

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANK YOU TO SOLDIERS OF 2-116TH FIELD ARTILLERY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to members of the 2-116th Field Artillery. These soldiers, many from my district, were mobilized in late January 2003 and, upon completion of the appropriate training, departed for Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit moved into Baghdad and later served in Ar Ramadi, where it provided support to the 1st Battalion. The 2-116th soldiers performed missions including escort, guard duty on the Euphrates River, force protection, fire support, and patrols, all while helping to train members of the Iraqi police force.

These brave Americans have served their country with pride and honor. This country owes its freedom to these soldiers and the ones who came before them. Now, so do the citizens of Iraq. After nearly a year of deployment, the 2-116th has accomplished its mission, and it is my humble honor to welcome them home.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT ELIU MIERSANDOVAL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district. On January 31, 2004, Sgt. Eliu Miersandoval, born Abi Mier, of San Clemente, California, was killed in action in Kirkuk, Iraq. Today I would ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Eliu was born on June 26, 1976, in Durango, Mexico, to Pascual and Estella Mier, who currently reside in Pomona, California. Eliu went to high school at San Clemente High, and after graduating he joined the Army in 1996 for great future opportunities and to travel. In 1999, he was sent to Fort Hood, Texas, and was later promoted to Sergeant in the 4th Infantry Division. He was a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic in what is the most technically advanced combat division in the Army. It was the 4th Infantry Division that participated in the capture of Saddam Hussein.

Eliu is remembered as an outstanding athlete and talented musician. More importantly, he was a loving husband to his wife Amanda and a proud father to his son Adrian.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country, we realize that this history is comprised of men and women like Eliu 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. My thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go out to his wife and family. There are no words that can relieve their pain.

His wife and family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one. Their loss is part of a larger effort to give the Iraqi people and all people around the world the opportunity to live in freedom and without fear. I hope they know that their son and the sacrifice he made will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I was attending to a family emergency and missed the following recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall No. 19; "yes" on Rollcall No. 20; and "yes" on Rollcall No. 21.

THANK YOU TO SOLDIERS OF COMPANY A 2-124TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to members of Company A 2-124th Infantry Regiment. These soldiers were mobilized in December 2003 and, upon completion of the appropriate training, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After securing Patriot Batteries in Bahrain and Qatar, Company A advanced into Kuwait and then Iraq in April 2003, where the unit provided force protection and fixed-site security. Later, the soldiers attached to several active duty units, including a military police battalion, the 4th Infantry Division, and a Stryker brigade near Balad.

These brave Americans have served their country with pride and honor. This country owes its freedom to these soldiers and the ones who came before them. Now, so do the citizens of Iraq. After over a year of deployment, Company A 2-124th has accomplished its mission, and it is my humble honor to welcome them home.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANNE HART

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of my constituents who has unselfishly helped and enriched the lives of many of our Nation's veterans, Mrs. Anne Hart.

For the past 10 years, Anne has worked tirelessly and unselfishly as a volunteer within the Office of Veterans' Affairs in Pensacola where she volunteers over 50 hours a week helping veterans file claims. She has been an extremely valuable asset to the VA office and officers with whom she has worked alongside.

Anne's husband was shot down in Vietnam in 1972 and was listed as missing in action until 1978. As a widow with six young children, she confronted the Federal government in 1986 by challenging their identification of her husband from the remains that were found.

At the time, she was unknowingly preparing herself to later help fight for several veterans who have served their country with honor and courage. Anne's struggles have earned her much respect among veterans, who have described her as having a heart of an angel.

Other than helping veterans in need within the Veterans' Affairs office, Anne has come to the aid of many homeless veterans who were persuaded by her influence to abandon the notion of "giving up." She even drove one veteran over 75 miles to his mother's funeral in Alabama.

Anne's job has been to keep veterans' records in order, effectively by making sure all of the facts are quickly verified in order to help facilitate a sometimes difficult claims process. Her faithful service of acting as a sounding board for thousands of veterans has made her a guardian angel to many of the bravest veterans that our country will ever know.

Many veterans, who travel from hundreds of miles to see her, have walked away with the feeling that "someone really cares."

Anne is strongly supportive of her government and feels that her obligation is to make sure that they do things the right way.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this special lady with a big heart, Anne Hart, for the example she has set for our country and for northwest Florida. I offer my sincere thanks for all that she has done for northwest Florida and the United States of America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO I.J. CAMPBELL

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to I.J. Campbell, who received

● 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.

the Community Luminary Award from DTE Energy Foundation for his exemplary volunteerism.

I.J. Campbell's commitment of service "illuminates" the community and shines as a selfless example for others to follow. A humble yet enthusiastic man, his infectious passion for helping those in need stretches a lifetime of professional and volunteer experience. While working as the chairman of the United Way Community Services' Macomb Advisory Council and administrator for cities Community Development Block Grant Program, he donates his time off to a number of community organizations, including the Hope Network, a housing provider for people with mental disabilities, and the Macomb Homeless Coalition.

I.J.'s sense of obligation to help those in need motivates him to work on programs such as Macomb's Prescription Resource Network, Metro Detroit's Promise, a national movement to provide services to disadvantaged children, and the Macomb County Warming Center. Dedicated to strengthening the fabric of our community, he supports programs that develop the potential of residents, institutions and infrastructures.

In January, 2002, the Archdiocese of Detroit awarded I.J. with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King "Keep the Dream Alive" award for his work with organizations such as Interfaith Center for Racial Injustice and the National Conference for Community and Justice Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding I.J. Campbell for his efforts to make this world a better place. It is truly fitting that I.J. received the Community Luminary Award, for he serves as a shining example of what a committed community activist can accomplish and a light of hope to all he comes in contact with.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to clarify the reason for my absence from this Chamber on January 27, January 28, February 3, and February 4, 2004. I was at my home in Florida recovering from elbow surgery and, unfortunately, was unable to place votes on those days.

As such, please let the RECORD show that I would have voted as follows:

H. Res. 507: yes
 H. Res. 157: yes
 H.R. 2264: yes
 H.J. Res. 84: yes
 H. Res. 274: yes
 H.R. 3724: yes
 H.R. 3030, final passage: yes; Scott amendment No. 1: no; Scott amendment No. 2: no; Woolsey amendment: no
 H.R. 1385: yes
 H.R. 3493: yes
 S. 610: yes
 S. 1920, final passage: yes; Sensenbrenner amendment: yes; Baldwin substitute: no; motion to recommit: no.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE IRENE MIKROPOULOS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Christine Irene Mikropoulos has devoted her life to serving others through her membership in the St. John's Episcopal Angels Program and her work with Warren Hospital; and

Whereas, Christine works with elderly patients, bringing her warm and personal touch to these individuals who are spending their time in a hospital setting; and

Whereas, Christine is a committed volunteer with the Guardian Angels program, providing clothing, shoes, books and other essential items to children of military personnel and children whose parents are incarcerated; and

Whereas, Christine has ceaselessly given of herself to others, always placing the interests of those in need ahead of her own;

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District in thanking Christine Irene Mikropoulos for her dedication to improving the lives of those around her.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL "SOX" WALSETH, JR.

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the legacy after the passing of a good man and fine coach, Russell "Sox" Walseth, Jr. "Sox" was a member of the University of Colorado family as a student, athlete and coach. With the university "Sox" coached both the men's and women's basketball. He holds the distinction of the winningest coach in CU men's basketball history but also holds the highest winning percentage of any coach in the history of the University of Colorado.

His contribution to the University and the community was great and he will clearly be missed by family, friends and fans.

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching several items from the (Boulder, Colorado) Daily Camera.

[From the Daily Camera, Jan. 29, 2004]

RUSSELL M. "SOX" WALSETH, JR.

Russell M. "Sox" Walseth, Jr. of Boulder died Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2004, of natural causes in Boulder. He was 77.

The son of Russell M. Walseth and Marie J. Gehan Walseth, he was born April 6, 1926, in Aberdeen, S.D. He married Eleanor Hahn on Oct. 9, 1953, in Denver. She died on Oct. 6, 1997. He married Joan Mabee Funk on July 19, 2002 in Boulder.

He graduated from Pierre High School in Pierre, S.D. He earned a bachelor of science degree and a master's degree in education from the University of Colorado.

He was enlisted in the Navy during and after World War II from 1944 to 1946.

Mr. Walseth spent 38 years at CU, starting as an athlete in the 1940s when he lettered a combined six times in both basketball and baseball.

He became head men's basketball coach prior to the 1956-57 season and coached the

next 20 Buffalo teams. The winningest coach in CU men's basketball history with a 261-245 record, the Buffs won three Big Eight titles under his direction, in 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1968-69. He was the Big Eight Conference coach of the year on five occasions. All three of his Big Eight champion teams represented the conference in the NCAA regional tournaments. Eventual NCAA champion Cincinnati eliminated the Buffs in the first two appearances, while his third tourney team may have represented his best coaching job in his tenure as he piloted a sophomore-dominated team to the league title and NCAA berth.

He retired from coaching in the spring of 1976 and remained on in an administrative position with the athletic department. But four years later in 1980, and CU hit with budget woes, athletic director Eddie Crowder asked him if he would come out of retirement to help the program to which he had devoted much of his adult life. Sox answered that call and coached the CU women's team between 1980 and 1983, compiling an impressive 77-21 record. That mark included his 43-0 record at home, and earned coach of the year accolades one time.

Mr. Walseth was the first and one of the few men to have coached both the men's and women's programs at the same NCAA school. The basketball floor at Coors Events/Conference Center is named after him. In 1998, he was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, and four years later, he was a member for the fourth class inducted into CU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

He was a member of Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church of Boulder. He received five Basketball Hall of Fame Awards, two from Colorado and three from South Dakota. He was also the recipient of the Robert Stearns Award on June 8, 1967.

Survivors include his wife of Boulder; two sons, Joe Walseth of Denver and Nick Walseth of Boulder; one daughter, Cynthia Axley of Arvada; and four grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 2312 14th St., Boulder. The Rev. Daniel Flaherty of St. Louis Catholic Church of Louisville and the Rev. William E. Dreslin of Sacred Heart of Jesus will be co-celebrants.

Contributions may be made in his name to the CU Foundation, in care of Russell "Sox" Walseth Scholarship Fund, 369 University Campus Box, Boulder, CO 80309.

M.P. Murphy & Associates Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Following are highlights of Russell "Sox" Walseth's career:

Played on CU's 1946 NCAA Tournament basketball team.

Coached three Big Eight championship men's teams.

Took three Buff men's teams to the NCAA Tournament.

Named Big Eight coach of the year on five occasions.

Retired after 20 years as the winningest coach in CU men's history, with a record of 261-245.

Named CU's women's coach in 1980, becoming the first to coach men's and women's teams at the same NCAA school.

Took the CU women's team to back-to-back national tournament appearances.

Compiled a 77-21 record as the women's coach, the best winning percentage of any coach in CU history.

Basketball floor at Coors Events Center named in his honor in 1996.

Inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.

Inducted into the University of Colorado Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002.

CREEDON: MEMORIES OF SOX WON'T SOON
FADE

I count Sox Walseth among lifelong friends.

From the days a wide-eyed, 7-year-old in northern New Jersey squinted into an old Dumont black-and-white television set in a neighbor's home and instantly adopted a sophomore guard they called Sox as his first University of Colorado sports star.

The Buffaloes were making their annual New York City visit and were paired against New York University in a doubleheader at Madison Square Garden, truly the Mecca of college basketball in those days. CU had a basketball name then. The Buffs had played—and played well—earlier in the 1940s in the National Invitation Tournament, the nation's oldest and then most prestigious postseason event.

Sox scored 20 that night and hooked this future Boulderite on CU hoops.

Later, for 20 years, first as a student and then as CU beat writer and Camera sports editor, I had the enjoyment of following Sox's team and getting to know one of the shrewdest, classiest and humorous coaches.

The tributes gathered Wednesday by CU media relations boss Dave Plati only hours after cancer claimed Sox's life all ring true.

But please don't forget the silver-haired Sox deserves to be remembered as a great coach, too. As the years pass by, we realize just how great.

Sox won three Big Eight championships ('62, '63 and '69). You don't have to be reminded the Buffs haven't won a title since Walseth's last title year. His first two championship teams lost to national champ Cincinnati in the regional finals. CUers don't even speak of winning championships in men's hoops in setting lofty goals for the basketball program these days. Sox was also around, as Bebe Lee's assistant, when the talented was gathered for CU's Big Seven championship teams of '54 and '55.

In other words, Sox didn't miss much of three decades of glory for Buff hoops dating from an NIT appearance in 1938 until the Big Eight title garnered by Cliff Meely, Gordie Tope, Mike Coleman, Dudley Mitchell, Tim Wedgeworth and friends in '69.

Sox didn't win against run-of-the-mill opponents or coaches. He broke in here against Kansas and Wilt Chamberlain and Tex Winter-led Kansas State squads that limited the "Stilt" to just one crown. Later on, he matched wits with the legendary Henry Iba of Oklahoma State and Norm Stewart in his early years at Missouri.

And he challenged top-flight non-league opposition, too.

Superstars weren't Sox's specialty, but there were few players who stayed the course at old Balch Fieldhouse who didn't make eye-catching improvement.

Sox was a low-key recruiter. A big night out on the town for a visiting recruit was dinner at John's Pied Piper, a trolley car-sized diner across the street from the Sink on Pennsylvania.

But Walseth's pitch was good enough to land the likes of Wilky Gilmore and Jim Davis, key hands on the early clubs, from basketball hotbeds of Connecticut and Indiana. And good enough to bring to Boulder one summer Brooklyn's Connie Hawkins, the Dr. J. of his era. Off-the-court problems involving the Hawk's brother precluded his enrollment.

The Meely-Tope-Mitchell-Coleman-Wedgeworth group stacked up with any in the nation, and also included 7-3 Ron Smith of Pueblo, who lasted only one varsity se-

mester but contributed to the '69 title. His CU squads understood the team concept and always made the extra pass leading to the best possible shot.

His title teams had plenty of in-state players, debunking the still-held theory you can't win with local talent—All-American Ken Charlton and Eric Lee from Denver South and Milt Mueller from Cheyenne Wells in '62-'63, then Mitchell (Thomas Jefferson), Wedgeworth (Manual) and Smith (Pueblo Centennial) in '69. Sox's great coaching job may have come with a non-title team—the aptly named "Deliberate Dwarfs" of 1966-'67.

They finished 10-4 in the Big Eight and played Kansas in what amounted to the title game in early March in Lawrence. It was a guard-oriented bunch (in-staters Lynn Baker, Pat Frink, Mike Rebich, Chuck Williams and Karl Tait), with Kermit McMurry (6-8), Steve Rowe (6-6) and Bobby Bauers (6-5) the only inside players. With three starters on the bench with injuries in mid-January, the '66-'67 Buffs upset Kansas, 62-59, at Balch in one of the school's biggest upsets.

Sox's teams won many key games on the road, but the then-maniacal crowds at Balch made the home games in the early and mid-1960s as good a show as this state had athletically.

Sox didn't get much use out of his suit jacket on many nights, with his coat often flying into the stands after the first disturbing call.

Around the Big Eight, his self-deprecating humor was a huge hit and an asset in leading opponents to underestimate his teams.

Two years ago at the CU Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, Sox, the last of six inductees on a night which was, let us say, dragging, brought down the house with 20 minutes of one-liners, mostly poking fun at himself. It was worthy of a Las Vegas act. Jay and David would have been jealous at the laughs he drew.

Sox, of course, did more than coach the men's basketball team at CU. As an undergrad, he was an outstanding shortstop for three years, good enough to earn a pro baseball contract.

Four years after leaving the men's team, he returned to coach the Lady Buffs, enjoying a wildly successful four-year run that included 43 straight home wins in one span.

To this day, the players from the Lady Buff days worship Sox in the same way the ex-Buffs do.

This is a difficult day for Lisa, (Van Goor), "Beaner" (Sandy Bean), Bomber (Bauers), "Bake," Chuck and hundreds of others in his extended family.

But the memories of the days under one of the game's great teachers will never fade.

WOELK: CU NOTCHES A VICTORY FOR SOX

No doubt about it, Sox would've liked this one.

A raucous crowd, the Colorado Buffaloes on the run and the Missouri Tigers on the ropes.

Certainly, Wednesday night's 83-70 Buff victory was a fitting tribute to Sox Walseth, who died Wednesday morning after a long battle with cancer.

CU coach Ricardo Patton and Walseth had developed a close relationship over the years. Walseth never pushed himself on the program, but was always there when Patton needed a little advice, or simply a friendly word of support. As Patton's time on the job grew, so did his friendship with Walseth.

So Wednesday night, Patton did what he could to return the favor. As the Buffaloes were celebrating their win, Patton took the public address system microphone, quieted the crowd and the band, and awarded the game ball to Walseth's wife, Joan.

"We lost a great treasure today," Patton told the hushed crowd. "Sox Walseth meant a lot to this team, this program, this university and this state."

Maybe it's just coincidence, but at his post-game press conference, Patton talked about establishing a better relationship with his players—something that was always a strong point of Walseth's.

The issue came to a head following the Buffs' blowout loss at Kansas on Sunday. After the game, they sat at the Kansas City airport for nearly four hours, waiting for weather to clear in Denver so their plane could take off.

The Buffs took the time for a heart-to-heart talk—and Patton listened.

"Those guys helped me become a better coach," Patton said. "I thanked them after the game. "Sometimes you have to listen to the kids. Win, lose or draw, the players have to feel like the coaches are behind you."

The Buffs were certainly a different team on Wednesday.

Instead of the disjointed bunch that fell apart in a matter of minutes at Kansas, they were a cohesive unit that pounded the Tigers into submission.

Not that the Tigers didn't put up a fight for a half. For the first 20 minutes, Mizzou answered every Colorado thrust. A 12-7 CU lead became a 12-12 tie. A 23-14 Buff lead became a 23-23 tie.

At the half, CU was clinging to a four-point lead, and there was certainly no guarantee that Patton's bunch would protect that edge over the last 20 minutes.

But Patton has also taken to heart another page from Walseth's book—protecting the home court. Nobody knew the importance of that more than Walseth. His teams were always tough in Boulder—and at the Events Center, he was a perfect 43-0 as coach of the CU women's team.

It was just over a year ago that Walseth told the Daily Camera, "Everybody's on Ricardo's rear end, but not me. . . . I'd hate to play him in Boulder, I'll tell you that."

You can add Mizzou's Quin Snyder to that group. While Snyder's Tigers struggled in the second half, the Buffs turned it up another notch. Eight minutes in, Colorado had bumped its lead to 13. Four minutes later, the margin was 19. And, although the Tigers attempted to make it semi-interesting down the stretch, the outcome was never in doubt over the last 10 minutes.

"Sox is smiling," said CU senior associate athletic director Jon Burianek, a 37-year veteran of the Buff athletic department. "He always really enjoyed beating Missouri."

Wednesday's game was a crossroads for the Buffs. A loss could have sent them spiraling downward, eliminating any hope of an NCAA Tournament berth.

But today, they're sitting at .500 in the Big 12 with Baylor coming to town on Saturday. There's renewed hope in the Buff locker room, and a new understanding between the coach and players.

Long after the game had ended Wednesday night, Patton fought back tears as he talked about Walseth. The Buffs, he said, won a game and lost a friend.

"I'm gonna miss him," Patton said.

A sentiment echoed by folks all over the Boulder Valley this morning.

But, you can also bet on one thing: Sox would have liked this one.

[From the Daily Camera, Jan. 30, 2004]

R.I.P. Sox

You didn't always have to go begging for a crowd to watch a college basketball game in Boulder, and a lot of people think Russell "Sox" Walseth had something to do with that.

When the University of Colorado Buffaloes men's basketball team played in creaky, sweat-spiced Balch Fieldhouse, raucous silver-and-gold partisans routinely turned out, and longtime coach Walseth's scrappy squads seldom disappointed.

Under Walseth from 1956 to 1976, the CU men's squads captured three conference titles—including their last, in 1969—and three NCAA invitations in an era when they were much harder to come by.

And from 1980-83, he coached the CU women, winning two conference championships and orchestrating an astounding 43-game home-court winning streak.

But what's most impressive was that he did it all with plenty of home-grown talent. Few players under his tutelage failed to improve.

Personally, he was beloved by many who knew him from as far back as his playing days for the Buffs in the 1940s. He was blunt, friendly and colorful, and his friends have literally hundreds of tales to tell about him. Sox Walseth died Wednesday of cancer at home in Boulder. He was 77.

NASA'S MARS ROVER AND SPACE EXPLORATION

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, few scientists write as well as Seth Shostak, senior astronomer at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California. This column he wrote about the Mars rover for the San Jose Mercury News offers compelling arguments for pursuing scientific discoveries and exploring space.

[From the San Jose Mercury News, Jan. 7, 2004]

GEOLOGIST ON WHEELS TAKES HUMAN CURIOSITY TO MARS

OUR DRIVE TO EXPLORE LEADS TO BETTER LIVES
(By Seth Shostak)

One hundred million miles away, the mechanical innards of NASA's Spirit rover have begun to hum in the brittle cold of the Martian air. The rover is a synthetic geologist on wheels, small enough to fit in your kitchen, and the space agency is reveling in the fact that Spirit has managed to elude the silent death that has claimed so many of humankind's envoys to the Red Planet.

The boost to NASA's confidence, badly eroded by the loss of the shuttle Columbia, is surely a good thing. If Spirit and its sister rover, Opportunity, perform well, the Bush administration may support a major new space initiative, perhaps a return to the moon or a human expedition to Mars.

Those would also be good things, but such judgments, coming, from a scientist, may seem obvious and self-serving. American taxpayers will rightfully ask why it's important to shell out \$800 million to send a pair of cybernetic skateboards to another world.

MARTIAN CHARISMA

One answer is the interest and value of the science. For two centuries, Mars has beguiled us with its Earth-like appearance. Venus is closer, but Mars is charismatic; it is sufficiently similar to our own planet to warrant the hope that it once spawned life. And the possibility of discovering life beyond Earth is a siren song to anyone with curiosity, even if, as is surely the case for Mars, that life is no more sophisticated than bread yeast.

NASA's approach to learning whether microbes ever populated the Red Planet is to look for signs of ancient lakes, rivers or oceans. Spirit will explore a flat-bottomed crater that may once have held a body of water half the size of Lake Erie. Its mission is to find evidence for this erstwhile lake by examining the rocks littering the crater floor.

SIGNS OF LIFE?

If Spirit discovers that water once ebbed and flowed on Mars, the next questions are: For how long? Long enough to germinate life? NASA will send a string of robot explorers to address this question, and to ultimately seek out microscopic Martians. The carrot that hangs before us is deliciously seductive: If another world—the next world out from the sun—is proved to have supported life, that would imply that the cosmos is drenched with living things. We could conclude that planets with life are as common as phone poles.

That's the science, and it's exciting. But science is no more than curiosity imbued with logic. Surely, in a world awash in political upheaval, epidemics and poverty, curiosity is a dispensable luxury.

It's not. Curiosity is hard-wired into our behavior because it has survival value. For 300 millenniums, it has driven us to exploration and understanding. The former has encouraged the discovery of new resources, and the latter allows us a comfortable life in a pitiless world.

Curiosity is the silent motor of progress, without which we are condemned to a steadily worsening existence as we burn through our resources.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Humans display many behaviors that separate us from the beasts. Art, music, poetry . . . the list is easily formulated. Curiosity, neither incidental nor trivial, is on that list. In simpler times, it drove our ancestors to wander across the mountains and, on occasion, to find a valley that was better than where they started. Today, scientific curiosity turns up answers to questions that previous generations could barely ask.

The Spirit rover is a small actor in a long play with a large cast. It is aptly named, for it represents not only the best of our enterprises, but also an essential quality of our being. Spirit is mechanical in construction only. It is quintessentially human.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARGARET AND STAN PLANTON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Margaret and Stan Planton have provided years of dedication to improving their community, including Margaret's service as the Mayor of Chillicothe; and

Whereas, Margaret and Stan Planton, along with members of their community, arranged a letter-writing campaign to help convince United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) to build its uranium centrifuge plant in Piketon, Ohio; and

Whereas, Stan Planton worked tirelessly to gather information about USEC's plans and convey the information to Members of Congress and other legislators; and

Whereas, on January 12th, 2004, Piketon, Ohio, was selected as the site for USEC's

centrifuge plant, bringing an estimated 500 permanent high-paying jobs into the area; and Whereas, Margaret and Stan Planton were an integral part in Southern Ohio being chosen as the site for USEC's plant;

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and the entire Eighteenth Congressional District of Ohio in thanking Margaret and Stan Planton for their dedication to this project and their continued efforts to improve their community.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SERVICE OF SHARON VIGIL

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an important leader in the business community of Colorado. Ms. Sharon Vigil, president and chief operating officer of the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, will be leaving her post after 14 years of service.

Established in 1978, the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has proven to be an outstanding member of the Colorado business community. Whether through influencing legislation, providing technical assistance to Hispanic businesses and professional associations, or strengthening the network of Colorado businesses as a whole, the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has been an exceptionally effective organization.

Sharon Vigil was born in Walsenburg and raised in Pueblo, later attending school in Boulder at the University of Colorado. As an active member of the civil rights movement during the 1970s, she developed an early reputation as a leading voice in support of equal opportunity for minorities and women in business. She has a long history of exceptional and diversified management skills and is well-regarded for her experience in the fields of marketing and public relations. But above all, she is a motivated woman who uses both her mind and heart in working for the Hispanic community.

In the early 1990s Ms. Vigil brought her considerable skills to the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, becoming President and Chief Operating Officer in 1995. Under her guidance, membership grew to more than 1,300, elevating the Chamber's success and positioning the organization as the largest and most influential minority chamber in the state.

I met Ms. Vigil early in my career as a legislator and was immediately impressed by the enthusiasm she brought to the job of promoting economic opportunities in the Hispanic community. One of my fondest recollections of her is the pride and joy she had in showing me the Hispanic Chamber's facility in Denver. She walked me through several floors of offices and made sure I met and spoke to all the vendors and officers.

As a dedicated leader, Ms. Vigil has diligently worked to assist countless Hispanic business owners throughout Colorado and the Denver Metropolitan area. It is that admirable and distinguished service that motivates me to acknowledge this remarkable community leader.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Sharon Vigil and in wishing

her success in all her future endeavors. It has been a true privilege to work with her.

TRIBUTE TO KENDALL WINGROVE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Kendall Wingrove of East Lansing, MI, who will be honored this month by the National Foundation of Women Legislators when they present him with their 2004 Media Excellence Award at special ceremonies in Washington, DC.

A native of Michigan's St. Clair County, Kendall is the proud descendant of a long line of milkmen, with his father and grandfather alike holding down milk routes in Macomb County. Kendall married Molly Hull in 1992 and they have two children, Ethan, 8, and Catherine, 6. A devoted father and husband, Kendall lavishes much attention on his family.

Kendall's path to Lansing started off at St. Clair Community College, where he worked on the school paper, then later attended Central Michigan University, where he received his B.A., followed by Michigan State University to earn his M.A.

Kendall's master's thesis was on the role of women in journalism on the American frontier during the 19th century.

In 1982, Kendall began work in the Republican Communications Office in the Michigan House of Representatives. During his more than two decades of service, Kendall has turned out scores of award-winning projects that have served the members of the House and the people of Michigan. Kendall has worked as a writer, a media strategist and department director. He has counseled members on media and legislative term issues. In an era of term limits, Kendall's work has helped hundreds of members of the Michigan House navigate the difficult waters of media relations and State politics.

Kendall also has never been too busy to impart a wise word of advice or to patiently explain the workings of the legislature or the potential outcomes of a media event to House staff.

Kendall has always had an interest in government and politics. During the 1968 campaign, he reported to his 5th grade class that he had seen Presidential candidate Richard Nixon say "Sock it to me?" on "Laugh In." While his teachers and fellow students did not believe him, he was correct.

Kendall's knowledge of the history of American politics is extensive and he can speak knowledgeably on a broad variety of topics related to things political, ranging from the Vice Presidency of Garret Hobart to Harry Truman's 1948 Labor Day whistle stop trip through Michigan. Kendall also is an expert on the pets owned by our chief executives and their children.

Outside of his work with the legislature, Kendall has written extensively about the history of Michigan and the men and women who built the State. His historical work has been published in the Detroit News, the Detroit Free Press, Michigan History magazine, and a host of other publications throughout Michigan. Kendall has personally interviewed scores of

older Michigan residents as he works to chart the history of Michigan.

Kendall is skilled at his chosen profession, an excellent public servant, a chronicler of history, and a good and loyal friend and family man.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kendall Wingrove who is well deserving of the special honor he receives from the National Foundation for Women Legislators. He truly merits our respect and admiration.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
DAVID JONES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, David Jones has been in the auctioneer business for nearly 40 years and was recently named to the Ohio Auctioneers Association's Auctioneers Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, David has been a long time member of the Ohio Auctioneers Association (OAA) and the National Auctioneers Association (NAA), serving in multiple capacities on the OAA board for over 20 years including President in 1994; and

Whereas, David has conducted more than 1000 auctions throughout Ohio, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and West Virginia; and

Whereas, David has used his experience to help benefit auctioneers throughout Ohio, establishing relationships with members of virtually every community, including the Ohio legislature;

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating David Jones for being named to the Auctioneers Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO THE SUNDANCE INSTITUTE AND SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Sundance Institute and Sundance Film Festival for the many contributions the Institute and Festival have made to the arts and art education. The Institute and Film Festival are world renowned and have expanded the appreciation of arts while also providing encouragement and new venues for emerging young talent. It is a cherished, exciting and vibrant part of the American arts and humanities landscape, and I hope it will continue to thrive for many years to come.

Founded by actor and director Robert Redford in 1981, the Institute is dedicated to the development of artists of independent vision and the exhibition of their new work. The Institute nurtures emerging screenwriters and directors and provides a supportive environment to explore path-breaking and innovative themes. It is guided by the primary aim of supporting artists whose work reflects an original, compelling vision.

Since its creation, the Sundance Institute has become most known for its annual film festivals in Park City, Utah. Over the years, the Festival has become one of the most prestigious and important of all film festivals. Its selections and award winners have achieved wide acclaim, notoriety and artistic prominence. As a result, the Festival's influence on filmmaking has been extensive.

However, the Sundance Institute has become much more than a catalyst for the Film Festival. It has expanded its scope to include a range of programs all designed to promote innovative filmmaking. It provides workshops for screenwriters and filmmakers so that they can expand their thinking and hone their craft in a creative environment away from the pressures of the marketplace and with the guidance of respected, veteran filmmakers.

It has also established a Native American Program which supports new work by both emerging and established Native writers, directors, and producers. The commitment of the Sundance Institute to supporting Native American cinema is woven throughout its history and resides side-by-side with its contributions to American cinema. Rooted in the recognition of a rich tradition of storytelling and artistic expression by Native Americans, the Institute's Native American Initiative is a means of supporting the development of Native filmmakers and exhibiting their work.

Today, the Native American Initiative maintains its full commitment to Native cinema in a multi-tiered effort that tracks and provides support to two to four projects and four producers each year, as well as programming the Native Forum at the Sundance Film Festival. More recently, the Native American Initiative has broadened its efforts to scout for Native playwrights, music composers, and non-fiction arts writers to participate in the Institute's other developmental programs and to include indigenous artists from all of North America and the South Pacific in its initiative. At its core, the Native American Initiative supports the creative control of indigenous artists in filmmaking and other art forms supported by the Institute programs.

The Institute also holds professional conferences for film producers focusing on the professional and business aspects of independent film production such as marketing, financing, and distribution. It also has a long history of supporting documentary filmmakers through a year-round program which encourages the exploration of innovative nonfiction storytelling, and promotes the exhibition of documentary films to a broader audience. And it supports the growth of a more thoughtful and incisive body of writing about the arts through its screenwriting program. Now in its second year, the Program offers writers of creative nonfiction the opportunity to immerse themselves in Sundance Labs in the U.S. and abroad, and at the Sundance Film Festival, in order to more deeply understand and articulate the nature of the creative process in a range of art forms.

When choosing Fellows for its programs and films for the Festival, the Institute is committed to encouraging the recognition of diverse voices—Native American, African American, Asian, Latino, and women filmmakers, among others. The films and plays developed or premiered by Sundance over the past two

decades reflect the diversity of American culture and have been seen by millions of people. In all of its work, Sundance embraces the values of independence and community.

The Sundance Institute is not just about making films—although that is clearly its primary focus. It also is about nourishing the artistic process and defending free artistic expression. There are many talented voices and visionaries in America from all cultures, ethnic backgrounds and walks of life. The Sundance Institute provides a wonderful haven for these talents.

For all of these important contributions, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the Sundance Institute for keeping filmmaking and the arts exciting and vibrant and for providing an opportunity for Americans from all walks of life to participate in our film heritage.

HONORING DEBRA BRICE

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding constituent and educator in my 50th Congressional District of California, Debra Brice, for her extraordinary effort to bring real scientific research to the classroom. Debra Brice, a teacher at San Marcos Middle School, was chosen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Teacher at Sea Program to participate in a 3-week long research cruise in the Pacific Ocean.

Debra Brice, along with fellow teacher Viviana Zamorano from Arica, Chile, embarked on Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) Research Vessel Roger Revelle from Ecuador on November 10, 2003 and traveled for three weeks to Arica, Chile. The primary purpose of this cruise is to recover and then deploy again a well-instrumented surface mooring from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) under the stratocumulus clouds found off Chile and Peru in the vicinity of 20S, 85W.

Ms. Brice became an integral part of the research team and ship's crew and established relationships that will give her access to scientific resources for many years to come. While onboard, Ms. Brice also hosted Web broadcasts, maintained daily logs, took photographs, interviewed scientists, and answered her students' e-mail messages.

I am pleased to thank NOAA for its sponsorship of Debra Brice in the NOAA Teacher at Sea Program. With this knowledge and experience, Debra Brice will continue to engage her students and excite their curiosity about science and the sea.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF
SERGEANT TODD MICHAEL BATES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends,

and community of Sgt. Todd Michael Bates upon the death of this outstanding soldier.

Sgt. Bates was a member of the Ohio National Guard 135th Military Police Company serving his great nation in the country of Iraq. He was a leader in his unit and a loving grandson to his grandmother, Shirley Bates. Sgt. Bates was an active citizen in his community and did his best to make his neighborhood a better place to live.

Sgt. Bates will be remembered for his unsurpassed sacrifice of self while protecting others. His example of strength and fortitude will be remembered by all those who knew him.

While words cannot express our grief during the loss of such a courageous soldier, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Sgt. Todd Michael Bates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 12 "yes";
Rollcall No. 13 "yes";
Rollcall No. 14 "yes";
Rollcall No. 15 "yes";
Rollcall No. 16 "yes";
Rollcall No. 17 "yes"; and
Rollcall No. 18 "yes".

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MARSHALL W. PILE, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor today to recognize the life of Marshall W. Pile, Jr., who passed away on February 3, 2004. As a husband, father, farmer, and public servant, Mr. Pile will be missed by many.

A long-time resident of Missouri, Marshall Pile was born on June 13, 1928 in Saline County, Missouri. Marshall was a veteran, serving in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. On November 10, 1951 he married Mary Frances and they eventually settled in Gentry County, Missouri. They had five children, Jeff, Jan, Anne, Peggy, and Dana, and six grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his daughter Dana and his parents.

While Mr. Pile spent much of his time farming, he was also very involved in the local community as well as other organizations. Mr. Pile served the City of Albany as City Alderman and Mayor. He was Presiding Commissioner of Gentry County at the time of his death. Mr. Pile was also active in the Missouri Cattleman's Association, was a past president of the Missouri Association of Counties, and a long-time member of the Albany Rotary Club.

Marshall was a good friend to me and to many in the state of Missouri. He was very knowledgeable on issues pertaining to agri-

culture and county government. I know I relied on his advice and counsel many times. He always had a common sense approach and stood for what was right.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Mary, children Jeff, Jan, Anne, and Peggy, and their families. In this time of sorrow, may the thoughts and prayers of friends and family comfort them and may his memory bring them peace.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT
AND CHAMPIONSHIP
WRESTLERS KURT ANGLE AND
JOHN BRADSHAW

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), Kurt Angle, and John Bradshaw have made significant contributions to youth civic activities through their efforts with WWE's "Smackdown Your Vote!"; and

Whereas, WWE has registered 500,000 new voters between the ages of 18 and 30 over the past two years. Accordingly, under their leadership, WWE intends to register an additional two million new voters for the 2004 campaign; and

Whereas, On January 27, 2004 Kurt Angle and John Bradshaw visited Capitol Hill to meet Members of Congress and staff. During their visit, they helped spread the message about the importance of youth involvement in the political process; and

Whereas, WWE's "Smackdown Your Vote!" program has proven to be a highly effective organization for outreach to younger voters; and

Whereas, we look forward to the active participation of the WWE, Kurt Angle, and John Bradshaw in the American political process in 2004; and

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress in thanking WWE, Kurt Angle, and John Bradshaw for their unwavering commitment to increasing youth civic participation.

CELEBRATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ARRIVAL OF B-2 BOMBER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on December 17 of last year, Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri celebrated the 10th anniversary of the arrival of the B-2 Bomber. I had the privilege of addressing the luncheon on that day. My speech to those attending is as follows:

There are high moments in one's life. I experienced one such moment 10 years ago when the first B-2, the Spirit of Missouri, arrived here at Whiteman Air Force Base.

Today we commemorate both the 10th anniversary of the B-2 Bomber mission at Whiteman and the 100th anniversary of man's first powered flight by the Wright Brothers. What an amazing parallel that 2 men, Wilbur and Orville Wright, began the

saga of flight 100 years ago, and today the most powerful military weapon in the world, the B-2, is manned by only 2 airmen.

It seems like airplanes have always been a great part of my life and make up some of my fondest memories. I imagine there are quite a few people in this room who feel the same way. I will never forget one particular warm, autumn day in my hometown of Lexington. I was 11 years of age, and I was with my buddies on the north side of Franklin Avenue, across from my home, when I heard and saw the Army Air Corps C-47s pulling gliders above us.

I knew then that the Army Air Corps had a base near Sedalia where these planes were located. I later learned that those pilots were training for the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Normandy. In my wildest dreams, I could never have imagined that years after seeing those planes fly over Lexington, I would be a part of making that Sedalia Army Air Field, now known as Whiteman, the most modern bomber base in the world.

My very first job was at the old Lexington Airport, which was located across the Missouri River. My duties included washing the Piper Cubs and Aeroncas and periodically raking the dirt floors of the hangars. I well remember a WAAF, a member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, ferrying a Culver Cadet airplane which landed at Lexington Airport to refuel. On the right seat of this airplane, which had a 27-foot wingspread, there was a large set of radio equipment. This massive equipment allowed the plane to serve as a drone, pulling targets for the Army Air Corps pilots to practice shooting. Thinking back, I recall that the small airplane was so heavy that the WAAF pilot could not get airborne until her third takeoff attempt on the short grass airfield. Without a doubt, aeronautical technology has come a long way since that time.

This military installation has a rich history in the security of our country. As the Sedalia Army Air Field, it trained the C-47 pilots to fly the gliders for the Normandy invasion. Later, as Whiteman Air Force Base, it was the home of a B-47 wing.

At the height of the Cold War, the base became a Minuteman I and II missile installation. Knowing that the missile mission would be phased out eventually, I urged the Air Force to put a B-1 Bomber Wing at Whiteman in 1982, but a Texas base was chosen to house the B-1 instead. It was later that year when I first received a classified briefing on the bat-winged bomber which was being contemplated by the Air Force. Subsequently, the legislative battle to authorize and build the Stealth Bomber was long and arduous, first authorizing 15 bombers, then another 5, then 1 more. During this time, I quietly urged the Air Force to consider Whiteman Air Force Base as the first base for this new weapons system.

In early December 1986, Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger invited me to his office and told me that he had decided to place this new airplane at Whiteman Air Force Base. Since I had worked so hard to make this happen, the Secretary asked if I would be interested in making the announcement. At a press conference in Knob Noster on January 5, 1987, I had the honor of announcing that Whiteman Air Force Base would be the home of the newest and most advanced bomber in America's fleet, the Stealth Bomber. Then, Major General, now retired General Jim McCarthy deserves great credit for helping formulate the decision to put the wing here.

Shortly after that announcement, the Air Force officially named the new Stealth

Bomber the B-2. And you know the history from that moment on. Then Brigadier General, later Lieutenant General Ron Marcotte oversaw the formulation of the B-2 Wing here at Whiteman.

Since the B-2 has been here for ten years, and people are fairly accustomed to seeing the aircraft, there might be a temptation to start considering it as old hat. But let me take this opportunity to remind you how exceptional this aircraft is, because you are looking at a significant piece of aviation history.

First, there was the airplane. Then, in the First World War, aerial combat.

Then, in the Second World War, radar to see through clouds and find attackers at great distances.

Then an airplane that disappeared from radar.

The B-2 wasn't the first jet, or the first flying wing, or the first stealthy airplane, or the first capable of spanning the globe. But it was the first stealthy jet airplane able to go anywhere.

The B-2 changed the calculation from the number of planes per target to the number of targets per plane. It fundamentally changed the equation of offense versus defense.

It is, in one respect, the summation of the 20th century's technological advances. It could not stay aloft without computers. It stays invisible because of advanced materials. And the airplane and munitions know their precise location thanks to satellites.

To be sure, the Wright Flyer, wood and canvas, didn't have much of a radar signature. And it was quiet. And a 12-second flight is a lot easier than 24 hours.

24 hours. That's the other way the B-2 is the culmination of its century. The 20th century was, in so many ways, the American century. It's when our country reached its full flower, as a nation, as an economic force, as a political power. There is no more vivid expression of that than this airplane, which can leave here, project American power anywhere on the face of the globe, and return without landing. Winston Churchill called the United States the world's indispensable nation. The B-2's capabilities make the aircraft this indispensable nation's most sovereign instrument.

But before you say, wait a minute, this is an instrument of war—should we really celebrate it? It's a good question. Let me answer it this way. This airplane is a humanitarian advance. Yes, it exists to intimidate, and if necessary to destroy. But if we accept conflict as inevitable, as history suggests it is, I ask you—is it better to flatten a city to hit a single strategic target? That's what we have had to do through most of my lifetime and that of the airplane—rain down as many bombs as possible and hope one hits. Or is it better to save the civilians and just disable the target? If war is necessary, this airplane lets us separate its effects from the civilians with whom we have no quarrel.

During the legislative battle to build the B-2, there were a number of outspoken critics. That criticism continued even after all 21 planes arrived at Whiteman. But since their first combat deployments—first during 1999's NATO-led Operation Allied Force campaign in Yugoslavia, then during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and most recently during Operation Iraqi Freedom—those critics have disappeared. But it is more than the airplane and JDAM bombs. It is the men and women here at Whiteman—the maintenance crews, the bomb handlers, and of course the pilots—who made this chapter in American military history so very extraordinary.

When the first B-2 arrived at Whiteman in December 17, 1993, on the 90th anniversary of man's first powered flight by the Wright Brothers, it was the fulfillment of a dream. There are any number of reasons why Whiteman Air Force Base was the logical choice as the home of the B-2, but I believe the most important reason is the strong support and patriotism shown by the entire community for generations. And the Pentagon knows this. I certainly do.

Through the years, people throughout the area—on the streets, at civic organizations, in the Whiteman Community Council, in schools, and wherever I go—have given me words of encouragement about the progress of the B-2 mission at Whiteman. I doubt if any Member of Congress has ever had such strong support by the people he represents as I have had in this historic challenge.

The people of this area have been strong supporters of each mission assigned here. The Missourians of today are as steadfast in their support as in yesteryear. Since the day of the announcement that the B-2 would be located here, the people of Missouri have taken the B-2, and all those who support its mission, to their hearts.

With the B-2 mission firmly established at Whiteman, this base not only has a bright future ahead, but I believe it is also the premier Air Force Base in the nation. The B-2 mission ensures that Whiteman will continue to be a vital part of our national security establishment for decades to come, even though the installation's previous major mission, the Minuteman Missiles, were removed and silos destroyed following the end of the Cold War.

And now that the B-2s have undertaken their first combat deployments—with pinpoint bombing in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq—those who fly and maintain this aircraft have more than proven the usefulness of this weapons system and demonstrated the foresight of those who imagined the potential of a long range bomber that could take off from rural Missouri and fly half-way around the world and back.

So today we Americans have cause to celebrate an American invention—the airplane and the technologically complex airplane we call the B-2. As long as there are those skilled aeronautical engineers whose designs keep American air power on the cutting edge, and as long as we have dedicated Air Force men and women who crew and serve these craft, America will continue to be the bastion of freedom and a secure land.

We know how far the first 100 years of aviation has taken us. But what will the next 100 years bring? Let me make a few predictions. In 100 years, planes will fly faster, fly farther, and probably fly on their own. Whiteman Air Force Base, which in 100 years will still be the premier Air Force base in the world, will be home to pilotless, hypersonic, stealthy bombers, able to reach any point on the globe within hours. And in 100 years, the people whose hard work and dedication make these amazing technologies come to life will be as inspiring to their fellow Americans as their predecessors amaze and inspire us today.

I'm sure that over the last 10 years quite a few eleven-year-olds in Lexington, and throughout the state, have looked toward the sky and caught a glimpse of an airplane—not an army transport airplane pulling a glider, but the most modern bomber in the world, the B-2. Like those Army Air Corps planes of an earlier age, its home is located near Sedalia. This plane flies for the same purpose as the planes I saw in 1943—to preserve freedom. The airplanes have changed—but the mission remains the same.

LETTER FROM NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that the letter from the Non-Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

NCOA,

Alexandria, VA, January 29, 2004.

Hon. BILL FRIST,

*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR FRIST: The Non Commissioned Officers expresses its grave concern that America's military personnel and veterans are being used as an "emotional" ploy to delay the Department of Labor implementation of the Fair Labor Standards Act relative "white collar" exemptions. Claims that military members involved in the War on Terrorism and this Nation's veterans will have their employment status elevated to "exempt" based on military training and experience and lose opportunity for overtime compensation are patently incorrect. The Association regrets that some would wrongly use such false allegations concerning impact to America's service members to garner emotional and legislative support to delay the final rules for implementation of FLSA.

It is a blinding glimpse of the obvious that neither the current rules nor the revised proposal will negatively impact those who serve or have served in the Uniformed Services. In fact, this association's direct discussions with DOL leads us to the conclusion that the proposed rule relative the revised ceiling for annual income (increased from \$8,060 to \$13,000) will greatly expand the eligibility pool for worker overtime compensation.

It is outrageous that unsubstantiated claims are reaching America's Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen currently in harm's way that their future return to civilian jobs will result in a reclassification of their employment status. It is clear from our discussions with the Department of Labor that the proposed rule makes no changes from the current regulation and case law regarding military training and eligibility for overtime payments.

NCOA will continue to monitor the rights of all service members and pursue DOL intervention if the intent of any program or interpretation of the published rules would negatively impact those who have served in the Uniformed Service of this Nation. NCOA will remain vigilant to ensure their employment rights.

Sincerely,

GENE OVERSTREET,
President/CEO.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
RENEE YOUNG

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Renee Young has served as a dedicated Field Liaison for the Ohio Emer-

gency Management Association for 27 years; and

Whereas, Renee is always willing and able to address the needs of, and lessen the stress upon, the County Directors and is a source of stability in times of crisis; and

Whereas, Renee has demonstrated her commitment to aiding those during emergencies by working overtime, and from her own home if necessary, to see that the emergency is resolved; and

Whereas, Renee serves as a training instructor for the Ohio EMA and has a reputation for keeping participants engaged through a mixture of humor and information; and

Whereas, directors from counties outside of Renee's district routinely call upon her leadership and experience to assist their counties;

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and the entire Eighteenth Congressional District of Ohio in thanking Renee Young for her dedication to the Ohio Emergency Management Association and her continued efforts to protect and improve her community.

IN MEMORY OF TUG MCGRAW,
BASEBALL LEGEND, PATRIOT
AND AMBASSADOR OF HUMANITY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to baseball legend, Tug McGraw. Tug McGraw died on Monday, January 5, at the Nashville area home of his son and daughter-in-law, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. Tug McGraw's life goes far beyond his on-field extensive achievements. He was also a patriot and an ambassador of humanity.

When Tug McGraw came to the Phillies in 1974, he brought along his experience as part of the New York Mets. With that team, he coined his rallying cry, "You gotta believe." His shining moment as a Phillie came in the 1980 World Series. In the fifth game, Tug struck out the Royals' Amos Otis with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth to preserve a 4-3 victory. In the sixth and final game, in Philadelphia, Tug squeezed out of bases-loaded jams in the final two innings and got the save to give the Phillies their first World Championship. It was his third World Series save, lifetime and his five League Championship Series saves is a record. He retired with 180 saves.

Those who follow baseball know of Tug McGraw's amazing saves and victories, but his life goes far beyond his on-field achievements. I know firsthand how he served his community and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in a major league way for many years. Tug enjoyed the presence of others, being thoroughly human and generous. He was a leader in so many worthwhile projects across our region, including the Scholar Athlete Program, various mentoring programs for at-risk youth and numerous charitable and civic causes. We will all remember and admire his talent on the mound. But of lasting significance is what he did to motivate people, particularly our youth, not only with his time and talent, but also with his laughter and his ability to bring out the best in others. It is what we

teach and what we contribute to enriching the lives of those around us that defines our success in life. This is Tug McGraw's lasting legacy.

Mr. Speaker, our region has lost not only a baseball legend, but a dear friend. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the McGraw family. Tug McGraw was generous with his gifts throughout his life and exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he accomplished and stood for. We are grateful to have known Tug McGraw, and mourn his passing.

RECOGNIZING HELEN RUDEE'S
86TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Rudee who, on February 20, 2004, will celebrate her eighty-sixth birthday. For all of her adult life, Ms. Rudee has been an outspoken advocate for women, children, health and environmental issues.

Helen was raised in North Dakota and moved to California to attend San Francisco Junior College and Stanford University Nursing School. After marrying and having four children, her husband died leaving her to care for them. As a mother, Helen's first priority was raising her children. She was very active with their schools and served as a member of the PTA before serving on the Santa Rosa Board of Education for 10 years. In recognition of all her work, she received the Honorary Service and Continuing Service Awards from the California Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.

In 1976, Helen was the first woman elected to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. As a member of the Board of Supervisors for 12 years, she had a reputation for being accessible and for gathering the opinions of as many of her constituents as possible before making a final decision on matters of importance.

Throughout her career, Ms. Rudee has been dedicated to bringing more women into political offices. Women often go to her for guidance when considering running for office and she is always generous with her time, knowledge and advice. Despite retiring at age 70, she has remained as active in her retirement as when she was on the Board.

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Women's History Month, I was proud to honor Helen at the National Women's History Project event, "Honoring 20th Century Women," on March 22, 2000 in Statuary Hall in the Capitol. Throughout my career, Helen has been an inspiration to me and many other women who are in politics and other male-dominated fields.

Mr. Speaker, Helen Rudee has been an active and outspoken community leader for many years. She is a trailblazer who has made it better for all women.

COMMEMORATING FEBRUARY 2004
ALUM OF THE MONTH: MS.
OMUGO JULIET WASSWA-
MUGAMBWA

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Omugo Juliet Wasswa-Mugambwa, recipient of the College of St. Scholastica's Alum of the Month for February 2004.

St. Scholastica is a private undergraduate college founded in 1912 by a group of pioneering Benedictine Sisters who offered college courses, then, to six young women. Today, St. Scholastica educates more than 2,800 men and women annually and has awarded degrees to more than 13,000 alumni. The college offers the city of Duluth a world-class educational facility, while simultaneously enhancing the cultural and intellectual life not only of the city but also all of northwestern Minnesota.

Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa arrived in Duluth, Minnesota, in the dead of winter in 1990 from her home country of Uganda. Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa made a remarkable transition between continents, cultures, and degrees Celsius with patience and grace. I was privileged to witness these qualities for myself when Juliet served as an intern in my Washington D.C. office. Her intellectual curiosity and desire to experience the inner-workings of the legislative branch left an indelible memory on my staff and me.

Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa received the Leadership Award for the class of 1994, one of the highest honors for a student at the College of St. Scholastica. Following her graduation that year, she pursued a post-graduate degree in International Economic Development at the University of Denver, earning a Master's Degree in 1996. Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa continues to sharpen her focus on the issues of international development as an associate program officer with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

As a UN associate program officer, she prepares substantive reports for the UN Secretary General on development cooperation issues for consideration by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Her intense focus, nimble intellect, and industrious work ethic are hallmarks of her service at the UN, ensuring that her reports provide the basis for coherent and effective policy guidance to the operation activities of the United Nations family of organizations.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa is very proud of her family. She met her husband Joel, a member of the Toro Royal family in Uganda, in 1995; the couple have been blessed with two young children: Prince Oyo-Nyabongo and Princess Batebe.

I most heartily commend Juliet on her continued professional and personal success and express my great respect for her as she accepts the award for February Alum of the Month from the College of St. Scholastica.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LUCIANO
"LOU" MARTINEZ

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, last December the Palm Beach County Hispanic and Latino community lost one of its most beloved and outstanding leaders. Luciano Martinez, or "Lou" as we knew him, dedicated his life to helping others and founded the Hispanic Human Resources Council, helping thousands of individuals climb the ladder of success over many years in our local area.

Lou had the biggest heart and the most fertile mind finding unique ways to bring much needed services to the fast growing Hispanic and Latino population in Palm Beach County. Without his tireless work, Head Start would not be available to launch children into a better education, mothers would not have quality day care to permit them to work and provide for their children, many low income families would have never experienced the joys of purchasing their first home, and a host of immigrants would be unable to adjust to a new and different lifestyle. Because of Lou all of the above did happen.

Most important to Lou was the desire that while new arrivals adapted to a new culture; traditional Hispanic and Latino values and customs honed over thousands of years remained the centerpiece of family life. This desire to encourage individual identity, instilled pride in their common heritage to form a foundation for future generations to build upon, never forgetting the past.

Mr. Speaker, Lou was born in Havana, Cuba, raised in Florida and arrived in Palm Beach County fresh with a degree from Florida International University. His leadership skills were quickly recognized, and after many years of helping the less fortunate, Lou in 1977 founded the Hispanic Human Resources Council and served as its Executive Director for more than 26 years.

His talent led others to call upon him to serve on a multitude of community leadership positions; Board of Directors of JFK Hospital, the American Red Cross, and The Forum Club. In helping children, he served on the Pre-K Early Intervention Committee, Child Advocacy Board of Palm Beach County, and the Governor's Conference on Children and Youth. The Su Casa Housing Program helping to establish home ownership is a model program that is copied elsewhere.

There was so much more to the life of Luciano Martinez, he touched the lives of so many people, making life a little easier and less stressful. The smiling caring face of Lou was ever present, always ready to go the extra mile on behalf of his neighbors. His legacy is most apparent in the laughing happy children of Palm Beach County who continue to be under the care of the Hispanic Human Resources Council. The classrooms and playrooms in the West Palm Beach centers are filled with the memories of thousands of children who have passed through those doors, the hundreds who are there today, and the many more who will enter in future years. I am confident the spirit of Luciano will always be looking out for them from afar.

Mr. Speaker, Vaya Con Dios Luciano Martinez. Well done, mission accomplished.

RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL RIGHTS
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD GIVEN TO
STEPHANIE COWART

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Stephanie Cowart who recently receive the "Civil Rights Achievement" award chosen by the National Conference for Community and Justice. The award honors a member of the Niagara Falls community who exemplifies the works, beliefs and dreams that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared with the world.

Ms. Cowart, who serves as the executive director of the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, is one of the African American Women Community Builders of Western New York. She is indicative of the vibrant and caring Niagara Falls community that I am proud to represent in Congress. As a native of Niagara Falls, her decision to remain in the area not only to complete her education, but also to commit to improving the community through her work and by raising a family is impressive. Ms. Cowart is truly a Niagara Falls jewel.

In addition to her contribution to the community through running the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, she serves the area in her "free time" as an active member of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and numerous other organizations. This award is not the first that Ms. Cowart has received. She is the recipient of numerous citations, including the Niagara County Black Achiever's Candle in the Dark Award, the Niagara Improvement Association Civic Award, the Niagara University Fellowship Award, the Niagara Falls Housing Authority Award of Excellence, the Business First's prestigious Forty Under 40 award, the Niagara County's Woman of the Year Award, and the Heroes of Public Housing Award.

Stephanie is truly an example to the entire country, not just my district. I am proud to bring her achievements to the attention of my colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT A.
PERREAULT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Robert A. Perreault, who retired on January 2, 2004, after more than 30 years of service in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

A veteran of the United States Navy, Bob Perreault began his VA career as a Medical Administrative Assistant in 1974 at the VA Outpatient Clinic in St. Petersburg, Florida. Bob rapidly progressed in his career, in VA field activities at a managerial and executive level, and in a number of key executive positions in VA Central Office. Among his notable assignments, he served in Washington as Director of the Medical Administration Service; Executive Assistant to VA's Chief Medical Director [now Under Secretary for Health]; and Director of Health Care Reform during the

Clinton Administration. Mr. Perreault also served as Chief Executive Officer in Medical Centers in Newington, Connecticut; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina. While in Atlanta and Charleston, he served in a dual role as VA's service line executive for primary care for a network of VA providers throughout Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina. Throughout his distinguished VA career, Bob Perreault eagerly and enthusiastically assumed challenges and provided leadership to VA programs, with his eye always fixed squarely on the health care needs of veterans.

In May 2002, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs appointed Mr. Perreault Chief Business Officer of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). He was recruited to this key role because of his wealth of experience in field facilities and Central Office. In this new role, he brought invigorated leadership to VHA business functions to include improved eligibility determinations, significantly higher first- and third-party collections activities and improved patient administration policy. Mr. Perreault coordinated VHA's implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), aided the establishment of the new "VA Advantage" Medicare coordination program, improved management of the fee-basis and contract care programs, and provided more focused direction to VA's CHAMPVA program, among a myriad of activities within his jurisdiction or persuasion.

Mr. Perreault twice was awarded the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award for career senior executives, and received numerous other national recognitions and performance awards during his career. Employing his vast institutional knowledge and business acumen, Robert Perreault has proven time and again he is a true and loyal friend to America's veterans.

On behalf of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, I want to thank Robert Perreault for his steadfast and intrepid service to the Nation's veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEERFIELD
BEACH FOUNDERS' DAYS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the great city of Deerfield Beach, in Florida's 22nd Congressional District. All Floridians can be proud of the rich history and cultural contributions Broward County's northernmost city has made over the past 77 years.

Today, visitors from around the world travel to Deerfield Beach for some of the most pristine beaches in the state of Florida. In fact, the City was awarded the Blue Wave award as a premier tourist destination in the year 2000. When travelers visit our fine city, they will find not only exceptional beaches and natural beauty, they can also enjoy any one of our four sites on the National Register of Historic Places: the 1920 Old School House, the 1923 James D. and Alice Butler House (now the Butler House Museum), the 1926 Deerfield School (now Deerfield Beach Elementary School), and the 1926 Seaboard Coastline Railway Station (now the Tri-Rail Station).

Deerfield Beach also has beautiful, well-maintained parks, boat ramps, tennis courts, and playgrounds.

For all of these reasons and more, many people chose to call Deerfield Beach home. The city has grown to almost 65,000 residents who make their living in one of the more than 5,000 businesses ranging from small "mom & pop" retailers, to major nationwide corporations.

The city has indeed seen phenomenal growth and prosperity mark the last few years and as such, I would like to extend my congratulations and support to The Honorable Albert Capellini, Mayor of Deerfield Beach. Mr. Speaker, may everyone who participates in the 57th Annual Founders' Days Festival of Deerfield Beach enjoy all this wonderful city by the sea has to offer.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BADGE
AND UNIFORM SECURITY TRUST-
WORTHINESS [BUST] ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, six months ago tomorrow, a man with a fake FBI vest and fake badge killed a man and wounded another. Today, I am introducing the Badge and Uniform Security Trustworthiness Act of 2003 in honor of the victims—Raymond L. Batzel and Joseph B. Doud.

On August 12, 2003, a man carrying a sawed-off shotgun, wearing a wig and bulletproof vest with the printed initials "FBI", and carrying what looked like a law enforcement badge walked into the Xerox employee credit union and killed one man and shot another. This man posing as a federal law enforcement officer turned a robbery into a murder. FBI officials believe that the vest and the badge were fakes. Six months later, the killer has still not been caught. Would this have happened if the murder did not have access to a fake badge and bulletproof vest?

Mr. Speaker, this bill will expand the current federal criminal ban on fake police badges to include police uniforms and other insignia. Right now it is legal for people to buy, sell, or own fake FBI insignia or badges used by Customs officials at our borders. As never before, Americans are facing the possibility of terrorism and violence within our borders. We are increasingly relying on our local, state, and federal law officials to keep the public safe. However, we must be able to depend on them without worrying that the "officer" is an impersonator. Law enforcement needs for us to trust them without hesitation, but the trust cannot be complete unless we take steps to stop the flow of fake public safety officer uniforms.

Unfortunately, the threat goes beyond the terrifying reality of this case in which a man in a fake FBI bulletproof vest tried to rob a bank. The threat reaches out to land border crossings, airports, and seaports. Officers with the Bureau of Customs and Border Security and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement work to keep terrorists from entering or staying in the country and to prevent the dangerous materials and weapons used by terrorists from entering the country. We cannot afford to have a man with fake creden-

tials standing on the Peace Bridge at the US-Canadian border, allowing terrorists or their weapons to enter the United States. By prohibiting the buying, selling, and use of false safety officer badges and other insignia, we are not only increasing domestic security, but also honoring the lives of Raymond L. Batzel and Joseph B. Doud. We must learn from the terrible events of August 12, 2003, and keep law enforcement insignia out of the hands of other would-be criminals or terrorists. Otherwise we are vulnerable to potential menace from within our borders and outside of our borders.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL
SLACHTA, JR.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Michael Slachta, Jr., Assistant Inspector General for Auditing, who retired on January 2, 2004, after 36 years of Federal service—32 of which were served at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Mike's distinguished career began with service in the U.S. Navy from May 1966 to February 1970, including a one-year tour as a corpsman with the Third Marines in the Republic of Vietnam. As a result of his outstanding service, Mike was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat V, Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Citation, and Vietnam Service Medal with Fleet Marine Force Combat Insignia.

Mike attended the University of Pittsburgh on the Vietnam-era GI Bill and graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology. In 1971, he joined VA as an adjudicator at the Regional Office in Detroit, Michigan. In 1974, Mike moved to Washington, DC and joined the Internal Audit Service to work on the development of the Inspector General Act.

In 1978, Mike transferred to Hyattsville, Maryland to serve as Director of the Eastern Field Office of Audit. In 1980, he returned to the District of Columbia to serve as Acting Assistant Inspector General for Auditing. In 1982, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Regional Audits, and in 1983 he was appointed Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Headquarters Audits. In 1991, Mr. Slachta was named Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Auditing.

On March 12, 2000, Mike was appointed Assistant Inspector General for Auditing, the position he held until his retirement. In this capacity, he directed 166 auditors and support staff located at eight Inspector General offices across the country. In the last decade, under Mike's direction, the Office of Audit recommended actions that had potential cost efficiencies of over \$7 billion, which greatly improved VA program effectiveness and quality of services to beneficiaries.

A testament to the significant contributions and commitment of Mike Slachta are his many awards and recognitions. In 1991 and 2000, Mike received the Senior Executive Service Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive. In 2001, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs appointed him to the VA Claims Processing Task Force, where he served with distinction.

The President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency presented Mike with the June Gibbs Brown Career Achievement Award in 2003 for his extraordinary leadership and a distinguished career at VA in public service.

Mike and his wife Sharron have two sons, David and Douglas. They both share their father's passion and considerable skills in judo and golf.

With Mike's retirement, VA loses an enthusiastic, innovative leader and an exemplary Federal employee.

HONORING NASHVILLE'S CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I am pleased to speak today in recognition of Nashville's distinguished role in the history of the Civil Rights movement.

Forty-four years ago this week, a group of young Nashville college students came together to organize the Nashville sit-ins, a non-violent campaign to desegregate the city's lunch counters. From that moment in 1960, and from that campaign's extraordinary leaders, emerged a passion for justice and equality that helped to guide the civil rights movement.

Nashville was a principal training ground for some of the nation's most important leaders in the civil rights movement, many of whom were schooled in the techniques of nonviolent protest by the Rev. James Lawson. Rev. Lawson was the second African-American admitted to Vanderbilt University's Divinity School, and his famed workshops on nonviolent resistance later earned him a reputation as "the teacher of the civil rights movement."

Lawson's students came to include such prominent figures as Diane Nash, Dr. James Bevel, Dr. Bernard Lafayette, and Rev. C.T. Vivian, as well as my distinguished colleague, Congressman John Lewis of Georgia. As students and young activists, they formed the organizational core of Nashville's civil rights movement, which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. later described as "the best organized and most disciplined in the Southland."

Nashville's lunch-counter protests began on Feb. 13, 1960. Three months later, after a dramatic confrontation with then-Mayor Ben West, the students earned their first major victory when six Nashville lunch counters began serving African-Americans. The Nashville protests came to serve as models for later protests throughout the South, and its leaders, Ms. Nash, Dr. Bevel, Dr. Lafayette, Rev. Vivian and Mr. Lewis, went on to make pivotal contributions to the success of the civil rights movement, including the Freedom Rides of 1961 and the historic protests in Selma, Alabama.

This weekend, a number of the original leaders of Nashville's movement will be reuniting both to commemorate the anniversary of those first organized sit-ins and to honor the opening of the new Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library. This library, located at 615 Church Street in Nashville, now stands in place of several downtown restaurants that

refused to serve African Americans before the historic protests.

Dr. King best summed up the legacy of the Nashville movement when he came to visit shortly after the protests succeeded in desegregating Nashville's lunch counters. He said, "I came to Nashville not to bring inspiration, but to gain inspiration from the great movement that has taken place in this community."

It is with great honor and pride that I pay tribute today to the men and women of Nashville whose leadership and courage in the fight for racial justice still serve as inspiration to us today.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTYN BRIMMEIER

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a fond farewell to a member of my staff, Kristyn Brimmeier, who is leaving Capitol Hill this week. Kristyn is returning to her hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to pursue other professional opportunities.

All of us who serve in Congress know how important our staff members are. Kristyn has served as a Congressional Aide for over seven years, including four years with my office. She has served as both my Press Secretary as well as my Communications Director. As a public spokesperson before the media and countless community organizations, I could have had no better assistant to help positively present my agenda on behalf of the constituents of the Ninth Congressional District of Texas.

Kristyn has not only championed the press and communications functions in my office, but has played a vital role as staff director of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus. Kristyn's hard work and dedication have helped to push the issue of missing children to the forefront in the conscience of this Congress. Her assistance and her council have been crucial in passing legislation that deals with the exploitation of children. I know that I speak for the dozens of families she has worked with on this issue in thanking her for her service.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Kristyn. I am confident that her abilities, her passion, and her work ethic will serve her well in the years to come. Though she is small in stature, her presence and her contributions have surely been noticed by all who have had the pleasure to work with her.

Kristyn, thank you for your hard work over the last four years. You will truly be missed.

HONORING UNC CHARLOTTE CHANCELLOR EMERITUS DEAN WALLACE COLVARD

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize UNC Charlotte Chan-

cellor Emeritus Dean Wallace Colvard. On February 24, 2004 he will receive an award that recognizes his lasting impact on our nation. Dr. Colvard, 90, is the 2004 recipient of The Echo Award Against Indifference, given by the Echo Foundation in honor of his lifelong commitment to equity and justice.

Dr. Colvard is best known for his courageous stand against racial discrimination in 1963 as president of Mississippi State University, when he challenged an unwritten state policy and allowed the basketball team to travel to Loyola of Chicago to compete in the NCAA tournament against African-American players. Although his team lost, 61-51, Colvard and Mississippi State won national respect for their quest to end segregation—and opened doors of opportunity for future generations.

Forty years later, in 2003, Mississippi State made national news for earning its second trip to the NCAA, and Colvard's actions were chronicled in a Sports Illustrated story looking back on the historic event. To this day, Colvard downplays the significance of his decision, saying he only did what was right.

Dr. Colvard was born in the Appalachian Mountains in Grassy Creek, N.C. in 1913—in a home with no electricity, indoor plumbing or running water. He was the first member of his family to go to college, entering the work-study program at Berea College in Kentucky with \$100 in his pocket. Those humble beginnings instilled in him a lifelong commitment to equity and justice.

He went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in animal physiology from the University of Missouri and a doctoral degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University. He has served as superintendent of North Carolina Agricultural Research Stations; professor and head of the animal science department and later, dean of agriculture at North Carolina State College; president of Mississippi State University; and first chancellor of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He played an instrumental role in shaping the new university by securing regional and national accreditation for its programs and building a campus to accommodate enrollment that swelled from 1,700 to 8,705 students during his chancellorship.

Dr. Colvard was also instrumental in creating University Research Park and Discovery Place Science Museum in Charlotte, and the North Carolina School for Math and Science in Durham—the nation's first public, residential high school that emphasizes a science and mathematics curriculum. Among Colvard's many honors are the United States Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Award (1966); the University of North Carolina University Award (1989); the North Carolina Public Service Award, presented by Gov. James Martin (1990); and honorary degrees from Purdue University, Belmont Abbey College, UNC Charlotte and Berea College.

HONORING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT EUNICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and recognize some of the great

things that are happening right now at Louisiana State University at Eunice. This two-year college located in Acadia Parish, a part of my district, provides students with the educational tools they need to either enter the workforce or continue their studies at a four-year university.

With 94 professors on hand, and nearly all of them full-time staff, LSUE has registered more than 3,000 students for the 2004 Spring semester. This number marks an all-time high for the school.

LSU at Eunice is excelling outside the classroom as well. The school has recently initiated a wellness program entitled "Bonne Sante!" Students and staff will benefit from this exciting program which will promote healthy living through a variety of sources including a monthly magazine, a free web service, a fitness/health film series and a community of fitness activity groups. "Bonne Sante!" promises to make LSUE a healthier and happier campus.

Staff at LSUE has also garnered some impressive accolades. The college's Chancellor, Dr. William J. Nunez, III, was recently selected to serve as chairman of the Eunice Community Medical Center Board of Directors for the current calendar year. In addition, Ms. Theresa Darbonne, a member of the SIFE@LSUE National Team recently returned from Honduras where she visited the medical clinic that SIFE@LSUE helped establish three years ago. SIFE is a global, not-for-profit organization that works to improve living standards throughout the world by teaching the values of market economics.

Exciting things are happening at LSUE. Its students and faculty should be proud to know that their school is making unprecedented strides and continues to provide an excellent education in Southwest Louisiana.

A BIRTHDAY SALUTE TO THE TOWN OF LINCOLNVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in recognition of a very special Town in my district called Lincolville, South Carolina. In 1867 seven black men led by Bishop Richard Harvey Cain were dissatisfied with the way they were being treated in Charles Town, which is now Charleston, South Carolina. They set out to locate land for sale by the South Carolina Railroad Company. They found a location called "Pump Pond" where the local train stopped to get water and wood and later water and coal. They purchased 620 acres from the South Carolina Railroad Company and established the town on February 14, 1889. They were granted a state charter on December 14, 1889. The people of this great town named it Lincolville in honor of Republican President Abraham Lincoln who freed the slaves.

On February 14, 2004, the Town of Lincolville will be 115 years old. Since the

town was founded during Black History Month, on February 28, 2004, there will be a great Jubilee Celebration with visual arts, arts and crafts, music, dance, theatrical presentations and great food. This wonderful celebration will be in remembrance of Lincolville's founding fathers while displaying the spirit of its diversity throughout the community.

Happy Birthday to the people of the great Town of Lincolville, South Carolina.

HEART DISEASE AWARENESS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, heart disease is the leading cause of death for all Americans. According to the American Heart Association, nearly 500,000 women die of cardiovascular disease each year. For women, heart disease is responsible for more deaths than the next seven causes of death combined, including all forms of cancer. And shockingly, only 8 percent of women think that heart disease is a major personal concern.

These statistics are a sign that the message is not getting out. I rise today, in the middle of American Heart Month, to call attention to heart health and to encourage women to learn about the signs and causes of cardiovascular disease.

This past Friday, February 6, 2004, the American Heart Association sponsored "Go Red for Women" day. This initiative, encouraging individuals to wear red to increase awareness of heart disease, is an important step in making sure women take back control of their personal health. Both men and women must educate themselves on the warning signs of heart attack, stroke, and cardiac arrest. Women in particular must know the risk factors that they can control, including diabetes, high blood pressure, tobacco use, cholesterol, physical inactivity, and obesity because one in ten American women aged 45 to 64 and one in four American women aged 64 or older has some form of heart disease.

Not only can well informed women and mothers improve their own health, but as the family gatekeeper, mothers can also help put children on the path to a lifetime of good heart health. We know childhood obesity and diabetes are pandemic in our society, but there are things we can do to stop the growing trend of children exhibiting heart disease risk-factors at such an early age. We all must work to ensure that our families are eating healthy, well-balanced meals and we must make sure that our families are getting enough physical activity. These simple but important efforts will mean a great deal to the future health of our family members and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me in encouraging all Americans to contact the American Heart Association either through their Website or over the phone to find out the information that can save their lives. I hope my colleagues in the House will join me in this fight against heart disease, our Nation's leading killer.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL AMATO MATTY SEMENZA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Major General Amato Matty Semenza, a dedicated and determined community leader who passed away suddenly on Sunday, February 1, 2004 at his home. Friends, family and community members will gather on Friday, February 13 at 11 a.m. at St. Edward's the Confessor Church in Clifton Park to honor his memory.

General Semenza was appointed commanding general of the New York State Guard by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller on July 20, 1973, after serving as deputy commanding general. He served as commander until 1987. The General served the United States with distinction during his military career.

The numerous decorations, citations and commendations bestowed upon him, speak volume about the character of General Semenza. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Unit Citation, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, the World War II Victory and Occupation Medals, the New York State Conspicuous Medal, the NYG Commendation Medal, the NYS Long and Faithful Service Decoration for 25 years of military service and the New York Guard Medal. General Semenza also served as the president of the State Defense Force Association of the United States.

General Semenza earned his Bachelor of Science degree and master's degree in education from Fordham University. He began his teaching career in 1946 and 2 years later joined the faculty of Fordham College, where he met his wife, Renata Gouthier.

In 1955, General Semenza began his work with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. He served as diocesan superintendent of schools, director of the Diocesan Development and Stewardship Office and executive director of the National Catholic Stewardship Council Inc. He was appointed to the New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents, chief administrator of the National Catholic Education Association and the American Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Beyond General Semenza's ceaseless civic work, he managed to be a loving and involved husband, father, and grandfather. To be well-known as not only a giving and determined individual, but also as a devoted family man, is a remarkable honor. I am sure that his family is very proud of the wonderful life he led. General Semenza was a wonderful individual who showed us the beauty and power of dedication, leadership, and wisdom. He was truly an inspiration to all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Major General Amato Matty Semenza.

FEDERAL WAR ON DRUGS
THREATENS THE EFFECTIVE
TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PAIN

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the publicity surrounding popular radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh's legal troubles relating to his use of the pain killer OxyContin will hopefully focus public attention on how the federal War on Drugs threatens the effective treatment of chronic pain. Prosecutors have seized Mr. Limbaugh's medical records in connection with an investigation into charges that Mr. Limbaugh violated federal drug laws. The fact that Mr. Limbaugh is a high profile, and often controversial, conservative media personality has given rise to speculation that the prosecution is politically motivated. Adding to this suspicion is the fact that individual pain patients are rarely prosecuted in this type of case.

In cases where patients are not high profile celebrities like Mr. Limbaugh, it is a pain management physician who bears the brunt of overzealous prosecutors. Faced with the failure of the War on Drugs to eliminate drug cartels and kingpins, prosecutors and police have turned their attention to pain management doctors, using federal statutes designed for the prosecution of drug kingpins to prosecute physicians for prescribing pain medicine.

Many of the cases brought against physicians are rooted in the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)'s failure to consider current medical standards regarding the use of opioids, including OxyContin, in formulating policy. Opioids are the pharmaceuticals considered most effective in relieving chronic pain. Federal law classifies most opioids as Schedule II drugs, the same classification given to cocaine and heroin, despite a growing body of opinion among the medical community that opioids should not be classified with these substances.

Furthering the problem is that patients often must consume very large amounts of opioids to obtain long-term relief. Some prescriptions may be for hundreds of pills and last only a month. A prescription this large may appear suspicious. But, according to many pain management specialists, it is medically necessary, in many cases, to prescribe such a large number of pills to effectively treat chronic pain. However, zealous prosecutors show no interest in learning the basic facts of pain management.

This harassment by law enforcement has forced some doctors to close their practices, while others have stopped prescribing opioids—even though opioids are the only way some of their patients can obtain pain relief. The current attitude toward pain physicians is exemplified by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gene Rossi's statement that "our office will try our best to root out [certain doctors] like the Taliban."

Prosecutors show no concern for how their actions will affect patients who need large amounts of opioids to control their chronic pain. For example, the prosecutor in the case of Dr. Cecil Knox of Roanoke, Virginia told all of Dr. Knox's patients to seek help in federal clinics even though none of the federal clinics would prescribe effective pain medicine.

Doctors are even being punished for the misdeeds of their patients. For example, Dr. James Graves was sentenced to more than 60 years for manslaughter because several of his patients overdosed on various combinations of pain medications and other drugs, including illegal street drugs. As a physician with over thirty years experience in private practice, I find it outrageous that a physician would be held criminally liable for a patient's misuse of medicine.

The American Association of Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), one of the nation's leading defenders of private medical practice and medical liberty, has recently advised doctors to avoid prescribing opioids because, according to AAPS, "drug agents set medical standards." I would hope that my colleagues would agree that doctors, not federal agents, should determine medical standards.

By waging this war on pain physicians, the government is condemning patients to either live with excruciating chronic pain or seek opioids from other, less reliable, sources—such as street drug dealers. Of course, opioids bought on the street will likely pose a greater risk of damaging a patient's health than will opioids obtained from a physician.

Finally, as the Limbaugh case reveals, the prosecution of pain management physicians destroys the medical privacy of all chronic pain patients. Under the guise of prosecuting the drug war, law enforcement officials can rummage through patients' personal medical records and, as may be the case with Mr. Limbaugh, use information uncovered to settle personal or political scores. I am pleased that AAPS, along with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), has joined the effort to protect Mr. Limbaugh's medical records.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should take action to rein in overzealous prosecutors and law enforcement officials and stop the harassment of legitimate pain management physicians, who are acting in good faith in prescribing opioids for relief from chronic pain. Doctors should not be prosecuted for doing what, in their best medical judgment, is in their patients' best interest. Doctors should also not be prosecuted for the misdeeds of their patients.

Finally, I wish to express my hope that Mr. Limbaugh's case will encourage his many fans and supporters to consider how their support for the federal War on Drugs is inconsistent with their support of individual liberty and Constitutional government.

RECOGNIZING LUPUS
INTERNATIONAL

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lupus International for their dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life for individuals living with lupus.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that afflicts 2.8 million people in the United States. The disease affects more people than AIDS, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, sickle cell anemia, and cystic fibrosis combined, yet many people have never heard of the disease. There is no known cure for lupus and there are few treatments specific to the disease.

Founded in 1983, Lupus International is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising public awareness, patient education, and supporting lupus research. For over 20 years, Lupus International has played a vital role in the battle against this destructive disease. I commend Lupus International for their service to millions of Americans suffering from lupus.

Mr. Speaker, by supporting such private efforts as Lupus International, we pay tribute to the victims suffering from this disease. We also honor those whose efforts will one day eradicate lupus as a life-threatening disease.

CONGRATULATING THE CARNEGIE
SCIENCE CENTER

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate The Carnegie Science Center, one of four Carnegie Museums in Pittsburgh, for being named one of the three recipients of the 2003 National Awards for Museum Service, the country's highest honor for extraordinary community service provided by a museum. The Carnegie Museums empowers the residents of Western Pennsylvania with knowledge in the fields of science and technology.

The team at The Carnegie Science Center is truly committed to their surrounding communities. On January 22, 2004 it was honored in The East Room of The White House by First Lady Laura Bush for their dedication. Those present at the ceremony to receive the award were: Mareena Woodbury-Moore, a ninth grade student at Schenley High School in Pittsburgh and also a standout participant in Mission Discovery—Carnegie Science Center's outreach program. Mareena was joined by Joanna E. Haas, director of The Carnegie Science Center, and Howard J. Bruschi, Chairman of the Carnegie Science Center board of directors.

Since 1994, The Carnegie Science Center has run neighborhood programs that educate local residents, of all ages, about the advantages of technology. Their hard work and dedication has made the city of Pittsburgh a better place.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating the efforts of The Carnegie Science Center to improve the quality of life in the City of Pittsburgh. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to recognize the leadership of The Carnegie Science Center.

RECOGNIZING LEON G. KERRY,
CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION COMMIS-
SIONER, ON HIS OUTSTANDING
LEADERSHIP IN THE PROMOTION
OF COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Leon G. Kerry, Commissioner of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic

Association (CIAA), on his tremendous leadership as head of the nation's oldest African-American college athletic conference.

Mr. Kerry, a resident of Chesapeake, Virginia, is now in his fourteenth year as Commissioner of the CIAA. In that time he has brought the conference from a largely regional entity to a hugely popular and highly respected athletic organization with national appeal.

After graduating from Norfolk State University with a degree in Business Administration, Mr. Kerry served proudly in the United States Army and Army Reserve, rising to the rank of Captain.

Upon completion of his military service, Mr. Kerry rose through the ranks of corporate banking serving as vice president of Sovran Bank.

Mr. Kerry implemented his extensive banking experience as a part-time volunteer with the CIAA, where he restructured the conference's financial organization. Within six months Kerry had left banking behind and became the CIAA business manager.

With a penchant for numbers and a natural business sense, Mr. Kerry became an obvious choice for the position of interim commissioner of the CIAA, a position he took in May of 1989. He later became full-time commissioner in February 1990.

Under Kerry's guidance the CIAA has blossomed and become a leader in athletic competition. Through unwavering support of the conference and its athletes, Mr. Kerry has led unprecedented fundraising efforts to develop the CIAA and increase its accessibility for both student athletes and sport enthusiasts alike.

Quickly becoming one of the nation's premier collegiate competitions, the CIAA basketball tournament is among the region's most highly anticipated annual sporting events. As Commissioner, Mr. Kerry has overseen the growth of the tournament rise from a spectator base of about 10,000 to its current attendance of over 80,000. The tournament now enjoys nationwide television coverage and vast corporate sponsorship.

Because of Mr. Kerry's resounding success, he is now the longest-tenured commissioner of a historically black college or university athletic conference. Mr. Kerry continues to advocate education as well as athletics and the students of the CIAA have benefited immensely from his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Commissioner Leon Kerry for his leadership in collegiate athletics, his commitment to student athletes and the many contributions he has made to his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall vote No. 20 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been here, I would have voted "aye."

SECURE EXISTING AVIATION LOOPHOLES (SEAL) ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, more than two and one-half years after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, dangerous gaps still persist in the Nation's aviation security system. Today, I am introducing the Secure Existing Aviation Loopholes (SEAL) Act to address the pressing security problems that continue to threaten the safety of airline passengers and crew members.

INSPECTION OF CARGO CARRIED ABOARD PASSENGER AIRCRAFT

Twenty-two percent of all the cargo that is shipped by air in the United States is transported aboard passenger aircraft, amounting to about 2.8 million tons of cargo loaded aboard passenger airplanes each year. The Department of Homeland Security does not routinely inspect cargo transported on passenger planes. Instead, the Department relies on paperwork checks of manifests as part of the Department's flawed Known Shipper Program and random physical inspections that are randomly verified by the Department. This cargo loophole in aviation security has been repeatedly exploited. For example, in September 2003, a shipping clerk packed himself inside a wooden crate and shipped himself undetected from New York to Texas aboard a cargo plane, and Pan Am Flight 103 was brought down in 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland by a bomb contained in unscreened baggage.

The SEAL Act requires 100 percent physical inspection of cargo that is transported on passenger planes. The costs of physical screening, estimated to be comparable to the \$1.8 billion funding level for screening checked baggage, would be offset by a cargo security fee, similar to the fee that passenger pay for security measures when they purchase airline tickets.

FEDERAL AIR MARSHALS

Ten transatlantic flights were canceled over the weekend of January 31–February 1, 2004 due to heightened fears of a possible Al Qaeda attack, and 16 international flights were canceled or delayed over the Christmas and New Year's holidays as a result of specific intelligence that the flights might be terrorist targets. The cancellations resulted when some European carriers such as Air France and British Airways refused to place armed marshals onboard and instead opted to cancel the flights. There are no international standards to define what constitutes proper training for air marshals. Consequently, air marshals on flights that originate overseas and are bound for the U.S. may have different training that could be inconsistent with best practices.

The SEAL Act prohibits foreign air carriers from taking off or landing in the United States unless a Federal air marshal or an equivalent officer of the government of the foreign country is onboard, in cases when the Secretary of Homeland Security requests that an air marshal or officer of a foreign country travel on the flight.

Given intelligence indicating that terrorist may try to commandeer all-cargo planes and crash them into nuclear power plants and

other critical infrastructure in the U.S., the SEAL Act provides authority for Federal Air Marshals to travel aboard cargo aircraft, as needed. The Federal Air Marshal Service does not currently have this authority.

IMPROVED AVIATION SECURITY

Flight Attendants

Flight attendants do not have a discreet, secure and wireless method of communicating with pilots in the cockpit, with air marshals who may be onboard the aircraft or with authorities on the ground. Flight attendants must rely on telephones affixed to the interior of the passenger cabin if they need to communicate with pilots via phone or with authorities on the ground. These phones can be easily disabled. Flight attendants do not have a method of communicating via phone with air marshals onboard. On American Airlines Flight 11, which was crashed into the Pentagon on September 11th, flight attendants were unable to communicate by phone with the cockpit. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 included the directive that carriers' provide flight attendants with a secure, wireless method of communicating with pilots, but this provision was inserted in a voluntary section of the Aviation Transportation Security Act.

The SEAL Act makes mandatory the provision of wireless communication systems for flight crew and air marshals.

Crew Training

Prior to the September 11th terrorist attacks, air carrier responsibilities for security and anti-hijacking training for flight crews were set forth in the Air Carrier Standard Security Program, also known as the Common Strategy. The Common Strategy was originally developed in the 1980s, and it emphasized accommodation of hijackers' demands, delaying tactics, and safely landing the airplane. It advised air crews to refrain from trying to overpower or negotiate with the hijackers. On September 11th, the Common Strategy offered no defense against the tactics employed by the hijackers of Flights 11, 77, 93, and 175.

Enacted on December 12, 2003, Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (PL 108–176) made voluntary many of the important elements of self-defense training for crew members that had been mandatory in Section 1403 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (PL 107–296). Training in the following tactics is voluntary under Section 603 of the 2003 aviation reauthorization, but had been mandatory in Section 1403 of the Homeland Security Act:

The SEAL Act will reinstate the requirement established in the Homeland Security Act to make counter-terror training for aircraft crew mandatory.

International Cooperation on Aviation Security

The cancellation of more than two dozen international flights since December 2003 suggests significant disagreement between the U.S. and some foreign nations over the best way to respond to terrorist threats to aviation security. In January 2003, Asa Hutchinson, Undersecretary of Border and Transportation Security in the Department of Homeland Security, met with European officials to discuss aviation security measures, including the use of air marshals on international flights to the U.S. No agreement was reached with European governments on the placement of air marshals on U.S.-bound flights in cases when intelligence about terrorist threats against flights is received.

The SEAL Act directs the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a well-constructed plan to improve coordination between the Department and its foreign counterparts in the area of aviation security. This plan includes development of air marshal programs for foreign governments and the provision of technical assistance in the formulation of strategies to tighten security measures at foreign airports.

Comprehensive Pre-Flight Screening

Pre-flight security inspections of the passenger cabins and lavatories of commercial aircraft often are performed by low-wage, poorly trained contract employees. In September 2003, a college student named Nathaniel Heatwole placed box cutters, matches, bleach and simulated explosives on Southwest Airlines flights. These items were not discovered by airline officials until approximately one month later. Heatwole also placed dangerous items on two other Southwest flights in February 2003, and they remained undetected until April 2003. In October 2003, potentially dangerous items were also found on US Airways flights.

The Transportation Security Administration has issued a requirement effective in January 2004 for detailed documentation of security inspections performed by air carriers prior to each aircraft's first departure of the day. The directive affects the documentation of the inspections, but does not change the manner in which the security inspections are performed by the airline's contract cleaning crew or the level of verification that TSA provides to ensure the inspections are thoroughly conducted.

The SEAL Act sets a firm deadline for the improvement of pre-flight security inspections of the interior of passenger planes to increase the likelihood that any dangerous items hidden in the plane will be promptly discovered. The SEAL Act also includes new requirements that subject individuals who are performing the pre-flight inspections to additional security checks, including passage through a checkpoint to detect any metallic objects prior to accessing the plane; screening of any items to be carried aboard the plane to detect hazardous substances such as chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials; a criminal history background check, social security check and check against all terrorist watch lists maintained by the government.

CONTROL OVER ACCESS TO SECURED AREAS OF AIRPORTS

Airport workers with access to sensitive areas of airports, including the airplanes, are not required to pass through metal detectors or have their personal items x-rayed before reporting to work at each of the nation's commercial airports. Airport workers have taken advantage of lax security controls to commit crimes. For example, in November 2003, a massive narcotics smuggling operation that exploited airport security weaknesses was broken up at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

While criminal background checks are required under current law for employees with unescorted access to an airport's sensitive identification display area (SIDA), there are no uniform requirements applicable to all airport workers that mandate checks of Social Security numbers and checks against terrorist watch lists maintained by the government.

The SEAL Act directs the Department of Homeland Security to issue regulations within

180 days after the bill's enactment that improve control over access to secure areas in airports nationwide. The SEAL Act requires all airport workers with access to secure areas of airports, including aircraft, to pass through devices to detect for metallic objects and have any personal items screened to detect any hazardous chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials before entering these areas. In addition to criminal background checks, the SEAL Act requires that airport employees are checked against terrorist watch lists, that workers' Social Security numbers are checked against government databases to ensure the documents' legitimacy and verify that the Social Security number is assigned to the individual presenting it.

AIRCRAFT MANEUVERS

In December 2003, a C-17 U.S. transport plane was hit by a missile shortly after take off from Baghdad. An engine exploded, but the plane returned safely with only one of its 16 people aboard slightly injured. In November 2003, an Airbus A300 cargo plane operated by the courier company DHL departing from Baghdad to Bahrain was struck by a SAM-7 ground-to-air missile. The plane's engine caught fire, and it was forced to make an emergency landing at Baghdad International Airport. None of the plane's crew was injured in the incident.

Pilots currently receive training on how to fly the aircraft and land it safely if engines fail. Pilots are required to receive training on how to maneuver and land a two-engine plane with only one functioning engine; a three engine plane with only two engines functioning; and a four engine plane with only two engines functioning. However, pilots do not receive recurrent training in how to maneuver and safely land the aircraft in the event of a complete failure of the hydraulic system in which normal flight controls are not available. If an aircraft is struck by a surface-to-air missile, it may experience such failures, as was the case when the DHL cargo plane was hit by a SAM-7 missile in Iraq last year.

The SEAL Act requires air carriers to provide pilots with training in flight deck procedures, aircraft maneuvers and best practices that enable pilots to respond if the aircraft is struck by a surface-to-air missile. The training is designed to increase the likelihood that pilots will be capable of safely landing the aircraft and will include components that simulate the complete failure of the aircraft's hydraulic system and loss of normal flight controls.

AGGRESSIVE FLYING MANEUVERS

According to the FAA, aggressive flying techniques were not part of training provided pilots prior to passage of the 2003 FAA reauthorization. As of February 2004, a TSA working group is finalizing its training recommendations on flight deck procedures or aircraft maneuvers to defend the aircraft. TSA does not expect to recommend any maneuvers that could be considered "aggressive."

The SEAL Act recognizes the need to balance the security benefits of maneuvers and procedures with the potential risks, in terms of passenger safety and the structural limitations of the aircraft. The SEAL Act requires the Secretary to issue regulations that require the carriers to provide, in conjunction with appropriate law enforcement authorities, crew members with training in procedures for communicating and coordinating effectively with Federal Air Marshals and law enforcement officers during

unauthorized attempts to disrupt the normal operation of the aircraft.

SECURING COCKPIT DOORS

According to the Coalition of Airline Pilots, approximately 60 percent of cargo planes are not equipped with cockpit doors that separate the flight deck from the aircraft's cargo bay. In September 2003, a shipping clerk packed himself inside a wooden crate and shipped himself undetected from New York to Texas aboard a cargo plane. Fortunately, he was an industrious tourist, rather than an industrious terrorist.

Some cargo carriers have installed cockpit doors, but the majority of cargo planes still lack any door between cockpit and cargo bay.

The SEAL Act requires all cargo planes to have reinforced cockpit doors, including sturdy partitions surrounding the doors. Within 180 days after enactment of the legislation, the Secretary is directed to issue an order that all cargo aircraft must have, no later than 1 year from the date of issuance of the order, a reinforced, lockable door, including the surrounding partition, between the pilot and cargo compartments.

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL AVIATION

According to a November 5, 2003 GAO report, *Aviation Security: Efforts to Measure Effectiveness and Address Challenges* (GAO-04-232T), "Since September 2001, TSA has taken limited action to improve general aviation, leaving general aviation far more open and potentially vulnerable than commercial aviation. General aviation is vulnerable because general aviation pilots and passengers are not screened before takeoff and the contents of general aviation planes are not screened at any point." There are more than 200,000 general aviation aircraft, which are located in every state at more than 19,000 airports. According to TSA's working group on general aviation, general aviation aircraft are responsible for 77 percent of all air traffic in the U.S.

TSA is taking some steps, such as developing a risk-based self-assessment tool for general aviation airports to use to identify security concerns, but these steps fall short of what is required.

The SEAL Act directs the Secretary to establish a no-fly zone around the following facilities whenever the threat level reaches Orange or at any other level the Secretary deems appropriate: sensitive nuclear facilities such as nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons materials production facilities, and chemical facilities identified by the Environmental Protection Agency at which a release of the facility's hazardous materials could threaten the health of over 1 million people, and any other facilities the Secretary shall so designate.

The SEAL Act requires the operators of general aviation airports and landing facilities to complete vulnerability assessments developed by TSA, which evaluate the facilities' physical security, procedures, infrastructure and resources. The SEAL Act also requires TSA to develop a plan for addressing vulnerabilities identified by these assessments no later than 1 year from the date of enactment.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better, and we must do more to improve our aviation security. I urge my colleagues to support the SEAL Act, which will close dangerous loopholes in our airline security system.

IN HONOR OF HOWARD JONAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I want to praise Howard Jonas, a man who donates enough to charity to be called a philanthropist, who works to better his community, and who is being honored for his work in the United States on behalf of Israel.

Howard was born in the Bronx, attended one of New York City's premier schools, Bronx High School of Science, and then went to Harvard University, graduating with a B.A. in Economics.

He has been manifestly successful in his businesses, starting at the age of 14 with a hot dog stand near a local hospital. Since then he has gone on to travel brochure distribution, business-to-business directories, mail-order bonsai Christmas trees, and to run one of the country's largest direct mail businesses out of his dorm room at Harvard. When one of his employees moved overseas he got into the international telephone callback business.

From there he went on to found IDT in August of 1990, a model of upstart entrepreneurship, serving as Chairman of the Board since its inception.

He has been generous in his giving and serves as a trustee on many university, religious, and social service organization Boards. He also serves as a National Board member of AIPAC where he fosters close relations with some of our nation's most prominent leaders on behalf of a strong United States-Israeli relationship.

Finally I speak of him as a close friend, a man from the old neighborhood who never forgot where he came from. He is a caring and generous man and I am proud that he is my friend.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW J. BURNS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matthew J. Burns, the "2004 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year," and commend him on his tremendous achievements in the field of engineering.

Matthew Burns is the President of Burns Engineering Inc. and a resident of Exton, Pennsylvania. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth and has over 20 years of professional experience in the Philadelphia area.

Matt oversees the activities at Burns Engineering, a Philadelphia-based engineering design and construction management firm which was founded by his father, Robert C. Burns. Under Matt's guidance, the company has expanded to five offices in the mid-Atlantic region. Burns Engineering was recognized as the "Service Company of the Year" by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce in 2002. In addition, the company has been named as one of Philadelphia's "100 Fastest Growing Companies" for the past three years.

Matt's service to his profession and community is extensive. His professional service in-

cludes the following leadership roles: President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA), President of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) and Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council (DVEWC), and Chairman of the Engineering Achievement Awards. He is also an active member in several other technical and professional societies. In his community, he is involved in the Saint Phillip and James Church, serves as a volunteer leader with the Boy Scouts, and is a chief for the YMCA's Indian Guides/Princess program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Matthew J. Burns for all the work he has done in the field of engineering and as an active member and leader in our community.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED IRISH COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United Irish Counties Association. The UICA represents people from all the counties of Ireland who came to the United States, helping those who were new to the country and encouraging fellowship among all, no matter where they came from in Ireland.

Until the founding of UICA, most Irish people joined organizations representing their individual counties. What UICA did was give the whole immigrant community, and its children, a unified voice in Irish affairs and a broader ability to help newcomers.

With the assimilation of the Irish into the mainstream of America, it meant that the Irish population was not only rising economically but spreading geographically. With the breakup of the old Irish neighborhoods, the UICA came into its own as a representative of Irish affairs.

The growth and rise of the Irish immigrant community is a story of the success of America. The United States filled its broad spaces with the best from Europe then and the rest of the world now.

Starting in the 1840s, and propelled by the terrible experience of the Great Famine, the Irish came to America, made it their own, and made it better. They overcame prejudice and poverty and within five generations elected one of their own as president. In many ways the Irish were the template of the immigrant waves which followed; arriving individually, coming together to help one another, and then taking advantage of the opportunities that this country offered.

The United Irish Counties Association deserves much of the credit for this success, and for the continuing success of the Irish immigrants who still come to America, many to Woodlawn and Yonkers in my Congressional District. If America is ever to expand geographically again, I suspect that Ireland could be the 51st state.

I congratulate the United Irish Counties Association for a century of growing by helping.

CONGRATULATING FREDERICK WILLIAMS FOR BEING NAMED BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Frederick Williams of McFatter Technical High School in Davie, Florida for being selected as the Broward County Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Williams has been an educator for the past 22 years, the last 17 years of which have been spent in Broward County. He studied at Florida State University where he earned his Bachelor's and two Master's degrees in music education and arts administration. Since 2001, Mr. Williams has been a teacher of technology for 11th and 12th grade students at McFatter Technical High School.

Among Mr. Williams' many achievements as an educator, is a program he developed for teaching computer technology. His students are educated to such a level that upon completion, they are able to visit other schools and assist as computer technicians. Additionally, Mr. Williams supports his students as a Big Brother and mentor. He has been involved as a New Educator Support System (NESS) Coach for teachers at Plantation High and is currently a NESS Coach for the Computer Programming Instructor at his school.

Mr. Speaker, underscoring Mr. Williams' success is his learned philosophy on teaching. He believes in many underlying principles: learning to use one's mind; a student as worker and teacher as coach philosophy; tone of decency and trust; and demonstration of mastery. He accurately describes the teaching profession as "one of the most important in our country," and understands that the education of our children "is one of the greatest and most important investments of time and money for creating a brighter future."

Mr. Williams embodies what Americans desire from their educators. He is passionate about his profession and takes a keen interest in the academic and personal development of his students. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Williams acknowledged that he teaches not for prestige or job benefits, but for knowing that he has touched a student's life. He is a role model for educators in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Williams on being named the Broward County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, and I thank him for his invaluable contribution to the future of his students and to the Broward County Community.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN TILLEMA

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. John Tillema of Pueblo, Colorado, has devoted his life to instructing both the young and old to ski

the slopes of his beloved state. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize John's tremendous enthusiasm and contributions to the sport of skiing before my colleagues here today.

John learned to ski while serving with the Army Air Corps during World War II. After the war, he returned to Colorado where he graduated from the University of Colorado and went on to a career in the insurance business. John's true passion, however, was on the ski slopes. As an instructor, he has spent over thirty years teaching his craft. John's commitment to the sport has earned him several prestigious awards, such as the USA Ski Instructor of the Year and the Ski Country USA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to John Tillema and his zest for life and the sport of skiing; a passion that I am sure resonates throughout his many students over the years. I would like to thank him for his contributions before this body of Congress and nation today, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Thanks John for your service.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF DAVID HAYES—SECRETARY/TREASURER OF BLUFF CITY LODGE 660, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and retirement of David W. Hayes, the Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the Bluff City Lodge 660, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in East Alton, Illinois.

David Hayes has honorably served the area and the union in a number of capacities for nearly 45 years—27 of those as an officer of the union. The local that Dave represents has over 4400 retirees and workers at 14 area businesses—Olin Corporation, Beall Manufacturing, Conoco Phillips, Lenhardt Tool and Die, Owens-Illinois, Rotary Ram, Dugan Tool and Die, Dooling Machine Products, ASF Keystone, Gebco Machine, M&W Machine and Gear Shop, Cooper B-Line and the Warren G Murray Development Center.

Dave started his career at Olin in 1959 and held in-plant positions with the union that included Steward, Committeeman, Lodge Trustee, Recording Secretary and Chairman of the Mechanical Groups. He was elected as the full-time Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Bluff City Lodge 660 in 1989 and has been re-elected four times since. He has served as the First Vice President of the Greater Madison County Federation of Labor for the past 15 years and has represented the Federation on the Board of Directors of the Greater Alton/Twin Rivers Growth Association. He has been the Labor Representative on the United Way Partnership for many years, serving on both their Executive Board and Personnel Committee. As part of the Federation of Labor, Dave served on their Political Committee for

many years and has served on both the 12th and the 19th Congressional District COPE Committees.

Each year, Dave is also responsible for organizing the Alton, Illinois Labor Day parade. During the two-month Olin strike, Dave was responsible for the payments of over 2.1 million dollars in strike benefits to the 2,538 Machinists on strike at Olin. Dave has been the recipient of the 2001 Labor Leader of the Year Award presented by the Federation of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of David Hayes and wish him and his family the very best in the future.

IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the month of February is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the often overlooked achievements and contributions of African-Americans throughout our country's history.

Although African-Americans settled the American frontier alongside British colonists, it was not until the establishment of "Black History Month" in 1926, that they were afforded the respect and dignity they are rightfully due. If not for the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who first noticed a glaring disparity in historical texts and established the "Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History," the stories of prominent and influential African American men and women would still be hidden in the shadows today.

The choice of February as the month of celebration honors the birthday of two important figures in the history of African-Americans. The first is Frederick Douglass, a leader of the abolitionist movement during the Civil War, as well as a prolific author, newspaper editor, and dedicated civil servant. The second is none other than our sixteenth president of the United States, the author of the Emancipation Proclamation, Abraham Lincoln. The month of February also marks the anniversary of important events such as the birth of civil rights leader W.E.B. Dubois, the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment granting black suffrage, the first black senator and the establishment of the NAACP.

I proudly represent the 17th district of New York, which is rich in African-American history. From early politicians to entertainers, African-Americans in the Bronx, Westchester, and Rockland counties have contributed to our nation. This month I would like to recognize Denzel Washington's contribution to our culture through his talented work in film. A native of Mount Vernon, this actor, producer and director is one of only two African-Americans to have received an academy award in the best actor category. While living in Mount Vernon, Denzel Washington was an active community member taking advantage of the Boys' Club of America. Today he continues his work as a leading spokesman for the organization, as well as a being an outstanding supporter of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and an AIDS-hospice called The Gathering Place. Through his talent and dedication, Denzel

Washington has left his mark as a positive leader in our community and important contributor to our culture.

I am always inspired by the community spirit and leadership I witness from African-Americans in New York and around the country. It is my hope that as we commemorate Black History Month in the future, we will continue to celebrate the many achievements and rich culture of African-Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT GREENE BAKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to a man from my district. Robert Greene Baker, of Grand Junction, Colorado, passed away recently at the age of eighty-eight. Robert will be remembered as a patriot and devoted community member, and it is my honor to recognize his life and accomplishments before this body of Congress here today.

After serving his country as a Marine in World War II, Robert returned to Colorado. He later married his best friend Mary, a loving marriage that lasted sixty-three years. Together, they raised three wonderful children. Robert spent almost four decades with the Public Service Company of Colorado, earning the title of supervisor. Upon retiring, Robert was fortunate to enjoy time spent fishing and traveling to a variety of exotic locations with his family. Robert was also passionate about giving back to his community. He could be found volunteering for a variety of civic organizations, such as the Mesa County United Way, Grand Junction Planning Commission and the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to the life of Robert Greene Baker. Robert served this nation and he leaves behind a legacy of dedication and commitment to his family and community. My heart goes out to his family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

FREEDOM FOR ANGELA JUAN MOYA ACOSTA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Angel Juan Moya Acosta, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Moya is a tireless advocate for the freedom of Cuba. He is the founder and president of the Alternative Action Movement, a member of the Independent National Labor Federation and a signatory of the "All United" manifesto that asked for changes in Cuban society and demanded the release of all political prisoners.

Mr. Moya has dedicated much of his work to the cause of freedom for the Cuban people. However, under Castro's totalitarian regime,

Mr. Moya has been constantly harassed and arrested for his pro-democracy activities. In December, 1999, Mr. Moya was detained after participating in a peaceful demonstration to celebrate the 51st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One year later, in December, 2000, Mr. Moya was sentenced to one year in the Cuban gulag and 10 years confinement to his home province, Matanzas. According to Amnesty International,

The sentence was reportedly imposed because, in the course of a mass celebrated at his home in November 2000, prayers were said for political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, including calls for them to be amnestied.

Following his release from the totalitarian gulag, Mr. Moya resumed his peaceful quest to guarantee fundamental human rights for every citizen of Cuba. On August 15, 2002, Mr. Moya received the second annual Pedro Luis Boitel Freedom Award for his courage in carrying out nonviolent civic resistance in totalitarian Cuba.

As part of the Cuban tyrant's brutal March, 2003 crackdown against pro-democracy activists, Mr. Moya was once again arrested. In a sham trial, Mr. Moya was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Moya is languishing in the wretched filth of Castro's totalitarian gulag, simply because he is an advocate for freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Angel Juan Moya Acosta and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMENDATION OF THE JAVITS-WAGER-O'DAY (JWOD) PROGRAM

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a startling statistic—the 50 percent unemployment rate of people with disabilities in America. For those with severe disabilities, the number is even more—it is 70 percent. People with disabilities face many barriers to employment, including everything from transportation to contending with the prevailing attitude surrounding the disabled, but many of them want to work. They want the opportunity.

All too often, people focus on the disability of a person, not the *ability*. But people with disabilities *want* to work, and *can* work. It's up to us to recognize the potential of all Americans and provide the opportunities needed to reverse this statistic and to allow people with disabilities to become self-sufficient, independent, tax-paying citizens.

To that end, I am proud to support employment opportunities for people with disabilities, particularly through the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies with disabilities. The JWOD Program provides people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and

quality of life. Through the JWOD Program, people with disabilities enjoy full participation in their community and can market their JWOD-learned skills into other public and private sector jobs.

In the United States, the program serves 40,000 people in the disability community and generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, some 972 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of JWOD. 972 lives were changed. For many out of that 972, it was the first time they had a job, drew a paycheck, had the experience of being independent. These are things many of us take for granted, but for some—particularly people with disabilities—it means the world.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the great contributions of American workers with disabilities and I encourage others to do so on February 26th, which is National Disability Day. More importantly, let us all remember everyday that everyone has an ability—everyone has something to share for the greater good. America truly works best when all Americans work. I commend the JWOD Program, its supporters, and its participants for making a difference where it is needed most.

HONORING JOHN A. CANNING, JR.

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend, colleague and leader of Chicago's business community, John A. Canning, Jr.

On February 1, 2004, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan made an exemplary choice when he appointed John A. Canning, Jr. as a Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

John A. Canning, Jr. is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Madison Dearborn Partners. Based in Chicago, Madison Dearborn Partners is one of the largest and most experienced private equity investment firms in the United States.

Prior to co-founding Madison Dearborn Partners, John spent 24 years with First Chicago Corporation, most recently as Executive Vice President of The First National Bank of Chicago and President of First Chicago Venture Capital. Mr. Canning has more than a quarter century of experience in private equity investing.

John's service to Chicago's business community is matched only by his commitment to Chicago's philanthropic community. He currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Jefferson Smurfit Group plc, Norfolk Tides Baseball Club, LaSalle National Bank, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and Children's Inner City Educational Fund.

In addition, John lends his vast experience to the Boards of Trustees of The Big Shoulders Fund, The Chicago Community Trust, Denison University, Dublin City University Educational Trust, The Field Museum, and Northwestern University. A common thread among John's contributions and the goals of these organizations is their shared dedication to community service.

Mr. Speaker, on the eve of his first board meeting, I want to wish John Canning continued success as he puts his vast knowledge and wide-ranging expertise to work for the American people. The citizens of Chicago and indeed the country are fortunate to have him at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS MESARIC

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the life of a fellow Coloradan. After over a decade of fighting with a rare illness, Chris Mesaric from Montrose, CO, sadly passed away recently at the age of thirty-five. Chris was a loving husband, proud father, and devoted son. He will be missed by many, and I think it appropriate that we remember his life here today.

When Chris was diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia, he was given only days to live, but Chris decided that he would not accept waiting around to die, vowing to fight his ailment to the fullest. Regardless of the amount of pain that Chris may have experienced during treatments, he never let on to his suffering and instead focused on spending time with his family and those he loved. He is survived by his parents Frank and Linda, his wife Robin and two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress to pay tribute to the life of Chris Mesaric. He was a beloved man who overcame obstacles, always lived life to the fullest, and was an inspiration to many. The Montrose community and State of Colorado will truly miss him. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

TEXAS TEACHER GPO LOOPHOLE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of equality in Social Security law for all working Americans. Today we're having the final round of debate on a bill that will bring about fairness and equity to a system under scrutiny. While this bill covers many other topics, for Texans, this bill is about closing an unjust loophole.

For 95 percent of America's working husbands and wives, there is a rule that says people may collect only the higher of spousal benefits or retirement benefits, but they cannot collect both. . . . That is—unless you're in the Texas Teacher Retirement System. The Texas Teacher Retirement System is a substitute for Social Security, their version of the dual entitlement rule is called the Government Pension Offset.

The dual entitlement rule applies whether a married couple works in jobs such as a nurse and a small business owner, a Social Security covered teacher and an accountant, or a lawyer and an electrical engineer, they both pay into Social Security and are both subject to

this rule. The husband and wife are each able to collect either their retirement benefits earned through their own hard work or they are able to collect spousal benefits—which ever is higher. They cannot collect both.

It is very possible that if one spouse earns significantly less than the other, for example, that nurse and small-business owner, then the nurse is going to have higher spousal benefits than her own retirement benefits. In that case, the nurse will collect the higher spousal benefit, but may end up asking herself why she had to pay Social Security taxes all those years instead of just staying home.

If a retirement benefit is \$600 per month for the nurse—but her spousal benefit is \$800 . . . she would collect \$800—but not \$1,400. For Texas teachers making use of their “last day of work” loophole, they collect spousal benefits, just like that nurse—and then they collect their retirement. By working just one last day in a school district and paying as little as \$3 into Social Security, a teacher can then qualify to receive full Social Security spousal benefits on top of her retirement benefits.

Many teachers in Texas have questioned the system because they want both Social Security spousal benefits and their Texas teacher

retirement. Again, the Texas Teacher Retirement System is a substitute for Social Security; you can do one or the other, but not both. And no one else can do both.

I want teachers to understand that the Government Pension Offset (GPO) only reduces their spousal benefit by two-thirds of their state retirement benefits rather than dollar for dollar as is the case for all other working spouses. That’s right! Anyone subject to GPO gets a better deal and more bang for their buck than 95 percent of the American public. They get one-third more of their spousal benefits than any other working Americans.

The “loophole” that is being closed here today is one small part of the government pension offset meant to encourage entire school districts to join the Social Security system. The unique situation for Texas teachers is that only about 50 Texas school districts participate in Social Security and the other 1,000 school districts participate in the Texas Teacher Retirement System, which again, is a substitute for Social Security coverage.

We’re closing this loophole in the law to create integrity and maintain fairness in the system and to prevent further erosion of the Social Security trust fund. This new law will also

require people to sign a notice acknowledging that employment in a job not covered by Social Security will have an affect upon possible future Social Security benefits.

It’s just sad when constituents who are teachers tell me that they had no idea that a teaching job not covered by Social Security would have an effect upon possible Social Security benefits in the future. It’s important we correct that.

Finally, one more area that has caused great confusion is regarding the annual benefit statements we all receive from the Social Security Administration telling us about our expected future benefits from Social Security. The IRS and SSA will begin collecting information necessary to more accurately reflect on these statements the offsets from jobs not covered by Social Security.

I am pro-teacher and in Texas they have a great state retirement system. But we cannot give special treatment to this small slice of the American population. It’s just not fair—especially when it comes to Social Security and retirement savings. Today we are just making the two systems apply fairly to all Americans. It’s the right thing to do.