations work on time. The Administration's unjustified veto threats have only impeded our progress. Nonetheless, we have passed a continuing resolution to ensure that our government is funded and functioning, and to give us time to work out our differences.

But the bottom line is, the Administration is itching to instigate an appropriations fight with Congress in a vain effort to establish its bona fides with its conservative base.

After failing to veto even one appropriations bill or other legislation that substantially added to the deficit during his first six years in office, the President is now threatening to veto eight of the 12 annual spending bills for Fiscal 2008 over a total of \$23 billion.

There is no question that \$23 billion is a lot of money. However, let's put it in perspective: \$23 billion is about eight-tenths of 1 percent of a total federal budget of nearly \$3 trillion.

Twenty-three billion dollars is not quite half of the \$42 billion in additional funding for Iraq that the Administration requested on Wednesday, and about 12 percent of the Administration's total request of \$190 billion for the war for 2008—a war the White House estimated would have a total cost of \$60 billion.

The truth is, \$16 billion of the \$23 billion that Democrats are fighting for would simply restore cuts proposed by the President to key programs—a 50-percent cut in vocational education; the elimination of student aid other than work study and Pell Grants; and deep cuts in medical research, law enforcement grants and rural health programs, to name a few.

This is a fight about whether we adequately fund No Child Left Behind, special education, medical research, Head Start, clean water programs, public safety, and appropriate health care for our veterans and men and women in uniform.

Please, Mr. President, do not lecture us about fiscal responsibility. And please, do not tell us that we cannot find funding to invest in our children, our infrastructure, and our future when you are proposing to spend another \$190 billion on the war in Iraq.

Democrats believe the President's priorities are deeply misguided, and not supported by the American people. We believe, in this appropriations fight, the President is playing politics, pure and simple.

If you doubt that, just consider that funding for non-defense appropriations in 2008 (when adjusted for inflation and population growth) is actually below the funding levels passed by the Republican Congress and signed by the President for Fiscal 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

I know that Chairman David Obey remains hopeful that in the next few weeks the Congressional leadership and White House will sit down and negotiate a reasonable agreement on funding levels.

But as the rhetoric heats up, ask yourself: If the President is really fiscally conservative, why didn't he veto one appropriations

bill in six years? Why didn't he veto the corporate tax bill in 2004—a bloated bill that doled out \$139 billion in corporate welfare when all that was needed was a \$5 billion tax fix to put us in compliance with our trade agreements?

We Democrats are going to fight for the priorities of the American people. The President should not try to rehabilitate his fiscal record by vetoing responsible appropriations bills—or, for that matter, the bipartisan children's health insurance bill.

OUR LONG-TERM FISCAL CHALLENGES

Finally, let me say that as important as this disagreement over appropriations is, we must not be distracted from the long-term fiscal challenges that face our nation. Fiscal responsibility is not some virtue that exists in a vacuum. It's vital to our future.

As Bob Bixby of the Concord Coalition points out: "The basic facts [of our fiscal challenges] are a matter of arithmetic, not ideology. Two factors stand out: demographics and health care costs."

With the imminent retirement of 78 million Baby Boomers, and the attendant demands on Social Security and Medicare, we are on the cusp of a fiscal tsunami that threatens to drown our nation in a sea of red ink.

Over the next quarter century, the number of Americans 65 and older will nearly double—from 12 percent of the population today to 20 percent.

Medicare and Medicaid will grow by nearly five times as a share of the economy by 2050, if we assume the growth of health care costs does not slow. And these programs will absorb as much of our nation's economy by the late 2040s as the entire federal budget does today.

According to the 2006 Financial Report of the United States—signed by Treasury Secretary Paulson—our fiscal exposures (explicit liabilities and implicit obligations) had a present value of \$44 trillion, or about as much as the net worth of all household assets.

We are not going to grow our way out of this problem, through some magic supply-side solution. The GAO estimates that it would require inflation-adjusted average annual economic growth in the double-digit range every year for the next 75 years to close the gap through growth alone.

It is imperative that we get serious about our long-term fiscal challenges. There is plenty of room for debate over the mix of options that should be considered. But we do not have time to waste.

Senators Conrad and Gregg and Congressmen Cooper and Wolf have put forward proposals for a bipartisan task force. While I would like to believe that Congress could address these issues through the regular legislative process, the experience of recent years suggests that this is extremely difficult in the current political environment.

Thus, I support the Conrad-Gregg and Cooper-Wolf proposals in concept, although I have concerns about several specific provisions.

My preference certainly would be to have Members of Congress and this Administration make recommendations that are considered in this Congress. But there are two problems with that: First, this is now an outgoing Administration, with little over a year left. And second, despite the good-faith efforts of Secretary Paulson, this Administration is loath to put all options on the table.

As a result, I believe that we must move forward with such a task force after our new President is inaugurated in January 2009, with a process allowing the President and Congress to consider alternatives.

Turning a blind eye to our long-term challenges would not only be irresponsible, it

would be unforgivable. As Comptroller General Walker has warned: "Continuing on the unsustainable fiscal path will gradually erode, if not suddenly damage, our economy, our standard of living, and ultimately our national security."

Our fiscal future need not be filled with peril—if we have the courage and will to recognize and address these challenges.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT ZACHARY TOMCZAK

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of Staff Sgt. Zachary Tomczak, who died September 25, 2007, in Iraq from wounds suffered when his unit came under small arms fire.

Zachary, who served in the Army's 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, NC, graduated from Huron High School in 2002 and joined the Army soon after graduation. He was serving on his fourth tour of duty when he was wounded. He is described as a phenomenal person who stood as an example for all American citizens. His high school principal said, "Zac was someone who demanded very little of us and gave an awful lot. He was a wonderful, wonderful young man."

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Zachary's compassion and service. He represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the Army. His life continues to inspire all those who knew him and many who did not. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our country.

Today, we remember and honor Zachary's noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family and friends of Staff Sgt. Tomczak. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GIDEON PRATHER SR.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I must inform the House of the passing of another member of that vanishing breed of "the Greatest Generation" of Americans who served our Nation during World War II and made our Nation and its communities strong when they came home.

John Gideon Prather Sr. was somebody all of us turned to for advice. Part of that was because he was a wise attorney, helping many clients who couldn't really afford one, but it was also because that's just the way he was, regardless of his chosen profession. The country lawyer in him gave advice to judges, other attorneys and clients across Kentucky.

As a prosecuting attorney, he set the tone for how lawyers ought to interact with one another professionally, fight as they may in the courtroom. Our community and our criminal justice system are stronger because of him.

John left us September 21, 2007 at the age of 87. His law partners were his son John Jr. and Winter Huff. He began working in his father's insurance company in the 1940s. After Pearl Harbor was bombed, he joined the U.S. Navy, where he served in North Africa and Italy. After the war, he graduated from the University of Kentucky law school and began his legal career, spanning six decades and including terms as Somerset City and State prosecuting attorney.

As a civic leader, he was not just a member of our community organizations, including the Jaycees, Kiwanis Club, VFW and American Legion, he was a leader in them. He was also a profound Sunday school teacher. But John Prather's greatest civic effort was his near-lifetime commitment to Troop 79 of the Boy Scouts, headquartered at his church in Somerset. Generations of young boys became much better men through John's dedication to Boy Scouts. They were his greatest pride and maybe his greatest legacy.

He leaves behind his wife, Jean, a son, a daughter-in-law, and four grandchildren.

John was a father figure and friend to us lawyers, his church, civic colleagues, and, indeed, the whole community. A mighty oak has fallen and the void left on the mountain top is both painful and profound. We will miss the gentlemanly courtesies, wise counsel, and warm friendship he dispensed so liberally.

We will miss John G. Prather.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REMARKABLE EFFORTS OF SEW MUCH COMFORT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the nonprofit organization, Sew Much Comfort, which coordinates the efforts of volunteer seamstresses to adapt clothing for wounded servicemembers.

This all-volunteer initiative formed in December 2004 as a 501(c)3 public charity and is the only organization that provides specially designed adaptive clothing to military hospitals. Ginger Dosedel founded the organization nearly 4 years ago when her husband was stationed at Eglin Air Force Base. Their son underwent treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for muscular cancer and suggested to his mother that she may be able to help the many wounded soldiers they met while in Washington, DC.

Their mission "to design, create, and deliver customized clothing for these brave troops" not only provides our heroes with a tangible symbol of our immeasurable support for them, but also helps to facilitate the healing process upon their return from military service.

The Emerald Coast Chapter of the American Sewing Guild recently sponsored an event where numerous volunteers gathered in Baker, a city in my district of Northwest Florida, to sew for this wonderful cause.

Over the past four years, thousands of volunteers have worked diligently to alter shirts, shorts, boxer shorts, and pants. All of which are shipped to a central distribution center in Ohio and then allocated to military hospitals throughout the United States, as well as Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the remarkable philanthropic efforts of Sew Much Comfort and their volunteers for their generosity and commitment to service which has helped to create a better life for our brave servicemembers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed September 7th's rollcall vote, number 869. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker. I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Vernon Martin, the Executive Director of the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center. Vernon has been a valuable partner in my efforts to represent the First District of Georgia and a great friend.

Over the many years that we have known each other, he has been wonderful to work with and always kept the safety, security, and well-being of the community in the forefront of his thoughts. Vernon has dedicated 38 years of service to Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center, where he was instrumental in the economic development of the region. The service area for his office has undergone tremendous change in the past four decades. Coastal Georgia needed leadership and hard work to transition from the slow growth rates that characterized prior eras to the booming growth that the region is now experiencing. Vernon and his staff at the RDC have provided steady guidance and support to the communities they serve, helping them prepare for the future and adapt to change.

Vernon's list of accomplishments over the years is a long one. He was active in the creation of Coastal Emergency Management Plan to insure the safety of Georgia's coastal communities during hurricanes, established the Nation's first and largest rural revolving loan fund, helped to create one of the Nation's first regional rural tourism program and was involved in coordinating off-base impact planning for two major military installation expansions. In 2004, Vernon was awarded the Walter Scheiber Leadership Award for his support to the Association and for his outstanding leadership and innovation as a regional council executive director.

Although he will be missed at the Regional Development Center, we are all glad to know that he will still serve in an advisory capacity and help transition to a new Executive Director. I'm sure Vernon is counting the days until he can fully enjoy the beautiful Georgia weather on his beloved motorcycle. I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN'S
PREPARATORY SCHOOL IN
DANVERS, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers, Massachusetts, on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary Celebration and extend the congratulations and best wishes from the United States House of Representatives for continued success in all of its future endeavors to the School's Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, Staff and Alumni.

St. John's Preparatory School held its first day of classes on September 10, 1907, and over the next century, it has graduated 12,000 alumni, who have gone on to make significant, lasting contributions in careers and communities throughout the region, across the country and around the world.

Today, St. John's Preparatory School continues to honor the legacy of its founders, the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Francis Xavier, and remains dedicated to the pursuit of humility, zeal, compassion, trust and simplicity in all endeavors.

Throughout its history, the School has nurtured a dynamic community of learners encouraging its students to develop their full spiritual, intellectual, moral, physical and creative potential, and it has inspired its student body to value and honor the diversity that enriches both the school community and the world beyond its campus.

St. John's Prep students continually strive for excellence and have earned distinction in scholarship, athletics, service and the arts. The Prep, as it is better known by many, is committed to the character, mission and values of a Catholic education and since its opening has celebrated its Catholic identity and formed partnerships with schools in the region to enhance educational opportunity and ensure access for students from all walks of life.

St. John's Preparatory School seeks to promote human dignity and the pursuit of peace and justice, and its alumni, students, faculty and staff have established various programs to respond to the needs of many working side by side with other volunteers and social service organizations locally, nationally and internationally.

Congratulations to St. John's Preparatory School for one hundred years of education, inspiration and enrichment bestowed upon so many who have passed through its halls and in recognition of the contributions and accomplishments of its alumni, administration, faculty, staff and students that have touched many throughout the world.

MS. FABIOLA SMALL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize a longtime community leader in southeast Texas. Ms. Fabiola Small has worn many distinguished hats throughout her lifetime, including co-chair of the Port Arthur Weed and Seed; founder of Love People, Inc.; founder of the Port Arthur, Texas Juneteenth Pageant; president of Woodmen of the World, Lodge 6192 and Youth Lodge 4640; president of Texas Senior Citizens Association; and board member of Tekoa Academy Charter School.

"Ms. Fab" selflessly volunteers her time at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Sports Section, and delivers meals to the young and the elderly. She has received countless awards, including the 2006 Woodmen of the World Insurance Society; 2006 Fraternalist of the Year; MVP of the National Fraternal Congress of America; 2006 Women's History, Builders of Communities & Dreams; 2007 MVP of the U.S. Congress, and 2007 Juneteenth Trailblazer.

Ms. Small is the first African American to be recognized as the National and International Fraternalist of the Year. An award presented to fraternalists who provide outstanding volunteer service in his or her community, and excellent leadership in his or her local chapter throughout the past year. Ms. Small's volunteerism even caught the attention of Southern Living Magazine, who will feature her in an upcoming issue.

Ms. Small has dedicated her time and energy to the Golden Triangle for most of her life. Her selfless acts of kindness, devotion, and compassion for others are a true testament to her character. With 4 children, 18 children that she has taken under her wings, 22 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren, "Ms. Fab" is an inspiration to others, setting a great example for all to follow.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud Ms. Fabiola Small on her outstanding achievements. She has helped make our world a better place to live, and I applaud her unwavering service and dedication to the community.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL WICE OF WEST CENTRAL NEBRASKA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to a broadcasting institution in West Central Nebraska, Paul Wice. This past Friday he turned on the microphone to host "Talk of the Town" one last time.

A 1962 graduate of Kearney High, and a 1966 graduate of Kearney State College, Paul has been a fixture on the airwaves for listeners in my district for nearly 40 years.

I have had the pleasure of being interviewed by him both as part of news stories, and as a guest on his show.

Never one to shy away from the tough questions, Paul earned his reputation as being a tough but fair interviewer, whose only motivation was to provide his listeners with the most up-to-date information available.

He has given back to the Kearney community in so many ways—as an instructor, a volunteer, and a member of many local community boards—yet I fully expect this service to continue.

I wish him well in his retirement and I hope he knows how much he will be missed.

SALUTE TO NOVATO HUMAN
NEEDS CENTER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you to share with me in saluting the Novato Human Needs Center on its 35th anniversary of serving the low-income people of Novato and helping them move towards self-sufficiency.

The Novato Human Needs Center began in 1972 when three people—Gene Quinones, a Catholic priest, Bob Stockwell, a Protestant businessman, and Mary Banks, a black welfare mom—came together that Thanksgiving season with the desire to help those in need. With \$50 and a heart full of good intentions, they gave birth to the Holiday Share program, allowing those who have to give what they can to those in need. Since then, the nonprofit has helped thousands of residents, has increased its services to provide year-round assistance, and has grown to operate on a budget of more than \$1.4 million.

Such is the power of the organization's philosophy that those who come for help—seniors, immigrants, the disabled, those in unexpected crisis—are often those who years later become the helpers. One anonymous donor, once a poor immigrant and now a wealthy resident, subsidizes the center's rental assistance program which allows someone experiencing a temporary and unexpected crisis, such as a medical emergency or job loss, to get one-time help with rent or mortgage payments. Among those whom this program saved was an elderly woman left without an income when her husband died. Because of the donor's generosity, Novato Human Needs Center was able to cover the widow's rent until social security checks arrived in her name.

"It really is neighbor helping neighbor," notes Susan Markavage, a Novato resident who works at the center.

In addition to rental assistance, the center has instituted programs for such wide-ranging services as providing emergency food, job training and financial, as well as continuing the traditional Holiday Share.

In fact, the center—which operates out of facilities underwritten by the City of Novato—even provides showers for the homeless, many of whom work but simply can't afford housing in Marin County, one of the Nation's most expensive places to live.

"One of them," Markavage explains, "cleans our parking lot thoroughly every morning before coming in."

Although Novato Human Needs Center is unique in that it provides comprehensive serv-

ices to those in need, it also is "a wonderful place for the community to come together and connect," says executive director Deanna Euritt.

Novato has a very strong sense of community, she explains, and it is because of the community's support that the center exists and continues to operate. "We're very grateful to the City of Novato and all the residents who live here who have been very generous not only with their financial contributions, but with their time."

As one donor said, "God's been really good to me and I feel this need to be good to someone else who might be in dire circumstances."

And that, Madam Speaker, is what makes the center a valuable member of the Novato community—neighbors helping neighbors. Congratulations to the Novato Human Needs Center on its 35th anniversary, and to the people of Novato for supporting such a worthy organization.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND
MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3121) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program and to provide for such program to make available multi-peril coverage for damage resulting from windstorms, and floods, and for other purposes:

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I am honored to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 3121, "The Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2007" and I would like to thank Chairman FRANK. Subcommittee Chairwoman WATERS, Representative TAYLOR, and Representative JINDAL for their leadership in reforming a program that plays a vital role in protecting residents and communities in flood prone areas.

Flood protection is an important issue in my district and in Texas, a state which has experienced the greatest number of flood and flash flood deaths over the past 36 years. In 2006, Texas saw an increase of over 20 percent in new flood insurance policies under the National Flood Insurance Program.

I want to thank Chairman FRANK for working with Congressman HINOJOSA and I in committee to preserve subsidies for those properties that serve as affordable rental housing for many families. A measure was included in the bill to acknowledge that the loss of subsidies for properties that serve as primary homes for rental households could result in significantly higher premiums, to the detriment of these families. Higher premiums would increase the cost of property ownership, a cost that apartment owners would likely pass on to tenants in the form of higher rents. By protecting subsidies for these properties, this measure would ensure their continued affordability at a time when our nation is faced with a shortage of affordable housing.

I want to also express my strong support for a provision in the bill authored by my colleague Congressman TAYLOR to expand the

National Flood Insurance Program to include coverage for wind damage.

Multi-peril coverage, or the coverage of both wind and flood risk in one policy, has proven especially important in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as survivors continue to struggle to receive fair compensation for the damages they experienced. Private insurers have used anti-concurrent causation clauses to deny payment for damages on the grounds that the damages occurred as a result of flooding, which is covered by the Federal government. Multi-peril coverage would shield consumers from these arguably deceptive practices, protecting consumers in the absence of a solution to this controversy.

Again, I express my full support for this important piece of legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP GREGORY
MANSOUR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Most Reverend Gregory John Mansour on the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Bishop Mansour will be honored at Divine Liturgy and festivities on Sunday, October 7th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

After graduating from Western Michigan University in 1977, Gregory Mansour entered Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary in Washington, D.C. and attended Catholic University of America. Graduating with a degree in Theological Studies in 1981, he was ordained a priest on September 18, 1982 by Bishop John Chedid at St. Michael Church in Flint. He celebrated his first Divine Liturgy at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church and then traveled to Rome to continue his studies earning his License in Spiritual Theology from the Gregorian Pontifical Institute.

Returning from a trip to Lebanon in 1983, Father Mansour began his work as a parish priest. He worked as an administrator at St. Maron Parish in Philadelphia and served 11 years as pastor to St. George Maronite Catholic Church in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Bishop John Chedid tapped him to serve as the Eparchy's Protosyncellus, Vicar General, and Chancellor for the newly formed Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon in Los Angeles in 1994. He also served as Advocate/Procurator for the Eparchial Marriage Tribunal.

His Beatitude Patriarch Nasrallah Peter Cardinal Sfeir nominated him to Chorbishop and he was ordained on January 21, 1996. When Bishop Chedid retired his replacement, Bishop Robert J. Shaheen, with the concurrence of the Holy See, moved the See of the Diocese from Los Angeles to St. Louis, Missouri. Chorbishop Mansour relocated and assumed the additional duties as rector of St. Raymond Cathedral and began teaching Spiritual Theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.

When Bishop Stephen Hector Douelhi retired, His Holiness Pope John Paul II named Bishop Mansour to succeed him as the head of the Eparchy of Saint Maron in Brooklyn. Ordained a bishop in Lebanon on March 2, 2004, he was enthroned in Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral in Brooklyn on April 27, 2004.

Madam Speaker, throughout his life Bishop Mansour has followed the words of St. Augustine, "With you I am a Christian, for you I am (a priest, and now) a Bishop." Bishop Mansour has kept the promise he made 25 years ago to serve Our Lord Jesus Christ with humility, joy, and compassion. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating him as he celebrates this momentous occasion and wish him the best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES
KASLER OF MOMENCE, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American war hero whom I had the pleasure to meet recently.

Retired Air Force COL James Kasler of Momence, Illinois, represents the uncommon courage that is found in our military men and women. His distinguished record of service includes 76 awards for valor and service, and Colonel Kasler has the distinction of being the only person in our country's history, dead or alive, to receive the Air Force Cross three times.

His career as a decorated combat pilot began as a B-29 tail gunner over Japan in World War II. He went on to become a jet ace in Korea, and showed remarkable bravery volunteering for bombing runs in Vietnam.

On his 91st mission, in Vietnam, Colonel Kasler was shot down while covering for his downed wingman. He would go on to endure 6½ years in a Vietnamese prison camp, and would become a role model for his fellow prisoners, including Senator JOHN McCAIN of Arizona and a member of this House, Representative SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

James Kasler is the face of the valor that all our veterans demonstrated when they put on the uniform of our armed forces. Recently I had the honor of delivering the keynote address at the dedication of the Kasler-Momence Veterans Park in my district, where I met the colonel. This park will serve to honor all those veterans who served and those future veterans who are currently serving. Hundreds of thousands of military personnel go about their task every day without complaint, often far from their families and in hostile conditions—and too many don't make it home. Their service keeps us free.

I am proud to have COL James Kasler as a constituent, and proud to have been associated with the veterans' memorial that bears his name. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him and all war heroes of the past, present, and future.

ESTABLISHING A MEMORIAL TO
ALL VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker I rise to introduce a bill that would designate a permanent location in Washington, DC, for a

memorial known as Dark Elegy, dedicated to all victims of terrorism. Pursuant to the Commemorative Works Act, my legislation authorizes Dark Elegy as a commemorative work, making it eligible to be located in the Washington, DC, area on land owned by the National Park Service or Government Services Agency.

Dark Elegy is currently located in Montauk, New York—in my home district of eastern Long Island—and has been exhibited around the Northeast for the past 16 years. The memorial was created by one of my constituents, the artist Suse Lowenstein, and consists of larger-than-life sculptures depicting the reaction of 76 mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, and relatives as they responded with shock and grief upon learning of the death of their loved ones after the 1988 terrorist bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Mrs. Lowenstein's son, Alexander, was one of 35 Syracuse University students aboard that flight.

Sadly, the creation of Dark Elegy spanned a growing number of terrorist attacks around the world. It is a striking and solemn coincidence that this work of art was dedicated on September 11, 1991—exactly one decade before the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001. If you are not familiar with Dark Elegy, I ask you to view "Remembering the Moment," which will tell you more about the legacy of Dark Elegy than any written statement could ever convey and can be accessed at the following website: www.darkelegy103.com.

Dark Elegy was created to remind the world of the devastation that terrorism leaves in its wake. It will serve as a lasting testament to the victims of terrorism worldwide in the unending struggle to eradicate this menace from the globe. In addition, it is intended to stand as a beacon for all peace-loving people throughout the world to unite.

Madam Speaker, it is my goal to help find a permanent home for Dark Elegy that can be visited by as many people from as many nations as possible. From its current display in my district, this memorial has assumed a unique role in both healing and remembrance for many individuals and families. It has been visited by families affected by terrorism including families of the victims of the September 11th attacks and by families of murdered children whose loss, while not terrorism-related, was equally painful. It is through their voices that the Lowensteins repeatedly heard, and continue to hear, the expressed belief that Dark Elegy should be placed somewhere prominent where people from all over the world can visit and experience it themselves.

It is important to note that establishing this memorial would not cost taxpayers any additional public funds. Once a permanent location is found, the artist and her family will donate the memorial to the public. Also, the artist and her family will personally finance the casting of each figure in bronze assuring the longevity of the sculptures that make up the memorial. It is their strong belief that this is an appropriate use of the money paid to them from the Libyan Government following the Pan Am 103 tragedy in 1988.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in cosponsoring this legislation, and I call upon the committees of jurisdiction and our leadership to consider it pursuant to the Commemorative Works Act and related

legislation in order to secure a permanent location for this worthy and poignant memorial to all victims of terrorism.

WELCOMING HONOR AIR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise to welcome World War II veterans from my home district to Washington, DC. I am honored to welcome these members of the Greatest Generation to Washington to visit the National World War II Memorial.

For the past year Honor Air of Henderson and Buncombe counties has provided trips free of charge for World War II Veterans to ensure that they would have an opportunity to see the memorial which honors their service to our nation, and remembers their comrades in arms who never made it home. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the dedicated volunteers of Honor Air for making these trips possible.

World War II was a defining moment for our country during the 20th Century. The men and women who served in uniform during that war dedicated their lives and spirit to guiding our Nation through some of its most trying hours. On behalf of all the residents of North Carolina's 11th District, I offer our deepest appreciation.

The National World War II Memorial was opened to the public in May of 2004, and has been visited by millions of visitors. Built to honor the 16 million Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Mariners who served our Nation during World War II, the National World War II Memorial serves as a reminder of their sacrifice and service to the American people. I am thankful that we have finally found a permanent memorial here in the Nation's capital to honor their service.

DR. THOMAS C. HO

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the Texas State University System (TSUS) recently announced the establishment of the TSUS Regents' Professor Award to honor outstanding performance and contributions of its professors.

These "stars of academia" bring attention to their campuses through their distinguished teaching, accomplishments in research, scholarly activities, service at the local, state, and national levels, and commitment to their colleges and universities.

On August 16, 2007, Dr. Thomas C. Ho, a Lamar University Professor in the Chemical Engineering Department was one of six outstanding faculty members to be recognized as the first recipients of the Regents' Professor Award.

Dr. Ho has had a 25-year long teaching career at Lamar University. He, shapes his students through his unique and challenging

teaching methods and projects. His exceptional student evaluations attest to his commitment to their success, and their appreciation of his efforts.

As a member of the AIChE Fluidization Committee, and ASME Industrial Waste Committee, Dr. Ho has received numerous teaching awards, including the Amoco Teaching Excellence Award, the Lamar University Teaching Bonus Award, and the Certificate of Recognition awarded by the International Incineration Conference.

With expertise in thermal treatment of hazardous and industrial wastes, fluidization and fluidized bed combustion & incineration, metals and sulfur emission control, mercury sorption and desorption on sorbents, it is obvious why he received the International Incineration Conference's Outstanding Service Award four times.

Dr. Ho currently has active research projects in metal capture by sorbents during fluidized bed technology for metal emissions control; development of two-state fluidized bed technology for metal emissions control; sorbent technology for multipollutant air emissions control; and statistical study of PM-10, PM-2.5, and PM-1.0

Dr. Ho also has illustrative papers and presentations on metal capture during fluidized bed incineration wastes contaminated with lead chloride; metal behavior during fluidized bed thermal treatment of soil; and adsorption and desorption of mercury on sorbents at elevated temperatures.

Dr. Ho's passion for students, his research projects and publications, and contributions to professional societies earned him this top honor. I am proud to recognize his contributions in the Second Congressional District.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING OFFICER CHRISTOPHER
PFEIFER

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to remember a brave young man from the Third District, Pfc. Christopher Pfeifer, who passed away last week from wounds suffered in Afghanistan on August 17 when his unit came under enemy fire. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

A talented young man, Chris has been described as the type of person who gave his very best at everything he did, and who loved the Army. Chris' death came just days before his wife, Karen, gave birth to their first child, a baby girl.

Words cannot express our gratitude for Chris' service to our country, or the loss of such a brave individual.

HONORING JOHN JOSEPH "JACK"
HEALY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Joseph "Jack" Healy, former Santa Rosa mayor and city councilmember, who died recently as a result of a traffic accident. Jack, who was 81, was known for helping others and promoting education.

Because of his delightful personality, Jack was a top vote-getter in elections. He served the city for a dozen years before retiring because of heart problems.

In civic affairs, Jack did his homework on the issues and was known for treating people—even those who disagreed with him—with respect. Friends say that because of this, he had no enemies.

"He was one of the kinder, more thoughtful City Council persons, who didn't just look at the technicality of the issue, but how it impacted people," longtime friend and former council colleague Schuyler Jeffries told reporters upon hearing the news of Jack's death.

Before becoming involved in politics, Jack joined the business faculty at Santa Rosa Junior College. Perhaps because of his own struggles to get a college education, Jack worked to help others achieve this accomplishment, and eventually he became dean of the campus evening program.

"I always was impressed by his desire to give people a hand up who needed it," his son, Mike Healy, says. "He went out of his way to help people better themselves in life."

The son of Irish immigrants—his father was a copper miner who died when Jack was young—Jack dreamed of going to college. Thanks to the GI Bill, that dream was realized after World War II, when he attended San Francisco State University. There, he met his wife, Sharon, to whom he was married for 54 years until her death in May. The couple had two sons, Mike and Matt, who survive them, along with two grandchildren, Megan and Tom.

Jack was a well-liked member of the "old gray mayors," an informal group of former city leaders, and continued to remain active in local affairs even after his retirement, serving for eight years on the Sonoma County Library Commission.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a man who served his community not only wisely but also well. Jack will long be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I was unavoidably delayed and missed the vote on final passage of H.R. 3121, The Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2007 (Rollcall 921). Although H.R. 3121 passed by a vote of 263-146, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall 921.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES
AND CONDEMNING RUSH
LIMBAUGH'S ATTACK ON
"PHONY SOLDIERS"

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to affirm that our soldiers have the freedom to speak about the war in Iraq. As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I believe it is important to express opposition to the view that American soldiers who do not embrace the policies of the Bush Administration lack the skills to do the job of protecting their country or lack the willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country.

Madam Speaker, as a general principle it should not be the business of Congress to condemn or applaud the publicly expressed views of private citizens. If we took note of every stupid, ignorant or asinine utterance in the public square we would have little time to focus on the important issues facing this nation.

Moreover, I believe firmly in the right of every American to speak his or her mind freely. Even the most outrageous and offensive speech is, and should be, protected by the first amendment of our constitution. Our citizens should be free to express their political views without expecting Congress to act as a kind of imperious censor or arbiter of what is acceptable, intelligent or in good taste. Instead of passing resolutions condemning the political views of others, I think the preferred approach for Congress as an institution is to stay above the partisan fray and let individual Members express their personal, as opposed to institutional, views about the free speech of others.

There are times, however, when I believe this body should speak collectively—and that is in those rare circumstances when the speech of prominent Americans, media personalities or political organizations is so outrageous and divisive that it commands the attention of every Member. We can respect the first amendment rights of others without giving up our own right to speak out freely and collectively in this body.

In this regard, I believe remarks by a prominent conservative talk-show personality, Mr. Rush Limbaugh, deserve a rebuke from the Congress. Democrats and Republicans alike should find his attack on our men and women in uniform both offensive and deplorable.

Specifically, Mr. Limbaugh suggested that soldiers who oppose the Bush Administration's policy in Iraq are "phony soldiers." The clear implication of his remarks leaves no doubt. Mr. Limbaugh used his syndicated radio program to impugn the character of those American servicemen and women who have spoken out against the policies of the Bush Administration.

I believe that Congress should make clear that our soldiers, whatever their rank and whatever their views, deserve to be honored for their service. I believe Congress should make clear that Mr. Limbaugh's use of the term "phony soldiers" is beneath contempt. I believe Congress should remind Mr. Limbaugh that the men and women who serve in our

military do so, not as Republicans, conservatives, Democrats or liberals, but as Americans.

Madam Speaker, it is not my intention to advance a partisan message with this resolution. Nor is it my intention that Congress waste time and effort in exposing partisan hypocrisy, however tempting that goal may be.

It is my intention, however, to make clear to the men and women serving in uniform, many of whom are risking their lives on foreign soil to defend our civil liberties, that it is not acceptable for anyone to accuse them of being "phony" or false patriots because their political views may differ from those of their commander-in-chief.

To suggest that a soldier's sacrifice is somehow made less worthy by expressing his or her opinion betrays a view of military service so cramped as to be unrecognizable to most Americans—Republicans or Democrats. I can say with full confidence that that is not the opinion held by those of us who serve on the Armed Services Committee. Congress should make clear that it rejects this narrow view as well.

That is the underlying purpose of this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to join me in embracing the underlying message.

TRIBUTE TO CARL A. LABARRE,
LATE A FORMER SUPER-
INTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS, U.S.
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Committee on House Administration and of the Joint Committee on Printing, I wish to pay tribute to Carl A. LaBarre, who served the U.S. Navy faithfully and well during his career, and who then brought a similar standard of service to the Government Printing Office, where he led his staff in improving public access to Government information.

On October 4, 2007, Carl LaBarre will be laid to rest with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery. A Montana native who attended the University of Montana and later the Naval War College, the Naval Post Graduate School, and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, LaBarre was a career U.S. Navy officer who retired as Inspector General of the Naval Supply Systems Command in Washington, D.C., with the rank of Captain. During his service he earned the Legion of Merit, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Department of Defense Joint Service Commendation Award. Perhaps most significantly, especially to those of us who have been watching Ken Burns' latest documentary *The War*, then-Ensign LaBarre earned recognition for service in the best tradition of the Navy on December 7, 1941, while "effecting the rescue of personnel trapped below decks" on the battleship USS *California*, which was badly damaged in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

As noteworthy as it was, Carl LaBarre's career did not end with his service in the Navy. In 1971, he joined the GPO as Deputy Director and then Director of its Materials Management Service, which was responsible for keep-

ing the GPO supplied with paper, ink, equipment, and all the other materials required to accomplish its work. In 1975, then-Public Printer Thomas McCormick appointed him Superintendent of Documents, a statutory position which is responsible for the public distribution of all Government documents via sales, distribution to Federal depository libraries, and the international exchange program. From that post LaBarre directed a nationwide network involving warehouse-based mail order operations, 25 bookstores in major metropolitan areas, and depository libraries in virtually every State and congressional district; during his tenure, the numbers of depository libraries increased from 1,170 to 1,367, broadening the reach of the program across America. Sales also increased, from \$34.5 million annually when he took office to \$55 million by the time LaBarre retired in 1982.

The hallmark of Carl LaBarre's service as Superintendent of Documents was his effort to improve the management of GPO's documents distribution operations and increase customer satisfaction. He adopted modern information technology and worked to make GPO's customer services comparable with those of private-sector firms. In the Federal Depository Library Program, LaBarre supported the automation of the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications, which transformed the world of bibliographic control for Government documents. He supported microfiche conversion of Government documents, at that time seen as a primary means for providing depository libraries with scientific and technical documents printed in small numbers outside of GPO. He made the Depository Library Council an effective advisory body for the Public Printer and it remains so to this day. For his efforts he was commended by the American Library Association. LaBarre also received GPO's Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award the Public Printer can bestow, not once but twice for "his outstanding success in improving the management of the Documents operations and for creating an unprecedented era of customer satisfaction," and for "his exceptional leadership and his unparalleled achievements while serving as Superintendent of Documents."

Madam Speaker, I have not had the privilege of working with Carl A. LaBarre during my tenure on the Joint Committee on Printing. Those who did have the privilege attest that he was a remarkable man and a faithful, dedicated public servant. On behalf of the Joint Committee and indeed the entire Congress, I extend condolences to Carl LaBarre's family, friends, and former colleagues.

RECOGNIZING LES C. VINNEY

HON. STEVEN C. LaTOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. LaTOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Les C. Vinney, a resident of the 14th Congressional District of Ohio, who retired at the end of September from his position as President and Chief Executive Officer of STERIS Corporation in Mentor, Ohio.

Mr. Vinney joined STERIS as Chief Financial Officer in 1999, and from July 2000 through September 2007 he served as Presi-

dent and CEO. Mr. Vinney presided over a period of unprecedented growth at STERIS, including a growth in revenue of more than 50 percent, a near quadrupling of stock values, and a rise in employment in Mentor from fewer than 400 employees to almost 1,000.

Mr. Vinney has innovatively led the way at STERIS, transforming it from primarily a healthcare company to one that has adapted its proven technologies for new markets. Most significantly, he established STERIS's Defense & Industrial Group to adapt and market STERIS's technologies to help businesses and government address the risks of biochemical contamination.

Following the anthrax attacks in 2001 that closed down much of Washington—including my congressional office—STERIS successfully completed the cleanup of State Department and the General Services Administration's mail processing facilities. Since then, he has briefed me regularly as STERIS has successfully conducted collaborative research and development work with the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center to adapt and modify STERIS's Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide (VHP) technology for use against biological and chemical warfare agents.

Mr. Vinney is keenly aware that military applications can be applied to other settings, and has helped grow STERIS into a model for military, public and commercial applications of its technologies. The cutting-edge VHP decontamination system can be used to kill bacteria, viruses and spores in settings from operating rooms to jets, and was even used after Hurricane Katrina.

Beyond his work with STERIS, Les is a civic leader as well, and has served as Chairman of the Northeast Ohio Technology Coalition, an organization promoting economic and technology development in Northeast Ohio. He's also served on the boards of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, University Hospitals, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, and as a past chairman of the Lake County United Way Campaign. Outside Ohio, he also serves on the boards of Campbell Soup Company and the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed).

I wish Les the best in his retirement, and know how much he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Linda, and their family. On behalf of the 14th Congressional District of Ohio, I congratulate Les on all of his fine work, and thank him for his leadership for Northeast Ohio and the nation.

HONORING LCDR TRACY G. DEWITT

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to rise today on behalf of an Arlington, Tennessee resident, Lieutenant Commander Tracy G. DeWitt, who has devoted his life to defending the United States of America. Please join me in commending Commander DeWitt on a career spent serving our Navy and our Country. On October 1, 2007 he will retire after 24 years of service to a grateful Nation.

Born and raised in Gravette, Arkansas, Commander DeWitt began his service in the

Navy by enlisting when he finished high school. After basic training in Orlando, Florida, Commander DeWitt completed tours in Diego Garcia and Pensacola, Florida before being accepted at Auburn University as part of the Navy's Enlisted Commissioning Program.

Commander DeWitt received a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and was commissioned as an Ensign in August of 1994. He has served aboard many of the Navy's finest ships, including the aircraft carrier USS *John C. Stennis*, the USS *Stout*, and the USS *Thomas Gates*. In August of 2004, Commander DeWitt was ordered to U.S. Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee, where he served as the Head of Sea Special Assignments and the Head of Enlisted Separations.

Along with completing both his Master's degree in Management from Troy State University and his doctoral work in Management from Northcentral University, Commander DeWitt has received numerous citations to include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal and the Navy Good Conduct Medal.

Madam Speaker, please join me in again congratulating Lieutenant Commander DeWitt on his record of service and wishing him, his wife Gillis, and their three sons Tyler, Justin and Andrew a fulfilling and enjoyable retirement. May God bless him and his family.

NEW MISSION AT CANNON AIR
FORCE BASE

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, earlier today, the 27th Special Operations Wing (SOW) assumed control of Cannon Air Force Base, becoming the Western base for the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). This is a great day in the history of the Air Force, and I am proud to represent the brave men and women in uniform who will be serving as the "tip of the spear" at Cannon in defense of our nation.

First, I must note the closing of an honorable chapter in the history of Cannon, the departure of the 27th Fighter Wing. In October 1951, the 140th Fighter-Bomber Wing was established as the first Air Force mission at Cannon. Over the next eight years, various missions and units were housed at the Eastern New Mexico base until 1959 when the 27th Tactical Fighter Wing was activated. Since that time we have seen thousands of soldiers serve at Cannon, providing the air support and fighter capability with great distinction. I would like to personally acknowledge Colonel Scott West for his steadfast command of the 27th over the past year and a half.

The changing of command that occurred this morning swept in a new era for the base. Colonel Timothy Leahy, who is not new to New Mexico having served three separate missions at Kirtland Air Force base, has assumed command of the 27th SOW. There is no doubt that this elite group of soldiers will bring substantial pride to our state and I hope that in the coming months they feel as comfortable calling New Mexico home as the previous occupants at Cannon.

Finally, for two long years the communities of Clovis and Portales worked strenuously with unwavering determination to ensure that its Air Force base would not be closed. I want to recognize the tireless, selfless leadership of General Hanson Scott, Randy Harris, Mayors David Lansford and Orlando Ortega, and the entire Committee of 50 in working to bring AFSOC to Cannon. I am certain that the men and women of the 27th SOW will find assistance, comfort and camaraderie in the neighbors of Clovis and Portales.

I look forward to seeing the years ahead as the 27th SOW grows and matures. In times of war and in times of peace, these dedicated soldiers will serve with staunch perseverance and patriotism. I am honored to represent them and I pledge to work with them as they continue the rich, storied history of Cannon Air Force Base.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL JASON L.
DUNHAM

HON. JOHN R. "RANDY" KUHL, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. KUHL. Madam Speaker, the poem below was written by Albert Carey Caswell in honor of Corporal Jason L. Dunham of the United States Marine Corps. Corporal Dunham gave his life for his country while serving in Iraq, absorbing the brunt of a grenade explosion in a selfless act of bravery on April 14, 2004, thereby saving the lives of two of his fellow Marines. Corporal Dunham's undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of certain death earned him the Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest award for valor, on January 11, 2007. Corporal Dunham is survived by his family in Scio, New York.

One,

One Fine Thing . . .

As to this our world, your heart so surely brings!

All in your choices,

All through your most sacred inner voices . . .

As to our Nation, the blessings you've bestowed upon her . . . which so ring!

All in The Face of Death,

When, your oh so magnificent courage so seems to crest!

For in these, are the things which so makes an angel's heart sing . . . no less!

All in that moment!

There between life and death, A Freedom Fighter . . . at his best!

All in these moments, of which we are now so left . . . to carry with us, until our deaths!

Children of God!

Who cry, when their brothers and sisters in arms . . . so fall and die!

Yet, marching on . . . ever onward until the evil is gone, as where courage is born!

To Give All!

To Hear That Most Noble Of All Calls!

To go forth, in that of death's course . . . for One Fine Thing, While Standing Tall!

To give up your young promising life!

To go so boldly forth, all in your course . . . and so gallantly to sacrifice!

But All, to stand In The Shadow of Death . . . and not look away, nor think twice!

Rise . . . to Heaven, my Fine Son!

Jason, for you in your angelic glow . . . have Heaven so won!

As you died, so others may live . . . your life, the most precious of all gifts one could give!

While, in That Moment,

When, who lives and who dies . . . where the most splendid of all courage so lies!

As it was you, Jason the one so who my fine son . . . The Congressional One, who so gave his life!

As now I cry!

Knowing full well, how so beautifully you died . . .

Maybe a child, who'll save the world . . . a boy or girl, from that One Fine Thing unfurled which lies!

To bring, in your being . . . and in your life . . .

Could you, would we, would you . . . the courage find, in this your life's meaning so divine!

To somehow find, to give to this our world all in our time . . . but, One Fine Thing!

PSORIASIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS RESEARCH, CURE, AND CARE ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act, H.R. 1188 and to encourage my colleagues to lend their support.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as many as 7.5 million Americans are affected by psoriasis—a chronic, inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease for which there is limited treatment and no cure. Ten to thirty percent of people with psoriasis also develop psoriatic arthritis, which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints. On average, there are 17,000 people living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in each congressional district.

Cristy Boisvert is one constituent in my district living with psoriasis. Cristy was diagnosed with psoriasis when she was six months old. Growing up with psoriasis was difficult. Her mother spent countless nights applying medication to her scalp, followed by countless mornings washing the greasy mess out of her hair before school.

In junior high, Cristy played on the basketball team. One day she wore shorts to practice, which revealed the flaky psoriasis plaques on her legs. Her friends stood around making fun of her. They called her "Fungi" because they said it looked like mushrooms were growing on her legs. You can only imagine how much those words hurt her.

When Cristy was 20, she began to think about whether she wanted to have children. She reflected back on all of the grief that living with psoriasis caused her and questioned whether she wanted to take the risk of passing that down to another human being.

Cristy is now in her 30s, and she is ecstatic about the fact that she can do something positive about psoriasis. As an active member of the National Psoriasis Foundation, she is working to ensure that young people in the future will not have to endure the same ridicule that she did.

The Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act will expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research and ensure access to care and treatment for these diseases. Despite the serious adverse effects that psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis have on individuals and families, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are under-recognized and under-funded by our nation's research institutions and public health agencies. On average, the NIH has spent less than one dollar for each person with psoriasis in the last ten years. H.R. 1188 calls on the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases to expand and intensify research on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and to coordinate those efforts with the NIH. The bill directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a patient registry to collect much-needed longitudinal data on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis so we can begin to understand the long-term impact of these conditions and evaluate the effects of various therapies.

Of serious concern is that people with psoriasis are at elevated risk for a myriad of comorbidities, including, but not limited to, heart disease, diabetes, obesity and mental health conditions. To help address this, H.R. 1188 authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to convene a summit of researchers, public health professionals, representatives of patient advocacy organizations and policymakers to review current efforts in research, treatment, and quality-of-life maintenance being conducted by federal agencies whose work involves psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and their related comorbidities. Lastly, the legislation also directs the Secretary of HHS to commission a study from the Institutes of Medicine to evaluate and make recommendations to address health insurance and prescription drug coverage as they relate to medications and treatments for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

I thank the National Psoriasis Foundation for all of its efforts and leadership over the last four decades, and am grateful to the Foundation and its members and staff for their ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life for those with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in my district. I also would like to personally thank my constituent, Cristy Boisvert, for all her work.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NAVAL AVIATION TORPEDO SQUADRON THREE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, the men and women who served their country during World War II deserve our deep respect and reverence. The Naval Aviation Torpedo Squadron Three (VT-3) embodies the spirit and achievement of this era, through their bravery and sacrifice. Today we honor their sacrifice.

VT-3 served valiantly in the Pacific while assigned to both the carriers *Yorktown* and *Saratoga*. While on the *Yorktown*, the squad-

ron was pivotal in the victory at the battle of Midway. The squadron lost many pilots and planes, but the VT-3 squad regrouped and still participated in the Pacific theatre.

In the Philippines, South China Sea, and Japan, the VT-3 squad flew with valor. They provided air support in the invasions of Leyte, Luzon, and Iwo Jima. They flew missions over Hong Kong and Okinawa, as well as taking part in the first strikes on Tokyo.

They are an example of exemplary service and heroism. The squadron earned four Presidential Unit Citations, six Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medals and the prestigious silver star was awarded to Lt. Frank F. Frazier for his actions in the battle of Formosa.

The Naval Aviation Torpedo Squadron Three fought valiantly to defend our Nation, flying some of the most difficult and dangerous missions in the Pacific Theater. Through their sacrifice, our Nation endured, earning our lasting honor and respect.

As a Member of the 110th House of Representatives, I hereby commend the members of the Naval Aviation Torpedo Squadron Three for their gallantry and service during World War II and we extend to them our sincere best wishes in the future.

AMERICAN FAMILY FARM AND RANCH PROTECTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to join with my colleague, Representative PHIL ENGLISH, to introduce the American Family Farm and Ranch Protection Act," which will help conserve and protect our nation's vital lands, farms, and ranches.

The voluntary placement of a conservation easement on private land is a very effective and successful tool for protecting and conserving our Nation's open spaces and sensitive lands.

In 1997, in order to encourage the conservation of sensitive lands and farms, Congress enacted an estate tax exclusion for land placed under a conservation easement. Unfortunately, the original bill capped the exclusion at \$500,000. Our bill would update and increase this estate tax exclusion to \$5 million.

Given the significant rise in land values over the past decade, the increased exclusion provides a meaningful and in many cases necessary increase in the estate tax incentive as a way to encourage and allow individuals to place conservation easements on their land.

Our Nation's family farmers, whose most significant asset is often their land, provide a glaring example of why this legislation is needed. When the owner of the farm dies, surviving family members are often forced to sell all or a significant portion of the farm just to pay the estate tax bill. This legislation would help ensure that families are not forced to sell the farm and that their land resources are available for agricultural use by future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent Thursday afternoon, September 29 on very urgent business.

Had I been present for the two votes which occurred I would have voted "no" on H.R. 3567, rollcall vote No. 922; I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3567, rollcall vote No. 923.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ORANGE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Orange County Chamber of Commerce in Montgomery, New York as it celebrates two significant events in the history of its organization. The Chamber is marking the 10th Anniversary of the merger of Orange County's two major chamber organizations, which united to form the current Chamber of Commerce on this day in 1997. Additionally, the Chamber is commemorating the 125th anniversary of the formation of one of the predecessor chambers in 1882.

In recent years, Orange County has consistently ranked as one of the fastest growing counties in New York State. As this growth has occurred, the Orange County Chamber of Commerce has provided critical leadership in creating and supporting an environment in which business will succeed while also working to enhance the quality of life throughout Orange County's communities. The Chamber continues to serve as a consistent and effective advocate for businesses throughout Orange County and the Hudson Valley region.

Through their committed efforts and diligence, the Board of Directors and staff at the Chamber have expanded its membership to nearly 2,400 businesses and individuals, making it one of the ten largest in the State of New York and the largest between Long Island and Albany. This strong network of community and business leaders coupled with the technical support, expertise and promotional services provided by the Chamber has contributed to the ongoing expansion of business opportunities in Orange County.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to salute the Orange County Chamber of Commerce on the anniversary of these important milestones. I'd like to congratulate Chamber President John A. D'Ambrosio, outgoing Board President Kunwar Nagpal, and incoming Board President Jim Smith for their leadership and hard work. I'd also like to recognize the Board of Directors, staff, and members of the Chamber for their dedicated efforts to make Orange County, New York a better place to live, work and visit.

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 Tuesday, October 2, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 3

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine combating genocide in Darfur, focusing on the role of divestment and other policy tools.

SD-538

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gail Dennise Mathieu, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, William Raymond Steiger, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique, Dan Mozena, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, and Eunice S. Reddick, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's reactor oversight process.

SD-406

Aging

To hold hearings to examine veterans health, focusing on ensuring the care of aging heroes.

SR-325

10:30 a.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 772, to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine pandemic influenza, focusing on state and local government efforts to prepare.

SD-342

Foreign Relations

East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Burma's saffron revolution.

SD-419

OCTOBER 4

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Business meeting to consider the nominations of John J. Young, Jr., of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Douglas A. Brook, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and Robert L. Smolen, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

SD-106

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine united Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, with Annexes, done at Montego Bay, December 10, 1982 (the "Convention"), and the Agreement Relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, with Annex, adopted at New York, July 28, 1994 (the "Agreement"), and signed by the United States, subject to ratification, on July 29, 1994 (Treaty Doc. 103-39).

SD-419

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the backlogs at the Department of the Interior, focusing on land in to trust application, environmental impact statements, probate, and appraisals and lease approvals.

SD-628

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the regulation and supervision of industrial loan companies.

SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the security of our nation's seaports.

SR-253

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1640, to amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the definitions of a hull and a deck, S. 2035, to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. Res. 326, supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, H. Con. Res. 193, recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety, and the nomination of Thomas P. O'Brien, to be United States At-

torney for the Central District of California.

SD-226

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the cost of mass incarceration in the United States.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Consumer Affairs, Insurance, and Automotive Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2045, to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs.

SR-253

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act.

SD-226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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

To hold hearings to examine forestalling the coming pandemic, focusing on infectious disease surveillance overseas.

SD-342

OCTOBER 17

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense collaboration, focusing on the report of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, the report of the Veterans Disability Benefit Commission, and other related reports.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the digital television transition, focusing on government and industry perspectives.

SR-253

OCTOBER 18

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine science parks, focusing on bolstering United States competitiveness.

SR-253

OCTOBER 24

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine to consider pending legislation.

SD-562

OCTOBER 31

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine vocational rehabilitation.

SD-562