For the last 18 years, John ran the computers and books for the Colorado Republican Party. In his time at the party, he was a pioneer of the mailing list. In the earliest days of computers, he mastered integrating information to create better mailing lists. With this advancement, those who John served were able to do targeted mailings, therefore better contacting constituents and ultimately, better serving the people. There may not be a Colorado Republican in legislative or statewide office today who wasn’t helped by a mailing list generated by John. Amazingly, John managed to serve five very different Republican chairmen. In addition, he once served as Boulder County GOP chairman.

Although his professional accomplishments will long be remembered and admired, most who knew him well will remember John Dorrenbacher, above all else, as someone who loved his country and had a deep faith in our democracy. It is clear that the multitude of those who, like me, have come to know John as a friend will be worse off in his absence. However, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that, in spite of the loss, the family and friends of John Dorrenbacher can take solace in the knowledge that each is a better person for having known him.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. DAISY BATES
HON. EARL F. HILLIARD
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to with a great sense of twoness—one as an African American and another as an American to honor death of my mentor and friend, Mrs. Daisy Bates. Her death last Friday came prematurely as we honor Congressional Gold Medals to the men and women, known as the Little Rock Nine, that she shepherded into Central High School with the will of a racist Governor and white neighbors. She worked for many years in the NAACP and with the Democratic National Committee to educate and register voters. In 1987, the City of Little Rock paid tribute to her work by naming an elementary school in her honor. Her life is a celebration of progress and shows us how man in his quest for justice, is determined and cannot be deterred. Her sacrifices to tear down the walls of prejudice and injustice through education and voter registration will go ahead, whether we accept it or not. Daisy Bates’ life, along with the life of other Civil Rights Movement leaders, helped to establish their lives, like Daisy Bates as instruments of knowledge and understanding.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to lend their support and the considerable weight of this body on all sides involved in this conflict.

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN REGARDING ARMED CONFLICT IN NORTH CAUCASUS REGION OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION
SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 206. This resolution expresses the views of the Congress urging all parties involved in the conflict, to cease the indiscriminate use of force against civilian population in Chechnya. In addition this measure calls on all sides in this conflict to enter into a constructive dialogue under the auspicious of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. This group was successful in brokering a settlement to end the 1994–1996 war.

I urge Mr. Speaker, this region as once before experienced the horrors of war. As the 1994–1996 Russo-Chechen war resulted in the massive use of force against civilians, causing immense human casualties, human rights violations, large-scale displacement of individuals, and the destruction of property. In recent months this conflict has been renewed as forces in Chechnya have mounted armed incursions into the Russian Federation of Dagestan and have committed bombing in Moscow.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must insist that all parties in this conflict resolve this situation peacefully, with complete respect to the human rights of all the citizens of the Russian Federation. We must also insist that all parties commit themselves to allowing humanitarian assistance to the victims caught in the middle of this conflict.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support and the considerable weight of this body on all sides involved in this conflict.
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of two bills to reduce taxes on Social Security benefits. The first bill would repeal the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits. I have always opposed this provision, and I believe that it is now time to repeal this tax on our Nation’s seniors.

The 1993 economic plan imposed additional taxation on the benefits of single social security recipients with incomes over $34,000, and on married recipients with joint incomes over $44,000 by including, in each case, 85 percent of Social Security benefits in taxable income. At the time, proponents of the tax increase said it was necessary to reduce to deficit. Remember the atrocious national debt had risen from $800 billion in 1981 to more than $4 trillion in 1993. The annual deficit, which was almost $300 billion a year in 1992, was projected to increase to $500 billion a year later in the decade. We passed a tough economic plan, the economy improved, and the deficit was eliminated.

I believed it was unfair to tax seniors on their social security benefits to reduce the deficit, and, therefore, I joined with Representative Nita Lowey in offering a bill which would have repealed the provision immediately and taken other steps to reduce the deficit. We demonstrated that you could still reduce the deficit without increasing taxes on social security benefits. Now that 6 years have passed since the 1993 economic plan was passed into law, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and fight for our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a minute to tell my colleagues and the American People about a pitch-black night on Christmas Eve in 1944 during one of the darkest hours of World War II. A Belgian troop transport, the S.S. Leopoldville, was sunk by a German U-boat, taking the lives of 802 American soldiers. The Leopoldville was part of a crossing of the Elbe and Chunnel for the Battle of the Bulge. 2,235 American Soldiers were being carried to this historic battle.

The Leopoldville was torpedoed and sunk 5½ miles from Cherbourg, France. The result was a horrific loss of lives—almost one-third of the 66th Infantry Division was killed. 493 bodies were never recovered from the cold and murky waters of the English Channel. Most of the soldiers who died were young Americans, from 18 to 20 years old, barely out of High School. These young men came out from 46 out of the 48 states that were part of the Union at that time.

Sadly, this tragic story has been a mere footnote in the history books of World War II. Their efforts to preserve and sustain Democracy must be remembered. Their lives must not be vainly forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in remembering and honoring those who gave their lives that we might be free today. The young men aboard the S.S. Leopoldville, those who perished and those who survived, were part of an American force that advanced Democracy and forever changed the world. They went because their country called. They sacrificed because their way of life was threatened. They rose to incredible heights of courage because their faith and resolve mandated no less.

My friend and fellow-Mississippian, Sid Spiro, was on the S.S. Leopoldville. Mr. Spiro, after the direct torpedo hit, lowered himself in the freezing water by a rope. And for three hours he floated and waited for help. The water was freezing and he nearly died. He was 19 years old then. Today, he and other survivors often gather to remember and commemorate their fellow Americans who died. I am in awe of these men. And I want Sid and all of them to know of my admiration and respect.

These young men, forever part of our national memory, must be honored. We must never forget. I salute the survivors of the S.S. Leopoldville and I honor the memory of those who gave their lives.