

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE ANN BEDSOLE OF THE ANN SMITH BEDSOLE LIBRARY AT THE ALABAMA SCHOOL OF MATH AND SCIENCE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is a personal pleasure and distinct privilege to rise today to recognize one of my state's most outstanding citizens, former Alabama State Senator Ann Bedsole, for being honored by the Alabama School of Math and Science (ASMS) with the recent dedication of the new Ann Smith Bedsole Library.

For over three decades, Ann has been one of South Alabama's most trusted and respected leaders. In 1978, she became the first Republican woman to be elected to the Alabama House of Representatives. At the next state election, she became the first woman ever elected to the Alabama State Senate and, in 1994, she was a candidate for governor. To say she has been a political pioneer, as well as personal inspiration to many of us, would be a considerable understatement.

During her career in the Alabama Legislature, Senator Bedsole was instrumental in the creation of the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile. Working closely with fellow legislators and members of various agencies in state government, she was able to secure support for the institution and has provided a great deal of assistance to the school since it opened in 1991.

In recent years, Senator Bedsole has served as both vice president and president of the ASMS Foundation Board of Directors.

A successful businesswoman, Ann is the owner and operator of Bedsole Farms and president and chairman of the Board of White Smith Land Co. She is also involved in many charitable organizations including serving on the boards of the Sybil Smith Charitable Trust and the J. L. Bedsole Foundation. She has also served on the board of trustees of Spring Hill College and Huntingdon College.

Ann Bedsole's efforts in the fields of volunteerism and fundraising have also led to significant recognition in previous years, and she has been honored as First Lady of Mobile in 1972, Mobilian of the Year in 1993, and Philanthropist of the Year in 1998. She also served as president of Mobile's Tricentennial celebration.

Ann has received the Meritorious Public Service Award from both the Montgomery Advertiser and the Alabama Journal. She also received Honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Mobile College and Huntingdon College.

In 2002, Senator Bedsole was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor. Created in 1965, the Alabama Academy of Honor was established to recognize living Alabamians for

their accomplishments and service that greatly benefit or reflect credit on the state of Alabama. Ten members may be elected annually by the Academy of Honor with no greater than 100 living members at a time.

Madam Speaker, Ann Bedsole has spent practically her entire adult life giving to others, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking her for her commitment to so many wonderful missions.

I know her family and friends join with me in praising her accomplishments. On behalf of all who have benefited from her good heart and generous spirit, permit me to extend thanks for her many efforts over the past three decades in making Mobile and the state of Alabama a better place to live and work.

THE 86TH BIRTHDAY OF FORMER GOVERNOR WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most dynamic and important figures in Maryland's history as he prepares to celebrate yet another milestone in a life full of them.

Tomorrow (November 2), William Donald Schaefer, the former Governor and Comptroller of the State of Maryland, former Mayor of Baltimore, and distinguished public servant will celebrate his 86th birthday. I urge all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting Governor Schaefer on this momentous occasion.

Throughout his 86 years—nearly 50 of which were spent in public office—William Donald Schaefer has been driven by a burning desire to improve the lives of his fellow citizens. I am confident that this was instilled in him at a young age by his parents, William and Tullu.

Following his service in the U.S. Army during World War II, Schaefer returned to his beloved Baltimore and embarked on what was to become one of the most successful political careers Maryland has ever witnessed.

In 1955, Governor Schaefer first entered public office when he was elected to the Baltimore City Council from the city's 5th District. He served on the council for 16 years, including four years as its president. During his term as President of the City Council, Schaefer was a steady force during turbulent times, helping direct the National Guard in quelling the riots following the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1971, Schaefer was elected as Mayor of the City of Baltimore, succeeding Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro III, brother of the current Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI. Schaefer was subsequently re-elected three times, never receiving less than 85 percent of the vote.

Schaefer's dedication to his hometown was unmatched then, as it is now. He served as something of a "Motivator in Chief," reigniting a sense of pride in the city's residents. His philosophy was simple—"Do It Now"—cut through the red tape and provide citizens with the basic services they expect: clean neighborhoods, filled potholes, and plowed streets.

His accomplishments as mayor are many and have had a long and lasting impact on the city. He led the redevelopment of Baltimore's Inner Harbor, including the building of the National Aquarium, helping to transform the Harbor into a city center and establishing Baltimore as a significant tourist destination. He oversaw the construction of the Baltimore City Convention Center and the establishment of a subway system in the city. It is not hard to understand why he was repeatedly named the "Best Mayor in America."

In 1986, Schaefer demonstrated a commitment to the entire state when he decided to run to become the 58th Governor of Maryland. He was elected by a landslide and was re-elected by a wide margin four years later.

As governor, he worked to improve Maryland's public education system, established the Maryland Department of the Environment, made headway in the efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay, improve transportation infrastructure, including the establishment of the MTA's Light Rail Line. He also led the push to establish Oriole Park at Camden Yards and laid the groundwork for what became M&T Bank Stadium, home of the Baltimore Ravens.

When forced by term-limits to retire as governor, newspapers and citizens alike heralded the end of the so-called Schaefer era. But, much to our good fortune, it was not to be. The desire to serve was too strong.

Energetic and as enthusiastic as ever about helping the people of his state, William Donald Schaefer came out of a well deserved retirement in 1998, to be elected as the 32nd Comptroller of the State of Maryland, a position to which he was overwhelmingly reelected in 2002.

Governor Schaefer has now embarked on his second retirement, but we all know that such a man can never truly retire. He cares too much for his fellow Marylanders and continues to serve as an inspiration to all of us for his continued commitment to service.

I think the Baltimore Sun captured it best at the conclusion of his second term as governor. The final paragraph of the paper's editorial reads:

"Mr. Schaefer is no shrinking violet. His larger-than-life personality can be alternately endearing and engaging. But he cares deeply about people. That's the bottom line for him. Helping people. You couldn't ask for more from a public servant."

No you couldn't.

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO UNDER SECRETARY
FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS, KAREN
HUGHES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the important work of Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Karen Hughes, in light of the announcement that she is resigning. Under Secretary Hughes has led efforts to improve the image of the United States overseas by changing the way the United States engages with the Muslim world.

Under Secretary Hughes has worked tirelessly to build a strong organization within the State Department that future administrations can rely upon. She has dramatically increased the number of Arabic language interviews, created three rapid response centers overseas to respond to news events, and nearly doubled the public diplomacy budget to combat negative perceptions of the United States abroad.

During her time as head of our government's public diplomacy efforts, Under Secretary Hughes has shown a deep commitment to promoting freedom and to encouraging confidence in speaking out about the values we hold dear. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

I am inserting for the RECORD Under Secretary Hughes's remarks today at the announcement of her resignation.

UNDER SECRETARY KAREN P. HUGHES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, TREATY ROOM

First, I want to thank President Bush and Secretary Rice for giving me the great privilege of representing our country abroad and reaching out to the people of the world in a spirit of respect and friendship.

It's been a special honor to work for Secretary Rice, who is both a great friend and a great role model. I also want to thank my outstanding team in public diplomacy—all that we have been able to accomplish has been due to their work—and all the people of the State Department—foreign service, civil service, foreign service nationals, and presidential appointees. I've learned so much from them and I've been honored to serve with them in representing America across the world.

Later this year, in mid-December, I will be returning home to Texas. I feel that I have done what Secretary Rice and President Bush asked me to do by transforming public diplomacy and making it a national security priority, central to everything we do in government—while also engaging the private sector more extensively than ever before.

I have spent almost nine of the last 12 years of my career in government service and after commuting between Washington and Austin not nearly as often as I would like for the last two-and-a-half years, I'm looking forward to returning to private life and living in the same city with my husband.

When I look back at the last couple of years, I'm very proud of what our public diplomacy team has accomplished.

We've aggressively expanded our programs, fought for and won increased funding and put in place many innovations and institutional reforms.

They include aggressive and significantly expanded media outreach. We've created new regional media hubs, which put language

qualified foreign service officers on television in key regional media markets of Dubai, Brussels and London. A new rapid response unit monitors international television and blogs and issues a daily report to inform policy makers about what is driving international news, then provides the U.S. government's position on those issues. We've transformed the Bureau of International Information programs into a high tech hub with web sites in English and six languages, created a digital outreach team that counters misinformation and myths on blogs in Arabic (soon to add Farsi and Urdu)—and stood up a new video production unit. Our ambassadors are now empowered and expected to engage with the media, and every foreign service officer is evaluated on public diplomacy activities.

We've put in place extensive new outreach to young people, teaching English to thousands of high school students in more than 40 Muslim majority countries. Last summer, we started a new program to reach an even younger audience—8 to 14-year-olds, with a summer program teaching English, computer, arts and sports activates and leadership training. English teaching gives young people a skill they desire, a marketable skill, while opening a window to a wider world of knowledge.

I'll never forget meeting a young man in one of our English programs in Morocco. I asked him what difference it had made in his life, and he said: "I have a job and none of my friends do." He was from the same neighborhood that produced the Casablanca suicide bombers. In addition to a job, he now has a hope, a reason to live rather than kill himself and others in a suicide bombing.

We've engaged Muslim populations through a new program called citizen dialogue, which sends Muslim Americans overseas to dialogue with Muslim communities—and we've brought more than 600 religious clerics scholars and community leaders from Muslim countries to America to get to know us better.

We've engaged the private sector more extensively than ever before—leveraging more than \$800 million in partnerships ranging from disaster relief to education and health programs to working to make our airports and embassies more welcoming.

We've significantly expanded outreach to women, with a new breast cancer initiative in the Middle East and Latin America and a number of business women's mentoring initiatives.

A new partnership with U.S. higher education helped attract a record number of international students to study in America and reversed the trend of decline that began in the years after September 11th. We issued an all time high of 591,000 student visas in 2006 and traveled with university presidents across the world to encourage international students to come to America.

Our flagship programs like Fulbright at record highs, we've restarted exchanges with Iran for the first time since 1979 and participation in our education and exchange programs—people-to-people diplomacy—has grown from 27,000 in 2004 to nearly 40,000 today.

I've worked to set a more strategic direction for USG broadcasting and recruit new leadership for the Broadcasting Board of Governors and its entities.

We launched a new Global Cultural initiative, expanded sports programming, sent musical groups like the fusion funk group Ozomatli abroad with a message of respect for diversity. We started a new public diplomacy envoy program, enlisting well known Americans including Olympic skater Michelle Kwan and baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. to represent America overseas.

We have implemented a majority of the recommendations from more than 30 studies of U.S. public diplomacy, including the comprehensive Djerejian report, and developed the first inter-agency strategic communications plan for the U.S. government.

I'm very proud of what we've started, and I will continue to be a champion of public diplomacy. I will advocate for more funding and more programs, because I believe it's vitally important for the future of our increasingly interconnected world—and especially for the future of our children. I want to encourage my fellow Americans to engage with the world, to study abroad, to travel—one of my own goals in the years ahead is to improve my Spanish.

Secretary Rice, thank you for this opportunity; it's been an honor and privilege to work for you and with you, and I thank my great public diplomacy team.

CONGRATULATING STANDARD
EQUIPMENT CO. INC. OF MOBILE
ON ITS RECOGNITION AS AN
ALABAMA CENTENNIAL RE-
TAILER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Standard Equipment Co. Inc., located in Mobile, Alabama, for being recognized by the Alabama Retail Association as an Alabama Centennial Retailer.

The Alabama Retail Association, in conjunction with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, sponsors the Retailer of the Year program. Awarded in three categories based on annual sales volume, the awards are presented at the association's annual Retailing Day luncheon.

The designation of Alabama Centennial Retailer by the Alabama Retail Association recognizes century-old retail businesses for their contributions to Alabama's past, present, and future. I am proud to recognize that two of the honorees are located in Alabama's First Congressional District.

One of this year's honorees, Standard Equipment Co. Inc., was founded in 1906 by Richard A. Christian. A distributor of industrial, construction and marine supplies, Standard was originally located at Commerce and St. Anthony streets, but for almost 50 years, the company has operated at Beauregard and Water streets near the state docks. A major supplier of maintenance, repair, and operating products, the company is now owned by E. Burnley Davis Sr. and Robert D. Wilkins.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Standard Equipment Co. Inc. for being recognized as an Alabama Centennial Retailer by the Alabama Retail Association. I know Burnley Davis, the company president, along with the company employees, their friends, families, and members of the community also join with me in praising Standard Equipment Co. Inc. for their many accomplishments and for extending thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community and the First Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO GERALDINE GENNET

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and express thanks to Geraldine Gennet for her dedicated service as General Counsel of the House of Representatives.

Under the rules of the House, the Office of the General Counsel should provide legal advice and assistance to all Members of Congress, committees, officers, and employees without regard to political affiliation. Since her 1997 appointment by Speaker Newt Gingrich to lead that office, Ms. Gennet has dutifully fulfilled that obligation. Despite the unfortunate partisan tenor within Congress over the past 10 years, the Office of the General Counsel unflinchingly has been a professional, non-partisan advocate for individuals across the ideological spectrum—this is a testament to Ms. Gennet and to her ability to place the long term interests of the institution before parochial concerns and partisanship.

In addition to providing general legal guidance to Members and staff on issues related to subpoenas, requests for information, and tort claims, Ms. Gennet also worked tirelessly to uphold the institutional privileges and immunities of the House of Representatives. Upon my election as Democratic Whip, I became a member of the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group, otherwise known as BLAG. This body is comprised of both Democratic and Republican leadership and is responsible for directing the Office of the General Counsel to file amicus briefs on behalf of the House of Representatives. During my work with BLAG, I had the opportunity to observe first-hand the deep respect Ms. Gennet has for the House of Representatives. Ms. Gennet is a firm believer in the separation of powers and in the speech or debate clause of the Constitution. When it may have been more expedient to relent on these issues, Ms. Gennet fought to preserve the powers and prerogatives of the Congress.

On behalf of myself and the members of my Caucus, I again want to extend my deepest thanks to Geraldine Gennet for her service and I wish her the best with her future endeavors.

WHAT MAKES NEBRASKA GREAT

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise not in honor of one person, but of many. Today I rise in honor of a small slice of what makes Nebraskans great.

When Gary Lindstrom, a farmer outside of Holdrege, Nebraska, was sidelined by a heart attack during harvest season, his neighbors and fellow Nebraskans showed what it truly means to be a community.

Farmers from Wilcox, Holdrege, Loomis, Ash Grove, Funk, and Ragan, eight combines, 12 grain cars and 20 trucks rallied to take care of a friend who was in need.

I think one of the volunteers, Wade Johnson of Holdrege, said it best when he said, "It's

what we all do when somebody needs some help. You help out."

I was touched by the generosity of the community. For Mr. Lindstrom, I thank everyone who lent a helping hand. And I thank all Nebraskans who come to the aid of their neighbors whenever and wherever it may be.

HONORING ROBERT W. LEE ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS BEING
HONORED WITH THE INAUGURAL
BCA CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and personal pleasure that I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Robert W. "Bubba" Lee for receiving the Business Council of Alabama (BCA) Inaugural Chairman's Award for Leadership and Distinguished Service. Make no mistake, Mr. Lee is most deserving of this high honor; his dedication and service to the business community throughout Alabama has rightly earned him this prestigious award.

Bubba, as he is affectionately known to his family and friends, was honored with this award at the 2007 BCA Governmental Affairs Conference held earlier this year at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama. A shining example of volunteer leadership, Bubba has always been known to go above and beyond in everything he does. He has devoted countless hours of his life to making Alabama a better place to live and work.

In recognizing him for this very special award, the Business Council of Alabama chose Bubba because he not only has given unselfishly of his time and resources to the Business Council, but he has also been invaluable to the organization as a leader, visionary, and advisor. Early on, Bubba was one of the original architects of BCA's political structure and the results have been obvious. Thanks in no small part to RCA's leadership over the past 21 years, Alabama has truly become a great place to do business.

Bubba served as chairman of the BCA board of directors from 1995–96 and as chairman of the board of directors of ProgressPAC, BCA's political action committee, from 1992–94. He remains a key member of BCA's Regional Advisory Committee 1.

Madam Speaker, I recognize Bubba today for not only his dedication to BCA but for his leadership at Vulcan, Inc. Serving as president of Vulcan, Inc. since 1986 and as CEO since 1996, Bubba has been—and continues to be—a solid leader in his professional career. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, as well as a leader in his church, Bubba Lee is a friend upon which you can always depend.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Bubba Lee for both the great success he has enjoyed in his life and his outstanding service to the city of Foley and the state of Alabama. I know his wife, Cheryl; his daughters, Martha Ann and Beth; his two granddaughters; and his many friends and colleagues are also proud of him. I wish Bubba and his entire family much health and success in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOE
LOUGHREY, PRESIDENT AND
COO, CUMMINS INC.

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joe Loughrey, who was recently honored for his contribution to business and social responsibility by the Ireland Chamber of Commerce at the American Celtic Ball, held annually in New York City.

As the grandson of an Irish immigrant, I am proud of Joe's Irish heritage and the important role it has played in his life. I also want to thank Joe for his work in support of technical and vocational education.

It also happens that Joe is president and chief operating officer of Cummins Inc., a very important company to the Sixth Congressional District of Indiana. Under Joe's leadership, Cummins has continued to take innovative steps from its headquarters in Columbus, Indiana, to build a skilled, robust workforce that is succeeding in the face of increasing global competition. In fact, Cummins has so much confidence in its local workforce initiatives and the quality of Hoosier workers that it has announced the location of a new light-duty diesel engine plant in Indiana when it could have been located elsewhere.

Joe joined Cummins in 1974 and has held a number of leadership roles in the company during his tenure. A Holyoke, Massachusetts, native and Columbus resident, Joe graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in economics and African studies. He is a member of the board of the Cummins Foundation, the National Association of Manufacturers, Tower Automotive Inc., Sauer-Danfoss Inc. and the Columbus Learning Center Management Corp. He also serves on the Advisory Council for the College of Arts & Letters at the University of Notre Dame.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA
HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On November 3, 2007 a group of 84 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home State of Louisiana to visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our Nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOXLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED STATE CHAMPION SCHOOL BY THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer congratulations to Loxley Elementary School for being named a State Champion school for 2006–2007 by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

With the motto, "EveryBODY is a winner in activity and fitness," the President's Challenge Physical Activity and Fitness Awards program offers presidential recognition and awards for physical activity and fitness participation to children ages 6 to 17. The State Champion award is presented annually to three schools in each State having the highest number of students scoring at or above the 85th percentile on the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test.

As a State Champion, Loxley Elementary School is a role model for other schools because of its dedication to helping students encourage physical activity and gain fitness skills along with an understanding of the health benefits of being regularly active. Encouraging adequate amounts of daily physical activity is an excellent way to instill healthy lifestyle habits at an early age.

The five assessments of the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test measure four components of physical fitness: a one-mile run/walk for heart and lung endurance; curls for abdominal strength and endurance; a "sit and reach" stretch for muscular flexibility; pull-ups for upper body strength and endurance; and a shuttle run for agility.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Loxley Elementary School in Loxley, Alabama, for this honor. This school deserves public recognition and our appreciation for their concerted efforts to instill healthy lifestyle habits in the children of south Alabama.

ORGAIN, BELL, & TUCKER—TEXAS LAWYERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize a Texas institution, the Orgain, Bell, and Tucker law firm, on its 100th anniversary. Orgain, Bell, and Tucker is located in many cities throughout Texas and was founded in Beaumont, TX.

William Edmund Orgain, the initial founding partner, was lured to Beaumont from his native Bastrop, TX by the need for land litigation that sprung from the Spindletop Gusher and the Texas oil boom in 1901. With the onset of the second oil boom the firm's second partner Major T. Bell joined Mr. Orgain's firm in 1925 to help with business generated by the second major oil unearthing in Beaumont. John G. Tucker joined the firm in 1933 and the firm was coined Orgain, Bell, and Tucker.

Orgain, Bell, and Tucker has, for the past 100 years, served clients with integrity in the areas of insurance defense, commercial litigation, utility law, labor law, and medical and legal malpractice.

Community service, starting with Mr. Orgain's service on the Texas Supreme Court Committee, which wrote the Texas Rules for Civil Procedure, and Major Bell's service as President of the State Bar of Texas in 1942, has always been a core philosophy of Orgain, Bell, and Tucker. Through service to the great State of Texas and to their local community Orgain, Bell, and Tucker's history of service has influenced generations of attorneys and community leaders.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 31, 2007, I missed rollcall vote No. 1026 a motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 3034. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING MIKE LOWELL: THE 2007 WORLD SERIES MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Mike Lowell of the World Champion Boston Red Sox, for being named the 2007 World Series Most Valuable Player.

Mike grew up in Miami where he was a high school baseball star at Coral Gables Senior High School. He made the All-Dade First Team and was an All-State/All-Star in 1992. He did all this while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Mike was offered a full scholarship by Florida International University, FIU, where he excelled both as a student and an athlete and was honored as an Academic All-American.

In 1995, he was drafted by the New York Yankees and quickly moved up the minor league system. His parents, Carl and Beatriz, always stressed the importance of a good education, and after being drafted, he returned to FIU. He graduated magna cum laude in 1996 with a degree in finance.

In 1999, he was traded back home to play for the Florida Marlins. However, less than three weeks later, Mike's plans were put on hold by a startling discovery. While undergoing a regular physical examination, Mike was diagnosed with testicular cancer. The surgery and three weeks of radiation were successful. Mike recovered with the love and support of his family, including his lovely wife Bertica, and today he remains cancer-free.

Mike created the Mike Lowell Foundation, which helps raise funds for cancer research and helps pay for medical care to low income cancer patients.

While a member of the Marlins, he was a key contributor to their exciting 2003 World Series Championship. Mike was a 2002 and 2003 All-Star and won the 2003 National League Silver Slugger Award, which is given to the top offensive players at each position. In 2005, he won his first Rawlings Gold Glove Award for his "superior fielding performance" at third base.

On November 21, 2005, the Marlins traded Mike to the Boston Red Sox. He was voted onto the 2007 American League All-Star Team by his peers. In the 2007 season, he had a .324 batting average, hit 21 home runs and was the Red Sox team leader with 120 RBIs.

In the post-season, Mike was truly "El Señor Octubre". In the American League Divisional Series and the American League Championship Series, Mike batted in 11 runs for Boston as they defeated the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and the Cleveland Indians.

But it was on baseball's grandest stage that Mike Lowell shined brightest. During the World Series, Mike batted .400, scored 6 runs and drove in 4, including a home run in the decisive Game 4 against the Colorado Rockies. For his extraordinary performance, he was named the 2007 World Series Most Valuable Player.

I wish to congratulate Mike for his extraordinary accomplishments. He has earned the profound respect and affection of millions of baseball fans, and shown the entire Nation what the south Florida community has known for a long time, that Mike Lowell is an extremely talented, intelligent, and decent man. I am truly honored to be able to call Mike Lowell my friend.

CONGRATULATING JULIUS GOLDSTEIN & SON INC. OF MOBILE ON ITS RECOGNITION AS AN ALABAMA CENTENNIAL RETAILER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Julius Goldstein & Son Inc. located in Mobile, Alabama, for being recognized by the Alabama Retail Association as an Alabama Centennial Retailer.

The Alabama Retail Association, in conjunction with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, sponsors the Retailer of the Year program. Awarded in three categories based on annual sales volume, the awards are presented each year at the association's Retailing Day luncheon.

The designation of Alabama Centennial Retailer by the Alabama Retail Association recognizes century-old retail businesses for their contributions to Alabama's past, present, and future. I am proud to recognize that two of the honorees are located in Alabama's First Congressional District.

One of this year's honorees, Julius Goldstein & Son Inc., which does business as Goldstein's Jewelry, was founded in 1879 by Julius Goldstein. One of the South's leading fine jewelry stores, it is now owned by Richard Frank Jr., whose family purchased the business in the 1950s. Originally located on Dauphin Street in downtown Mobile, Goldstein's moved to Royal Street in 1905. Relocating to

Bel Air Mall in 1967, Goldstein's was the first of Mobile's jewelry stores to "move west." In 1974, Goldstein's built a second location in the mall, where it stayed until moving to its current location on Hillcrest Road in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Goldstein's Jewelry for being recognized as an Alabama Centennial Retailer by the Alabama Retail Association. I know Richard Frank Jr., along with the company employees, their friends, families, and members of the community also join with me in praising Goldstein's Jewelry for their many accomplishments and for extending thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community and the First Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE PONTIFICAL
VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS
KAREKIN II TO MICHIGAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize his Holiness Karekin II, the supreme patriarch and catholicos of all Armenians, as he visits St. John Armenian Church in Southfield, MI, during his second tour of the United States.

Catholicos Karekin II was born Ktrich Nersessian in Voskehat, Armenia on August 21, 1951. He graduated from the seminary of Holy Echmiadzin with honors in 1971, and was ordained a deacon in 1970 and a monk in 1972. It was then that he received the priestly name "Karekin." In the late 1970s, His Holiness Vasken I encouraged Karekin to continue his theological studies abroad, where he spent time in Vienna, Austria and Zagorsk, Russia; eventually returning to Armenia.

On October 23, 1983, Karekin was consecrated as a bishop in Echmiadzin. After the Spitak Earthquake in 1988, Karekin took an active role in helping the victims overcome the devastation. His leadership is evidenced by the many schools and churches erected after the tragedy. In addition, after the fall of the Soviet Union, Karekin nurtured the usage of modern technology and telecommunications to help bring new life to his churches as well as dealing with the legacies of the Soviet era.

In 1999, Karekin was elected catholicos of Armenia and of all Armenians at Echmiadzin, succeeding His Holiness Karekin I. Since his election, his holiness has fostered relations with religious leaders around the world including Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I. Furthermore, on October 10, 2007, he courageously stood on the floor of the House of Representatives and prayed for the victims of the Armenian genocide.

Today his holiness visits Michigan and its over 100,000 citizens of Armenian descent. His message of "bringing faith home" is exemplified by Michigan's involvement and contributions to Habitat for Humanity here and abroad. Their willingness to support one another during difficult and troubling times is truly an inspiration to us all.

Madam Speaker, I commend His Holiness Karekin II for all of his work for his faith, followers, and people of Armenia. I am proud of the many accomplishments of those he has inspired in Michigan and around the world.

TRIBUTE TO THE 302ND AIRLIFT
WING OF PETERSON AIR FORCE
BASE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor the elite airmen and women of the 302nd Airlift Wing, who are stationed at Peterson Air Force Base. These experienced reservists have again answered the call to duty by entering harm's way to support their fellow Americans in battling the raging fires in Southern California.

The 302nd launched two C-130 Hercules aircraft equipped with the sophisticated Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems to support massive emergency response efforts.

Maneuvering their C-130s dangerously close to the flames to help contain these violent fires, the battle-tested firefighting planes are led by aviators from the Forest Service.

The 302nd trains tirelessly in preparation for any situation and recruits only the finest, most experienced aircrews so as to ensure the best possible protection against loss of life to these fierce fires.

I recently accompanied the 302nd on a test run, and can honestly say that these men and women risk their lives each and every time they go up against a deadly fire.

I would like to thank the members of the 302nd Airlift Wing MAFFS crew, who helped save lives and property during these historic fires in Southern California: LTC David Condit, team leader; LTC Edward Strickland, director of operations; LTC Corey Steinbrink; LTC Harold Treffeisen; LTC Ronald Wilt; MAJ Robert Fairbanks; LTC Brian Thomas; SMSgt Kenneth Kunkel; MSgt Daniel Landers; TSgt Scott Agenbroad; MSgt Thomas Freeman; MSgt Darrell Biggs; TSgt Lamont Wood; SMSgt James Crain; TSgt Jimmy Felts; TSgt Steven Blaskowsky; SSgt Mark Shykes; SrA Allen Clutter; SSgt Michael McDonald; TSgt Brian McAmis; TSgt Steven Cisneros; SMSgt Glen Blackmann; MSgt Kenneth Lohle; TSgt Herbert Lehr; SSgt Yvonda Lefebvre; TSgt Kenneth Maness; MSgt Gerald Tuttle; MSgt Jose Gonzalez; MSgt Pamela Ammon.

These men and women are true heroes, who deserve to be recognized for their courage and bravery. It is my great honor to acknowledge their service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LITTLE RIVER
DRAINAGE DISTRICT'S 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Little River Drainage District on its 100th anniversary. This district oversees and maintains critical drainage facilities which keep low-lying Southeast Missouri free from flooding and swamp-like conditions. It is the largest drainage district in the United States, covering 540,000 acres, which protects 1.2 million acres from unwanted water. This complicated system of drainage outlets, lev-

ees, and water detention basins is crucial to the safety and livability of communities along the Mississippi River, the St. Francois River and their tributaries.

Before this land was cleared and construction commenced, less than 10 percent of Missouri's Bootheel was clear of water. Today, 96 percent of the land is free from water year-round. This enormous change has enabled Southeast Missouri to grow and to expand. Agricultural and industrial businesses that predominate the region's economy are possible today because of the work of the Little River Drainage District over the past 100 years. Even more important, the Little River Drainage District is committed to the future protection of this beautiful region of the country and the people who live there.

If not for the Little River Drainage District, children would go to school on tractor trailers, homes would fill with water after every heavy rain, and a surge in the Mississippi River would be a devastating event to whole communities. Without the men and women who work through the Little River Drainage District to advocate and maintain flood protection measures, life in Southeast Missouri would be very different.

The individuals of the Little River Drainage District are responsible for keeping the ground dry beneath countless businesses, farms, factories and families. They do an outstanding job as advocates for every citizen of Southeast Missouri. I commend them for their work and congratulate them on 100 years of service to our district, State and Nation.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHISTLE-
BLOWER PROTECTION STREAM-
LINING ACT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, employees who expose illegal practices benefit us all. But when they blow the whistle, they are often retaliated against. They are demoted, lose their jobs, and are blacklisted. Congress has established broad protections for Federal government employees and contractors who speak out. But when it comes to the private sector, there are large gaps in coverage.

Last spring, the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, which I chair, held a hearing on private sector whistleblowers. What we heard at the hearing made it clear that these brave employees who put their jobs and lives on the line by coming forward to report violations of the law need more protection.

The Private Sector Whistleblower Streamlining Act of 2007 is designed to fill the gaps for private sector whistleblowers. First, it establishes whistleblower protections for workers who report violations of Federal law related to health and health care, environmental protection, food and drug safety, consumer protection, transportation safety, working conditions and benefits, energy, homeland and community security, building and construction-related requirements and financial transactions.

Second, it provides for reinstatement, compensatory damages, and in egregious cases, punitive damages for workers who have been retaliated against. In addition, the bill requires

that the same well-tested principles used in determining whether or not a complaint is valid for Federal employees and contractors (and some private sector employees) who blow the whistle is used for private sector workers.

Third, the Act establishes a new office within the Department of Labor, which will be dedicated solely to administering whistleblower complaints. Following an investigation by this office, the Act provides an opportunity for hearings before a Department of Labor administrative law judge and final review by the Office of the Secretary. Complainants would also have the right to take their cases to court.

Since the substantive whistleblower protections under OSHA and MSHA are well-established, the Act takes a different approach for those who blow the whistle on safety and health violations. Procedurally, the Miner Act functions at an acceptable level, but the procedures of the OSHA Act badly need an overhaul. So the Streamlining Act would provide complainants under the OSHA Act with the same hearing, final review, and court opportunities as for others. For practical reasons, it would leave the initial investigations to OSHA.

Finally, the bill requires the National Academies to study why some persons or communities are reluctant to step forward and report illegal violations.

We want to encourage workers to come forward and report violations of law. The Private Sector Whistleblower Streamlining Act of 2007 will make it easier for them to do so.

RECOGNIZING ANNIVERSARIES OF
MASS MOVEMENT FOR SOVIET
JEWISH FREEDOM AND FREE-
DOM SUNDAY RALLY FOR SO-
VIET JEWRY

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise in support of H. Res. 759, which recognizes two of the most important events in the area of human rights in the twentieth century: Recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the Mass Movement for Soviet Jewish Freedom and the 20th Anniversary of the Freedom Sunday Rally on the Mall in Washington, DC.

I would like to specifically touch on one of the most important aspects of the Jewish struggle for freedom—the right to emigrate.

A few months ago, the travel plans of many Americans were disrupted when they were unable to acquire within a reasonable period of time U.S. passports that would allow them to travel abroad to certain regions. It was an inconvenience, but fortunately, the State Department with great effort cleared up the backlog and the waiting period is now back to around two months.

Now imagine waiting five, ten, or even fifteen years for a passport allowing you to leave the country.

Imagine not filling out an application and dropping it into the mail, but instead trudging from office to educational institution to police station seeking signatures from employers and various officials, without which the emigration office would not even consider the application to emigrate.

Imagine being told you can't leave, but not given any rational reason as to why not. Or being told that you cannot emigrate because of military service—in a construction unit!

Imagine taking to the streets with a sign demanding the right to reunify with one's family and loved ones abroad, as stipulated in the U.N. Convention on Civil and Political Rights, and being set upon by police and perhaps winding up in a forced labor camp or in internal exile in some tiny village in Siberia.

It may be hard to imagine, but this is what thousands of Soviet Jews faced when they wanted to emigrate to Israel from the former Soviet Union.

And why did Soviet Jews want to emigrate? Many of them were tired of the government anti-semitism that permeated the Soviet system, including a quota system for educational institutions. Understandably, they did not want their children to face these obstacles.

Many wished to practice their Jewish faith, to be able to attend a synagogue—if they could find one that hadn't been closed by the Communists—without having to worry that some Communist Party hack would see them and report them to their employers or teachers. Others were tired of the constant stream of anti-Semitic articles in the Soviet press parading as opposition to Zionism.

In 1967, with the Soviet press spewing tirades against Israel and alleged Zionist misdeeds in the wake of Israel's victory in the Six Day War, the Jewish emigration movement in the Soviet Union began in earnest. Many applicants, to be sure, were allowed to leave, but others were refused time and time again. The word "refusenik" was coined. Members of the Jewish community in the United States and throughout the world took up their cause. Others who cherished basic human rights, including Members of this body, joined in solidarity. Activists took part in demonstrations, wrote letters to Soviet officials, visited refuseniks in the Soviet Union, sent packages to imprisoned refuseniks, and never quit working on their behalf. It was an impressive demonstration of determination and unity.

And as this resolution notes, almost twenty years ago, on December 6, 1987, an estimated 250,000 persons demonstrated on the National Mall here in Washington on behalf of Soviet Jewish emigration as President Reagan prepared for a summit meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev. African Americans joined the rally in large numbers due in part to the active Jewish participation in the civil rights movement in the United States. One of these African American leaders eloquently expressed why so many non-Jews were there. He said, "As long as one Jew is kept against his will in the Soviet Union, we are all Jews."

A few years later, as the Soviet Union was collapsing and perestroika and glasnost became the watchwords, the barriers to Soviet Jewish emigration were lifted. Justice had at last prevailed.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes both the brave individuals who stood up to tyranny and demanded their right to freedom of movement, and those who vigorously campaigned on their behalf.

As Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I am honored to stand with my colleague and good friend, HENRY WAXMAN, in support of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA
RECOVERY FACILITATION ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3247, the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Recovery Facilitation Act of 2007. This bill directs the President to increase to 90 percent the amount of Federal contributions for replacing any State or local government property damaged by the hurricanes. Enactment of this bill is critical if we are going to finally rebuild the historic and vital infrastructure in Mississippi and Louisiana.

This bill also addresses a variety of other issues of importance toward rebuilding communities in Mississippi and Louisiana including temporary housing for volunteers, debris removal program eligibility for Mississippi and Louisiana, providing for respectful care and interment of human remains damaged during the hurricanes, restoring certain public facilities and providing incentives for certain hazard mitigation projects. All of these are important steps toward rebuilding our vibrant Gulf Coast communities.

Madam Speaker, this bill is welcomed, as both Louisiana and Mississippi are still rebuilding from the damages caused by the storms. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported in August that some communities are still without basic needs—such as schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure. In addition to these basic community needs, many are still without jobs because the doors of many businesses remain closed. Estimates from the Congressional Budget Office put, capital losses resulting from both hurricanes in the range of \$70 to \$130 billion. The GAO report further found that a substantial portion of the billions of dollars in assistance to the Gulf Coast was directed to short-term needs, leaving a smaller portion for long-term rebuilding. To date, the Federal government has provided most long-term rebuilding assistance to the Gulf Coast states through two key programs: FEMA's Public Assistance Program and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). Both States allocated a bulk of their CDBG funds to homeowner assistance, thus, creating a need for supplemental public assistance funds to focus on rebuilding and restoring critical infrastructure, such as government facilities, which funding this bill provides.

The increased assistance from the Federal government to Louisiana and Mississippi to rebuild their infrastructure through FEMA's public assistance program will help with the financial burden they face and will allow the process, which has thus far been daunting, to proceed more rapidly. This legislation is a step forward because it increases Federal assistance toward the rebuilding process and provides needed changes to the Stafford Act.

And, as we focus on rebuilding infrastructure in Louisiana and Mississippi, we must not forget that many of the child care facilities were damaged and even destroyed, while parents struggled to find a safe place to leave

their children while regrouping. Many child care facility owners are still waiting to hear from FEMA about financial assistance. Because I recognize the importance of emergency child care after a disaster, I introduced H.R. 2479, the Emergency Child Care Services Act, which was referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This bill would amend the Stafford Act to designate emergency child care as a "critical service" that is eligible to receive disaster assistance from FEMA. Recently, I have received calls from colleagues who represent areas affected by the California wildfires, inquiring about the bill's status. I am disappointed that the Emergency Child Care bill was not included in the bill debated on the floor today. It is my hope that my bill will be successfully passed out of Committee in the near future.

As Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee with oversight of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), of which FEMA is a part, our Committee works diligently to ensure that DHS and all of its components are prepared to respond to acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies. This bill will help rebuild our communities in both Louisiana and Mississippi and help with preparedness efforts for future incidents.

In closing, let me thank my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their leadership on this legislation, and in particular, Ms. NORTON, who is also a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, for spearheading this effort. I look forward to working with Chairman OBERSTAR, Ms. NORTON and others on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to assure that our Federal disaster and post-terrorism response capabilities are at the level that the American people deserve. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

CONGRATULATING MR. ROBERT A. REYNOLDS, JR.

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert A. Reynolds, Jr., an exceptional leader from my district in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 2000, Bob has served as President and CEO of Graybar Electric Co., Inc, a Fortune 500 company employing nearly 8,000 men and women at more than 250 distribution centers in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

Prior to his election as Chairman of the Board at Graybar in 2001, Bob served in various capacities at the company. He joined Graybar in 1972 as an office salesman, was transferred to the Philadelphia unit as a sales representative in 1977 and was later appointed manager of the national consumer products accounts at corporate headquarters in 1979. After serving as a branch manager in New York and Connecticut, he was appointed district manager in Seattle. Bob eventually became Vice President of Communications Markets and Vice President of Communication and Data Business before he was named Senior Vice President of Electrical Business in 2000. During his tenure as President and CEO, Graybar was on the Fortune America's

Most Admired Companies list for six consecutive years.

Bob's leadership over the years has proven invaluable not only to Graybar, but to the community as a whole. He currently serves on the boards of the National Association of Electrical Distributors, the Boy Scouts of Greater Saint Louis, the United Way of Greater Saint Louis, the Saint Louis Club, the Log Cabin Club, Civic Progress of Saint Louis, and the Saint Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association. He is the former Chairman of the Board at the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW) and now serves as Past Chairman of the Board.

I am pleased to be able to honor Robert A. Reynolds, Jr. today. He is a remarkable example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I know all of my colleagues join me in wishing he and his family the very best as he finishes his service at NAW.

FUND OUR VETERANS

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, this is day 32. That is 32 days, so far, that our veterans have not had the use of the increased funding for their benefits and health care. That is \$18.5 million a day not able to be used. And why? Because the Democratic leadership has decided to not complete this bill and send it to the President, who has agreed to sign it.

In June this House passed this appropriation bill with a \$6 billion increase in a bipartisan manner. We were proud of our work and grateful to our veterans.

On September 6, the Senate completed their bill.

This work is done. Our veterans are not pawns in a political game. They are heroes.— Their sacrifices should not be used for more spending & more partisanship here in DC.

America expects us to get the job done. America expects us to provide the best care to our veterans.

Please join me in calling upon the Democratic leadership to put our veterans first and send this bill to the President now.

TRIBUTE TO NORTH FORT MYERS ELKS LODGE #2742

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the North Fort Myers Elks Lodge # 2742 for their tireless and dedicated service to Southwest Florida's veterans.

The Elks are committed to the ideals of charity and patriotism and have a long tradition of supporting service projects throughout their local communities. No lodge fits this ideal better than the North Fort Myers Elks Lodge #2742, who will be recognized for their service to the Southwest Florida veterans community next week at the Florida Elks' State Convention in Orlando.

Since 1917, the Order of Elks has pledged to never forget our nation's veterans. The men

and women of the North Fort Myers Elks have taken the Elks' pledge to heart. Their record of service to the veterans of Southwest Florida is inspiring and worthy of commendation.

Over the last several years, the North Fort Myers Elks have served over 14,000 hot meals and provided over \$107,000 in food items, necessities and clothing to the region's homeless veterans; have logged over 90,000 miles transporting veterans to the Bay Pines VA Medical Center in Bay Pines, Florida; and have repeatedly been recognized by the national Elks organization for their service to veterans, taking first place four years in a row.

We all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who have served our country valiantly, and the North Fort Myers Elks have shown their community what compassion and service to our nation's veterans truly means.

I'm honored to represent these caring and hardworking individuals in Congress, and thank them for their efforts in making Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit.

HONORING DR. TERRY L. MARIS,
OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, a ceremony in Columbus next week will mark the induction of 20 distinguished Ohioans into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. I am honored to commend to the House one of these inductees: Dr. Terry L. Maris of Hardin County.

Dr. Maris is an Army Special Operations veteran who served two combat tours in Vietnam. A Purple Heart recipient, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Gold Star, and numerous other decorations for his valorous service.

Following his distinguished Army career, Dr. Maris put the leadership skills he honed in Vietnam to good use in the private sector, where he has compiled an admirable record in the fields of business research and teaching. As Dean of the College of Business at Ohio Northern University for 15 years, he oversaw the implementation of new instructional methods and cutting-edge teaching technologies to ensure that his students would best be prepared to succeed. He continues to serve as Executive Director of the Center for Cuban Business Studies, which he created to help people across the hemisphere lay the groundwork for relations with Cuba after the Castro regime.

Madam Speaker, selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor accorded to only 20 Ohioans per year. To be considered for induction, individuals must not only serve the Nation honorably in the military, but also reflect the high value of service to others in their post-military careers.

In a letter recommending Dr. Maris for inclusion in the Hall, American Veterans Institute President Mike Jackson called him a "quiet hero" who has dedicated himself to educating future generations for the betterment of people everywhere. I am pleased to join in the accolades for Dr. Maris and his inestimable record

of service to our Nation as he is inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

HONORING MRS. DOROTHY CHIERO,
RECIPIENT OF THE CHARLES E.
PIPER AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Dorothy Chiero, recipient of the 2007 Charles E. Piper Award for exceptional business achievement. Dorothy Chiero has worked for Bellair Expediting Service for the last 31 years and currently oversees 23 offices through the United States as a corporate office manager. Her outstanding leadership has greatly impacted the local community and its businesses.

As a long-time resident and proud member of the Berwyn business community, Dorothy Chiero has been very active in promoting local businesses. Dorothy played an essential role in the formulation of the Historic Depot District Special Events Committee of the Berwyn Development Corporation. This committee has hosted a number of successful events which have brought attention and notoriety to the business district in the Depot area.

Dorothy's leadership in the community also extends to the two area businesses that she owns with her husband, Cabin Fever and AWESOME Pest Service, as well as her participation in many other local organizations. She is currently serving on The Berwyn Development Corporation's Ogden/Depot District TIF Committee and the Transit Oriented Development Steering Committee and is an active member of the Democratic Citizens of Berwyn and the Women's Club of Berwyn.

I rise today to congratulate Dorothy Chiero, recipient of the 2007 Charles E. Piper Award, for her efforts and positive influence on the Berwyn business community. It is my privilege and pleasure to congratulate Mrs. Chiero on this award and acknowledge her contributions to the community. Her unique approach, dedication, and determination serve as an inspiration to the business community, as well as all citizens.

TRIBUTE TO PAT KERR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the selfless acts of Pat Kerr. Mrs. Kerr has tirelessly advocated on behalf of service members and their families.

After her daughter, CPT. Kat Numerick, was deployed to Iraq, Pat Kerr organized successful events at the Capitol to raise support for our troops. Mrs. Kerr has earned the reputation of refusing to turn down any soldier or family member. She regularly works late into the night, spending her own time and money to resolve each family's problems. Recently, Mrs. Kerr testified to Congress on the care of wounded servicemen.

Due to her relentless work to improve conditions for our troops, Mrs. Kerr has been recognized by Traditional Home magazine as a 2007 Classic Woman. She will be commended at an award ceremony in New York and will be featured in an article in Traditional Home's Classic Woman issue. This prestigious distinction comes with a \$2,500 contribution from Traditional Home, which will be awarded to The Military Family Relief Fund.

Currently, Mrs. Kerr continues her career at the Missouri State Veterans' Commission. She and her husband, John, care for their grandson while Captain Numerick serves her third tour of duty. I trust that Members of the House will join me in thanking Pat Kerr for her devotion to the brave men and women in our military.

IN HONOR OF JERRY SMITH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Monterey County Supervisor, Jerry Smith, on the occasion of his recognition as one of Monterey County's outstanding veterans of the year by the Monterey County Veterans Services Advisory Commission. I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize Supervisor Smith not only because of his long public service in the California Central Coast community that I represent, but also because I consider Jerry and Byrl, the love of his life and wife of forty years, as friends.

Jerry Smith was born in 1945 and raised in Monterey County, California. He is the descendant of a pioneer family that arrived on the Monterey Peninsula in 1889. His great grandfather, William Niblett, first settled in Pacific Grove. The Niblett family lived there until 1937 and later moved to what was then the unincorporated community of Seaside. In the 1950s, Jerry's family was active in the successful efforts to incorporate this area as the City of Seaside. My own family's connection to Jerry's family begins at that time through my father Fred Farr's Seaside based law practice and his own involvement in the Seaside incorporation efforts.

After college, Jerry served a tour of duty in Vietnam with the Army's 4th Infantry Division. Following his return to Seaside in 1968, Jerry worked in a variety of fields including hotel management, banking, and auto sales. That is where I first met him, when in 1978 he sold me a Volkswagen Rabbit. Later that year following a service visit, I pulled into traffic while leaving Jerry's Wester Volkswagen dealership and into the path of a fast moving cement truck. I have joked with Jerry over the years that had this accident actually been fatal, rather than simple near fatal, he would have been the last person on Earth that I had any contact with.

In 1982, Jerry launched a public service career in law enforcement. He served over twenty years as a peace officer at the California State Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, where he rose to the position of Community Resources Manager. In 1998, Jerry won his first of three terms as Mayor of his home town. Under his leadership, the City of Seaside started its rebirth following the 1993 clo-

sure of the adjacent Fort Ord Army base. In 2004, Jerry became the first African American elected to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to represent the Fourth District. In his capacity as County Supervisor, Jerry serves on numerous Committees and Boards, including the Monterey County Voting Rights Committee, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, the Transportation Agency of Monterey County, the Natividad Medical Center Board of Trustees, and many others. In all of this work, Jerry has kept the interest of veterans at the forefront both in his official capacity and as an active member of American Legion Post 591 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Jerry has also been an active member of his community beyond his official duties as Mayor and Supervisor. He attends St. Francis Xavier Church and is a member of numerous charitable organizations throughout Monterey County, such as St. Francis Xavier Knights of Columbus, Monterey County NAACP, United Way, and the Monterey County Crime Prevention Association, to name a few.

Madam Speaker, in addition to his record of public service in general, and for veterans in particular, Jerry is also a shining role model for comity and decorum in public discourse. He is unfailingly gracious. Even in heated disagreement, of which we have had our share over the years, Jerry is always at pains to treat the other participants in the discourse with dignity. I know that I speak for the whole House in offering Jerry and Byrl our congratulations and best wishes for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTERS OF MERCY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Sisters of Mercy and their 150 years of service in Sacramento. One and a half centuries ago an extraordinary group of women traveled from Ireland to California to improve the lives of the poor, sick and uneducated. Their spirit and dedication still lives on in the work of today's Sisters of Mercy. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring some of Sacramento's finest citizens.

The Sisters of Mercy were founded in 1831 by Catherine McAuley in Dublin Ireland. In 1854, eight sisters arrived in San Francisco to begin their "Mercy mission." On the morning of October 2, 1857, at the request of Bishop Joseph Alemany of San Francisco, the Sisters of Mercy arrived in Sacramento. Led by Mary Baptist Russell, four sisters traveled to a new community. They immediately established a school, cared for orphans and assisted the poor.

Over the past 150 years, the Sisters have cared for countless Sacramentans and expanded their services in hopes of reaching the entire community. They established the Catholic Orphanage of Sacramento and provided social services for those in need. In 1875, the Sisters opened St. Joseph's Academy, offering women an education, employment trainings and boarding school accommodations. At a time when women were often shut out of the public sphere, the academy was dedicated to expanding women's contributions in society. The Sisters of Mercy have since grown to include over fourteen elementary schools and

four high schools, as well as the Mercy Educational Resource Center Sacramento which opened in 1992. This center offers services to all in need, especially those who are emotionally distressed and educationally disadvantaged due to learning disabilities and societal circumstances. It is a comfortable environment that offers students a wonderful place to learn.

Coming to Sacramento as teachers, the Sisters of Mercy also became the first visiting nurses in the region. In times of need, including the devastating floods in December of 1861 that kept parts of Sacramento under water for six months, the Sisters treated malaria, typhoid fever and tuberculosis. Their contributions did not go unnoticed as members of the medical community encouraged the Sisters to open a hospital in hopes of expanding their efforts. In 1896, the sisters added a hospital ministry. In 1897, to strengthen this new ministry, the sisters opened the first private hospital in Sacramento, the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, which also was known as the Sister's Hospital. Following the hospital's opening, a nursing school was added to train others.

The Sisters of Mercy's mission has been preserved and strengthened throughout the years. In 1925, the sisters opened the new Misericordiae Hospital, now known as Mercy Hospital in Sacramento. In 1950, Mercy Children's Hospital was opened. This hospital focuses on the special needs of the community's youth. Today there are four local Mercy hospitals, Mercy General Hospital, Methodist Hospital of Sacramento, Mercy Hospital of Folsom, and Mercy San Juan Medical Center, as well as five free healthcare clinics that continue to assist those who cannot pay for their medical care. The sisters have also created Mercy Housing, which develops affordable housing and support services for those in need. They have since created hundreds of affordable housing units across Sacramento.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Sisters of Mercy's distinguished commitment to the well-being of the Sacramento community. Their dedication has withstood both physical and financial hardships. Over the last 150 years, the Sisters have expanded their mission with the changing of times and have been true champions of the needy. As the Sisters of Mercy's colleagues, supporters, families and friends gather together at the 150th gala celebration, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued good fortune.

TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3920, the Trade and Globalization Assistance Act of 2007. This bill will provide American workers displaced by globalization and trade policy with the necessary tools and assurance to compete in the global economy.

Created in 1962, the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program offers trade-displaced workers up to two years of job training and in-

come support while they transition to different jobs often in new sectors. Unfortunately, for too long, thousands of our workers have been denied services they are otherwise eligible to receive because of a lack of funding or restrictive interpretations of current law. H.R. 3920 bridges this gap, by not only doubling training funds to \$440 million but also by providing states with funds for vital outreach to ensure that our workers are not lost or forgotten in this increasing global age. Eighty percent of all workers in the United States work in the service sector industry and I am proud that for the first time they will be fully eligible for coverage through this legislation.

H.R. 3920 also intends to protect our most vulnerable workers—women and minorities. While Latinos represent 12.6 percent of the total U.S. workforce, they account for 26 percent of textile and apparel industry workers. In California, Latinos make up an estimated 80 percent of the California garment industry, which has been especially hard-hit by NAFTA's impact. As a result, Latino workers have been significantly hurt by poorly crafted trade policy. According to the Department of Labor, 47 percent of individuals that applied for NAFTA's TAA program due to lay offs were Latino.

Unfortunately, President Bush is threatening to veto this legislation, continuing his policy of favoring wealthy Americans over middle-class workers. I believe that it is well past time to acknowledge the hard fact that trade policy has had a negative impact on our nation's workers and it is our job to give them the support they need to be active members of our workforce. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, so we can provide displaced workers with the tools and resources necessary to compete in the 21st century, and I urge President Bush to reconsider his callous threat and stand with us to support American workers and American jobs.

TRIBUTE TO CASA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I am enormously proud to rise in celebration of the 30th anniversary of one of Seattle's finest start-ups, one that is valued throughout the country today. You may initially think I am speaking of Boeing, or UPS, REI or Starbucks. Rather, I refer to the CASA movement—Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Every year more than 800,000 children enter the court system after being removed from their homes and placed in foster care. They have not committed any crime, instead, they are simply child victims of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. It is up to a judge to decide their futures—what healing services they will receive, where they should live and with whom, and if they can be safe. In order to reach such critical decisions, judges need to be fully informed about the child's situation.

In 1977, King County Superior Court Judge David W. Soukup of Seattle, Washington believed that he was not getting all of the facts he needed to make well-informed decisions affecting the futures of children coming before him in child welfare cases. The judge con-

vened a meeting of community representatives to discuss his idea for recruiting citizen volunteers to do the detailed research that judges could not. Judge Soukup envisioned trained volunteers who would speak to the children and their teachers, therapists, foster parents, and family members, then write reports for the court including the volunteer's recommendations for the child's best interests. This vision was the impetus for the first CASA program.

Before coming to Congress, I sometimes had occasion to testify as an expert witness in Judge Soukup's courtroom. He was both a thorough and caring jurist. He explained that he founded the CASA movement because he wanted someone in his courtroom whose only job was to provide a voice for the children. Caseworkers are obligated to their agency, the parent, and others. An attorney appointed as the child's legal representative cannot testify about privileged, and potentially harmful, information that the child may have revealed. Attorney guardians ad litem simply could not afford the time to do a thorough investigation of all the facts, interview significant adults in the child's life, and advocate for the mental and social needs of the child.

Judge Soukup's innovative vision has grown to become a strong and respected national program of advocacy for children. It is estimated that CASA volunteers serve 30 percent of children who are in foster care and court systems because of abuse and neglect. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of that first CASA program in Seattle—it is also the year in which the two millionth child will be served by a CASA volunteer.

Many of my colleagues are equally proud and supportive of the remarkable work that CASA volunteers perform within their districts to assure that a child's needs are recognized and addressed by the courts and social service systems. There are more than 900 CASA programs in 49 states. Nearly 60,000 CASA and volunteer guardians ad litem served 220,000 children in 2006 alone.

Several studies demonstrate the effectiveness of CASA advocacy for children. Judges appoint CASA volunteers to their most difficult cases, in which children face an even higher-than-normal factor of risk. In spite of the difficulty of their cases, children with a CASA volunteer are substantially less likely to spend more than three years in foster care or ever to re-enter foster care. A greater number of targeted services are ordered for children and their families when the child has a volunteer. In four out of five cases, all or almost all of the CASA volunteers' recommendations are accepted by the court. Judges today identify a great need for more volunteers to be assigned to children's cases.

I thank Judge Soukup for his inspiration. He must feel enormously rewarded by the knowledge that his idea has helped provide better outcomes for two million children today. Congratulations to the King County Dependency CASA Program on this 30th anniversary. I applaud the National CASA Association for its leadership in expanding that single program in Seattle to more than 900 offices in 49 states today. I salute Washington State CASA, also located in Seattle, for undertaking the largest expansion of CASA within the state. Finally, I congratulate and thank the hundreds of thousands of citizens who have served as CASA volunteers over these last 30 years for their steadfast advocacy to assure that the interests

and needs of the children remain the focus of our child welfare and court systems.

SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING
PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3867) to update and expand the procurement of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3867, the "Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act." I support this legislation because it provides for much needed contracting opportunities for small businesses that would otherwise escape them. H.R. 3867 encourages participation by qualified small businesses, particularly veteran owned businesses, in the appropriate contracting programs offered under the supervision of the Small Business Administration. The Act aims to assist small business participation, prevent fraud and bring consistency to the operation of the main contract assistance programs. While I applaud the efforts to increase opportunities to veteran-owned small businesses, I believe that it is particularly important that doing so does not adversely affect contracting opportunities for women and HUBZones.

H.R. 3867 ensures government contract opportunities for small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans. The least that we can do is provide our veterans with opportunities to fulfill their dreams of owning successful businesses so that they can support themselves in an ever-growing, competitive business arena. By expanding procurement opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, a group that currently receives only a small fraction of their contracting goal, we say thank you to those brave heroes who sacrificed much so that all Americans can enjoy the fruits of their labor, freedom and security. The bill also protects those veterans for whom the opportunities are created by establishing penalties for misrepresentation of a service-disabled veteran owned business classification and adopts a roadmap for providing information, advice and training to service-disabled veterans as prescribed by the President.

Finally, it provides discretion to contracting officers in cases that must now be set aside for HUBZones but that could, with these amendments be used for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. But as I stated at the outset, the exercise of such discretion must be judicious so as not to frustrate the purpose set out in the Small Business Act to provide for opportunities for HUBZones.

Mr. Chairman, this bill has safeguards to ensure that the benefits provided reach the intended recipients. Under H.R. 3867 provides that the Administrator perform the necessary checks on applicants for participation in the various contracting assistance programs to ensure their business integrity and qualifications. Most programs already require this but this makes it uniform.

The Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act also expands opportunities for women entrepreneurs. The bill establishes requirements for the SBA to implement the Women's Procurement Program immediately. Because it has taken too much time for the SBA to implement the Women's Procurement Program, this bill is intended to provide agencies with sufficient information to immediately begin competing contracts among women business owners. Seven years is far too long for the women who have been waiting for these business opportunities. As a result of this unwarranted delay, women have lost tens of billions of dollars in contracting opportunities but thanks to H.R. 3867 they will not have to wait any longer. I am particularly pleased to know that women small business owners will finally receive the long anticipated contracting opportunities that were intended for them under the Small Business Act.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will also strengthen Community Development. Title IV strengthens the HUBZone program by verifying that small businesses receiving contracts under its authority are qualified. It further requires construction contracts to be performed within a reasonable distance of the particular HUBZone the contractor is to benefit.

This legislation has bipartisan support within the Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act Committee and includes the input from a number of Members. There is remarkably broad support on this legislation, ranging from the National Black Chamber of Commerce to the National Federation of Independent Business and the Associated General Contractors of America. Also supporting the legislation are the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and AMVETS. The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce and the National Defense Industrial Association also.

While this bill goes a long way to provide much needed contracting opportunities for small businesses, my amendment would have greatly enhanced such opportunities. My amendment to H.R. 3867, which updates and expands the procurement programs of the Small Business Administration. My amendment provides that it is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should encourage the components of the administration, as well as appropriate State and local government agencies, to competitively bid and negotiate contracts and prices for services, including debris clearance, distribution of supplies, reconstruction and other assistance, in advance of an act of terrorism, natural disaster, or other emergency; and work toward a goal of awarding to qualified firms located in a county, parish, or other unit of local government within the affected area, but only to the extent that the goal does not interfere with the ability of the Administrator to provide timely and effective assistance.

Mr. Chairman, we have learned from the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma that severe consequences can result from not having the proper disaster recovery plans in place prior to such a disaster. We also know that having in place a comprehensive written response plan to give support to small businesses so that they may rebuild their businesses and in turn help to rebuild the affected areas is an essential component of a good recovery plan.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma small businesses and in particular minority and disadvantaged businesses, in the affected areas were severely and negatively impacted because they did not receive financial support necessary to rebuild their businesses and participate in the rebuilding of the affected community.

I understand that a major purpose of H.R. 3867 is to encourage participation by qualified small businesses, particularly veteran owned businesses, in the appropriate contracting programs offered under the supervision of the Small Business Administration. The Act also aims intend to assist small business participation, prevent fraud and bring consistency to the operation of the main contract assistance programs. My amendment would further support the goal to support small businesses by encouraging SBA to establish a program that provides for pre-negotiated contracts with small businesses, in advance of an act of terrorism, natural disaster, or other emergency. Thus, the small business owners from the affected areas will not only be included in the recovery and rebuilding process but also maintain viability in a competitive economic environment.

I hope that in the future we will consider the devastating impact that disasters can have on small businesses as well as the affected communities. I urge my colleagues to support small businesses by supporting H.R. 3867.

A TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL J.
CORNELIUS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Samuel J. Cornelius. His longstanding commitment to the citizens of Missouri has earned his place among the ranks of past inductees into the Missouri Walk of Fame.

Mr. Cornelius has been passionately devoted to promoting minority businesses and being engaged in the political process. A graduate of Anderson University, Mr. Cornelius got his start in business when he organized the Sacramento Street Businessmen's Association in Berkeley, California. During his time with the Businessmen's Association, he developed cooperative buying, promotion, and advertising programs for minority business owners.

Mr. Cornelius has been remarkably persistent in developing minority business leaders. After taking leave from his privately-owned business, he implemented the Economic Development Assistance Center for Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America. There he administered three national programs: The Anti-Poverty Program, the Minority Business Program, and the \$16.5 Billion Feeding Program.

Mr. Cornelius has served as Vice-President of the NAACP Board of Directors and a member of the United Way, the United Black Fund and the Boys and Girls Club of America. In addition, he is listed in Who's Who in Black America. He is married, a proud father of four and a Veteran of the United States Navy.

Madam Speaker, it is with great privilege that I recognize Samuel J. Cornelius today before Congress. His life and his career are

steeped with dedication to the well-being, of not just Missouri residents, but to the entire nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Samuel J. Cornelius.

HONORING BILL AND LUCY
KORTUM

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join you here today to honor Bill and Lucy Kortum for their outstanding contributions to Sonoma County, the State of California and the Nation. Having made significant changes to the environmental consciousness in California and beyond, among other good works, Bill and Lucy have changed the world permanently—for the better.

Bill's priorities were clear from the time he was young, growing up in Sonoma County where he could hike or travel anywhere in the county. His father told him, "Enjoy it now, because when you grow up, it will be gone."

Determined that wouldn't happen, Bill has contributed in many ways to protect the valued lifestyle of the community. That work has had lasting effect around the world, and resulted in a long list of notable accomplishments. For example, as co-founder of COAAST (Californians Organized to Acquire Access to State Tidelands), Bill led the fight to ensure the public's right to use California's 1,300 miles of coastline. Out of that came the California Coastal Protection Initiative, a ground-breaking measure that created the Coastal Commission to regulate development along the State's coast.

"That's not only a gift to the people of California," says Professor John Kramer of Sonoma State University, "but that bill was instrumental and served as a model for environmentalists around the globe of how you could value coast with the notion that it's a common value. And it has been re-affirmed by the Supreme Court over and over."

Among Bill's other contributions were the idea of triple use for urban wastewater, the selection and securing of land for the campus of Sonoma State University, and the idea of a hiking trail along the length of California, now called the California Coastal Trail—which includes a part named after the Kortums.

Because of his steadfast dedication, Bill is considered the dean of Sonoma County environmentalists. As such, he was the first to serve as a Sonoma County supervisor. He was also one of the founders of Sonoma County Conservation Action, an organization that has been instrumental in electing environmentally minded local officials, and is now a leader in transportation issues, as well.

Bill's ideas were always backed by Lucy's actions, says Kramer. "Bill would get an idea and Lucy would type it up on an old Underwood."

While her husband led the charge and attended meetings, Lucy organized papers and photos, typed documents and maintained computer files. It has been said of the couple's partnership that "he runs around and she organizes it."

But Lucy has contributed more than administrative support. "While Bill was preserving

our environmental heritage, Lucy was preserving our architecture," Kramer notes.

Her love of history motivated her to earn a master's degree at Sonoma State University in the subject. Her meticulous research about historic sites resulted in more than a dozen Petaluma buildings being named to the National Register of Historic Places.

It was Lucy who was responsible for the research of every one of the 144 California Carnegie libraries, Kramer notes. The thesis she wrote from this research, entitled "Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899–1921" served as the multiple property nomination that resulted in 10 California Carnegie libraries being added to the National Register of Historic Places. In fact, the paper still sets the standards by which such libraries achieve the National Register designation.

In recognition of her dedicated volunteer service and scholastic achievements in the field of historic preservation and research, the Sonoma County Historical Society awarded Lucy the Jeanne Thurlow Miller Individual Award in 2005. The next year, she was named Petaluma's "Good Egg" and chosen to lead the town's annual parade, an acknowledgment of her volunteer work for the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum. She still serves as a board member of the Petaluma Historical Society and Friends of the Petaluma Library.

In addition to her own accomplishments, Lucy worked tirelessly alongside her husband to bring about the coastal trail, the coastal commission and the California League of Conservation Voters, among others.

"They've been such incredible individuals," Kramer notes. "Beyond just living a good life [and raising a family of three], they've given to their community in extraordinarily wonderful ways."

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in acknowledging two amazing people who have made a difference. Thank you, Bill and Lucy, for your contributions to the betterment of Sonoma County and the world.

HONORING TEMPLE BRITH ACHIM

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the groundbreaking of Temple Brith Achim's new Life Long Learning Center.

Temple Brith Achim, a reform synagogue affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, began in 1971 as a small group of families who dreamed of building a place to worship, celebrate, mourn, teach, learn and grow. In the 36 years since this "covenant of brothers" was formed, Temple Brith Achim has flourished into a community of more than 280 families.

This past April, as part of its 36th Anniversary celebration, Temple Brith Achim honored its founders and builders for their contributions, and reflected upon the congregation's strong tradition of community sharing and caring.

Temple Brith Achim continues to provide a welcoming atmosphere rich with religious and

cultural traditions, beliefs, and rituals. Beyond worship, members of the congregation engage in charitable community outreach activities, employing social activism to improve local, national and global communities.

This weekend, the community marked the beginning of a new phase in the Temple's life with a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Center for Life Long Learning and for modernization of its existing facility. These improvements and additions will further the Temple's commitment to educating and instilling Jewish values in both its younger congregation and its adult congregants through its Religious School and Adult Education.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing this important milestone, and in congratulating the members of Temple Brith Achim for their continuing contributions to society. Their spirit of community and giving serves as an example to us all.

THE MARINE CORP MARATHON

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride I rise today to congratulate the 20,630 brave souls who finished the Marine Corp Marathon this past Sunday, October 28, and to thank all the Marines, and Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen that have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice for this Country.

Anyone that participated in the Marine Corp Marathon as a runner or a spectator should be very aware of the inherent good in humanity. The entire course was filled with Marine volunteers handing out water, friends and family of those running, and countless well-wishers who just came to cheer the runners on, and pay respect to those that have given so much.

There are 20,630 stories of why this marathon was important, and 20,630 reasons why it was special. I would like to take a minute to share just a few of these compelling and heartwarming stories.

I am told that 1st Lt. Travis Manion was excited to run the Marine Corp Marathon with his father, Colonel Thomas Manion, also an active duty Marine. Being active duty Marines they were accepted before general registration began. Unfortunately a sniper's bullet cut Travis's life short on April 29, 2007 in Al Anbar province. He was serving his second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In his honor, his father ran with both their bib numbers, and nearly 100 others ran the marathon as a part of "Team Travis." All members of "Team Travis" should be proud of their hard work to honor this hero whose life was tragically cut short.

The United States Naval Academy Class of 1995 graduated a little over a decade ago just like generations of Sailors and Marines before them, ready to spread out over the world, and serve our country. This past weekend, nearly 100 members of that graduating class ran in the Marine Corp marathon to "Run to Honor" six members of their graduating class who have died in military operations from 1998 and 2007. Their fallen comrades, Marine Major Douglas Zembiec, Marine Major Megan McClung, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Erik Kristensen, Navy Lt. Richard Pugh, Navy Lt. Bruce Donald, and Navy Lt. j.g. Brendan Duffy, constitute

the highest operations related loss of any Naval Academy class since the Vietnam War. Anyone present on Sunday saw their many classmates carrying the yellow signs that read "Run to Honor," and carried the names of those heroes who have given so much.

Steve Penrose and his wife Brenna Penrose ran the marathon to raise money for the Matt Maupin Foundation. Matt Maupin, a native of Clermont County, Ohio, has been missing in Iraq since April 2004, and the Matt Maupin Foundation gives scholarships in his honor. The Penroses run raised at least \$1000 for the foundation. Madam Speaker, I pray for Matt's safe return every day, and we are all grateful for the sacrifices of Steve and Brenna.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the members of the Capitol Hill Running Club for their hard work meeting at the Capitol at 6 a.m. to train. I would like to congratulate the coaches, Major Ben Venning, Colonel Ray Celeste, Staff Sergeant Juan Carrasco, Sergeant Shane Cooley, Gunnery Sergeant Ramses Cypress, first time marathoners Natosha Prolago and Caitlin Short from Representative PRYCE's office, and second time marathoner Chris Vieson who serves us all as a member of the Republican Whip's floor staff. Other members of the club who ran the marathon are: Bernadette Arellano, Mark Baker, Martin Bayr, Danielle Behler, Kern Briggs, Clay Brockman, Diane Cihota, Christine Clapp, Fletcher Cork, Kelly Anne Creazzo, Katrina Eagle, Jim Faucett, Kirtley Fisher, Liza Fornaciari, Jeremy Glauber, Molly Gray, Shane Hagerman, Robert Hartmans, Richard Hayden Jr., Mark Hayes, Hanz Heinrichs, Alicia Herrmann, Wallace Hsueh, Kelley Huemoeller, Timothy Joyce, Amy Judge, Katy Kale, Garrett Keeler, Andrew Kermick, Vanessa Kermick, Max Kidalov, Speros Koumparakis, Kevin Lawlor, Fitzhugh Lee, Christopher Lee, Angelical Martinez, Christopher Meyers, Mariah Moncecchi, Kenneth Monroe, Philip Moore, Iffat Nawaz, Alexander Newcome, Timothy O'Rourke, Katherine Pattillo, Jeff Pickett, Gary Pinkerton, Susan Pinkerton, Rebecca Ramey, Helen Robbins, Charles Roman, Matthew Shaffer, Royce Shields, Joshua Shields, Glee Smith, Tom Stallings, Caroline Stephens, Jeff Stephens, Amy Sterling, Zachary Stone, Jade Stone, Andrew Tabler, Gerald Thomas, Steve Vahson, Jonathon Van Arsdell, Sheila Venning, Jacob Watts, Sandra Weiss, Lynn Williams, Daniel Wolf, and Justin Yee. Congratulations to you all.

I also wanted to mention several other groups equally worthy of recognition who had many dedicated runners, running for great causes: The Scraper Fi Fund, The Fisher House Foundation, the Achilles Track Club, Hope for the Warriors, Operation Homefront, USO of North Carolina, the Temporary Assistance Program for Survivors (T.A.P.S.), and the many more that I failed to mention.

TRIBUTE TO BOOKWALTER UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bookwalter United Methodist Church of Knoxville, Tennessee.

On November 4, many people from East Tennessee will join together to recognize Bookwalter United Methodist Church as they celebrate 125 years of ministry.

Bookwalter United Methodist Church has an exciting history that started back in 1881 when Dr. Lewis Bookwalter moved his family to Knoxville, Tennessee. Dr. Bookwalter contacted another minister by the name of Louis Bookwalter and a man by the name of John Worth. Together they learned that many people had a great interest in establishing a church in the area. In 1882, Reverend Scott Moore held a revival in a school house, in which Reverend Bookwalter assisted. As a result of this revival, Bookwalter United Methodist Church came to be.

Since then, Bookwalter United Methodist Church has continued to grow as believers commit themselves to spreading the word of God. As a result of Louis Bookwalter's call to minister a group of believers, thousands have come to know the thriving community of believers that is Bookwalter United Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to join me as I salute Bookwalter United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, and wish them another 125 years of successful ministry.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LARRY THOMAS
WALTZ

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Larry Thomas Waltz, the second son of Thomas and Hazel Waltz, who was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Mr. Waltz was a credit to his family and to his nation as he heroically served his country by giving the ultimate sacrifice in defending America.

As a youngster, Mr. Waltz was a strong academic student and had a passionate love of the outdoors. He excelled in both hunting and fly fishing. He chose to enlist in the United States Navy where he planned to be trained as a sniper. After extensive testing by the Navy, Mr. Waltz decided to enter Medical School at the Philadelphia Navy Hospital to train to be a heart surgeon. However, with the escalation of the Vietnam War and a shortage of corpsmen, Larry was transferred to the Marine Corps and was shipped to Vietnam on October 19, 1968.

On November 1, 1968, Mr. Waltz gave his life in service to his country when he was killed by hostile fire while attempting to give medical treatment to a marine who received injuries from sniper fire.

On the 39th anniversary of his death, I join with Larry's family to remember him, his life and his service to this great nation. I ask my colleagues to join with me to thank the many great men and women who, like Mr. Waltz, are proudly serving our Nation in their tireless pursuit to protect our freedom.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR BERLINE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Victor Berline, who died on October 29, at the age of 92.

A well-respected Kansas City photographer, Victor Berline was born in a poor neighborhood of Paris, France, to Simon and Luba Berline on April 8, 1915. He lost his parents and beloved sister, Rissa, during the Nazi occupation. Although his formal education ended with grammar school, he was well versed in English, French and German classical music, theater, and literature. His keen intelligence and quick thinking helped him survive five years as a World War II prisoner of war in Germany.

In 1946, Victor established himself in Kansas City, the home of his sister, Cecile Berline Bortnick, and her husband Joseph. Shortly thereafter, he married Miriam Gottlieb and they had two sons: Steven and Gary [the husband of Sharon Terdeman and stepfather of Jessica Terdeman]. Victor and Miriam would have celebrated their 61st anniversary on December 29.

Victor Berline's family, friends and neighbors will remember him for his amazing ability to connect with both young and old, as well as for his sense of humor, vibrant creativity, and joie de vivre. As a former Nazi POW who immigrated to the United States, he always said that he went from hell to paradise! Madam Speaker, I know that all members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in paying tribute to the life of this remarkable man.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION
AND SERVICE OF GENERAL
MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, with the support of my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee, I rise to recognize the outstanding service of GEN Montgomery C. Meigs, on the occasion of his upcoming retirement from the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO).

General Meigs' leadership of JIEDDO is just the latest chapter in a storied career which has been singularly focused on protecting our nation and advancing American values at home and abroad.

General Meigs served in the Army for 35 years until January 2003. On active duty he commanded units in harm's way in the Ashau Valley in Vietnam, at Medina Ridge during Desert Storm and in Multi-National Division North in Bosnia.

From October 1998 to December 2002, he commanded U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) where he led over 57,000 soldiers. In the first year of this assignment and during the Kosovo Air Campaign he also commanded SFOR, NATO's peacekeeping operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Between 1999 and 2003,

USAREUR worked closely to forge new relationships with Russian Ground Forces and the Armies of the new NATO member nations.

In his capacity as USAREUR, General Meigs also achieved a number of unprecedented innovations in command and control capability, Blue Force Tracking among them.

The Secretary of Defense appointed General Montgomery Meigs Director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) on 16 December 2005. The Task Force has the responsibility to lead, advocate, and coordinate all Department of Defense actions in support of the Combatant Commanders' efforts to defeat improvised explosive devices (IED) as weapons of strategic influence.

In other key assignments during his military career, General Meigs specialized in leader development, military education, war planning, support and execution of contingency operations, and finding and implementing technological solutions for intelligence and command and control capability.

As Commandant of the Army's Command and General Staff College, he led the effort to write a new leadership manual for the Army and implemented case study methods in the Staff College's leadership instruction. In addition he has published a book, *Slide Rules and Submarines*, as well as numerous articles in professional journals.

Following his retirement, General Meigs assumed the duties as the Tom Slick Visiting Professor of World Peace at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin. He then moved to the Louis A. Battle Chair of Business and Government Policy at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He also served as a consultant for NBC News and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the MITRE Corporation.

General Meigs has served our nation as an exemplary officer, a strategic thinker, and an innovator. His leadership of our anti-IED effort is currently saving lives by bringing critical technology and training to our men and women in harm's way.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to General Meigs and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BRIGADIER
GENERAL PAUL W. TIBBETS, JR.

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and courage of the pilot of the Enola Gay, Brigadier General Paul W. Tibbets, Jr., for his heroism and service to our great nation. General Tibbets passed away today at the age of 92 in Columbus, Ohio, a city he called home for more than thirty years.

General Tibbets will forever be known for his role in piloting the Enola Gay's historic flight of August 6, 1945. No one can presume to understand the pressures Brig. Gen. Tibbets must have felt when confronted with the enormity of this mission. Having thoroughly distinguished himself by leading the first American Flying Fortress raids over occupied Europe, as well as the first bombardment

missions over North Africa, it was his successful completion of the flight of the Enola Gay that would inextricably alter the course of human history.

To fully appreciate General Tibbets' accomplishments, one must understand that Paul Tibbets was not simply the pilot of the Enola Gay, but that he played a pivotal role in every facet of this critical mission, from inception to completion. He organized, selected and trained his entire crew. He significantly altered the design of the aircraft to allow the plane to fly beyond the range of anti-aircraft fire. And, perhaps most importantly, he was one of a select few entrusted with the full understanding of the implications and magnitude of our mission on August 6th, 1945.

In the sixty years that have followed, General Tibbets' legacy has been unfortunately clouded by political and philosophical debates over the consequences of dropping the bomb on Hiroshima, and of the nuclear arms race that ensued. As a pilot and patriot, General Tibbets dutifully performed his mission without passion or prejudice, and irrespective of the destructive cargo his plane stored. While academics can debate the numbers, clearly hundreds of thousands of lives—both American and Japanese—were spared by the attack on Hiroshima, and a devastating world war was ended. General Tibbets' place in history is secure, and his mission must never be obfuscated through revisionist history—he is, without qualification, an American hero.

In a rare speech on the subject in 1994, General Tibbets stated, "I am an airman, a pilot. In 1945, I was wearing the uniform of the US Army [Air Forces] following the orders of our Commander in Chief. I was, to the best of my ability, doing what I could to bring the war to a victorious conclusion—just as millions of people were doing here at home and around the world. We had a mission. Quite simply, bring about the end of World War II. I feel I was fortunate to have been chosen to command that organization and to lead them into combat. To my knowledge, no other officer has since been accorded the scope of responsibilities placed on my shoulders at that time."

General Tibbets served out his life as an exemplary American . . . a patriot, a veteran, a loving husband of more than 50 years, and a national hero whose indelible imprint on history should be forever honored and revered.

A TRIBUTE TO LAKEVIEW BIOMASS PROJECT

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to tell you about a very significant event taking place in Lakeview, OR, today. Because this event is the culmination of unselfish hard work by a dedicated group who shared a vision of a better tomorrow for Lake County, I am very proud to stand to tell you that a model for future management of our natural resources is becoming a reality today.

Three Saturdays ago, I traveled to Lakeview to tour a visionary effort, the Lakeview Biomass Project, which has become the talk of energy and natural resource organizations throughout the Nation. The dedicated people

behind the Lakeview Biomass Project have found an innovative way to move us swiftly in the direction toward our rich national heritage of healthy forests, vibrant local economies, and energy independence.

As our forests become choked and overgrown to the point that they are being decimated by fire and insect infestations, the people in Lake County made a decision to reverse that downward spiral through an amazing partnership of business, Federal and State agencies, and the local community.

Madam Speaker, the word "synergy" has been used for years as a buzzword to denote a process that creates a whole that is greater than the sum of the parts. This is certainly the case in Lakeview. Although their concept was innovative, it was also founded on plain old Eastern Oregon common sense.

At the risk of minimizing the massive scope of the effort that went into this project, let me boil it down to its simplest elements. Brush and small diameter trees will be taken out of the local forests in the process of making them healthier and fire resilient. That material will either be cleanly burned in a plant that produces steam and electricity or milled into dimension lumber at the Collins Fremont Sawmill. The steam will heat the mill's kiln dryer and will turn the turbines of the generator. Jobs at the mill will be more secure, and new jobs will be generated to operate the biomass plant and to treat our forests.

Madam Speaker, I toured the new mill and was very enthused to see that small trees that likely would have burned in inevitable catastrophic wildfires can now be put to clean and productive use through state-of-the-art technology. I salute the Collins family for their vision and for their unflinching support of the Lakeview area in making a significant investment in the future, at a time when lumber producers throughout the Northwest have gone out of business.

I am very impressed with Marubeni Sustainable Energy for their commitment to build a 13 megawatt plant at the site of the mill at a cost of over \$30 million. My colleagues will be pleased to know that the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management participated extensively in this process and worked with Lake County Resources Initiative to provide a 10-year supply through stewardship contracting, and they are working toward a 20-year memorandum of understanding that will pave the way for productive use well into the future. Madam Speaker, you can take pride in knowing that the energy incentives provided by this body and signed by the President have been a significant stimulus in making this concept work.

There are so many people to recognize for this success, but certainly I must mention the Lake County Commissioners who were so very proud to show me this project earlier this month. Jim Walls of the Lake County Resource Initiative has been tireless in his efforts to move this project forward. My friend, Governor Ted Kulongoski, saw the merit of this project early on and designated it as an Oregon Solutions Project that brought all of the stakeholders together and, with the direction of Steve Greenwood, kept the focus on target. Hal Salwasser of Oregon State University served as the driving force in his role as convener. I also want to acknowledge local leaders in the environmental movement who have worked hard to develop a project that will have

a long term beneficial impact on our federal forests.

I know, Madam Speaker, that time allows me to only mention a few of the many who made this project a success, but the most exciting part of the whole story is that this is just the beginning. The City of Lakeview and Lake County are hard at work at putting other renewable sources of energy to work. They plan to expand on their already successful use of geothermal and are working toward solar generation at a former Air Force radar site in the small community of Christmas Valley.

We can all take pride in knowing that communities like Lakeview are taking their destiny into their own hands and creating models for the future that can sustain both Northwest communities and forests.

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 230, observing Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I offer my thoughts and prayers to those who have lost family members to breast cancer, and offer hope and encouragement to those who are currently battling the disease.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of death among women aged 45 to 54, and 1 out of 8 women will be diagnosed with the disease over the course of their lifetime. It is expected that over 180,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in 2007 alone.

Fortunately, there is hope. When breast cancer is detected at early stages the survival rate for women is over 98 percent. Annual mammograms and monthly self-examinations are essential in detecting breast cancer at early stages.

Research has significantly increased our understanding of breast cancer. While there is still no cure for breast cancer, researchers have identified key risk factors for the disease.

I applaud the national and community organizations that promote awareness of breast cancer, offer support to those that are battling the disease, and provide information about early detection. It is imperative that these organizations continue their work to educate women about the disease and encourage monthly self-exams and annual mammograms.

I ask my colleagues to join me in observing Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

CLAIBORNE E. REEDER, DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF PHARMACOECONOMICS, CONCERNED ABOUT FDA POSITION ON COMPOUNDING

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to an out-

standing letter written by Claiborne E. Reeder, RPh, PhD, to FDA Commissioner von Eschenbach, expressing grave concern about recent FDA actions which adversely affect the compounding of medications for individual patients which is an important part of the practice of pharmacy. With 35 years of experience as a Pharmacist and educator, Dr. Reeder is a distinguished professor of Pharmacoeconomics and a nationally recognized leader in his field. In his letter, he urges Commissioner von Eschenbach to reconsider the FDA's position on compounding and comply with the federal ruling in Medical Center Pharmacy v. Gonzales which recognizes that the practice of Pharmacy is rightfully governed by the respective State Boards of Pharmacy.

Madam Speaker, I am entering Dr. REEDER's letter into the RECORD.

COLUMBIA, SC,
October 19, 2007.

ANDREW C. VON ESCHENBACH,
*Food and Drug Administration,
Office of the Commissioner,
Rockville, MD.*

DEAR COMMISSIONER VON ESCHENBACH: I am writing to express my concerns about the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) recent actions regarding compounded medications prepared for individual patients as part of the practice of pharmacy. The agency's position on compounding medications, coupled with its actions against several compounding pharmacies and its intervention and influence on recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) policies on compounded medications, establishes a dangerous precedent that will affect patient access to needed medications. Compounding medicines is an essential component of the practice of pharmacy that provides physicians with the opportunity to provide patients with medicines that are prepared to the specific needs of the individual. Compounding and preparing medications pursuant to a valid prescription or physician's drug order has always been and should continue to be a professional prerogative that is governed by the pharmacy regulatory boards within each state. Governance of the practice of pharmacy is a state responsibility and should not be a matter for federal intervention.

Ignoring the recent Federal court decision Medical Center Pharmacy v. Gonzales, 451 F. Supp.2d 854, 865 (W.D. Tex. 2006), the FDA reasserted its legal position "that all compounded drugs are unapproved new, and therefore illegal, drugs under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FDCA)". Contrary to the FDA's position, the Federal Court held that "compounded drugs, when created for an individual patient pursuant to a prescription from a licensed practitioner, were implicitly exempt from the new drug definitions contained in the Act". The Federal Court seems to understand the issue very clearly and recognizes that medications compounded for individual patients pursuant to a valid prescription are not "new drugs" and are therefore not under the purview of the FDCA or the FDA.

As a pharmacist/educator with 35 years of experience, I appreciate the FDA's concern for quality, safety and efficacy of medicines. That said, I also know that pharmacists are educated and trained in the "art and science" of pharmacy which includes compounding medicines for patients who need them. The broad interpretation "that all compounded drugs are unapproved new, and therefore illegal drugs" is a very slippery slope of regulatory intrusion on the practice of pharmacy as is FDA's practice of exercising its enforcement discretion

through reliance on the 2002 Compliance Policy Guide, Section 460.200. Many patients have medication needs that are unmet by commercially available products. Patients often require a particular strength or dosage form of a drug that is not available on the market. Also, commercially available products may contain additives or excipients to which the patient is allergic or intolerant. To declare compounded medications illegal is to deny these patients access to needed medicines.

Compounding medicines is not limited to the typical community environment. Hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and specialty pharmacy providers prepare medications to order as part of their daily practice. Do the FDA and CMS positions mean that preparation of parenteral and enteral solutions as well as other extemporaneous products, within these settings is no longer legal? If not, then a disparity is created.

To further illustrate the consequences of the Agency's position on compounding, CMS, without explanation or medical rationale, reversed its long standing policy on inhalation medications by excluding compounded inhalation medications for Medicare beneficiaries stating that they were no longer "medically necessary". This new CMS policy, based on FDA's position, may have far-reaching and serious consequences for Medicare beneficiaries who rely on nebulizer medications. Eliminating compounding will severely restrict access to these and other critical medications for Medicare beneficiaries. Moreover, the policy will limit physicians' abilities to prescribe the medicines in the strengths, formulations, and routes of administration that are best for patient care.

I am asking that the FDA to reconsider its position and comply with the Federal court ruling. The practice of pharmacy is governed by the respective state Boards of Pharmacy through the powers granted by their legislatures. Compounding is an integral part of the practice of pharmacy and should thus fall under the governance of the profession at the state level.

Thank you for considering my comments in this matter. If you or anyone at the FDA would like to discuss this issue in more detail, I would be delighted to do so.

Sincerely,

CLAIBORNE E. REEDER,
*Distinguished Professor of
Pharmacoeconomics.*

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING INCREASED FEDERAL AND STATE SUPPORT FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution calling for increased funding for Federal and State home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities of any age, and especially the elderly. It is fitting that I introduce this bill today because November is National Home Care and Hospice Month.

The resolution which I am introducing today highlights the overall cost-effectiveness and improved outcomes in quality care for the elderly and disabled who are furnished health care in their homes or other community settings. By increasing financial assistance and

broadening access to home and community-based services, we can help ensure that the quality of care individuals receive in their home and community is just as accessible an option as hospital and institutional attention.

Madam Speaker, this is an important resolution for three crucial reasons. First, it endorses the efforts of the elderly and individuals with disabilities to remain independent and sustain their viability during the last years of their life. Supporting studies show that individuals who receive home and community-based care have greater life expectancies than those who are moved from everything that is familiar to them and placed in hospitals and other forms of institutional care.

Second, this resolution promotes the expansion of employment opportunities in the nursing and in-home care industries. By implementing government funded in-home care as a viable alternative to that of nursing home care, more seniors will elect to be nursed at home, creating a situation that will enhance their quality of life while also increasing job opportunities.

Finally, this resolution encourages the implementation of more unified training and supervision standards for certified nurse aides and homecare aides. Through adoption of uniformly high standards, we can ensure our citizens in need have access to qualified professionals when selecting home and community-based care.

According to the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, which I am proud to report supports this resolution, patients receiving home and community-based care are more likely to enjoy better outcomes, including a greater responsibility for healthier living, increased independence and productivity, self-esteem, family cohesion and overall contribution to their larger community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. As Members of Congress, we have a great opportunity to make a positive impact on this issue, an issue that is of concern to many of our grandparents, parents, and will be of concern to us. I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this resolution forward.

HONORING THE MINNEAPOLIS
VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL
CENTER FOR RECEIVING THE
16TH ANNUAL ROBERT W. CAREY
PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE
AWARD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, its director Stephen Kleinglass, and the entire medical center staff, for being recognized as a 2007 award recipient at the 16th Annual Secretary's Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Ceremony on November 1st, 2007. This Department of Veterans Affairs award acknowledges the highest levels of performance and service excellence through evaluation by rigorous criteria.

As the daughter of a WWII veteran, I feel strongly about honoring our veterans and their

families. The professionalism and high quality of care provided by the staff of the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center is evident whenever I visit.

Serving nearly 75,000 veterans each year, the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center is among the most active in the country. Through its partnership with University of Minnesota Medical and Dental Schools, it has distinguished itself by providing the highest quality health care to veterans. Minnesota and western Wisconsin veterans and their families have long appreciated the staff commitment to serve all veterans.

The dedication of staff to provide the highest level of care is particularly visible through their work to meet the great needs of our injured veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Minneapolis is just one of four locations in the Nation with a Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center designed to provide intensive rehabilitative care to veterans and service members who experienced multiple severe injuries, including brain injuries. Construction on a new Spinal Cord Injury Center is underway, and is scheduled to open in 2008.

The success of our Nation's veterans health system depends on caring, dedicated people serving our veterans, but they cannot do the job alone. On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a Nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we will leave no veteran behind.

This year, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the largest single increase in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration—\$6.7 billion. This funding is necessary to ensure that the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and VA medical centers across the country have the resources they need to fund the increasing need for mental health, posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury care, and to provide facilities maintenance, and to continue reducing the backlog of veterans benefits claims.

The Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center has a proven record of organizational excellence. The Carey Award recognition allows the leadership shown in Minnesota to serve as a model for other organizations in assessing their own transformation efforts, effectiveness and service performance. Most importantly, this award recognizes the outstanding efforts made by the staff on behalf of our veterans at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center staff for earning the Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award. These caring people exemplify the very best in public service.

LENOX HILL HOSPITAL CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lenox Hill Hospital on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. Lenox Hill Hospital is an accredited not-for-profit acute-care hospital and teaching affiliate of New York University Medical Center lo-

cated on the Upper East Side of Manhattan in New York City. Lenox Hill Hospital has become renowned for furthering medical research and establishing a tradition of excellence in patient care. It has earned a national reputation for outstanding medical care and treatment.

Lenox Hill Hospital was established in 1857 as the German Dispensary and today provides specialty services and ground-breaking care for millions of patients each year. Approximately 45% of Lenox Hill Hospital's patients are from Manhattan. The remaining 55% come from Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Long Island, the Tri-State area and around the world. Lenox Hill Hospital is particularly well known for its excellence in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, orthopedics, sports medicine, maternal/child health and medical research.

For the past 150 years, Lenox Hill Hospital has been a leading innovator in many fields of medicine, developing standards and practices that became models for other hospitals throughout the country. In 1897, the hospital installed one of the first X-ray machines in the United States. Ten years later, the hospital established the first physical therapy department in the country.

In 1938, Lenox Hill was the first hospital to perform an angiogram in the nation and in 1955 it became one of the first hospitals in New York City to open a cardiac catheterization laboratory. The first coronary angioplasty in the United States was performed at Lenox Hill in 1978. In 1994, Lenox Hill Hospital surgeons pioneered minimally invasive direct coronary artery bypass surgery. In 2003, the first FDA approved drug coated stent in the nation was implemented at Lenox Hill. In 2006, Lenox Hill opened a new radiology center featuring the only SPECT-CT in the Northeast, a machine which allows physicians to see inside the body in great detail and a new 64-slice CT scanner, one of the most highly advanced computerized imaging technologies available today.

Lenox Hill is respected as a leading responder to health crises. When tuberculosis was becoming a growing public health threat, Lenox Hill Hospital was the first general hospital in the United States to open a tuberculosis division in 1908. In 1943, Lenox Hill Hospital sent its medical unit to England to maintain station hospitals for military personnel during World War II. In 1989, the hospital established the first Lyme Disease Center in New York City.

In keeping with its tradition of providing an immediate and necessary response during times of crisis, on September 11th, when terrorists struck the World Trade Center, Lenox Hill assembled a disaster team that came to the aid of hundreds of New Yorkers. The hospital set up a free walk-in Crisis Counseling Center as well as a blood donor center. Lenox Hill Hospital, as it has done in the past, provided aid to people when it was needed the most and became a beacon of hope for so many on that horrific day.

Madam Speaker, I rise to request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Lenox Hill Hospital and its legacy of medical innovation and excellence in patient care.

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as this week concludes the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month of October, I rise today to reflect on some of the issues that have been brought to the country's attention over the last 30 days.

According to the National Cancer Institute there have been over 180,000 new cases of breast cancer among men and women and nearly 50,000 deaths in the United States this year. Breast Cancer disproportionately affects women and is the second leading cause of death for American women.

Mrs. Priscilla Davis from Hartford, Connecticut, a constituent as well as the mother of a member of my staff, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006. Her story is an all too familiar one—a story of fear and confusion on one hand, and courage, strength and hope on the other. Thankfully, Priscilla's breast cancer was detected early and treated before it was too late. Sadly, as the statistics show, many women are not as fortunate.

Research, education, and awareness are essential in curbing the mortality rates of breast cancer. I would like to commend organizations like the American Cancer Society and the Susan Komen Foundation for their commitment to making us aware of the symptoms of breast cancer and for their advocacy on behalf of the women and families who have been affected by this deadly disease.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the women and men across the country who share Priscilla Davis's story and in honor of those who have lost their lives to the disease, I ask my colleagues to join me in carrying forward what we learned during this year's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the hope that during the next one we will also have cause to celebrate a cure.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
HEBBRONVILLE ON ITS CELEBRATION OF THE HISTORY OF
THE VAQUERO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, Whereas, the Vaqueros are the true original cowboys of South Texas, and thus started the development of the ranching industry in Jim Hogg County.

Whereas, the first ranches founded in the area with the help of the vaqueros were Randado, Las Noriacitas, Las Animas, San Antonio Viejo, Las Enramadas, Las Viboritas, El Baluarte, and San Javier. Some of these ranches are still held by descendants of the original owners, such as Randado, which was visited by General Robert E. Lee during the Civil War.

Whereas, the vaqueros were renowned for their exemplary ranching and stock-handling

skills, which were needed for the development of ranches in Jim Hogg County.

Whereas, the skills and the ranching practices shown by the vaqueros have left a lasting impact on the present ranching industry. The equipment of the vaquero—saddle, chaps, bandana, lasso, and spurs—has become the standard gear of all Texas cowboys.

Whereas, ranching remains one of the vital elements of the economy in Jim Hogg County because of the efforts of the vaqueros in the nascent start of the ranching industry; be it hereby

Resolved, That Congressman HENRY CUELLAR, in representing the 28th Congressional District of the State of Texas, commends the City of Hebronville on its celebration of the history of the vaquero on November 3, 2007.

IN RECOGNITION OF ORPHANS
INTERNATIONAL AND ITS
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, MR.
JAMES LUCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Orphans International Worldwide and to its dedicated Founder and President, James Luce. Orphans International Worldwide is an innovative interfaith, interracial, intergenerational and Internet-connected non-profit initiative that helps the world's disadvantaged orphaned and abandoned children meet critical needs. By realizing his dream of developing an extensive international network of affiliated organizations working to help the world's youngest and most vulnerable citizens to overcome extraordinarily difficult circumstances, Jim Luce has truly distinguished himself as an extraordinarily dedicated and effective humanitarian, activist, and philanthropist.

With its North American offices headquartered in New York's Fourteenth Congressional District, Orphans International was founded in 1999 by the former investment banker Jim Luce in response to the global crises confronting children in disadvantaged circumstances, including the worldwide AIDS epidemic, natural disasters, low health standards and inadequate medical care, and devastating poverty. Assuming a carefully structured, sustainable approach, Orphans International has adopted as its vital mission the worthy goal of "Raising Global Citizens." The organization helps address both the immediate needs of orphaned and abandoned children and the long-term development goals of improving disadvantaged communities in its project nations, whose list is expanding to include Indonesia, Guyana, Haiti, El Salvador, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Ghana, Sri Lanka, and Togo. In recognition of its effectiveness in serving disadvantaged youngsters around the globe, Orphans International Worldwide was recognized by the United Nations as an official Non-Governmental Organization in December 2006.

Today, Jim Luce and Orphans International Worldwide continue not only to assure the survival of the disadvantaged and abandoned children they serve, but also to enable them to

become contributing members of a global society by rendering service to their local communities. Orphans International often operates in troubled, regions grappling with the fallout from disasters caused by natural, economic, and political conditions. Through its programming, Orphans International instills in those whom it serves the values of leadership, conflict resolution, diversity and tolerance, and global citizenship, frequently bringing American students into a global partnership to help achieve these laudable goals.

Madam Speaker, I rise to request that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Orphans International Worldwide and its Founder and President Jim Luce for their tireless efforts to promote the well-being of orphaned and abandoned children and to help realize the innate worth, dignity and potential of all citizens of the world.

CONGRATULATING BETSEY FLACK
ON HER ADMISSION TO THE
GEORGIA BAR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Betsey Flack on her admission to the Georgia Bar. After years of hard work and dedication to her studies, Ms. Flack will now begin pursuing a career in the legal field.

Ms. Flack attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as an undergraduate. During her time at UNC, Ms. Flack was active in campus activities and academic life. Upon graduation from UNC, Ms. Flack enrolled in classes at the Mercer University School of Law to pursue her Juris Doctor degree.

She completed this program in the spring of this year, and successfully passed the bar exam soon after graduation.

As a Member of Congress, I have seen firsthand how the law can be used as a force for good. I look forward to following the career of Ms. Flack, as she uses her knowledge and expertise in the law to serve others and to pursue legal and social justice.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Betsey Flack.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOSS
LANDING HARBOR DISTRICT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Moss Landing Harbor District. Moss Landing is a picturesque coastal hamlet tucked into the dunes of the Monterey Bay halfway between its better known neighbors of Monterey and Santa Cruz. It is home to some fantastic restaurants and cafes and an eclectic group of antique shops and some of the best sea otter viewing opportunities anywhere. The many boats that fill its harbor offer a photographers dream of masts and gleaming boat hulls berthed alongside well-worked fishing vessels. It is a truly wonderful place to visit like so

many other small harbor communities around the coasts of the United States.

A little deeper look reveals a community that is much more than a quaint tourist stop. Moss Landing is a true economic powerhouse of the California Coast. For starters, it is home to the Monterey Bay region's largest commercial fishing fleet. It is also home to two of the top marine science research institutions in the world—the Moss Landing Marine Lab and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. Because of those labs, several world class ocean research vessels call the port home. Moss Landing is also a major draw for ocean recreationists of all stripes, from sailors, recreational fishers, kayakers, and surfers. It is also home to Mighty Mo, the largest natural gas fired power plant on the west coast.

Moss Landing has a long history of commercial vitality, dating back to the mid nineteenth century and the grain loading wharf operated by the community's namesake Captain Charlie Moss. But the real growth dates back to the 1947 creation of the Moss Landing Harbor District and the dredging and stabilization of the harbor channel by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Over the past 60 years, the district has shepherded Moss Landing's development into economic powerhouse that supports recreation, commercial fishing, science, and tourism.

Under the leadership of the current Harbor Commission President Russ Jeffries, Commission members, Margaret "Peggy" Shirrel, Ph.D., Yohn Gideon, Vince Ferrante and Frank Gomes, Jr., and Harbormaster Linda G. McIntyre, Esq., the Harbor District has just this year completed a major \$4 million renovation of its north harbor area. The new amenities include a new 4-lane launch ramp, paving of the 5-acre site for parking, storm drains and a boat wash, a 900-foot public access wharf at the water's edge, and a 110-foot visitor serving dock alongside the wharf. A pedestrian/bicycle trail, funded by a Federal grant, and designed to run along the perimeter of North

Harbor along scenic Highway 1, will complete the project. This last component of the project is the central part of a comprehensive bike and pedestrian trail under development that will link Monterey to Santa Cruz and place Moss Landing at the heart of what will be one of the most spectacular coastal trail experiences on the Pacific coast.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Moss Landing Harbor District for 60 years of achievement. I know that I speak for the whole House in offering congratulations to the leadership, employees, and users of this Pacific Coast gem.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 31, 2007, I was absent from the House in order to attend a ceremony in honor of a new mission for the Tennessee Air National Guard's 118th Airlift Wing. Had I been present I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 1021, No. 1022 and No. 1023, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING LONGFELLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Longfellow Elementary School of Wheaton, Illinois, for being named a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School for the 2006–2007 school year. Principal Paul McKin-

ney, Longfellow faculty, students and parents—you should be very proud of this remarkable accomplishment.

At a time in our nation's history when the efficacy of our education system is often questioned, it is a great comfort to see a school that truly commits itself to finding ways to teach our children and provide hope for our nation's future.

The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Award is a distinction given to the public schools throughout the country whose students score within the top 10 percent on state assessments. This year, of the more than 97,000 public schools in the United States, just 287 schools were recognized with this distinct honor.

In the State of Illinois, 19 schools were members of this elite group. The Blue Ribbon School Award recognizes what we all know: the Longfellow students, faculty and staff are some of the best and brightest in the nation.

In addition to exceptional test scores, Longfellow has shown steady academic progress for the past 3 years. In awarding the 2006–2007 Blue Ribbon School Award, the U.S. Department of Education recognized Longfellow's success in helping students consistently achieve at very high levels, as well as its continued commitment to narrowing the achievement gap.

As we strive to educate our current generation of children and prepare our nation's future leaders, Longfellow Elementary School stands out as a shining example of scholastic and institutional excellence.

I am proud to represent Longfellow Elementary School in the United States Congress and I look forward to their continued achievements.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues please join me in congratulating the talented students and dedicated faculty and staff of Longfellow Elementary School for receiving the Blue Ribbon School Award.