

support to social service organizations across the country. The government can be helpful in alleviating some of the problems facing our communities today, but we will never have enough resources to help everyone. We need to team up with faith-based and community organizations of all types to ensure that no matter how serious a person's need, they will have someplace to go for help. That place could be the local government agency, it could be the local church, or a community center. Partisan debate, while very entertaining, will not ultimately help the poor and hurting. Passing this legislation will. We all need to work together for the greater good by dropping the rhetorical bickering and get this legislation to the President's desk.

HONORING ROBERT "BOBBY"  
MCDONNELL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great personal sadness that I pay final tribute to a good friend and a great leader in the San Francisco community—Robert "Bobby" McDonnell—who died on August 17th. His extraordinary work in the labor movement and in the community earned him the respect and appreciation of the City of San Francisco.

A native San Franciscan, Bobby graduated from Marin Catholic High School and attended the College of Marin and the University of San Francisco. Bobby McDonnell had a long and distinguished career dedicated to the working men and women of the San Francisco Bay Area. He served as Field Representative and as Secretary-Treasurer for the Laborers' International Union of America, AFL-CIO, Local 261 from 1968 to 1999. He was an Executive Board Member of the San Francisco Labor Council, and also a member of the San Francisco Building and Trades Council. His fierce commitment to the labor movement never ceased, and he advocated labor issues at every opportunity from coast to coast.

He was a member of the Golden Gate Bridge District's Board of Directors from 1984 until the time of his death, where he worked tirelessly to maintain a great public agency. His achievements during his long tenure are too many to list, but in all his endeavors, he served with passion, integrity and excellence.

He was a devoted and enthusiastic godfather to St. Vincent's School for Boys. He unselfishly worked as a volunteer, organizer and fundraiser not only for St. Vincent's, but also the United Way, the United Irish Cultural Center and the Amigos of Central Latino. One of his favorite activities was playing Santa Claus for the different organizations where he volunteered. It was a perfect job for him, because those who knew him say he spread joy and humor wherever he went.

To his wife Mary, his brother Danny, his stepsons Jerry, Michael, David and Harry, I extend my deepest sympathy and my profound appreciation for your sharing Bobby with us. We miss him greatly.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL  
DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of November as National Diabetes Awareness Month.

An estimated 18.2 million people in the U.S., or 6.3 percent of the population have diabetes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while an estimated 13 million have been diagnosed with diabetes, 5.2 million do not even realize they are diabetics. The American Diabetes Association estimates the economic cost of diabetes in the U.S. in 2002 was \$132 billion, or one out of every 10 health care dollars spent.

Diabetes is the number one disease-related cause of death in Los Angeles County. In California, more than 1.4 million California adults and 12,000 adolescents have been diagnosed with diabetes. Among adults ages 50–64, diabetes prevalence was significantly higher among African Americans (20.5 percent) and Latinos (17.9 percent) than whites (8.3 percent). Additionally, 176,000 adolescents not diagnosed with diabetes were at risk because they did not participate in regular physical activity and were overweight or at risk for being overweight.

I have been active in the efforts to combat diabetes because I know the burdens it imposes on people and their families. I am a co-sponsor of the Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act (H.R. 1916) which directs the National Institutes of Health to support research with respect to pre-diabetes and diabetes, particularly type II diabetes. This important legislation will help all Americans by providing much-needed diabetes prevention and outreach.

Although diabetes is an epidemic that is widespread, complicated, and severe, it can be controlled. Taking small steps like healthy diets and physical activity can lead to big rewards. Diabetes is a disease that permeates our communities, families, and friendships and we must do all that we can to stop the spread of this deadly disease.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT  
TODD JASON BRYANT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district. Earlier this afternoon, I had the distinct honor to attend the funeral service for Todd Jason Bryant, First Lieutenant, United States Army at Arlington National Cemetery. Today I would ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Todd was born on January 14, 1980, in Long Beach, California. Todd came from a military family and his desire and determination to join the military was resolute. He enlisted in the Army Reserve and completed Basic Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma before

his senior year of high school. He came to my office for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. I was proud to nominate this ambitious young man who I knew would distinguish himself at West Point, just as he had done his whole life.

He interned in my office before his senior year at West Point and graduated with a degree in Political Science on June 1, 2002. He would often joke that he was going to run for my congressional seat someday—I have no doubt he would have succeeded. After graduation, Todd attended the Armor Officer's Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, graduating in December 2002. He reported to Fort Riley, Kansas in January 2003, and was initially assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st, Battalion 34th Armor Regiment where he served as an Assistant Operations Officer. In April of 2003, Todd was reassigned to C Company, 1–34 AR where he assumed duties as Platoon Leader, 3rd Platoon. On August 30, 2003, Todd and Jenifer Reardon were married in Pennsylvania, nine days before shipping out with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On Friday, October 31, 2003, Todd was killed by an explosive device as his Humvee traveled on a road between Fallujah and Baghdad. He was 23 years old.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Todd, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. Today was probably the hardest day the Bryant family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain. Larry and Linda Bryant have raised an extraordinary family. Their oldest son, Tim is a Major in the Marines, their daughter, Tiffany, is a Captain in the Army and Todd, First Lieutenant in the United States Army, recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal Army Service Ribbon, Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart has been laid to rest in our country's most distinguished military cemetery.

His wife and family have all given a part of themselves today in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their son, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will not be forgotten.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF  
CHARLEY SCHNEIDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a good friend and a pillar of the community in Southern Nevada, Charley Schneider. I had the privilege of working with Charley, and cannot do justice to what a great person and friend Charley was.

Charley Schneider was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1938, but moved to Basic, Nevada, as Henderson was known at the time, in 1949. He was a graduate of Basic High School and worked at Farmers Insurance for 33 years.

Charley was a wonderful person to work with, always willing to lend a hand, listen when you needed to talk to someone, and helped customers above and beyond the requirements of his job. Charley retired from Farmers 3 years ago, and looked forward to being able to spend more time with his wife Maggie and daughter Stevie. Sadly, Charley passed away last weekend at the age of 65. I urge all members of this House to join me in mourning the passing of Charley Schneider and extending our condolences to the family and friends who greatly loved him.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNTAIN  
LODGE NO. 281, F.&A.M. AND THE  
JUNIATA LODGE NO. 282, F.&A.M.

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mountain Lodge No. 281, F.&A.M. and the Juniata Lodge No. 282, F.&A.M. on their 150th Anniversary and to thank them for their service and dedication to their community.

From its home town of Edinburgh, England, the Honorable Fraternity of Freemasonry came to Pennsylvania in 1730 on a mission to spread the Masonic vision of a "Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God." Out of this need for brotherhood, the Mountain Lodge and Juniata Lodge were founded on December 8, 1853. Since that date these two lodges have consistently exhibited the qualities to which they are committed, sharing with their community a moral code based upon honesty, strength of character, and the highest standard of ethics.

The Freemasons lead their communities by the example that they set in their own lives as they work to uphold the very pillars of the American society. Each Freemason is taught to be true, the crucial attribute that provides the basis for all virtues of man, and to maintain a devotion to spirituality and intellectual growth. Additionally, they bear a strong commitment to artistic and cultural excellence. While cultivating all of the above characteristics, a freemason's family values remain strong and devoted. These organizations have not only enriched the lives of their members, but of those in the surrounding communities who have undoubtedly benefitted from the charity, education and service that they have repeatedly provided.

This nation was built by a group of men, bound by brotherhood under the direction of God, who believed in the natural rights of freedom and democracy. The members of these Masonic lodges have worked daily for 150 years to preserve that "Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God," and the standard of excellence upon which it was founded. The growing and active memberships of these organizations are a symbol of the community's devotion to success and the promise that is to come. As a proud member of the Juniata Lodge, I congratulate these two Masonic lodges on their 150th Anniversary and thank them for all their hard work and service.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS  
MONTH

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as you may know, November is National Family Caregivers Month, and I rise today to celebrate and honor our nation's caregivers. Nationwide, more than 25 million caregivers annually provide over \$200 billion in unpaid care to their loved ones with disabling and chronic conditions. More importantly, this voluntary care allows seniors and others to continue living at home, which improves their spirits and often speeds up recovery.

Family caregiving comes in many forms—from the mother raising a child with developmental disabilities and fighting for her child's right to an education, to the wife caring for her husband with Alzheimer's Disease and enduring that anguish. There are as many unique situations as there are family caregivers. But, what these caregivers all have in common is their compassion, their dedication and their selflessness. Family caregiving contributes to family stability, and it often spares families from more costly, out-of-home placements. These people are the quiet heroes of our nation. However, too often, they are also silent sufferers.

Most caregivers freely and willingly provide this care out of love and commitment, but often at great cost to themselves physically, emotionally, and financially. Studies show that many caregivers stretch themselves so thin that they jeopardize their own health and ability to provide continued care to their dependent loved ones.

In my home state of Rhode Island, Tracey Laranjo is the mother of ten-year-old Tyler. Tyler is bipolar and suffers from Severe Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and certain developmental disabilities. Tyler is also an important member of the Laranjo family—the gifts and the love he brings to his parents and older brother are not really different than any other ten year old. Tyler is a lucky child, with parents who have fought long and hard to get him the mental health services that he needs, while educating themselves about how to take care of their son. But not surprisingly, sometimes Tracey is exhausted. After a long wait, she was fortunate enough to recently access respite care services in Rhode Island and can now take an occasional break, knowing that her son is being properly cared for. She refers to these respite hours, 110 hours per year, as "gold"—saving them for times she knows she needs them, and grateful for every minute. These hours give Tracey time to recoup without feeling guilty, and let her reflect on the special child she has been blessed with.

Just a few hours of respite can go a long way in keeping a family together, keeping a child at home, and turning a situation where a vulnerable person was at risk of abuse into one where that same person feels loved, respected and valued. No family should ever be denied this kind of assistance.

However, the vast majority of family caregivers does not have access to respite, cannot afford it, cannot find qualified, trained respite services or providers, or do not qualify for ex-

isting respite benefits because they are not Medicaid eligible or do not meet the limited eligibility requirements of other narrowly-targeted state or federal programs. As we celebrate National Family Caregivers Month, we must remember that for a person providing intense and exhausting care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, an occasional short break can literally be a lifesaver.

In keeping with the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision requiring states to ensure that individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions are able to live and work in the least restrictive environment, respite provides the support caregivers need to avoid or delay institutional placements.

We can recognize and honor the nation's caregivers by passing the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2003, which I introduced this spring. H.R. 1083 would authorize competitive grants to states and other eligible entities to make respite available and accessible to family caregivers, regardless of age or disability. This legislation would help states maximize use of existing resources and leverage new dollars by building on current services and systems that states already have in place. The bill would support planned and emergency respite, respite worker training and recruitment, caregiver training, and program evaluation.

The Senate has already passed the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2003. I urge my colleagues to join the 85 bipartisan cosponsors of the House bill and ask that the House take immediate action to pass it in time to honor the nation's caregivers in celebration of National Family Caregivers Month.

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY, YOU'VE  
GOT A FRIEND (OR 246) IN CON-  
GRESS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day in the history of Congress. Today one industry has hijacked a political party and that party has bulldozed a poor energy policy through this body.

The U.S. Congress is often held up and revered as the model of Democracy. Yet this bill has been bad news for Americans—and our form of government—from the start. First, the Administration, led by Vice President CHENEY, held secret meetings with energy industry insiders to determine what they wanted from an energy policy—what the energy industry wants should not be confused with what the nation needed from an energy policy. Next, after a heavy-handed process, a bill, H.R. 6, was passed in this body. The bill then moved into conference, at which point, the two Republican co-chairs decided that they would write the nation's energy policy by themselves with no input from Democrats, but with plenty of input from lobbyists looking out for their oil, gas and other energy industry clients. The energy bill went from bad to worse as, at the last minute, many sweetheart deals were added that had never been passed by either body. Never before has the energy industry had such a friend in the White House and such great friends in the Congress—we know now that GOP does indeed mean "Gas, Oil, and Petroleum".