

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL L. STERN

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation, and the appreciation of the United States House of Representatives, for the service of Michael L. Stern to the House as Senior Counsel in the Office of General Counsel. After more than 8 years in the Office, Mr. Stern will be moving to the other side of the Capitol to become the Deputy Staff Director for the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Mr. Stern has provided invaluable assistance and advice to the House and its Members, Officers, and Committees in connection with a broad range of legal matters. Many House Committees and Subcommittees, in particular, have come to rely on his expertise and guidance in connection with their investigative and oversight activities. Mr. Stern has brought his litigation skills to bear both in defending Members and other House employees and entities in judicial proceedings at the trial and appellate levels, and in responding to deposition, trial, grand jury, and administrative subpoenas. Over the years, Mr. Stern has also played a significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House in its interactions with other governmental entities.

I know that Mr. Stern will serve the Senate with the same level of distinction with which he served the House. On behalf of the entire House of Representatives, I thank him for his many years of service and extend to him our very best wishes for his continued success.

A PROCLAMATION THANKING THE
1001ST QUARTERMASTER COMPANY
FOR THEIR SERVICE TO
OUR COUNTRY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, the men and women of the 1001st Quartermaster Company of the Army Reserves are returning home after serving their country in Iraq; and

Whereas, the men and women of the 1001st Quartermaster Company are to be commended for their honor and bravery that they displayed while serving our nation in this time of war; and

Whereas, the men and women of the 1001st Quartermaster Company have demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence, and outstanding service;

Therefore, I join with your family and friends, the residents of the Ohio Valley and

the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in thanking the men and women of the 1001st Quartermaster Company for their service to our country.

CONGRATULATING THE SAUK RAPIDS-RICE STORM ON THEIR VICTORY IN THE MINNESOTA CLASS A BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING STATE TOURNAMENT

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sauk Rapids-Rice Storm on their victory in the Minnesota Class A Boys Swimming and Diving State Tournament. This is the first State title for the Storm after finishing second last season.

Coached by Tom Swanson, the Storm narrowly defeated Hutchinson, 237-233, by placing first in the last event of the meet, the 400 freestyle relay. Two seniors on the relay team had been involved in the swimming program since the seventh grade—Jason Timmer and Connor Ziegler. Timmer also placed first in the 50 and 100 freestyle, posting All-American times in both events and setting a state Class A record in the 100.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the students, coaches and fans from Sauk Rapids-Rice High School on their championship season. It's a great tribute to their hard work, dedication and overall team effort and I know everyone in Minnesota is proud of their accomplishments.

FLORIDA AS THE NEXT FLORIDA

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

FLORIDA AS THE NEXT FLORIDA

[From the New York Times, Mar. 14, 2004]

As Floridians went to the polls last Tuesday, Glenda Hood, Katherine Harris's successor as secretary of state, assured the Nation that Florida's voting system would not break down this year the way it did in 2000. Florida now has "the very best" technology available, she declared on CNN. "And I do feel that it's a great disservice to create the feeling that there's a problem when there is not." Hours later, results in Bay County showed that with more than 60 percent of precincts reporting, Richard Gephardt, who long before had pulled out of the presidential race, was beating John Kerry by two to one. "I'm devastated," the county's top election official said, promising a recount of his county's 19,000 votes.

Four years after Florida made a mockery of American elections, there is every reason

to believe it could happen again. This time, the problems will most likely be with the electronic voting that has replaced chad-producing punch cards. Some counties, including Bay County, use paper ballots that are fed into an optical scanner, so a recount is possible if there are questions. But 15 Florida counties, including Palm Beach, home of the infamous "butterfly ballot," have adopted touch-screen machines that do not produce a paper record. If anything goes wrong in these counties in November, we will be in bad shape.

Florida's official line is that its machines are so carefully tested, nothing can go wrong. But things already have gone wrong. In a January election in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, the victory margin was 12 votes, but the machines recorded more than 130 blank ballots. It is simply not believable that 130 people showed up to cast a nonvote, in an election with only one race on the ballot. The runner-up wanted a recount, but since the machines do not produce a paper record, there was nothing to recount.

In 2002, in the primary race for governor between Janet Reno and Bill McBride, electronic voting problems were so widespread they cast doubt on the outcome. Many Miami-Dade County votes were not counted on election night because machines were shut down improperly. One precinct with over 1,000 eligible voters recorded no votes, despite a 33 percent turnout statewide. Election workers spent days hunting for lost votes, while Floridians waited, in an uncomfortable replay of 2000, to see whether Mr. McBride's victory margin, which had dwindled to less than 10,000, would hold up.

This past Tuesday, even though turnout was minimal, there were problems. Voters were wrongly given computer cards that let them vote only on local issues, not in the presidential primary. Machines did not work. And there were, no doubt, other mishaps that did not come to light because of the stunning lack of transparency around voting in the State. When a Times editorial writer dropped in on one Palm Beach precinct where there were reports of malfunctioning machines, county officials called the police to remove him.

The biggest danger of electronic voting, however, cannot be seen from the outside. Computer scientists warn that votes, and whole elections, can be stolen by rigging the code that runs the machines. The only defense is a paper record of every vote cast, a "voter-verified paper trail," which can be counted if the machines' tallies are suspect. Given its history, Florida should be a leader in requiring paper trails. But election officials, including Theresa LePore, the Palm Beach County elections supervisor who was responsible for the butterfly ballot, have refused to put them in place.

Last week, Representative Robert Wexler, a Florida Democrat, filed a Federal lawsuit to require paper trails. He relies on the Supreme Court's holding in Bush v. Gore that equal protection requires States to use comparable recount methods from county to county. Florida law currently requires a hand recount in close races. That is possible in most counties, but the 15 that use electronic voting machines do not produce paper records that can be recounted. Under the logic of Bush v. Gore, Representative Wexler is right.

• 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.

After the 2000 mess, Americans were assured they would not have to live through such a flawed election again. But Florida has put in place a system, electronic voting without a paper trail, that threatens once more to produce an outcome that cannot be trusted. There is still time before the November vote to put printers in place in the 15 Florida counties that use touch screens. As we learned 4 years ago, once the election has been held on bad equipment, it is too late to make it right.

HONORING JUDGE NANCY DAVIS STARK ON HER INDUCTION TO THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and honor Nancy Davis Stark on her induction this past January to the State of California Superior Court for Contra Costa County.

Judge Davis Stark is a highly competent and capable addition to the bench having worked tirelessly for the past 2 decades as an accomplished Deputy District Attorney for Alameda County. In this position, Judge Davis Stark served as Chief of the Sexually Violent Predator Unit, was on the felony trial staff, and held several supervisory positions and assignments.

Judge Davis Stark has been a member of the California Bar since 1982, the same year she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of California's Hastings College of Law. She received her bachelor-of-arts degree from California State University at Hayward.

The daughter of Eugene and Amelia Davis, Judge Davis Stark grew up in the Bay Area having spent her childhood in Oakland and Castro Valley. For the past 14 years, she has been a resident of Alamo where she is a committed volunteer in her community, most notably as the creator and one-time manager of a children's string ensemble known as the Alamo Ensemble Players.

Perhaps most important to me, Judge Davis Stark—Nancy as I call her—is the mother of two beautiful daughters—my granddaughters—Gretchen and Claire and devoted wife of 18 years to my son Jeff. I am grateful to have Nancy as my daughter-in-law. I am even more honored that her years of hard work and service to the public have earned her a rightful place on the Superior Court.

Mr. Speaker, I know Nancy's sound intellect, strong sense of fairness, and demonstrated commitment to the law and justice will be a welcome addition to the bench. I wish her well in this pursuit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 52 and 53, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH C. HEINLEIN JR.

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Joseph C. Heinlein Jr. upon the death of this outstanding person.

Joseph C. Heinlein Jr. was born January 26, 1909 in Bridgeport, Ohio. He was a practicing attorney for over 65 years and was recognized by the Ohio House of Representatives for his unwavering dedication to the profession of law. A former U.S. Navy Lieutenant in World War II, Mr. Heinlein was also a member of the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church where he served in various official capacities.

Mr. Heinlein will certainly be remembered by all those who knew him for his personal sacrifices of time and energy to his family, friends, and community. The understanding and kindness to which he gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. His life and love gave joy to all who knew him.

I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Joseph C. Heinlein Jr.

CONGRATULATING THE CENTENNIAL COUGARS, OF CIRCLE PINES, MINNESOTA, ON THEIR VICTORY IN THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS AA BOYS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Centennial Cougars, of Circle Pines, Minnesota, on their victory in the Minnesota State High School Class AA Boys Hockey Tournament. The Cougars captured their first title in their first state appearance. Centennial draws students from Lino Lakes, Circle Pines, Lexington, Centerville and Blaine.

The Cougars, ranked first in the state, ended the season with an impressive 30–1 mark, defeating Moorhead 1–0, on a goal by Mike Montgomery, for the championship. Goalie Greg Stutz recorded three shut outs, a tournament record, for the Cougars. Additionally, Greg Flynn received the Herb Brooks award and Tom Gorowsky was named the 2004 Mr. Hockey of Minnesota. Centennial is coached by Erik Aus.

In Minnesota, we are justifiably proud of our hockey tradition. The Minnesota State Hockey Tournament is one of the preeminent hockey tournaments in the country. Featured in Sports Illustrated, the tournament draws larger and larger crowds every year. In fact, the tournament this year set an all-time attendance record—120,092 people watched the Class A and AA hockey tournaments.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the students, coaches and fans from Centennial High School on their championship season. It's a great tribute to their hard work, dedication and overall team effort. I know that everyone in the

State of Minnesota is proud of their accomplishments.

IRAQ INVASION ANNIVERSARY, BRAC, AND HAITI

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to commend our brave troops who proudly serve our great Nation and risk their lives to preserve our freedom. I praise their courageous efforts to protect our country, and I am with them 100 percent. They are the best of the best. And I can truly say every Member of this House, this body, supports them 100 percent. What I do not support is this misleading Bush administration and this House that follows them like sheep. Let me repeat that. What I do not support is this misleading Bush administration and this House, the people's House, that follows them like sheep.

A new report has been released that shows that George Bush, DICK CHENEY, Donald Rumsfeld, and Condoleezza Rice made 237 misleading statements about the threat posed by Iraq in 125 public appearances. Eighty-four of those statements misled the American people about Iraq's chemical and biological weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I was horrified last year to learn that 44,000 of our troops were sent out to battle without proper armor. Forty-four thousand. How can we ask young men and women to trust us when we make decisions that involve life and death and then not outfit them with the best that they need to save their lives. We deployed our young men and women to Iraq with Humvees that lacked armored protection and bulletproof windows.

I personally went to Walter Reed where six troops had lost their legs while riding in Humvees. If they had been riding in the right type of vehicles, this may not have happened. This use of Humvees in Iraq was not what they were made for. We need to get our troops the equipment they need now.

And, Mr. President, you need to spend more time planning for the safety of our troops and their families in your war efforts and less time fundraising and cutting taxes for the rich country club friends of yours.

There are two or three other points that I want to make. One, many of my constituents approach me about BRACC and the base closing amendment that we will be doing in 2005. They are telling me we are looking forward to your fighting to make sure our bases are not closed in our area. And my question to them is, why do you think that this Bush administration insisted, after the House and Senate both voted down and said we should not have a base closure, or BRACC scenario, during this time of war, why do you think this administration insisted that we go through this? It is destabilizing the families and the communities during a time of war.

I have heard that someone from the other body indicated that if they were elected that is one of the first things they would scrap.

I also want to comment on the 2000 election, which I cannot get past because the election determined who is in charge, and certainly

I do not think we are headed in the right direction. I am going to submit for the RECORD an article that was in The New York Times last week indicating that Florida could be Florida again. In other words, the problems that we experienced in the 2000 election have not been corrected. It is a disservice to the people that we serve that we do not straighten out the problems with the elections, not just in Florida but all over this country; and we have not properly funded the program.

Also, let me mention the coup d'etat that took place a couple of weeks ago in Haiti. It is very unfortunate that this Bush administration has chosen to go in and take out a duly elected president. Just take him out. Just take him out. The poorest country in the western hemisphere. We have to make sure that the Haitian people get the assistance that they need from the super Bush administration, after going in and taking out the duly elected president.

And I would also like to comment on the recently announced bank merger that the Federal Reserve approved of the Bank of America Corporation and FleetBoston Financial Corporation merger.

I am concerned about the recent Bank of America-FleetBoston bank merger announced today, particularly since it went through with very little public input. What concerns me even more is that although Bank of America has made significant Community Reinvestment commitments to other states, I am disappointed that Bank of America did not ensure the state I represent, Florida, that it too will receive its fair share of resources for minority communities.

On February 16, in the City Hall of Orlando, Florida, I hosted a Public Hearing so that Bank of America could better understand its responsibility to make a difference in Florida's African-American, Asian and Hispanic communities. Many minority groups and activists from across Florida attended this hearing, along with local elected officials of Florida, and Congressman EDOLPHUS TOWNS of New York. The groups testified that significant Community Reinvestment dollars were necessary for home loans for minorities, the development of affordable housing, small business loans for minorities, procurement opportunities for minority businesses, community lending for minorities, and community investment for industrial, commercial and social facilities in minority communities. The Bank of America sent representatives to this hearing, but the pleas from the minority communities in Florida fell on deaf ears, and Florida was never promised a specific dollar amount for Community Reinvestment. Bank of America has shown the minority communities of New England and California great respect, but refuses to do the same for our Florida minority communities. It is imperative that the leadership of Bank of America meet immediately with minority leaders at a general forum to discuss the specifics of a Bank of America commitment for Florida.

I am concerned about what occurred in 1994, when Bank of America publicly announced its plans to initiate certain lending programs in the state of Hawaii for Native Hawaiians on Hawaiian Home Lands. The Bank of America publicly called these programs "commitments" but did not pledge these commitments to the Federal Reserve Board, nor did Bank of America fulfill its public commitments to Hawaii. The Federal Reserve has

stated that the enforceability of this third-party pledge is a matter outside of the Community Reinvestment Act, and to this day, Hawaii has been left without redress. How are we to trust that Florida will receive its share of Community Reinvestment Act money when Bank of America could not keep its word to Hawaii?

The Federal Reserve noted in its Order Approving the Merger of Bank Holding Companies, that there were requests for state-specific goals for certain loan products and programs, but that it viewed such third-party agreements as outside of the Community Reinvestment Act. I wholeheartedly disagree. The Board focuses on existing Community Reinvestment Act performance rather than promises of future activities, and anyhow, what type of organization does not have a plan for the future? My office was told that Bank of America has no plan for future Community Reinvestment activity in Florida or how much money would be spent in Florida—but not to worry. I think that this is a poor way to do business. Noting the experience that Hawaii had with Bank of America, I am wary of trusting that Bank of America has the needs of minority communities in Florida at heart.

HONORING THE AFGHAN AMERICAN CUISINE OF FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article that appears in the current issue of VIA Magazine, celebrating the culinary contributions of several Afghan American restaurateurs in my city of Fremont, California.

These establishments deserve praise, not only for satisfying many appetites with delectable food, but for enriching our community with their enterprise and important cultural gifts that make Fremont a better place to live.

I am honored to represent the largest Afghan American community in the nation and gladly invite my colleagues to come to California to enjoy, as the author of this article exclaims, "some of the best Afghan food and goods this side of Kabul." I couldn't agree more myself.

[From VIA Magazine, Mar.-Apr. 2004]

LITTLE AFGHANISTAN: DISCOVER THE FLAVORS OF KABUL IN THE BAY AREA

(By April Thompson)

Handmade Afghan ravioli and rugs in sleepy, suburban Fremont? The Northern California city is home to the nation's largest Afghan American community and some of the best Afghan food and goods this side of Kabul. Afghanistan's cuisine has been influenced by Russia, India, China, and Persia, and its dishes star the rich, sweet, and tart tastes of cardamom, cilantro, rose water, and homemade yogurt.

The storefronts on Fremont Boulevard may look plain, but inside their shelves are stocked with pomegranate juice, sugared chickpeas, apple tobacco, and other goods imported from Bombay, Cairo, and numerous points between.

At the Pamir Food Mart, you can buy long loaves of Afghan naan warm from the oven. Bring a hearty appetite and sense of adventure to Salang Pass, one of four Afghan res-

taurants on the boulevard. Don't miss gabili pilau, Afghanistan's national dish of baked brown rice with lamb and raisins; aushak, ravioli stuffed with leeks and spices; or the burani kadu, soft pumpkin sauteed with garlic and cardamom. Across the street, carnivores should check out the De Afghanan Kabob House, where every plate features skewered meat.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker on rollcall Nos. 54, 55, 56, and 57, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JEFF FREEMAN AND NICOLE PALYA

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jeff Freeman and Nicole Palya have decided to dedicate their lives to each other; and

Whereas, Jeff and Nicole have shown the love and commitment necessary to live a long and beautiful life together; and

Whereas, Jeff and Nicole have chosen to share their special day with friends and family;

Therefore, I join with the Members of Congress and their staff in congratulating Jeff Freeman and Nicole Palya on the occasion of their marriage.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE KNIGHTS IN THEIR VICTORY IN THE MINNESOTA CLASS AA STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Michael-Albertville Knights on their victory in the Minnesota Class AA State Wrestling Tournament. This is the Knights' seventh consecutive and 14th overall state tournament appearance, and their third championship.

Coached by Gregg Greeno, the Knights finished a perfect 32-0 this season, winning all of their meets by at least 10 points. This was truly a team effort; they rose to the challenge in big meets and avoided injuries during the season.

Individually, the Knights qualified 12 of a possible 14 individuals for the state tournament. Two wrestlers, 112-pounder Mike Thorn and 160-pounder Chas Betts, won individual championships and six others finished in the top six.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the students, coaches and fans from St. Michael-Albertville on their championship season. It's a great tribute to their hard work, dedication and overall

team effort and I know everyone in Minnesota is proud of their accomplishments.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE
VALIANT SERVICE OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support, and most heartfelt gratitude to our troops and their families.

It is often said that "freedom is not free," Mr. Speaker. I couldn't agree more. The price of freedom—the freedom that we enjoy here in the United States and freedom that we have helped preserve or create—is great. The cost of freedom is measured in dollars, in time lost away from family and friends, and it is measured in human lives lost on distant battlefields thousands of miles away.

Wherever you serve, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and around the world, you rise to answer the call for freedom without reservation.

So today I rise, in support of our troops who continue to help ensure peace and freedom around the world, and to the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of freedom.

We are grateful and humbled by your capabilities, your courage, and your commitment to the great cause of freedom. You are our heroes and our greatest hope for the future.

Thank you for all that you do. God bless the United States of America.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE
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AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 557 to commend the valiant service of the men and women of the United States and Coalition armed forces. One year ago these men and women were called on not only to protect the national security of the United States, but also to free the world of a ruthless and brutal dictator. I feel privileged to represent a large number of these men and women in the Fourth Congressional District of Florida.

In the beginning hours of the conflict, brave pilots of the Air Force flew bombing missions without knowing if they would be a target of Saddam's weak, but still existent surface to air missile capability. U.S. Marines stormed the port of Umm Qasr to ensure Saddam could not use his oil facilities to commit acts of environmental terrorism as he had in Operation Desert Storm. The United States Army pushed forward quickly to take Baghdad before Sad-

dam could use his own people as human shields; while the fleet of the United States Navy sat ready to launch air and Tomahawk strikes to support them. If there is one thing that Operation Iraqi Freedom has demonstrated to the American people, it is that there is no longer a dividing line between active and reserve component troops in armed conflict. The men and women of the Florida National Guard were trained and ready to deploy within 24 hours when asked by their Commander in Chief. These citizen soldiers left higher paying jobs and loving families to fight in an inhospitable and rough environment with their active duty counterparts. It was this dedication and courage that defeated Saddam and his regime. It was this dedication and courage that rebuilt schools and hospitals so the people of Iraq could receive these basic human services for the first time in three decades.

As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, I visited Iraq in August of last year. On this trip, I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with both active and reserve members of the Army, Marines Corps, and Air Force about their experiences. All of these men and women were proud of the mission of the United States and were eager to tell stories of grateful Iraqis.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting up again with an officer who I had first met on my trip to Iraq. When I asked him how he was doing, he told me the sad story of how he had just visited one of his soldiers who had lost both of his legs in Iraq. Even with this gruesome memory, he told me that both he and his soldiers would do it all over again. This officer's sentiment demonstrates the dedication and courage of our armed forces and it is this reason I rise to speak in support of H.R. 557.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY ACT OF 2004

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Halloween Safety Act of 2004, legislation to change the date on which daylight saving time ends each year in the interest of the safety of our children. This is a companion bill to S. 1803, introduced by Senator MICHAEL ENZI of Wyoming.

As we all know, the holiday of Halloween falls on October 31st, typically just a few days after the switch from daylight saving time to standard time. As a result of turning our clocks back, many young children go out to trick-or-treat around their neighborhoods or towns when darkness has already fallen by five or six o'clock in the evening. Parents are faced with the decision of whether or not to allow their children to go trick-or-treating in the dark, which creates a safety hazard for children running from house to house, and for motorists who must contend with children darting out into the streets.

Valerie Vainieri Huttie, the Chairwoman of the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and David L. Ganz, who is both a Bergen County Freeholder and the Mayor of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, have raised this issue at the county government level and have asked that I act on a federal level to address

this problem. The Halloween Safety Act of 2004 extends daylight saving time each year until the first Sunday in November, instead of the last Sunday in October, thereby ensuring that Halloween falls during daylight saving time each year.

I am proud to acknowledge that this safety problem has already been partly addressed in Bergen County, New Jersey. Fair Lawn's beloved police officer, the late Mary Ann Collura, implemented a special "glow stick" program so that young children would be adequately lit and visible as they walk the streets trick-or-treating. Since her untimely death in the line of duty last April, the glow stick program has gone countywide in Bergen County, thanks to the initiative of County Executive Dennis McNerney and his staff, Bergen County Prosecutor John Molinelli, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

By modestly changing the date that daylight saving time ends and that standard time begins, children in Bergen County and across the country would be safer and would have extended hours of daylight in which to participate in this holiday. I commend Freeholders Huttie and Ganz for sponsoring a resolution adopted by the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders urging the change of daylight saving time, and I thank them for their commitment to the safety of the children of New Jersey and our Nation. I urge prompt consideration of the Halloween Safety Act of 2004.

H.R. _____

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Halloween Safety Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME EXTENDED TO FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a(a)) is amended by striking "last Sunday of October" and inserting "first Sunday of November".

(b) EFFECT ON EXISTING STATE ELECTIONS.—Any law in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act which is—

(1) adopted pursuant to section 3(a)(2) of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 by a State with parts thereof in more than one time zone; or

(2) adopted pursuant to section 3(a)(1) of such Act by a State that lies entirely within one time zone,

shall be held and considered to remain in effect as the exercise by that State of the exemption permitted by such Act unless that State, by law, provides that such exemption shall not apply.

(c) ADJUSTMENT OF OPERATING HOURS OF DAY TIME BROADCASTERS.—(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any regulation issued under law, the Federal Communications Commission shall, consistent with any existing treaty or other agreement, make such adjustment by general rules, or by interim action pending such general rules, with respect to hours of operation of daytime standard amplitude modulation broadcast stations as may be consistent with the public interest in receiving interference-free service.

(2) The general rules, or interim action, undertaken under paragraph (1) may include variances with respect to operating power and other technical operating characteristics.

(3) At any time after the adoption of general rules under paragraph (1), the general rules may be varied with respect to particular stations and areas because of the exigencies in each case.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
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AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering a divisive and flawed resolution that proclaims that the world has been made safer with the removal of Saddam Hussein and his regime from power in Iraq. I have great difficulty accepting that proposition, and am deeply troubled that the House Republican leadership is embarking on this transparent, partisan exercise to score political points with their right wing.

Without question, the Saddam Hussein dictatorship brutalized the Iraqi people, and there is universal approval that he has been removed from power. Iraq is moving towards becoming more safe for the Iraqi people, but it is a great exaggeration to claim, as this resolution does, that the world is safer. As we examine the facts on the one-year commemoration of the war in Iraq, there is no direct evidence that Iraq represented a clear and present danger to the United States. President Bush initiated this war which has diverted attention and resources from what should be our primary international objective: discerning, disrupting and uprooting the source of terrorism.

Just as the Bush Administration distorted and manipulated intelligence concerning weapons of mass destruction to initiate this preemptive and unilateral war against Iraq, the House Republican leadership has added to the Administration's credibility problem by advancing this resolution. The Republican majority are deceiving themselves and the American people with this assertion that we are safer as a nation and we live in a safer world. We are not and do not.

We continue to live in a very dangerous world, and we are far from winning the war against terrorism. That is why I am very troubled that the President's proposed budget fails to seek the necessary funds for homeland security. We must provide more, not lower resources, for port security; our firefighters and first responders need additional funding, but the President's budget request falls far short of what is needed to make our hometowns safer.

I am also very disappointed with the manner in which this legislation was drafted and brought to the House Floor. If the Republican majority truly wanted a strong expression of support for our troops and the Iraqi people, they could have done so without inflammatory language in this resolution, and by including the Democrats in drafting a responsible statement of bipartisan national purpose and unity. This intentional failure to bring bipartisanship to bear on this critical national security policy leaves no other conclusion to draw than the Republican leadership places a higher priority on partisan gamesmanship than on statesmanship.

This "Do Nothing Congress" has failed to address the significant challenges at home and abroad, while spending the first three months of this year considering low-priority,

feel-good House resolutions. On the one-year anniversary of our military action against Iraq, the House Republicans have squandered an opportunity to demonstrate unblemished, patriotic support for our courageous troops and the Iraqi people. The American people and especially our troops deserved better from this Congress than the misguided resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE YOLO
HEALTH ALLIANCE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Yolo Health Alliance as it celebrates its 10th anniversary of service to the community. Created in 1994, the Alliance is an integrated public-private partnership including Sutter Davis Hospital, CommuniCare Health Centers, Yolo County Health Department and Sutter West Medical Group. The Alliance provides a seamless continuum of medical care to Yolo County's uninsured residents.

During the ten years of its existence, The Yolo Health Alliance has served to maintain a healthy community in Yolo County by ensuring that quality health care is available to all residents, regardless of their ability to pay for services. The Alliance has served to significantly reduce unnecessary visits to hospital emergency rooms and to increase patient satisfaction by providing comprehensive care to the underserved population of Yolo County.

Since its inception, The Yolo Health Alliance has provided health care services to over 24,000 individuals, delivering multi-lingual and culturally-appropriate care to residents representing many ethnic backgrounds. Services have grown to include both primary medical and dental care services through a network of seven community clinics located in Davis, Woodland, West Sacramento, Esparto and Knights Landing.

Mr. Speaker, The Yolo Health Alliance has been a cost-effective model that lowered the cost of care per member since its inception and saved local government millions of dollars in indigent health care expenses.

It is therefore appropriate that The Yolo Health Alliance be recognized on its 10th anniversary and commended for its success and good work in providing an exceptional quality "safety net" of health care services for those in Yolo County without any coverage and without the resources to pay for care.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was escorting the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security in my Congressional District and missed votes on the following measures:

(1) H. Res. 551—thanking C-SPAN for its service to the House of Representatives on

the 25th anniversary of its first coverage of the proceedings of the House (No. 58). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

(2) H.R. 3733—Myron V. George Post Office (No. 59). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

(3) H. Res. 433—Honoring the life and legacy of Luis A. Ferré (No. 60). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my congressional district, on March 17, I missed the vote on H. Res. 557, relating to the liberation of the Iraqi people and the valiant service of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces (rollcall vote 64). I support our Nation's efforts in Iraq, and I wholeheartedly support our troops. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 64.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LUIS A. FERRÉ

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House has taken up and passed House Resolution 433, a resolution that honors and remembers the contributions of a great American and a revered figure on the island of Puerto Rico.

On October 21, 2003, at the age of 99, Puerto Rico lost a hero in the passing of Luis Ferré. Perhaps the greatest political figure in the history of Puerto Rico, Luis Ferré spent his entire life working to make life better for the residents of Puerto Rico. Luis Ferré was a successful businessman and a human rights advocate for people on the small Caribbean island. He was elected to post as both Governor and Representative in Puerto Rico and also served as Chairman of the Puerto Rico Republican Party.

Ferré loved America. One of his greatest hopes was to see his native Puerto Rico become an American State and he worked throughout his life to advance the cause of statehood for Puerto Rico. In 1917, at the age of 13 years old, Ferré along with the people of Puerto Rico were granted United States citizenship. Ferré often recounted that while he could not recall the day Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. Citizenship, that he was grateful to be alive to enjoy the privileges of living in the world's greatest republic.

In 1951, Ferré was elected delegate to the Puerto Rican Constitutional Convention and he was able to directly contribute to the island becoming an official United States Commonwealth in 1952.

In 1968, Ferré was elected Governor and he continued to work toward Puerto Rican Statehood. He remained active in politics up to his death, most notably as the chairman of the Republican Party in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, many people from across the United States and across the globe have taken note of the contributions of Luis Ferré and his life of public service on the islands of Puerto Rico. Most notably, former President George H.W. Bush awarded Ferré with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1991, the highest government award a civilian can receive. Ferré is one of four Puerto Ricans to receive this Presidential honor.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the people of Puerto Rico and I am pleased that this body is honoring a great American and a great Puerto Rican. I extend my condolences to Luis Ferré's family and to all the people of Puerto Rico who cherished this man and his contributions.

COUNTER-TERRORIST AND NARCO-TERRORIST REWARDS PROGRAM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, the Counter-Terrorist and Narco-Terrorist Rewards Program Act, H.R. 3782 seeks to expand the reward tools needed to encourage informants with data to come forward and help prevent or resolve acts of international terrorism against U.S. citizens and property throughout the world. Rewards also can be paid for information leading to the arrest or conviction of terrorists who attempt, commit, conspire, or aid and abet terrorist acts. Informants with the knowledge of a location or the identification of terrorist leaders can also be rewarded.

Secretary of State Powell has authorized a reward of up to \$25 million for information leading to the capture of bin Laden and other key al Qaeda leaders, under the provisions of the USA Patriot Act of 2001. That act specifically authorizes the Secretary of State to offer and pay rewards of greater than \$5 million if it is determined that a greater amount is necessary to combat terrorism or to defend the United States against terrorist acts. As we approach the fourth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, it is clear that a greater amount is necessary to entice informants and that the reward program must be publicized widely.

An especially important component of the bill would publicize the existence of the rewards program. The measure would provide additional authority to buy radio, television and newspaper advertisements to publicize the rewards program. It also would change the name of the program from the Rewards for Justice Program to the Terrorism and Narco-Terrorism Rewards Program.

The rewards incentives work. Twenty-nine people whom provided credible information that put terrorists behind bars or prevented acts of international terrorism worldwide have been rewarded with a total of more than \$49 million over the last seven years by the United States. Reward incentives played a significant role in the arrest and conviction of terrorist Ramzi Yousef, for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

This bill would also empower the Secretary of State to make rewards in any combination

of money and non-monetary instruments, including automobiles. This provision is important because people who have specific knowledge about perpetrators or their acts of terrorism may more highly value material objects, like a new tractor for their farm. The bill would also expand the eligibility criteria of informants seeking to receive a reward.

The bill would increase the maximum amount that can be paid by the Department of State for information and assistance. The maximum amount of a reward increases from \$5 million to a maximum of \$25 million and the Secretary of State may further authorize a reward of up to \$50 million for the capture of or information leading to the capture of Osama bin Laden.

The bill clarifies that any information that disrupts terrorist financing networks, including information related to illicit narcotics production or international trafficking, is eligible for reward. The money laundering information does not need to be tied to a specific act of terrorism. This is particularly important, because we face threats in our own hemisphere from narco-terrorists. The common denominator for each of the many threats, however, is their funding stream. Being able to seize terrorist money has an immediate impact on their ability to conduct their horrific operations. Compensating an informant for financial information is just as vital as learning of the whereabouts of a particular actor.

The provisions in this bill dramatically improve the power of the tools available to the Department of State and law enforcement agencies to attract and compensate knowledgeable informants. We can't hope to place undercover operatives into the places where terrorist and narco-terrorist leaders plan their deeds. The advanced warning of an attack and the corresponding pre-event interdiction is priceless. Therefore, a reward is easily justified.

ON THE LOSS OF A GREAT AMERICAN, JEFF SCHROCK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a great American: Jeff Schrock.

Jeff died last month after battling brain cancer. Sadly, he leaves behind a loving wife, Cass, and two dotting children, Jenny and Max.

I pay tribute to him as a fallen hero. Why? Because this was a man who represented the best of what America is—a loving husband, a good father, a solid citizen. Jeff Schrock and all the "Jeff Schrocks" of the world are what makes this a great country, are the kind of person that forms the intricate fabric that binds us as a Nation, are the unsung heroes who serve as the massive middle class that exemplifies the American nature at its best.

I loved Jeff. He was as generous a soul as one could hope to meet. His love of the outdoors and business acumen came together in a well-known business that he owned and which became a beach-front institution in Monterey: Monterey Bay Kayaks. At his kayak shop he patiently taught people to explore and enjoy the ocean, up close and personal. And

for someone like me, he rarely giggled when I squeezed into a full-body wet suit and ringed my waist with a rubber spray skirt. I will miss my friend, the gentleman with such aplomb and discretion!

It is sad to lose anyone so close. I want you to know how much I respected and admired Jeff and looked up to him. He was an American hero. He lived a life that bespoke the best of husbands and fathers everywhere. The dedication he showed to his family, the sense of community he exhibited in the way he ran his business, the daily comings-and-goings of Jeff Schrock, Everyman, is how we all ought to live our lives. Why? Because the end result is a life of integrity and honor, a life of quiet determination, and a life full of love. It is the hallmark of how the core principles of American life are manifested in our Nation. Jeff, in his way, knew this and reveled in it. He chose to be a leader for his family by showing compassion and generosity. He chose to be a leader by introducing his business associates to the wonders of economic profits through environmental preservation. He chose to be a leader by getting involved in community issues. He was a beacon for all of us, and those who follow his lead, will be part and parcel of a stronger America, as Jeff truly was.

Mr. Speaker, I miss my friend Jeff Schrock. I lament the death of the fellow who helped me squeeze into a kayak and who opened, so for many of us, an amazing Window to the wonders of Monterey Bay and our world's oceans. I share the grief of his wife and children. But above all, I honor the role model he was and will be for those he left behind.

HONORING LARRY AND JEAN ELLIOTT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a couple from my district, Larry and Jean Elliott, whose lives tragically ended in Iraq this week.

In life and death, the Elliots saw service as God's calling. Missionaries for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, they intermittently stayed at the mission house of First Baptist Church in Cary when they were in North Carolina. Long stationed in Honduras, they were watching CNN one day when they saw a broadcast of an Iraqi man pulling dirty water from a hand-dug well. It was a scene that struck a chord with Larry. In Honduras, he and Jean had spent years building schools, developing water purification systems to provide fresh water to rural residents, coordinating visits by medical and dental teams from the U.S., and translating for other relief workers. They knew the importance of taking care of basic human needs as a ministry of compassion and sacrifice.

Larry and Jean were not deterred by the dangers of Iraq, and they went without hesitation. A friend said their courage stemmed from a sense of peace and a belief that their destiny was in God's hands.

They were scouting the best location for their water purification project when they became casualties of the war: they were killed in a drive-by shooting in Mosul on March 15. It

happened just two weeks before they were scheduled to return home.

Mr. Speaker, family and friends say Larry and Jean were totally dedicated to missionary work. They served without question—not for glory or recognition, but simply because they felt it was the right thing to do. They were the embodiment of the spirit of Christianity, and we are honored to claim them as North Carolina's own.

Three children, Gina, Scott and Todd, survive the couple, and their many friends and admirers grieve for them at First Baptist. The Elliotts' deaths leave a tremendous void, but they also inspire the rest of us to work harder and to practice our faith in ways that honor their service.

We thank God for the joy Larry and Jean Elliott found in their faith and honor all the candles they lit in lives around the world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARVIN AND LUGENE SOLOMON FOR 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to extend congratulations to Marvin and Lugene Solomon of Southern California, who are celebrating their 50th year of marriage in a relationship that blends artistic talents with creative business acumen.

Although Lugene is a native of Oklahoma, the Solomons have lived a California dream since they met while attending the University of California. At the time, Lugene was juggling her studies with a starring role as Babs Riley in the television show "The Life of Riley."

Fifty years after they were married, Marvin and Lugene are still at work. Lugene now applies her artistic talents through a successful cloisonné pin and embroidered patch company, C. Sanders Emblems, which provides logos and uniform patches for groups and companies across America.

Marvin's first company, Nuclear Supplies, was started in 1963 specializing in nuclear radiation detection equipment and was later absorbed by his test and measurement instrumentation company Soltec Corporation, based in Los Angeles. Marvin, the CEO and founder of Soltec, leads a team of scientists and engineers with a world-class reputation for designing integrated engineering solutions to modern day challenges in both the public and private sectors. The company's hand-held radiation detection equipment has saved lives and protected the health of many people in both government and industry.

The Solomons have lived in San Marino, California, for the past 30 years, where they raised their two daughters, Jennifer Solomon and Kimberly Fortier. They are also the proud grandparents of three grandchildren. Lugene loves foreign languages and keeps current as a bi-lingual speaker of French in their travels abroad and in spending time at their apartment in Paris. She is also active in theatre and opera groups.

Mr. Speaker, Marvin and Lugene Solomon have forged successful independent careers even as they have shared their lives for the past 50 years. I ask that you and my col-

leagues join me in congratulating them on their perseverance, and wishing them well in their future endeavors.

HONORING DR. BRIAN APRILL UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. NAVY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises to pay tribute to Dr. Brian Aprill, Captain in the U.S. Navy, on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Navy on May 1, 2004.

Dr. Aprill has accompanied the House of Representatives' delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings, on seven separate occasions, in his capacity as the delegation's physician. As Chairman of the House Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, this Member would like to thank Dr. Aprill for his truly outstanding performance in his professional competence, good nature and fine assistance to the delegation which is greatly appreciated by all Members of the delegation.

Dr. Aprill is a graduate of Whittier College and Washington University School of Medicine. Currently, he is the Staff Endocrinologist in the Endocrinology and Metabolism Division, Department of Internal Medicine at the Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. In addition, he is the Assistant Professor of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, and Program Director, Transitional Year Program. In 1991, Dr. Aprill received the Navy Achievement Medal and in 1996, the Navy Commendation Medal.

This Member, in behalf of himself and the House delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, commends Dr. Aprill on his outstanding career with the U.S. Navy and wishes him well in his new capacity as a Staff Endocrinologist with the Frist Clinic in Nashville, Tennessee.

CONGRATULATING MOUNT CLEMENS GENERAL HOSPITAL

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mount Clemens General Hospital on the opening of their new Radiology Oncology Center and the completion of the first phase of the Ted B. Wahby Cancer Center. I also want to join the staff and trustees of Mount Clemens General in honoring my friend Ted Wahby for his long dedication to providing quality health care and to the service of Macomb County.

Ted currently serves as Macomb County Treasurer and has a long record of dedicated public service. He was voted one of Crain's Detroit Business 25 most influential leaders last year. Prior to his service as Treasurer, he was the long-time mayor of St. Clair Shores and a trustee of the Lakeshore School District Board. Among his many charitable efforts, he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Mount Clemens General Hospital and has

played an active, instrumental role in making this much-needed cancer center a reality.

Macomb County currently experiences a higher cancer rate than its neighboring counties. The county is also growing faster than any other Michigan County. In the next 50 years, the number of Macomb County cancer cases will double and the number of cancer cases among those over 85 will increase four-fold.

The good news is that more and more, we're winning the battle against cancer. The National Institutes of Health estimates that more than 59 percent of those diagnosed with cancer will survive at least five years, and advances in early detection and treatment could soon increase that rate to 75 percent.

The bad news is that it's still a long, hard battle. In Macomb County, it has been made harder by patients having to travel to multiple locations, some of them far away, in order to receive care. In 2001, nearly 70 percent of Macomb County residents were unable to get all the cancer care they needed in their own county.

The new facility will combine state-of-the art medical technology with a warm, welcoming environment for patients and their families. Patients will have access to clinical trials, interdisciplinary teams of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and dietitians, but will also be able to stay in homelike rooms and visit a healing garden.

Ted Wahby's leadership and dedication were indispensable to the building of this new facility. On behalf of myself and the people I represent in the 12th district of Michigan, I thank him warmly for his efforts and congratulate him on the honor of having this fine facility bear his name. It is indeed well-deserved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that my vote on the Scott/Watt Amendment (#6) to H.R. 339, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act was recorded as "no." I would like the record to reflect that my vote should have been "yes."

I recognize and appreciate the important work states have done to prevent and reduce chronic health diseases and obesity-related health conditions. As a former member of the Arkansas State Senate's Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee, I worked diligently with state agencies and health providers to promote positive statewide health strategies.

According to the underlying bill, a person is defined in section 4(3) of the bill to include governmental entities. Consequently, states could be limited in bringing legal complaints against violators of state consumer protection statutes. The Scott/Watt Amendment would have protected a state's attorney general's option to protect consumers in accordance to consumer protection laws.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN RIPON, WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the first meeting of the Republican Party in the town of Ripon, Wisconsin on March 20, 1854. On that momentous day, a group of 54 concerned citizens gathered in the Little White Schoolhouse to protest the extension of slavery into the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. Led by Alvan Bovay, this group of citizens dissolved the local Whig and Free Soil parties and officially declared themselves "Republicans." For this reason, the Little White Schoolhouse has long been known as the Birthplace of the Republican Party.

Since its inception, the Republican Party has stood for Liberty and Equality for all—making the Little White Schoolhouse a symbol of civic responsibility to the residents of Ripon and the nation. On May 30, 1974, the Department of the Interior formally recognized the historical importance of the first meeting of the Republican Party by designating the Little White Schoolhouse as a National Historic Landmark. The structure is significant, according to the National Park Service, because "a meeting in this simple, one story clapboard and frame schoolhouse on March 20, 1854 and another in Jackson, Michigan on July 6" led to the formation of the Republican Party. To this day it attracts visitors from around the world.

In order to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party, the town of Ripon is holding a celebration entitled, "From Schoolhouse to White House; A Celebration of Active Citizenship" that will promote the importance of civic involvement. This celebration will also honor the leadership that 54 citizens of Ripon displayed on March 20, 1854, in proclaiming themselves Republicans under the banner of Liberty and Equality. The event on March 20, 2004, caps off a two month series of events that have been held in Ripon, including a conference on the accomplishments of Wisconsin women and mock elections held in the Ripon schools to focus attention on this most basic form of active citizenship.

Therefore, I want to once again recognize the 150th Anniversary of the first meeting of the Republican Party at the Little White Schoolhouse in Ripon, Wisconsin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 2004 and March 17, 2004 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 58 to 63.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 58, 59, and 60. In addition, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 61, 62, and 63.

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD YEE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay final tribute to civil rights leader and community activist Harold Yee, who passed away on February 5th in San Francisco. Harold was an extraordinary leader and visionary who empowered San Francisco's Asian American community to dramatically expand and solidify its economic and political strength.

Born in China in 1932, Harold immigrated to the United States in 1939 where he grew up in East Los Angeles. He received his bachelor's degree in pomology from UC Davis in 1956, and his master's degree in economics from UC Berkeley in 1961. Beginning as a researcher for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Harold discovered his passion for community development, eventually leaving the FDA in 1971 to found ASIAN, Inc.

Through ASIAN, Inc., Harold strengthened the San Francisco Asian American community economically, socially and politically. ASIAN, Inc. helped launch many minority-owned small businesses in San Francisco, trained young professionals for the rigors of running their own businesses, and encouraged the development of trade associations. Harold leaves a rich legacy, including more than 100 non-profit organizations and agencies.

Harold was a fierce advocate for the civil rights and equality of Asian Pacific Americans. He founded the Chinese American Voter Education Committee to increase political awareness and participation. His contributions to the Asian American Community and to the City of San Francisco are immeasurable.

Harold's boundless energy and enthusiasm for life were contagious. He was a mentor and a friend to countless people, who greatly benefited from his wisdom, support and friendship. It is with sadness and appreciation that I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Wilma, his daughter, Catherine, and his son, Robert. To his family and friends, thank you for allowing him to give his time to the community he loved.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2004 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, each year, the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce honors individuals for courageous, selfless dedication to public safety. These remarkable men and women have played an important role in the protection and betterment of their community. Their tremendous efforts on behalf of Prince William County have earned them one of the highest honors bestowed upon county public safety officials—the Valor Award. It is with great honor that I recognize the Prince William County Gold, Silver, Bronze, Merit, Lifesaving, Hilary Robinette, and Special Department Valor Award recipients:

Gold.—Officer A.S. Robinson, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.J. Harman, Prince William County Police Department.

Silver.—Detective J. Lanzafama, Prince William County Police Department; Officer K.K. Kane, Prince William County Police Department; Officer R. W. Kovach, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.T. Sullivan, Prince William County Police Department; Officer W.F. VanAntwerp, Jr., Prince William County Police Department; Officer W.G. Ward, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.L. West, Prince William County Police Department; Officer E.J. Barhart, Prince William County Police Department; Officer B.M. Carter, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.J. Headrick, Prince William County Police Department; Officer C.A. Meurer, Prince William County Police Department, Vehicle Fire; Deputy Animal Control Officer L.A. Thompson, Prince William County Police Department; Deputy Animal Control Officer C.D. Firebaugh, Prince William County Police Department.

Bronze.—Police Officer First Class Esteban Jordan, City of Manassas Police Department; Deputy Kim El-bisi, Prince William County Sheriff's Office; Officer G.D. VanDyke, Prince William County Police Department; Officer S.M. Peak, Prince William County Police Department; Lieutenant Michael Nazionale, OWL Volunteer Fire Department; Technician II Brett Hamby, Prince William County Fire and Rescue; Technician II Jeff Howdyshe, Prince William County Fire and Rescue.

Merit.—Deputy Ricki Booth, Prince William County Sheriff's Office; Sergeant G.H. Howard, Prince William County Police Department; Officer R.A. Arce, Prince William County Police Department; Officer C.M. Begley, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.J. McCauley, Prince William County Police Department; Officer J.G. Medawar, Prince William County Police Department; Officer R.W. Minnick, Prince William County Police Department, River Run Fire, Shell Station Fire; Officer S.C. Mercer, Prince William County Police Department; Officer C.A. Meurer, Prince William County Police Department, Shell Station Fire; Lieutenant B.L. Finn, Prince William County Police Department; Sergeant R.D. Larkin, Prince William County Police Department; Captain David Halman, OWL Volunteer Fire Department; Sergeant Eric Craven, OWL Volunteer Fire Department; Technician II Scott Richardson, Prince William County Department Fire and Rescue.

Lifesaving.—Sergeant R.D. Grinnell, Prince William County Police Department.

Hilary Robinette.—First Sergeant R.A. Cantarella, Prince William County Police Department, Excellence and Integrity for Investigative Work.

Special Department.—Dale City Volunteer Fire Department for Exceptional Firefighting and Lifesaving, February 8, 2003, River Run Senior Apartments; Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department for Exceptional Firefighting and Lifesaving, February 8, 2003, River Run Senior Apartments.

All of these individuals have provided invaluable community service, truly deserving these prestigious awards. I congratulate and commend them.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank all the men and women who serve Prince William County. These strong, brave, determined

individuals make sacrifices daily to preserve our safety. Their countless acts of heroism merit our highest praise. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding these outstanding individuals.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE
VALIANT SERVICE OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
AND COALITION FORCES

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution before the House of Representatives today that commends the members of the United States armed forces and coalition forces for liberating Iraq, and expresses the gratitude of the American people for their valiant service.

On a plane coming home to Kansas recently, I had a conversation about the situation in Iraq with a man who served our country in Vietnam. The veteran noted the contrast in the treatment of soldiers returning home today compared with what he had faced. He didn't provide details, but the memories of his own homecoming still brought tears decades later.

March 20th will mark the one-year anniversary of our intervention in Iraq. I'm thankful time has changed the way we treat veterans who have served our country. While I hear differing opinions from Kansans about this issue, we can all agree on the need to support the thousands of men and women in harm's way who protect our freedom and stand up for us in the war on terrorism.

Last September, I met with family members of the over 300 reservists and National Guard members from units based in my district deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many reservists and members of the National Guard left behind jobs and families with reduced income and limited support networks. Some have lost their homes and small businesses in order to do their duty. To show our gratitude for their sacrifices, I believe we must do everything we can to address the needs of our military. Troop strength, equipment, supplies, and care they need when they come home are an absolute.

Too often Congress pays lip service to our veterans and military personnel, yet fails to deliver on solid votes and programs that would demonstrate our recognition of their sacrifice. I listened to military personnel and their families, and I'm proud my legislative proposals are helping troops and veterans. In November 2003, my proposal to relieve the travel burden on troops coming home for Rest and Recuperation (R&R) was signed into law. The new law provides funding to cover all travel costs necessary to return service personnel home to their families. Another bill I introduced that will protect the growing health care needs of our veterans became law in December 2003.

In January, I was part of a small congressional delegation to Iraq. I heard firsthand from those serving on the front lines, including Kansas military personnel who are upbeat and proud of their efforts in Iraq. I was pleased to learn that many of the concerns about equipment and supplies have been corrected. I re-

turned from Iraq more confident about the condition of American troops and their morale.

In times of crisis like the past year, our nation looks to the men and women of the armed forces. America must honor their sacrifice and courage by living up to her promises to service personnel, whether active duty, reservists, members of the National Guard or veterans. This anniversary is a time for all of us to reflect, by remembering the sacrifices our veterans are making and working for a more peaceful future.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress passed a resolution designating the month of March as Women's History Month as a time to honor, "American women of every race, class and ethnic background [who] have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways."

For 2004, the theme of Women's History Month is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility." To celebrate this month, I would like to honor four of the numerous women from Wisconsin's history who inspired hope and possibility through their selfless efforts in gaining suffrage for women in America.

First, I would like to recognize Ada James, who served as president of the Political Equality League from 1911 to 1919. As a dedicated women's suffrage advocate, Ms. James spent these eight years preceding the ratification of the suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution on an automobile tour through Southern Wisconsin. She spoke at state and county fairs, and to farmers and workers in factories with her fellow suffragists. Ms. James was a native of Richland Center, a city in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District, and I am honored to be able to share Ms. James' story here.

Reverend Olympia Brown resided in Racine, Wisconsin, where she was elected president of the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association, holding this post for 30 years. Reverend Brown lived a life of activism, and after being refused at Wisconsin polls, she took her case to the State Supreme Court. Despite a decision rendered in favor of the election inspectors, she never accepted defeat. She continued to fight for women's right to vote, and was one of the few suffrage leaders who lived to be able to cast a vote in the Presidential election of 1920—the first in which women could vote.

As the first Wisconsin-born leader of the state's suffrage movement, Theodora Winton Youmans was able to help the movement gain momentum by writing a regular column for the *Waukesha Freeman*. She used her column as a platform to educate the public about suffrage and women's rights. After leaving her post as assistant editor in the 1890s, Ms. Youmans worked to create the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, serving as its president in 1900. In 1924, she lost a bid to Congress, and it was not until nearly 75 years later that Wis-

consin would see its first Congresswoman with the election of TAMMY BALDWIN in 1999, who continues to represent Wisconsin women today.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I would like to honor the achievements of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt. As a native of Ripon, Wisconsin, she played the largest role in the final passage of the 19th Amendment. Her campaign was successful because she pushed for reform in the states, instead of focusing solely on a constitutional amendment. In 1900, she succeeded Susan B. Anthony as the president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Following ratification of the amendment, her leadership abilities were not forgotten as she helped establish the League of Women Voters, which is still active today. I think I speak for all people from Wisconsin when I say that we are fortunate to have had such a remarkable woman in our history.

These four women, along with so many others, inspired hope and possibility not only in Wisconsin, but across the United States. I have no doubt that their devotion to the cause was the sole reason why Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 10th, 1919. I am honored to share these women's stories today, as their efforts made Wisconsin a leader in this landmark roll call of democracy. In many ways, their hopes are still with us today. As a reflection of this, I will end my statement with a quotation from Carrie Chapman Catt: "Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government."

IN HONOR OF MIGUEL RIVERA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miguel Rivera for his years of outstanding work and service with Verizon Communications. Mr. Rivera will be honored by the Friends of Mike Rivera Committee for 35 years of dedicated service to Verizon Communications and the Hispanic Community at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in North Brunswick, New Jersey.

Mr. Rivera is retiring from Verizon Communications after 35 years of service. Mr. Rivera started his career with Verizon as Facilities Engineer from 1968 to 1972. He also held the position of Systems Equipment Engineer from 1972 to 1977. From 1977 to his retirement, Mr. Rivera was Director of External Affairs, serving as the face of Verizon Communications to local government, consumer relations, and Hispanic relations in New Jersey.

As Director of External Affairs, Mr. Rivera was able to dedicate a great deal of time and resources to the enhancement of the Hispanic community in New Jersey. Serving as Corporate Representative of Verizon Communications with the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Rivera was able to bring increased prosperity to Hispanics throughout the state by forming new partnerships with Latin

America, bringing products and jobs back to New Jersey, and creating further economic development and business opportunities throughout our region.

Mr. Rivera currently is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Community United for the Rehabilitation of the Addict, Inc. (CURA), Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Puerto Rican Action Board, and Trustee for New Brunswick Tomorrow. Mr. Rivera's vast community activities are an example of his wide variety of concerns for his community, while showing his dedication and desire to improve his community through action.

Mr. Rivera received his bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico. Mr. Rivera is a loving husband to his wife, Nina Rivera.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Miguel Rivera for his 35 years of distinguished service, outstanding leadership, and devotion to Verizon Communications and the Hispanic community.

TERRORISM PROTECTION OF MASS TRANSPORTATION AND RAILROAD CARRIERS ACT OF 2004

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, the recent horrific terrorist attacks on commuter trains in Madrid, Spain tragically underscored the vulnerability of railroad and mass transit systems to terrorist attacks. It is time we identify these vulnerabilities and make the necessary changes to improve our safety.

Congressman RUPPERSBERGER and I have introduced the Anti-Terrorism Mass Transportation and Railroad Carrier Act of 2004, which is the companion legislation to a bill introduced by Senator SESSIONS in the Senate. This bill takes tangible steps to protect the millions of Americans who use our transit systems and increase punishment if a terrorist is able to conduct an attack.

Under current law, an attack on a train is treated differently than an attack on any other mass transit system. We believe clear federal jurisdiction is needed to send the message to would-be terrorists: they will face the full force of law. Under our bill, perpetrators would face up to 20 years in prison if an attack causes material damage to a railroad or mass transit system, and the death penalty if the attack results in any deaths.

Our bill would also broaden the definition of "domestic and international terrorism" to provide law enforcement with tools to combat and prevent attacks on mass transportation and railroads. Specifically, our bill would make it easier for law enforcement officials to detect and disrupt terrorist plots against mass transit systems in the planning phases by allowing the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications if sufficient evidence existed.

Mr. Speaker, we need to deal with the terrorist threat in a forceful, decisive manner. While much remains to be done to improve railroad security in our country, this bill takes an important first step.

INTRODUCING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF CONGRESS ISSUE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to offer what I believe is a necessary solution to a problem not addressed in our Founding Fathers' plan for our country's government.

I recently introduced a Constitutional Amendment to address the issue of how Congress would continue should a catastrophic event occur. Under this proposal, if a majority of House members are killed or incapacitated as a result of such an event their seats could be immediately filled by temporary appointments made by state legislatures. We need look no further than the Continental Congresses and Constitutional Convention, to understand that such a temporary solution would be successful. I believe that a functional House, even in a temporarily modified form, is far better than no House at all.

The temporary appointments would be afforded full Member powers, until vacancies are filled by a special election. However, a temporary Member could not be a candidate in the election for the seat he or she holds, and the temporary Member must be of the same political party as the Member who previously held the seat.

There is no way the Founders could have foreseen the need to address such an issue. The terrorist acts that take place nearly every day across the globe were not a part of their world. That's why I believe a Constitutional Amendment is necessary to enable the House to reconstitute itself as quickly as possible.

We have amended the Constitution to address presidential succession and the appointment of Senators in the case of vacancies, but the House has no such constitutional safeguard in the event of a catastrophe. That doesn't make sense. If the Senate can accept an appointment to fill an entire term, then a temporary appointment should not be that offensive to the concept of democracy, and therefore, should be acceptable for the House.

I offered this Constitutional amendment (H.J. Res. 89), because I believe that proposals to expedite special elections and make temporary appointments are not mutually exclusive. I support the idea of a new statute that seeks to expedite special elections and fill House seats quickly in the event of a catastrophe, but this needs to be done in concert with a Constitutional Amendment for temporary replacements and with respect for views of the states.

As for other proposals that address this issue only through expedited special elections, I am certainly willing to review any compromise opportunities. However, I do not believe, nor does the secretary of state from my home state of Connecticut believe, that it is reasonable to expect that we can hold special elections within 45 days after a disastrous event has wiped out hundreds of Members. Also, expedited special elections won't reconstitute the House fast enough to deal with pressing legislative matters.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 taught us that Congress needs to act quickly

on critical pieces of legislation to deal with the aftermath of a crisis. Should such an event occur again and many Members of Congress die, the country will not have the luxury of waiting for special elections to occur in order for the people's business to continue. To avoid taking action now to prevent this scenario would be a dereliction of our duty.

My proposed Constitutional Amendment also addresses vacancies created by the incapacity of a Member of the House, which cannot be addressed by a mere statute. The article would become part of the Constitution if ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states within seven years of the date of its submission to them.

As a former history teacher and long-serving member of the Connecticut State Senate, I feel very strongly about the need to preserve the institution of Congress. In December, I held a Continuity of Congress Forum at the University of Connecticut School of Law in Hartford, Connecticut. I invited local academic leaders, who are experts in Congressional operations, to discuss current House proposals about how Congress would continue should a catastrophic event occur.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this Constitutional Amendment. This is certainly an issue that is difficult for all of us to address—our untimely demise or incapacitation. Yet, given the level of terrorist activity in our world, it would behoove us to recognize that we need a mechanism for temporary appointments should a catastrophic event occur in the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO PELKIE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AND THE ORIGINAL SEVEN ONE-ROOM COUNTRY SCHOOL HOUSES ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR REUNION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call your attention and that of our House colleagues to a ceremony that will take place in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on August 9, 2004. While the Baraga County Fair goes on, the Pelkie Agricultural School along with the original seven one-room country school houses of the Pelkie area, will be celebrating with all their alumni.

In the NW corner of the Upper Peninsula there is the small town of Pelkie where a hidden treasure lay. The treasure built in 1932 is known as Pelkie Agricultural School, and is perhaps one of the oldest schools of its kind in Michigan or even in the United States still operating as an educational institution. The community looks forward to hosting the event and reuniting with old friends, teachers and classmates.

The Pelkie area was originally settled by Finnish immigrants in the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century. As late as the mid-1970's one could walk into the local Co-op Store and hear the Finnish language spoken, or attend an area church service on Sunday conducted in the Finnish language. In the early years, seven one-room country school houses served the educational needs of the Pelkie area children, and then in 1932 the Pelkie Agricultural

School was built to consolidate these schools. For the first ten years or so, Pelkie Agricultural School operated as a K-10 school with an agricultural focus. The concepts of agriculture (for boys) and home economics (for the girls) were articulated and integrated into all aspects of the curriculum.

In the mid-1940's, the school began the first of many changes caused by declining enrollment and dwindling finances. The school first changed to a K-8 school and then eventually a K-6 school. As innovations and curriculum changes occurred in Michigan education, Baraga Township decided to implement a new and innovative concept. Eventually this led to the designation of the school as a lower elementary building for the entire district. The elementary school is currently filled to capacity and wisely used by the district.

When asked what role the school plays in the community, a local resident responded that the school was and continues to be the center of the community. It is the place for all community activities except church services. MSU Extension Study Clubs, 4-H Clubs, physical fitness programs, preschool programs, Agricultural Extension meetings, as well as the Baraga County fair are held there. Everyone has fond memories from their times at Pelkie Agricultural School and the community takes pride in doing everything they can to keep the school in good condition.

Over the years, the school has provided many important needs for the community including educational programs for soldiers after WWII. The school received federal funding under the GI bill to offer educational services and training in agriculture to area men returning home after the war. Five teachers dedicated themselves to teaching night classes to returning GIs in efforts to help them become productive independent farmers on the land that their Finnish forefathers had cleared a generation earlier.

The caliber of education offered at Pelkie Agricultural School is revealed through their many distinguished alumni. For forty-four years, Mrs. Ida Fitzpatrick, one of the school's teachers and its principal, directed the education of community youth. The school has produced many farmers, professors, traders, musicians, teachers, writers, and doctors. Among those we can cite as having attended Pelkie Agricultural School are Dr. LuAnne Ruona, psychiatrist and faculty member at George Washington University, Dr. Paul Niemisto, a professor and composer of music at St. Olaf's University, and Mr. Dan Maki, professor of History at Finlandia University. I am proud of their commitment to education and their contribution to their individual professions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our House colleagues to join me in wishing the best to the people of Pelkie in celebrating 70 years of education at Pelkie Agricultural School and the seven original one-room country school houses. We also extend a hearty, "Well Done!" to the Reunion Planning Committee. I am sure that many former Pelkie residents will be drawn back home for this celebration, so that families may be reunited, old friendships renewed, and a remarkable quality of life rediscovered.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE
VALIANT SERVICE OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly condemn and denounce this cynical resolution which seeks members of Congress to once more endorse the needless war against Iraq. The world is certainly not safer now than it was before the attack on Iraq. Indeed, just the opposite is true. We are bogged down in a war at the wrong place which drains dollars, manpower and creative decision-making energy from our government. This administration has placed our nation in a deadly vise that blocks us from a more effective pursuit of terrorism. Let me just cite one critical example: Pakistan! We are losing our long-term ally, Pakistan, as a result of blatant neglect. The one Islamic nation which clearly has "weapons of mass destruction" has received low priority and second class treatment from our government. Even after the President of Pakistan chose to take great risks to assist in the war against the Taliban in Afghanistan, the U.S. offered this nation an economic assistance package of less than one billion dollars. At the same time this administration was offering Turkey several billion dollars merely to allow our troops to pass through on their way to Iraq. Pakistan also has a population of more than 150 million people while Iraq only has 25 million people. Nevertheless we are proposing 27 billion dollars to rebuild Iraq while offering the loyal ally, Pakistan, less than one billion dollars.

Mr. Speaker, we are losing our most valuable ally in the war against terrorism because we are obsessed with Iraq. Because I have a large Pakistani-American community in my District I was invited to visit Pakistan 2 years ago. Everywhere there was obviously admiration for America; however, everywhere there was also disappointment and bitterness with respect to the treatment of Pakistan by successive U.S. governments. In the end there is a feeling that their nuclear weapons program is the only way they can command the appropriate attention from the U.S.

Be assured that no high school sophomore is expected to believe that the sale of Pakistan's nuclear secrets to other nations was a crime committed by one super scientist acting without the assistance of the government. These deadly sales to North Korea and other rogue nations represent defiance and revenge expressed by a nation that deems itself to have been grossly mistreated.

Emergency diplomatic and economic assistance are needed to save Pakistan from becoming a Taliban victim or an overt enemy. Loyalties in the nation are now almost evenly divided and the present government is walking on a very thin line. Diverting just a quarter of the economic assistance approved for Iraq to Pakistan would send a meaningful message to our long-term ally. Who is losing Pakistan? The Iraq obsessed White House is losing Pakistan.

Problems in Iraq are impacting on all types and levels of decision-making in Washington.

We have been forced into a hardship budget for domestic programs. While there is no Federal aid for public school construction here at home, we are spending billions to build schools in Iraq. While fifty percent of the Black males in New York City are unemployed, billions of dollars are being spent to provide jobs to Iraqi men. There is a possibility that the bitterness and desperation which is the fertilizer for terrorism will create a unique incubator in America.

Is the world better off since we ventured into oil rich Iraq? Are Americans safer? Is the war against terrorism being conducted effectively? The answer to all of these questions is no. Should we pass this resolution which pretends to honor the troops but has been concocted to ambush legislators into stating that they endorse the war in Iraq? The answer is no.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF
TUNISIA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the government and citizens of the Republic of Tunisia on the forty-eighth anniversary of Tunisian independence.

On March 20, 1956, Tunisia declared its independence from France and the United States was one of the first countries to recognize an independent Tunisian state. For forty-eight years, Tunisia has been a strong ally of the U.S. and has helped to encourage the values of liberty, democracy, and free enterprise throughout Africa and the world.

In addition, Tunisia has worked closely with the United States to promote international peace, stability, and progress. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Tunisia was one of the first nations to condemn the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and offer its support in the global fight against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, all of Tunisia's people will be in joyous celebration. I rise today to join them in the commemoration of their independence.

RECOGNIZING ALFRED P.
GERHARDT, JR.

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Legion's Eighth District Commander and Wawassan Post 422 Post Commander Alfred P. Gerhardt, Jr.

Alfred P. Gerhardt, Jr. received his draft notice on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1966 and spent three months and ten days at Fort Lewis, Washington when he was honorably discharged on April 27, 1967.

In 1968, he went to Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania as a part-time student during the spring semester and eventually went on to work as a nursing assistant at the Coatesville Veterans Administration Hospital in Coatesville. He subsequently retired from there after 15 years of service on March 28, 1998.

In the summer of 1977, Mr. Gerhardt transferred his American Legion membership to Wawassan Post No. 422 in Honey Brook. He was elected and installed as Post Chaplain on the night of his official transfer and held that post until he became the 43rd Post Commander on September 15, 1980. He then was appointed Post Adjutant and served in that office continuously for all but two years. Even during his tenure as Post Commander, he more than often handled many of the responsibilities of the Post's Adjutant.

On September 13, 1982, Alfred Gerhardt became the 55th Chester County Commander and was only the second member of his Post to hold this office. He later served as Chester County Adjutant and as Deputy District Commander for many years. His service as Post Commander resumed again on two separate occasions from September 19, 1994 through September 16, 1996 and from September 21, 1998 through September 18, 2000. Throughout many of his years of service, Alfred was the acting Post Service Officer and Post Historian. It was in July of 2002 that he became the Eighth District Commander.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Alfred P. Gerhardt, Jr. for all his years of dedicated and exemplary service to the American Legion and his fellow veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO ISTVÁN DEÁK

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a most talented and remarkable

scholar—Professor István Deák, the Seth Low Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University, and a world-renowned expert about 19th and 20th century Europe.

Professor Deák was born in 1926 in Hungary and after surviving the Second World War, enrolled in college at the University of Budapest. Later, after Hungary was overtaken by the communist regime, Professor Deák fled his homeland and arrived in the United States in 1956. He earned his Doctorate in Modern European History from Columbia University in 1964 and then began a distinguished career as a professor there.

Mr. Speaker, Professor Deák has focused his research on the history of resistance, collaboration and retribution of political movements in 19th and 20th century Europe. His research and publications on this topic has been extraordinary and has provided great insight into this often neglected area of academic pursuit. Professor Deák's research has been especially important when compared to his colleagues working on similar topics but trapped in Eastern Bloc countries. While Professor Deák was able to write and research unfettered, his colleagues in Eastern Europe were dictated to and directed by party rulers that desired to rewrite the history of their regimes in the best possible light. Mr. Speaker, it should be pointed out that while Professor Deák was able to work freely in this country, his work was hindered by the fact that many of his crucial sources remained behind the Iron Curtain, and were often only available to members of the Communist party. As a result, Professor Deák often traveled to Hungary for his research, placing himself in danger. The ruling regime had the power to interrupt his travel if his work was deemed a threat. Undaunted by these constraints, Professor Deák

continued to produce brilliant work on the Hungarian Revolution as well as the history of European Nationalism.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his extraordinary research and writing talents, Professor Deák devoted much time to his students, both at Columbia and around the world. He lectured in universities in Germany and the United States, where he continuously taught his students to be critical thinkers. He also stressed to his students the idea that history should be considered an art and that their historical prose should be elegant.

Professor Deák is a prodigious writer himself and has authored numerous articles, reviews, and books, including; *Weimar Germany's Left-Wing intellectuals: A Political history of the Weltbühne and its Circle and Beyond Nationalism: a Social and Political History of the Habsburg Officer Corps, 1848–1918*. He continues to prove himself as an articulate and gifted historian; his recent essays have been published in the *New York Review of Books* and *The New Republic*, and he also recently published a book entitled *Essays on Hitler's Europe*.

Mr. Speaker, Professor István Deák is an extraordinary scholar and his work on collaboration and resistance has provided numerous invaluable lessons to our generation and future generations. I urge all my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to him today.