

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNCLE ELI'S QUILTING PARTY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 29, 2004

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 1, 2004, several hundred people will gather at a location in my congressional district for the 73rd year in a row to commemorate what some fear is becoming a lost art—quilting. No one knows what the future holds for this wonderful tradition, but thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, there will be a permanent reminder to all who travel to our area.

On April 1, an historic highway marker will be unveiled commemorating “Uncle Eli’s Quilting Party.” Named after Eli Whitney—the father of the cotton gin—“Uncle Eli’s Quilting Party” has been a tradition in Alamance County, North Carolina, since 1931. The unveiling will take place in front of the community center that bears Eli Whitney’s name on the “Football Road” (SR 1005) in southern Alamance County. Community volunteers wanted to mark the historic and cultural significance of “Uncle Eli’s Quilting Party” with a roadside historical marker. The state of North Carolina agreed that it met the standards needed for the sign’s erection, but it did not have any available funding. So, like the determined quilters the sign commemorates, the group pitched in, raised the needed funds themselves, and convinced the state to manufacture the sign. On April 1, all will gather with pride when the sign is unveiled.

To fully appreciate the wonderful traditions kept alive by the quilters, allow me to quote Erma Kirkpatrick from *Quilting in America, Beyond the Myths: Selected Writings from the American Quilt Study Group* (edited by Laurel Horton):

“The day begins early. By 8:00 a.m., the first cars have parked outside the big old brick gymnasium, which is the Eli Whitney Community Center. Nannie McBane, quilter, quilting instructor, and coordinator of the quilting party unlocks the door. Inside, the gym seems huge, cavernous and bare. One or two quilts have been ‘put in’ the previous day so the quilters can get an early start. Otherwise the gym is empty, with bleachers folded against the wall and tables stretched out along one end ready to receive food. Gradually the room comes to life. A table is placed by the door so that everyone can sign the register and make a name tag to wear. Early arrivals unfold chairs brought from the storage room and begin to wipe off the bleachers. As women bring in quilted items for display, willing hands help drape the quilts over the now-dusted bleachers or hang them on clothes lines which are stretched around the walls. Suddenly there is a quilt show! . . . The day and the quilting progress. Around noon the covered dishes are uncovered, the line forms, a blessing is asked, and a serious attack is made on the heavily loaded tables . . . The quilters take pride in their cooking as well as their quilting.”

Erma Kirkpatrick also writes that in the last few years, the focus of “Uncle Eli’s Quilting Party” has changed: “Today the quilting party is a social gathering for which the Eli Whitney community is well known. People attend from as far away as 50 miles. There is less dedication to putting in and completing a quilt. In fact, seldom is a single quilt completed by the end of the day. The number of quilts in frames has gone down and the number of visitors has increased. It has become a spectator sport.”

No matter what the future holds, “Uncle Eli’s Quilting Party” will continue to mark the start of spring in southern Alamance County. And thanks to a group of dedicated, civic-minded quilters and their fans, a highway marker will let the world know that there is a quilting party every year in North Carolina that would make Uncle Eli proud.

HONORING THE STATE CHAMPION CLARKRANGE HIGH SCHOOL LADY BUFFALOES

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clarkrange High School Lady Buffaloes’ for winning this year’s Tennessee Class A basketball championship. This is the Lady Buffaloes seventh state title. In winning their seventh title they knocked off the defending state champions.

When people talk about this team you hear words like grit, determination, and cohesion. All three are part of the formula that makes a winner. Clarkrange residents can be proud of the accomplishments of the Lady Buffaloes, who last made it to the state championship in 1995.

The following are the members of the 2003–2004 state champion Lady Buffaloes: Coach Lamar Rogers, Jordan Ramsey, Miranda Cravens, Jaclyn Upchurch, Kari Jones, Michelle Snow, Amanda Beaty, Lindsay Parris, Diane Beaty, Kayla Crabtree, Ashley Jones, Jessica Green, Amy Miller, Brianna Pinson, and Nakeisha Cottle. As is the case in most team sports, cheerleaders are at the forefront of pumping passion and spirit into the crowd. Those assisting the Lady Buffaloes were: Coach Tinker LaRue, Heather Smith, Cassie Hoover, Nekedra Terry, Lauren Moody, Traci Ipock, Alicea Barnett, and Shelly Pack.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Lady Buffaloes and would like to express that the United States House of Representatives recognizes their accomplishment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PETE JONES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Pete Jones of Buffalo, Wyoming, who passed away recently at age sixty-nine. I personally knew Pete well, and he was a devoted family man, a dear friend, and a beloved member of his Buffalo, Wyoming and Glenwood Springs, Colorado communities. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community and state.

Pete was a man of the highest integrity and ethics. During his years spent in Glenwood Springs, he was known in the business community for his fair dealing and problem-solving skills. In his spare time, he immensely enjoyed the rodeo, competing in rough stock events, and also trained and worked as a smokejumper. However, he found the most joy in life spending time with his wife Doris, his children, grandchildren, and the families of his brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to Pete Jones. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family and community. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING SHERIDAN AND MILDRED OSTRANDER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sheridan and Mildred Ostrander of Chicago on their recent Golden Anniversary celebrating 50 years of marriage.

Both Sheridan and Millie have been active members of the community and continue to support the many causes important to them.

Sheridan, now retired, has owned several businesses and worked for CNA Insurance for a number of years.

Millie has been a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker and remains active in Our Lutheran Church and Luther North High School Women’s Organizations.

Together Sheridan and Millie have lived in their present home for 48 years. They have two children, Janice Fleck and James Ostrander.

The Fleck’s, Janice and Michael, are the proud parents of two children, Sarah, who attends Oakton Community College; and Jessica, who attends high school in Niles, Illinois. James and Christine Ostrander have two children, Megan and Kevin, who both attend grammar school in Schaumburg, Illinois.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the Fifth District in congratulating Sheridan and Mildred Ostrander on their fiftieth wedding anniversary, and wish them and their extended family all the happiness in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, I was in New York City for meetings to discuss a number of homeland security issues with various officials and, therefore, missed two recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted, "yes" on recorded vote No. 94 and "yes" on recorded vote 95.

TANF REFORM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have failed to make a real TANF reform that helps the working poor low-income single parents, children of poverty stricken families, and especially the men and women who have a drug conviction.

The TANF program contains several provisions that could decrease funding for individuals who received a drug felony conviction, which includes use, possession, or distribution. There is a lifetime ban on TANF and food stamps for individuals who receive a drug felony conviction after August 22, 1996, unless the State enacts legislation to disregard the ban completely or narrow it. Only 7 States and the District of Columbia have completely opted out of the ban with another 18 states allowing benefits to be paid to individuals with drug felony conviction in certain circumstances. For instance, in only three states the ban does not apply to those who finish their sentence and comply with their parole or probation, six states do not apply the ban to those in treatment or who have completed treatment. However, 41% of States ban TANF and food stamps based on the conviction alone. A report in 2002 estimated that the ban affected 92,000 women in 23 States studied.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a State issue. This is our Nation's issue. If we do not help all of those in need, if we stop giving assistance to some of our most needy, those with an addiction or who have been falsely accused of this conviction, our Nation will end up paying for it with higher rates of crime, higher recidivism rate, and a number of individuals remaining drug-users. The National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study found that women treated in federally funded treatment programs increased their employment and decreased their use of welfare. The number who reported being employed in the year after treatment increased by 25 percent. Incomes also increased by 6 percent while the number receiving public assistance decreased by 8 percent.

This clearly demonstrates that punishment and banning assistance is not the answer. Instead, federal assistance will assist to produce working, tax-paying citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 94 and 95. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of those rollcall votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 93, HR. 3905—Community Recognition Act of 2003, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SGT. ROBERT JEPSEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to an outstanding patriot from my home state of Colorado. Sergeant Robert Jepsen recently returned from serving our nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While there, Robert was injured in a terrorist bombing attack near Baghdad. Sadly, the attack also claimed the lives of three of Robert's fellow 82nd Airborne Paratroopers. While we mourn the loss of Robert's comrades, I think it is appropriate to call the attention of this body of Congress, and our nation, to the sacrifices that Robert and his fellow soldiers have made on behalf of a grateful nation.

After graduating from high school, Robert answered his country's call to duty when he entered the United States Army. From the outset, it was clear that Robert had the qualities of a tremendous soldier. His bravery, intelligence and outstanding leadership did not go unnoticed, and Robert earned his Ranger Tab with the 101st Airborne Division, (Air Assault).

Throughout his recovery, Robert has drawn on the qualities that made him a great soldier. He continues to maintain a positive attitude and high spirits while recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and plans to return to school to realize his dream of becoming a pediatrician.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise and pay tribute to Sergeant Robert Jepsen. Robert's personal sacrifice and unwavering heroism is the true embodiment of patriotism. On behalf of my fellow Coloradans, and Americans, I wish to thank Robert for his bravery and noble service.

TWO OTHER WAYS TO HELP AND HONOR OUR TROOPS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of two important bills enacted by the House earlier today that will provide much-needed and deserved assistance to the families of U.S. troops, and provide special recognition for the distinguished service of our military personnel in the global war against terrorism. This legislation would reimburse U.S. service personnel for their transportation costs and create two new campaign medals designating military service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The first bill, S. 2057, builds on the much-needed and highly successful Operation Hero Miles, which allows Americans to donate their unused frequent flier mileage, by also reimbursing troops for travel expenses to their final destinations. Under the U.S. Armed Forces Central Command Rest and Recuperation Leave Program, those troops who traveled before Dec. 19, 2003 are not eligible to be reimbursed for commercial airfare beyond U.S. points of entry—Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas-Fort Worth, or Los Angeles. Also, there is still a need for travel assistance for soldiers on emergency leave, and for family members of soldiers being treated at U.S. military hospitals. This bill would allow troops to seek reimbursement retroactive to Sept. 25, 2003 which will help many of their families save hundreds of dollars each.

I am also proud to cosponsor and vote for a second bill passed by the House today, H.R. 3104, which would create separate campaign medals specifically designed to recognize service by members of the Armed Forces who participated in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. These decorations will be worn proudly by our troops and provide important symbolic recognition by distinguishing their service in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and emphasizing their specific and unique significance in our mission to win the global war against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the troops for their continuing valor, patriotism and commitment to our Nation. We thank them for their heroism and sacrifices, and we support these bills to honor their service and to provide much-needed relief for their families. Now that a year has passed since U.S. troops were deployed to Iraq, we wish them all a safe return and hope this legislation makes their trip home a little easier.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that global warming is happening and that man is contributing to it. Now, it is our responsibility to work to mitigate the impacts of potentially catastrophic climate change.

It is clear we must begin taking steps to reduce U.S. emissions and the Climate Stewardship Act yields a scientifically sound, economically feasible and environmentally progressive formula for doing so.

By limiting the combined global warming emissions of major polluters, creating a trading market for emissions allowances and reductions through a National Greenhouse Gas Database, and funding transition assistance for workers, industries and consumers, this bill takes a responsible first step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a way that is timely, meaningful and cost-effective.

The Climate Stewardship Act targets emissions from the electricity generation, transportation, industrial, and commercial economic sectors, which together account for 85 percent of overall U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. (Starting in 2010, the bill would cap U.S. aggregate emissions for the covered sectors at the 2000 level. The bill's emissions limits would not apply to the agricultural and the residential sectors.)

It applies a successful, market-based approach to reducing emissions, and the result will be cleaner air and a healthier environment.

The Climate Stewardship Act charts a new, more responsible course on climate policy and reflects a cognizance of the very real threat global warming poses to our Nation and the rest of the world.

We simply will not have a world to live in if we continue our neglectful ways.

CHILD NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT AND INTEGRITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I supported H.R. 3873, the Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act last week on the House floor and again commend Chairman BOEHNER, Ranking Member MILLER, Subcommittee Chairman CASTLE and Ranking Member WOOLSEY for their hard work and collaboration on a bipartisan bill which continues to feed our Nation's children.

However, due to our Nation's budget being in the red, it is bothersome that we can not feed more of our Nation's children whose parents are hard working Americans. It is bothersome that there are children whose families can not even afford the reduced price meals but are simply not poor enough to receive free lunch. With over 500 school boards and many state boards of education urging Congress to eliminate the reduced price charge—Congress has replied with “we just can not afford to help your children eat”.

It is also bothersome that some in Congress feel that it is inappropriate to recommend what foods are healthy and should be given to students and what unhealthy foods should be kept off the menu. The argument is why would schools attempt to provide healthy foods when students can simply get the unhealthy foods outside of school. Should our schools begin to give up on a student in the 9th or 10th grade because neither parent graduated high school? Should our schools not teach a stu-

dent to read because neither parent is literate nor does the home provides newspapers or books to read? Should our schools not teach algebra, geometry, or calculus because the parent can only do simply math with a calculator?

Our schools have been the stepping stone to a better life for many individuals than the life of which their parents had academically, socially, emotionally and there is no reason why nutritionally can not be added to the list.

Mr. Speaker, I supported this reauthorization last week—but only wish we could have done more to prevent more children from going hungry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall vote 88. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on the vote.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN RINO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute today to John Rino for his admirable service and dedication to his Trinidad, Colorado community. His volunteer efforts for Trinidad seniors were recently recognized at the Harry R. Sayre Senior Center where a new wing was dedicated in his name. I would like to congratulate John on receiving this honor and thank him for his unwavering commitment to the City of Trinidad and the State of Colorado.

An active member in city politics, John served on the Trinidad city council for sixteen years, and served for two terms as mayor. During his years in public service, John was instrumental in making significant improvements to the city. He organized the county ambulance district, saw that neglected streets were paved, saw that wooden water transmission lines were replaced with metal lines, and extended water lines to areas of the city that were not previously provided with city water. For the last sixteen years, John has volunteered his time with the senior citizen center, organizing and cooking spaghetti dinner fund-raisers that usually have 150 or more people in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that John Rino is a person who possesses dedication and commitment to his pursuit of public service, and it is my distinct pleasure to honor John before this body of Congress and this nation today. Naming the new wing after John is the center's way of saying thanks for his selfless efforts and leadership, and is a well-deserved testament to his ongoing efforts to better his community. I wish John all the best in his future endeavors.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM TREA SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in January I introduced H.J. Res. 88, a bill proposing a Constitutional amendment to make the Social Security trust funds, the Medicare trust funds, the military retirement trust fund, and the civil service retirement trust fund off-budget so that the annual budget deficit will reflect the true costs of the obligations that accrue each year.

My bill has been endorsed by the TREA Senior Citizens League, an affiliate of The Retired Enlisted Association. I would like to insert the letter of support from George A. Smith, Chairman of TREA Senior Citizens League into the RECORD:

JANUARY 15, 2004.

Hon. GENE TAYLOR
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TAYLOR: TSCL, a non-partisan advocacy organization consisting of some 1.2 million members and supporters nationwide, understands that you intend to reintroduce a constitutional amendment resolution that would lock Social Security, Medicare and military retirement trust funds off budget. On behalf of our members and supporters, I want to convey our strong support for your resolution.

Contrary to popular belief, Social Security and other trust fund monies are not kept separate from other government funds. The government uses those monies when it needs to, and simply writes an IOU to the trust fund. I believe the American people would be outraged if they truly understood this was happening.

Also, because of the way the government counts the surpluses that we have in the various trust funds, the deficit appears to be less than it really is. Once again, I believe if the American people would see the true size of the deficit, there would be an end to business as usual in Washington. As Comptroller General David Walker said in a September 2003 speech, “while we are starting off in a financial hole, we don't really have a very good picture of how deep it is” because the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget's current measurement and scorekeeping approaches relay an incomplete and misleading picture of the government's financial condition.” [Roll Call, September 18, 2003]

TSCL also applauds the approach you are taking by introducing a constitutional amendment resolution. If legislation only were to be enacted, we believe that Congress and the White House would ignore or work around the law. This is why it is imperative that a constitutional amendment be ratified.

TSCL's parent organization is The Retired Enlisted Association. As such, we are especially grateful for the protections you seek not only for Social Security and Medicare trust funds, but also for the military retirement and disability trust fund.

Please be assured, Rep. Taylor, that we will be doing whatever we can do to move this resolution forward. Again, thank you for your efforts. We look forward to working with you on this critical matter.

Warm Regards,

GEORGE A. SMITH,
Chairman.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 183 years of the Greek people's freedom and independence, and their noble revolution from the Ottoman Empire in March of 1821. As Greeks and Greek-Americans celebrate Greek Independence Day, I join them and my colleagues in recognizing this great nation.

Nearly 400 years ago, the Greek people embarked on a powerful revolution against the Ottoman oppressors. The ancient Greeks forged a mighty wave of democracy and freedom following the fall of Constantinople, culminating with Bishop Germanos of Patras raising the Greek flag at Agia Lavras.

Today, 183 years after Greece's successful and bold revolution, she continues to prove herself a loyal ally of the United States, while standing firm in her advocacy of democracy and freedom. Greece is one of only three nations in the world beyond those of the former British Empire to be allied with the United States in every major conflict of the 20th Century. The United States is fortunate to have such a longstanding and reliable ally.

As we continue to eradicate the global threat of terror, Greece again stands firm with the United States. Our efforts in the war against terror would not be as successful without the continued assistance from our allies in Greece.

I join my colleagues in saluting and thanking the Greek people on this 183rd year of freedom and independence. To Greece, our free and democratic ally: "Cronia polla hellas".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2004, I was in my congressional district due to a death in my family. I missed the recorded votes on rollcall No. 94, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2584, the Utrok Atoll Conveyance; rollcall No. 95, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3723, the Vaughn Gross Post Office Building. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 94 and "yea" on rollcall No. 95.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LANSING CIVIC PLAYERS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the Lansing Civic Players, a community theater in Lansing, Michigan, as 2004 marks their 75th year of continuous operation.

After three-quarters of a century enduring trials and tribulations, the Lansing Civic Players still continues to achieve the goal they set out for: To provide the people in the Lansing area with good community theatre.

In the fall of 1929, two amateur theater productions were established in the Lansing area: The Players Guild, started by Elva Schell and the Civic Theatre, created by August Fischer. In October 1929, the two groups decided to join resources, and the Lansing Civic Players Guild was born.

The first years were a struggle for the group. The members of the Lansing Civic Players Guild performed all necessary functions. They were the actors, the ticket salesmen, and the set builders. They did it all. They had very little money, but they had a determination to bring quality theater to the Lansing area. The group began work on their first play, "The Trial of Mary Duggan." It was at this time the royalties for the show were pulled, and the Lansing Civic Players Guild was left without a play. But as they say in show business, the show must go on. The group rushed to find a new production, and on May 24, 1930, they performed "Captain AppleJack." This performance had over 1,000 people in attendance, including the Governor of the State of Michigan, and is still a record setting attendance to this day for the theater.

Today, the group operates their business, the building, rehearsals, and costume shop out of a fire hall which they acquired in June, 1977. The Lansing Civic Players have performed at three area high schools since inception, and currently perform at the Hannah Community Center. They have received awards for longevity from the Community Theater Association of Michigan as well as the Lansing City Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Lansing Civic Players and the impact they have made on mid-Michigan.

COMMENDING SAS INSTITUTE OF CARY, NC, FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a milestone for SAS Institute, a home-grown North Carolina software company with roots in our State's fine university system. Since 1976, SAS has been a leading employer, both in our state and around the world, as exhibited by its ranking in Fortune magazine's annual "100 Best Companies to Work For" list year after year. And SAS' \$1.34 billion in revenues make it the world's largest privately held software company and the leading business intelligence software company. Today, SAS announces the release of SAS®9, its most advanced business intelligence software ever. SAS®9 helps businesses and organizations worldwide turn raw data into better, faster and more accurate business decisions. Congratulations to SAS, a great North Carolina company that serves the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 29, 2004, I was unable to vote on H.R. 2584, to provide for the conveyance to the Utrok Atoll local government of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship (rollcall 94) and H.R. 3723, the Vaughn Gross Post Office Building Designation Act (rollcall 95). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both measures.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on March 29, 2004, I was unavoidably detained because my departure flight from my congressional district was delayed as a result of mechanical problems. This situation resulted in my having missed rollcall votes 94 and 95. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 94 and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 95.

TRIBUTE TO RAY MEYER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Ray Meyer for his selfless dedication to his Delta, Colorado community, and congratulate him on being recognized by the Delta Chamber of Commerce as their Citizen of the Year. A lifelong resident of Delta and a member of the Delta City Council, Ray has involved himself with numerous civic organizations. This award is a well-deserved testament to his ongoing efforts to better his community.

Born in Delta and raised in his father's grocery store, Ray has always been an active member in the community. The time Ray spent away from Delta was just as active, attending college at the University of Denver and serving our country in the Navy during World War II. Once he came home from defending our country in the Asian-Pacific Theatre, Ray joined his father's grocery business. In 1958, he became manager of Delta Savings and Loan, and served as CEO and chairman until his retirement in 1985.

Ray has served his Delta community as a member of the city council for 14 years, sitting as chairman and on numerous committees, including region 10. He is also an active member at St. Michael's Catholic Church, a member and past president of the Lions Club, and a former president of the Rotary Club and Delta chamber. He serves on the library board and the public arts committee, and is a member of the Community Concert Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ray Meyer before this body of Congress and

this nation today for his commitment to his Delta, Colorado community. He has done much for the city of Delta, and I congratulate him on receiving the Delta Chamber Citizen of the Year award. I would also like to congratulate Ray and his wife Jo as they recently celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday March 29, 2004.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I not been unavoidably detained, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No., 94—Motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments to H.R. 2584; and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 95—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3723.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2004, I missed rollcall votes No. 94 and 95.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 94 and 95.

COMMENDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SANTA BARBARA, VENTURA AND SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES, INC. ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. on their 40th anniversary. Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. promotes family planning and healthy, responsible reproductive and sexual behavior through the provision of high-quality, comprehensive educational, counseling, medical and referral services.

Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. promotes public understanding, acceptance and support for reproductive choice and family planning services. They provide these important services to everyone who needs them, regardless of their ability to pay.

Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. promotes public understanding of global problems that stem from population pressures and encourages support of programs working toward solutions to these problems. More than 52,000 reproductive health care visits are provided

annually to more than 20,000 low-income women, men and teens. Planned Parenthood should be commended for their outreach to underserved populations and for their provision of care in an unbiased and accepting environment.

The advocacy efforts on behalf of clients that Planned Parenthood provides, ensures that women and families continue to have access to the full array of reproductive health care services. I celebrate Planned Parenthood's forty years of dedicated service to this community.

Professional and peer educators provide sexuality education to promote healthy sexual attitudes and responsible sexual behavior to more than 66,000 teens, young adults and parents annually. As a nurse I understand firsthand the importance of proper health education. I commend Planned Parenthood for providing such a critical service.

In closing, I want to affirm my support for Planned Parenthood, as we join in commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. in order to focus public attention on the importance of promoting family planning and responsible choices so that each person may make an educated choice about the future.

HONORING LAURIE MARRS UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Laurie Marrs upon her retirement after 20 years of service as Executive Director of the Northville Chamber of Commerce.

Due to her leadership in the business community, the Northville Chamber of Commerce has become one of the premier business associations in the State of Michigan. From 1985 to today, Laurie Marrs has increased membership from 100 to 525 members, founded and served as chairperson for the Northville Victorian Festival, increased the number of Farmer's Market vendors from 6 to 100, instituted the annual State of the Community luncheon and founded the Northville Business Showcase.

Her husband, Terry, and daughters, Kelly and Andrea, should be extremely proud of the undeniable mark she has left on the community. We at home will sorely miss and always benefit from her dedication and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Ms. Laurie Marrs, upon her retirement after 20 years as Executive Director of the Northville Chamber of Commerce, for her fine service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO LON ERWIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lon Erwin for his remarkable record of service to

the community of Durango, Colorado. I would also like to congratulate him on receiving the 2004 Barbara Conrad Award from the Durango Chamber of Commerce which was presented by his wife, Sidney Zink, a Durango City Councilor. This award, honors an individual who is associated with the Leadership La Plata program and is dedicated to building a stronger community by bringing people together.

Since his graduation from the Leadership La Plata program in 1990, Lon has been active in numerous initiatives and organizations. He serves as president of the local chapter of Civitan International, serves as board president of the Southwest Colorado chapter of the Red Cross, and is the executive director of the Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado. Erwin is also the volunteer coordinator for Durango Food Share, which distributes food to those in need in Durango, Cortez, Pagosa Springs, and Aztec, Colorado. Not only is he willing to give his time to worthy causes, but he had the foresight to establish leadership classes for high school students in Durango, Cortez, Bayfield, and Ignacio, ensuring that the next generation has the tools to lead and strengthen the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Lon Erwin before this body of Congress and this nation. His efforts to strengthen his community are truly remarkable, and his receiving the 2004 Barbara Conrad Award is a well-deserved testament to his tireless efforts. I sincerely thank him for his service and wish him the best in his future efforts.

SAVE THE SUMMERS ACT OF 2004

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the Save the Summers Act of 2004, which will temporarily increase the cap on the number of skilled overseas workers allowed into the United States. For the first time and without advance warning, the Department of Homeland Security announced that the cap of 66,000 H-2B visas had been reached just six months into the current year—leaving summer employers stranded. This one-year emergency fix will increase the number of H-2B visas by 40,000 for fiscal year 2004 only. This bill will also require that the Department of Homeland Security provide Congress with quarterly reports on the number of H-2B visas issued and an annual report providing a statistical analysis of the program.

The H-2B visa program allows foreign workers to come to the U.S. for short periods of time (up to 10 months) to fill seasonal or temporary jobs. The fishing industry in Alaska, tourist and resort industry along much of the East Coast, the Upper Midwest, and the Rockies, swimming pool management companies across America, catfish, timber and sugar industries in Louisiana, crab processors in North Carolina, and the shrimp industry in Texas are just a few that depend on the H-2B program to bring in needed workers.

Fishing in Alaska supports nearly 20,000 jobs, and is estimated to be a billion dollar-a-year industry with nearly 700 million dollars-a-

year in exports. The processors and vessel owners rely on these temporary workers who are Japanese technicians specifically trained to the standards required for Alaska Ikuro products to be sold in the Japanese market. Their skills are not otherwise available in the Alaska or U.S. labor pool and they are not taking work from U.S. workers. My state relies on these workers and I believe the H-2B visa program is vital to the survival and economic growth of the fishing industry in Alaska. The potential for lost revenue in Alaska is extremely high if the industry does not have these skilled technicians to aid with the processing.

This is a serious matter that requires immediate legislative action. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives for their support and urge them to swiftly pass this emergency legislation, which directly affects the economy in many of our districts.

JOB LOSSES IN THE U.S. TIED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHINA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call my colleagues' attention to an important development in our country's approach to trade. For years, businesses have recognized that markets only work when the rules are applied fairly to everyone. Corporations have pushed our government to enforce international trade law governing intellectual property, state subsidies, and pricing, because violations of these international rules hurt American businesses and American workers.

Now, for the first time, workers themselves have filed a petition, arguing that systematic abuse of workers' rights in China have displaced hundreds of thousands of American jobs. This historic petition filed by the AFL-CIO describes how the Chinese labor system artificially lowers wages and brutally represses its workers, and therefore constitutes an unfair trade practice under Section 301(d) of the Trade Act because it "burdens or restricts U.S. commerce."

I commend to my colleagues the following opinion piece from Harold Meyerson, who notes correctly that this petition could result in our trade law finally being applied to the benefit of workers as well as shareholders. In addition, the unabashedly free-trade editorial page of the Washington Post wrote that the "administration should agree to consider [the AFL-CIO's] petition." Simply put: it is not protectionist to argue that free markets and a free economy cannot be based on human-rights abuses.

For too long, American trade policy has failed to promote even minimum labor standards. The International Labor Organization's core labor standards simply articulate basic political freedoms, such as the freedom to associate, the abolition of forced labor, and the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has failed to include even these internationally-recognized standards as a framework for trade negotiations. Yet the ILO's report on Central America confirms that none of the CAFTA

countries is in compliance with basic standards of health and safety or freedom of association.

If free trade is going to improve the quality of life for Americans without putting downward pressure on labor standards internationally, we must ensure that every country is playing by the same rules. I urge my colleagues to read the attached articles.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 17, 2004]

CHINA'S WORKERS—AND OURS

(By Harold Meyerson)

Until 10 a.m. yesterday, U.S. trade law belonged to big business. Corporations routinely petitioned our government to threaten other countries with sanctions if their products were being knocked off or undersold by foreign manufacturers with state subsidies, and our government frequently complied. The solicitude the Bush White House and its predecessors showed for shareholders, however, was nowhere in evidence for workers. Profits depressed by unfair trade practices were an official object of concern; wages and employment levels depressed by unfair trade practices were none of the government's business.

This double standard was the heart of modern trade policy. Yesterday morning, that began to change. For the first time ever, the AFL-CIO filed the kind of unfair-trade petition that corporations commonly file, alleging that China's repression of workers' rights has displaced at minimum 727,000 U.S. jobs, and calling on the President to threaten China with tariffs until it stops artificially lowering its workers' wages.

The idea that our trade statutes protect American workers from competition with repressed workforces overseas will surprise just about everybody, but in fact, these laws were enacted by Congress in the 1980s and signed by Ronald Reagan. For the past 15 years, unions have taken no action under the laws, because the U.S. job losses were hard to quantify.

Over the past year, however, Mark Barenberg, a Columbia University law professor, and Mark Levinson, chief economist for UNITE (the clothing and textile union), concluded that changes in the global economy were so huge that such a calculation was now possible—and necessary. In particular, there was the loss of nearly 3 million U.S. manufacturing jobs over the past 3 years, the concurrent explosion of Chinese manufacturing, the ballooning of the U.S. trade deficit with China and the abundant if largely ignored documentation of China's semi-Stalinist labor system. All these things combined to make a trade-law appeal on behalf of U.S. workers eminently plausible.

The 103-page AFL-CIO petition runs through an array of statistical analyses to come up with its figure of 727,000 displaced American manufacturing jobs. But its foremost achievement may be to encapsulate the vast literature that describes the part-feudal, part-communist labor system in which Chinese peasants must labor when they go to work in China's export-sector factories. Under China's hukou system of household registration, citizens must live and work in the place where they are permanently registered, normally their place of birth. Every household is designated as rural or urban, a distinction on which a caste system has been erected.

Urban workers are free to apply for and leave jobs; they are entitled to state housing and pensions. Rural workers, however, need state permission to seek work in towns and factories. Once employed, they enter a bonded-labor arrangement in which they cannot quit unless they can pay their employer an amount plainly beyond their means. The

hukou system forbids them to compete with urban workers for higher paying jobs, and migrant workers without jobs are subject to arrest by the state's public security bureau.

By state design, then, these workers have no power to affect their conditions of work. Though productivity in China has skyrocketed, they are routinely paid rural-level subsistence wages—as little as 15 to 30 cents an hour—when they are paid at all. Employers tend to recruit childless, young, single women, whom they pack into cement-block dormitories to which the women are commonly restricted when they're not on the factory floor. They cannot leave. They organize at the peril of imprisonment or torture.

China has 160 million workers in manufacturing and mining, nearly 12 times the U.S. total. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that 20 million peasants will enter the urban workforce every year for the next 20 years. This is, make no mistake, the planet's proletariat—and it in no way resembles the kind of free labor force we take for granted in the United States. Those U.S.-based corporations that invest in Chinese factories—a long list headed by Wal-Mart—owe some nice chunk of their profits to a workforce toiling, to resurrect a line from Mao, under "the barrel of a gun."

Critics will doubtless call the AFL-CIO "protectionist" for filing this petition. And if it's protectionist to demand that millions of Chinese women have the right to leave their jobs and apply for better ones, or to unionize their workplace or be allowed at least one day off a year, if it's protectionist to demand that U.S. workers not lose their jobs because they cannot work as cheaply as these repressed Chinese workers, then the AFL-CIO should absolutely plead guilty. What I'd like to hear from the critics—and from George W. Bush—is why they're protecting the deal between U.S. corporations and China's neo-Stalinist state to extract profits for them both at the expense of tens of millions of desperate young women.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 22, 2004]

TRADE AND LABOR RIGHTS

The Ethical basis of free markets is that they reflect free, individual choices. Workers may be paid little, but if they sign up for jobs voluntarily, then those jobs must be the best options available. Removing those jobs, for example, by closing factories on the grounds that they are "sweatshops," will make workers' lives worse. But what if the workers' choices are not free—what if workers are locked up in factory dormitories and brutalized when they protest? In that case capitalism has lost its ethical foundation. Capitalism may remain a wonderful engine of economic growth, and growth in the long term tends to bring freedom. But in the meantime it will not be just.

This is why the trade complaint against China, filed by the AFL-CIO last week, deserves qualified sympathy. China's police state abuses workers, who sometimes go unpaid and then get beaten up when they demand what is owed to them; it has punished labor leaders with harsh prison sentences handed down after fake trials. The AFL-CIO is right that such treatment violates the principle that free economics should be rooted in free politics. If the effect of the petition is to goad the U.S. government into protesting human-rights abuses in China, it will be constructive.

But the unions' ambitions go beyond that. Their petition demands that the Bush administration punish China with trade sanctions, arguing that Chinese abuses drive down wages and increase the competitive pressure on American workers. In fact, ending abuses in China would not save many

American jobs. China has 800 million people living in the countryside, where under-employment afflicts one in three workers; for these people, wages of \$2 a day represent an attractive income. Market forces, not denial of workers' rights, are overwhelmingly the main reason for China's low wages.

Still, China's abusive labor practices are abhorrent, so one can agree with the unions' objective without accepting their supporting argument. The question is whether trade sanctions are the right way to help Chinese workers. Sanctions can sometimes work, especially if their aim is to extract specific concessions: that certain prisoners be released, for example, or that a particular labor practice be stopped. The unions' demand is that China set up an administrative system to enforce labor rights throughout its vast manufacturing sector. That might prove more than the communist regime can stomach, in which case the trade sanctions would disrupt trade without improving labor rights—retarding the economic progress that may bring political freedom in the long run.

The Bush administration must decide whether to consider the petition and what sanctions if any to apply. If it accepted the idea of imposing trade penalties on China, the Chinese would likely appeal to the World Trade Organization's arbitration panel, and the appeal might well be successful, forcing the United States to lift its sanctions. If, on the other hand, the panel sided with the United States, the WTO would for the first time have imposed on its members a duty to protect labor standards.

Would this be a good thing? Yes, provided that these labor standards governed basic political freedoms rather than mandating minimum wages or even minimum standards of safety. Imposing economic regulation on poor countries would harm poor workers by destroying their jobs. But even if the new standards were reasonable, they might cause a backlash from developing countries, which regard external imposition of labor standards as protectionism in disguise. If developing countries withdrew from the WTO as a consequence, trade would be disrupted, and workers would suffer once again.

In short, if trade is used as a lever to promote a revolution in international labor rights, the lever will break. Still, the unions are pursuing a good cause, and the administration should agree to consider their petition. Here's a small proposal: To allay poor countries' fears of disguised protectionism, the United States should couple measured promotion of labor rights with bigger cuts in U.S. tariffs on products such as textiles and sugar. That would displease some U.S. unions and businesses, but it would further the interests of the world's poorest workers.

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING
MR. THOMAS M. McDERMOTT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Mr. Thomas M. McDermott on his retirement from the Northwest Indiana Forum. Tom has spent the past 11 years dedicating his life to the promotion of economic development and growth in Northwest Indiana. His career as President and CEO of the Northwest Indiana Forum has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of many people. In honor of his gracious service to his community, there will

be a celebration of his accomplishments on March 31 at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Indiana.

Tom McDermott has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. Before joining the Forum in 1992, Tom served as Mayor of the City of Hammond for nine years. Prior to that, Mr. McDermott served as Circulation Director of The Times and as Suburban Circulation Director for the Chicago Sun Times. Tom has also ventured into the newspaper and radio business, serving at one time as owner of WIMS Radio in Michigan City, WXRJ in Crown Point, WJOB in Hammond, WCGO in Chicago Heights, Illinois, WABT in Kane County, Illinois, and WZVN in Merrillville.

Not only has Tom had many positive accomplishments throughout his career, he has also actively contributed to his community through participation in various programs aimed at improving opportunities for the people of Northwest Indiana. He has been a powerful member of the Board of the Fund for American Studies, the Lake Area United Way, Hoosier Boys Town, Boy Scouts of the Calumet Council, Lake Point Children's Discovery Center, Chancellor's Advisory Board at Purdue North Central, Partnership for a Drug Free Lake County, Northwest Indiana Urban League, Trade Winds Board, Welfare Reform Council, Campagna Academy Board, and the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Board. In addition, Tom has addressed educators and community leaders in London on partnership programs to encourage excellence in education, and was chosen by the American Council of Young Political Leaders to represent the United States in Australia and Norway.

Along with his many other accomplishments, Tom has received numerous community service and leadership awards, including "Business Person of the Year" from the Hammond Chamber of Commerce. Other awards include: Lake County Economic Opportunity Council Service Award, Greater Hammond Community Services "Man of the Year" award, and the American Business Women's Association "Boss of the Year" award.

Mr. Speaker, Tom McDermott has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Northwest Indiana throughout his years of service. He has taught every member of his staff the true meaning of service to all members of the Northwest Indiana community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Tom McDermott for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL
HINDMARSH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Russell Hindmarsh for the contributions he has made to his Dolores community and the State of Colorado. Recently, Russell was chosen as Cattleman of the Year for his lifelong commitment to the cattle industry. It is with great sat-

isfaction that I congratulate Russell for this well-deserved honor, and thank him for his contributions to his community and state.

A veteran of the Korean War, Russell began working in the livestock industry at a young age, and learned to ranch sheep and cattle from his father. As his career in the industry progressed, he has focused his attention to raising cattle. Russell's involvement in the ranching community of Colorado includes having served on the advisory boards for the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, serving on the Southwest Livestock Association board, and serving on the Montezuma Woolgrowers board. He also is a former member of the Colorado Woolgrowers, the National Woolgrowers, the Colorado Cattlemen, and the National Cattlemen.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Russell Hindmarsh has a legacy of strong commitment to the cattle industry in the Dolores community and the State of Colorado. Russell's efforts to keep this great tradition of ranching vibrant is worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. It is my privilege to extend to Russell my sincere congratulations on being named Cattleman of the Year for 2004, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS I. "BUTCH"
HODGKINS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to a man with a truly distinguished public service career. For nearly four decades, Francis I. "Butch" Hodgkins has served Sacramento County with great class and distinction. Butch will soon retire from his current position as the Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. As his friends, family and colleagues gather to celebrate Butch's illustrious career, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding citizen of Sacramento.

Butch received his Associate of Science degree from Sacramento City College and then moved on to California State University, Sacramento for a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. In 1965, Butch began his four-decade long career with the County of Sacramento, Department of Public Works. From 1972 until 1988, he worked for Public Works Division of Sacramento County that dealt with the sewer system.

In March of 1989, Butch was appointed Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works for Sacramento County. During his tenure at this position, he served as the project and construction engineer for a \$100 million wastewater construction program. In addition, as Chief of the Division, he was responsible for a \$50 million per year regional wastewater project.

In September 1991, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors assigned Butch to the City and County Office of Water Planning. In his capacity as a Liaison for the City and County Office of Water Planning, Butch was charged with the formidable task of formulating an area-wide plan to provide safe and reliable water supply in such a manner which

protects the environment for both the City and County of Sacramento. As he had demonstrated throughout his career up to that juncture, Butch achieved great success in this position. Butch soon developed a well deserved reputation as an effective problem-solver and a dedicated public servant. In September of 1994, Butch's outstanding track record would earn him the post of the Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA.)

SAFCA is a joint organization with a Board of Directors comprised of members from Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Sacramento City Council, Reclamation District 1000 Board of Trustees, American River Flood Control District Board of Trustees and Sutter County Board of Supervisors. Its primary function is to address problems such as regional flood control and levee instability in the Sacramento area.

Under Butch's stewardship, SAFCA has grown in credibility, visibility, and reach. In a community in which everyone agrees that the region's current flood protection is woefully inadequate, but not everyone agrees on a solution, Butch has helped mold SAFCA into the definitive and unifying authority on all matters related to flood control in the Sacramento Area. Throughout his successful tenure as Executive Director, Butch has proven to be an affective consensus builder, pragmatic thinker, and tireless worker who has rightfully earned the respect and admiration of those who have worked with him.

In his retirement, Butch can look forward to spending more time with his wife, Christine and daughters, Shelly Lynn and Laurie. I am confident that Butch would achieve great success and happiness in his retirement, just as he had throughout his professional career.

Mr. Speaker, as Butch's friends, family and colleagues gather to celebrate his great career; I am truly honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. The Sacramento region has benefited greatly from having Butch's strong leadership during turbulent times. He will be missed greatly by all who worked with him. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Butch continued success in all of his future endeavors, wherever retirement may lead him.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR RICHARD HANN OF IMPERIAL COUNTY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Richard Hann of Imperial County. Professor Hann recently retired from Imperial Valley College (IVC) after 35 years of devoted service and teaching. I believe it would be accurate to say that Professor Hann has touched the lives of thousands of students during his tenure.

Richard's leadership, enthusiasm for teaching and desire to have students develop and exercise their critical thinking skills as Chairman of the Social Science and Humanities Divisions at IVC will be sorely missed. It is becoming increasingly rare to find educators who

exhibit the effort and values Richard instilled into the academic environment at IVC. These were exhibited on a daily basis and earned Professor Hann the respect of his colleagues, students, and college administration.

I also want to recognize and thank Professor Hann for the work he has done on behalf of Imperial and San Diego Counties. During a time where the pursuit of knowledge and the commitment to one's community often becomes an afterthought, your continued efforts to preserve the history of Imperial and San Diego Counties will benefit our communities for years to come. For your work in this important area, we are forever indebted and are all grateful.

Congratulations again on your retirement Professor Hann, I wish you all the best with your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 29, 2004, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 94 and 95. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 94 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendments to H.R. 2584, to Provide for the Conveyance to the Utrok Atoll Local Government of a Decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ship; and rollcall vote 95 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3723, the Vaughn Gross Post Office Designation.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 94 and 95.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday my original flight from my congressional district in North Carolina was canceled, forcing me to take a later flight. Therefore I was unavoidably detained and missed the following three votes: passage of H.R. 2584; passage of H.R. 3723; and passage of H.R. 3917.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on each of these rollcall votes. I ask unanimous consent that this statement be recorded in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL MICHAEL A. SHUPP

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional officer of Marines,

Colonel Michael A Shupp. Colonel Shupp will soon complete a highly successful 3 year tour as the Marine Corps' Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives. It is truly a pleasure for me to recognize a few of his many outstanding achievements.

Colonel Shupp was raised in Bethlehem, PA. He attended the Virginia Military Institute and graduated with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in History. He completed the Airborne Course at Fort Benning, GA in 1979, and the Marine Officer's Candidate School at Quantico, VA, in 1980. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon his graduation from VMI and entered the Marine Corps in May 1981.

His many assignments over the past 23 years have included command of Company "A" 1st Light Armored Infantry Battalion during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and command of the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion of 1st Marine Division at MAGTF-Training Command, Twenty-nine Palms, CA. Additionally, he has served in many important staff billets to include being an operational planner for II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC, Plans Officer for 26 MEU (SOC) during Operation Dynamic Response, and being the Marine Corps' representative to the Assessment Planning Team for Operation Allied Force in Kosovo.

In August 2001, Colonel Shupp arrived for duty as the Marine Corps Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives. For the past 3 years, he has expertly represented the Marine Corps on all matters in the House of Representatives and spearheaded the Marine Corps' most difficult and challenging legislative initiatives. Through direct and skillful interaction with Members of Congress, he ensured that Marine Corps capabilities and requirements were widely understood by key Members of this body, assisting them in their decision-making. His initiative, leadership, and tireless efforts as the House Liaison Officer have had a lasting impact on improving the war fighting capabilities and the quality of life for Marines throughout the Marine Corps. Most importantly Mr. Speaker, Colonel Michael Shupp has come to epitomize those qualities that we as a nation have come to expect from our Marines—absolutely impeccable integrity, moral character and professionalism.

Mike was promoted to Colonel while serving here with us in 2003. He has traveled with us to dozens of countries, introduced us to hundreds of Marines worldwide, educated us on the capabilities and needs of the Marine Corps, and served as a stellar example of commitment to this great Nation. As he reports to his next assignment as the Commanding Officer of 1st Marine Regiment, headquartered at Camp Pendleton, CA I know he will continue his legacy of steadfast leadership and devotion to his men. Together with his lovely wife, Sherrye, he will always exemplify the Marine traditions of honor, courage, and commitment. It has been my pleasure to know and work with Colonel Mike Shupp over the last 3 years; a distinction I know is shared by many of my colleagues. I feel sure you want to join me in wishing Mike, Sherrye, and their daughter Jessica continuing success as well as fair winds and following seas.

HONORING ABIGAIL POWERS
FILLMORE

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, today, March 30, 2004, marks the 151st anniversary of the death of First Lady Abigail Powers Fillmore, founder of the very first White House Library.

Abigail Powers was born on March 13, 1798, in Stillwater, NY, and received a good education and love for learning and libraries through the personal library of her father, Reverend Lemuel Powers (d. 1800). She became a school teacher at age sixteen and helped establish a small circulating library in Kelloggsville, New York about 1817 that greatly influenced the intellectual development of her future husband and President of the United States, Millard Fillmore.

Abigail Powers Fillmore found the White House destitute of books when she became First Lady in 1850 and encouraged and supported her husband's request for appropriations from Congress to establish a library in the Executive Mansion. She used the \$2,250 appropriated by the 31st Congress to select library books for the Executive Mansion and transform the Yellow Oval Room into the first official White House Library. Subsequently, the White House Library was the center of many cultural, social, and political activities during the Fillmore Presidency and has been a legacy enjoyed by subsequent presidential administrations for over 150 years.

We honor the life and work of Abigail Powers Fillmore. She serves as a reminder to us of the importance of continuing to advocate for libraries and for educational programs. In these times of economic difficulty and challenge, we continually are reminded of the key role libraries play in providing Americans with the opportunities they need to promote lifelong learning.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JULIUS
DIGREGORIO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Julius DiGregorio, a lifelong resident of Trinidad, Colorado who passed away recently at the age of 89. Julius lived a full life as a patriot, devoted family man, and beloved member of his community. As his family mourns his loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Julius and the many contributions he made to his community, State and country.

Julius embodied the spirit of America, and his story is a prime example of what makes America such a great country. He grew up in Trinidad, Colorado, where he played on the State Champion Trinidad High School Miners football team. Undeterred by the Great Depression in the 1930s, Julius attended Notre Dame College, earning a degree in mechanical engineering which he put to use as an engineer in South America. He served his coun-

try proudly in World War II, earning a bronze star while serving under General Patton during the liberation of Italy.

Once Julius returned to Trinidad, he staked his claim by building and managing an apartment building, as well as owning and operating the Columbian Hotel. In 1949, he married Frances Amato with whom he had three loving children. A man devoted to education and his community, Julius became the Director of the Head Start programs for Las Animas and Huerfano Counties in the 1970s, and a member of the Western Regional Head Start Director's Board.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Julius DiGregorio, and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

RECOGNIZING MISS LAURIE LYNN
BARTON

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize an important member of my staff here in Washington, D.C.: Miss Laurie Lynn Barton. Laurie has received the distinction of being selected by the Georgia State Society as Georgia's 2004 Cherry Blossom Princess. I am proud to congratulate her on this prestigious honor.

Laurie is the daughter of Ed and Jan Barton of Statesboro, Georgia. She graduated in 2002 from the University of Georgia, and later that same year, she became a member of my staff in Washington, D.C. Her tenure with my office is marked by tirelessly serving my constituents with a hard work ethic and commitment to excellence. I often receive thank you letters from my constituents emphasizing Laurie's outstanding service, and for that I am grateful.

The annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. is a rite of Spring in our Nation's Capital. It is marked by the blooming of the picturesque Cherry Blossom trees that adorn the Tidal Basin of the Jefferson Memorial and surrounding areas on the Mall. The Festival is a wonderful family event that brings people of all ages, from around the world, to Washington, D.C.

I am proud that Miss Laurie Lynn Barton will be representing the great State of Georgia in this international event.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS
ACT

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

On April 10, 2004, the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which has provided the framework for a strong and mutually beneficial relationship

between the United States and the Republic of Taiwan (ROC), will commemorate 25 years since its enactment by Congress. The TRA has helped provide peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait making possible the extraordinary economic expansion and democratization that has taken place there.

In 1979, during the process of normalizing relations with Beijing, there was great apprehension in the Congress that American security and economic interests in Taiwan would not be protected. What evolved is the only law which oversees almost every facet of U.S. relations with a foreign entity in the absence of diplomatic relations.

The new law provided for the security of Taiwan, formed a legal framework to protect the close relationship between the United States and Taiwan, and established Congressional oversight of that relationship including requirements that the President inform and consult with Congress when confronted by anticipated danger to Taiwan.

Today the TRA has withstood the test of time. Taiwan has built one of the world's top economies with nearly \$52 billion in trade with the United States, making it our eighth largest trading partner.

The Taiwanese constitution guarantees its 23 million citizens freedom of assembly, expression and association, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press. In addition, Taiwan has established strong support for human rights, committing itself to the major international human rights conventions.

Taiwan has become an openly democratic society with free and fair elections held at all levels of government. Over 80 percent of voters participated in Taiwan's recent elections, demonstrating the vitality of Taiwan's democracy. President Chen Shui-bian who has already been certified as the winner by the central election commission has agreed to a recount and hopefully one will take place in the very near future.

But whatever the final result, the fact remains that Taiwan has provided a moving example of democracy in action and one can only hope that it will serve as an inspiration for the more than one billion Chinese living in the People's Republic of China who will one day have an opportunity to elect their own government in a comparably democratic fashion.

It also should serve as a powerful and poignant reminder of the extent to which Taiwan and the United States share a common commitment to the principle that governments should be elected by the people they serve as well as underscore the vitality of the TRA and the need for continued American support for this vibrant democracy.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MASCOUTAH PUBLIC
LIBRARY AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE MASCOUTAH WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Mascoutah Public Library and the contributions of the Mascoutah Women's Club at helping establish the library.

In 1929 a small group of civic-minded women had a dream. Their dream was for Mascoutah to have a free public library. In their first formal meeting in January, 1929, Mrs. William Freivogel stated that the members of the Mascoutah Women's Club would take an active interest in civic affairs and that they would try to start a library. They then discussed the feasibility of undertaking such a large project.

Establishing a library was a huge task for 19 women who had no money, no books, no building to house the library and no furnishings. Their first major step was to find a suitable building for their needs. For six dollars a month they rented a small, two room brick house at 15 West Main Street across from the Cottage Hotel, the present site of the Mascoutah Post Office. Their goal was to have the building ready for occupancy by April 1, 1929. The women, along with a high school teacher and his assistants, built shelving and tables and opened the library with a small number of donated books.

The women's club then looked for a funding source for their new library. Funding was secured for the library by going directly to the citizens of the community. The club divided Mascoutah into sections and assigned members a group of homes or businesses to visit and ask for financial support for the library. Citizens were eager to support the library and their first fundraiser netted \$125.61. The club also appealed for donations of books for the new library and the response from the public was overwhelming.

By 1930, the library had between 1,500 and 1,800 books on its shelves. Other fund-raising projects by the Women's Club included public card parties and tea receptions. The Club also saved and redeemed soap wrappers for cash and sponsored book reviews. However, financial operations for the library continued to be a burden. It was during this time that the Works Progress Administration (WPA) opened many libraries in the area and they became interested in assisting the Mascoutah Public Library. The WPA-aided library reopened on October 31, 1938 and extended the operating hours. With the addition of these new funds, a librarian and custodian were appointed.

In January, 1939, another step was taken toward giving Mascoutah a very modern, up-to-date library. At a meeting of the Women's Club Executive Committee and the Library Committee, Mascoutah Mayor Raymond Pfeifer announced that a room in the new City Hall would be set aside for the library. Not only would the city supply the room, but they would furnish tables, chairs, and book shelves.

The new room would be on the second floor of the new City Hall and would extend across the entire front of the building. As the new City Hall was still under construction, the library would be available for occupancy when the municipal building was complete. When the library moved from 15 West Main Street into its new City Hall location on June 30, 1939, it owned 900 books. At this time the Women's Club added an even larger number of volumes to the existing collection. Dedication of the City Hall took place July 4, 1939.

The WPA continued to staff and maintain the library until 1941, when the Mascoutah Women's Club again resumed responsibilities for operation and management. Hours were curtailed, however, to two afternoons a week due to financing constraints. With over-

whelming public support, on March 16, 1942, the city council voted to adopt the library as their project and a small tax was levied for its operation and management. The City Council also appointed members of the Women's Club to the Library Board.

Through the years the Mascoutah Women's Club continued to support the library in many ways from financial support and donations of books to serving as members of the new library board. It is through the direct efforts of this group of dedicated women that has allowed Mascoutah to enjoy a community library providing many opportunities for the young people of the area to learn about their community and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Mascoutah Public Library and the contributions of the Mascoutah Women's Club at helping to establish this important community resource.

RECOGNITION OF THE BALTIC
MEMBERS OF THE COALITION OF
THE WILLING

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to three members of the "Coalition of the Willing"—Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania.

These Baltic nations have answered the call to freedom. The people of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania should feel very proud of the effort their governments have given to the rebuilding of Iraq and during Operation Iraqi Freedom. They have troops deployed in Iraq and these men and women are putting their lives on the line in the fight for freedom and democracy. In fact Latvia has deployed 150 soldiers, Estonia 55, and Lithuania 85. The sacrifice they are making should not be taken lightly.

These countries understand what freedom is, and what it takes to ensure it. I wish more countries had the same sense of duty and responsibility as these three nations. When the future is written, what they have done and sacrificed will not be forgotten. I applaud all of their efforts and I am very proud of what they have accomplished. The Coalition of the Willing has been criticized as being "token allies" and claims of ulterior motives have been made. I for one don't believe any of this and I am glad these countries have joined our efforts. This is a fight worth fighting, and I salute our friends from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY
EDWARD PENLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to one of our nation's top educators. Larry Edward Penley will be inaugurated in the coming weeks as the President of Colorado State University, and with his rich academic back-

ground, the students of Colorado will be well served. Larry has been improving the lives of American students for years, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous service to the Colorado community and this nation.

Larry received both his bachelor's degree in psychology and his master's degree in communication from Wake Forest University before completing his doctorate in Management at the University of Georgia. Following graduate school Larry joined the faculty at the University of Texas at San Antonio where he eventually served as associate dean of the College of Business. In 1991, he was appointed as dean of the Arizona State W.P. Carey School of Business which he saw become one of the nation's most prominent business schools.

Larry is a well-rounded academic who has been involved with several community improvement organizations like the United Way and the Arizona Coalition for Tomorrow. His research has focused on effective management skills and he is published in several of the nation's top academic journals. In addition to his service to the University and multiple associations he has consulted for, Larry has been awarded several honors, such as the MBA Students Associations Lifetime Achievement Award and the Hispanic Business Students Association Century Award for Exemplary Support and Leadership. Larry has raised millions of dollars for Arizona State University as he revised the curriculum to include more technology and actively recruited a diverse range of the nation's top high school students.

Mr. Speaker, Larry Edward Penley is a dedicated, selfless person who has been a wonderful ambassador for education in our country, and I am honored to welcome him to the Colorado academic community. His passion for public service is an outstanding example to set for America's youth, and his enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. Congratulations on your new position, and keep up the good work!

CONGRATULATING ALEXANDRA
HOLDERMAN AND KARVA
VAIDYANATHAN FOR THEIR EX-
EMPLARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my constituents for receiving recognition by the ninth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards; Alexandra Holderman of Mishawaka, Indiana, and Karva Vaidyanathan of Granger, Indiana. These awards constitute America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteerism. The program was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important.

Alexandra was named one of the top two youth volunteers in Indiana for 2004. She will be honored at the national awards ceremony

in Washington, DC, this coming May. Nominated by LaSalle Elementary School, Alexandra has collected and delivered more than 1,200 bundles of baby clothing, blankets, diapers, and other supplies over the past five years for infants born to needy single and teen-age mothers.

Karva has been named a Distinguished Finalist by the program's judges, and will receive a bronze medallion for her outstanding volunteer work. Karva collected 25 cartons of school supplies and \$3,000 to purchase computers for orphans attending a vocational training school in India.

I am proud of the work accomplished by Alexandra and Karva, and I commend them for taking an active role in their communities. They have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and they deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

HONORING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE AMERICAN LEGACY
FOUNDATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Legacy Foundation, a national organization dedicated to helping young people reject tobacco and Americans quit smoking. The foundation recently celebrated its fifth anniversary and I am proud that this organization has chosen our Nation's Capital as its home base.

Forty-seven million Americans smoke, but tobacco is not an equal opportunity killer. Forty years ago, the well educated and affluent smoked more, but the 21st century smoker is typically lower income and less educated. Today, the negative impact of tobacco-related disease disproportionately affects the poor and ethnic or cultural minorities.

For the last 2 fiscal years, the District of Columbia ranked last among the States in tobacco prevention spending. This is exactly why Congress must support the Metro D.C. Call Center, as well as innovative and results-oriented programs like the American Legacy Foundation's truth[®] campaign, Circle of Friends and Great Start. The Metro D.C. Call Center and programs such as truth[®] do help DC residents reject tobacco and pursue healthier lifestyles.

The American Legacy Foundation was created out of the Master Settlement Agreement put forth by our Nation's attorneys general, but under the terms of the agreement, the American Legacy Foundation received its last payment earlier this year. This dramatic reduction of resources jeopardizes all of the successes the foundation has achieved.

That's why I would like to ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Legacy Foundation and its groundbreaking programs, and pledge our continued support for this vital organization.

HONORING TRENT TOUCHSTONE
OF THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) in North Texas who has served with distinction. Supervisory Criminal Investigator Trent Touchstone has achieved a reputation within the law enforcement community as a professional manager who understands that training and agency coordination are the cornerstones of successful law enforcement operations.

During Mr. Touchstone's tenure with the USMS, this dedicated public servant has coordinated the location and apprehension of violent offenders among more than two dozen law enforcement agencies. Trent is responsible for the development and supervision of the Northern District of Texas' Special Response Team, which supports other law enforcement agencies in high-threat arrest operations, assists with their tactical training, and participates in multi-agency law enforcement competitions.

Trent was also instrumental in building the USMS Northern District of Texas' (N/TX) Training Facility. Since the N/TX Training Facility opened its doors, more than 1,100 state and local officers from 98 law enforcement agencies have trained at the facility. Supervisor Touchstone has also developed training films for Deputy U.S. Marshals and Court Security Officers depicting many dangerous situations they may encounter.

I am pleased to join Mr. Touchstone's colleagues in congratulating him on receiving the USMS Distinguished Service Award. His tireless devotion to public service has been an asset to the law enforcement community in North Texas and the citizens they protect.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2005

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I voted in favor of the Congressional Black Caucus substitute amendment, the Blue Dog substitute and the Democratic substitute. None of these budget resolutions is perfect, but all are improvements over the Republican budget.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RANDY HICKS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Randy Hicks on the occasion of his retirement from BASF Corporation after twenty-seven dignified years of employment.

Serving as the Communication Manager since 2001, Mr. Hicks has shown tremendous dedication and leadership throughout his long-lasting employment. He began his career in the Marine Corps and served two years of duty in Vietnam. In 1968, after departing from the Marines, he worked for Ford Motor Company in Wyandotte while attending Wayne State University and studying business administration. Mr. Hicks began his employment at the BASF Corporation as a Human Resource Manager before becoming the Communication Manager.

In addition to working at BASF Corporation, Mr. Hicks finds many ways to channel his supportive energy into the community. A past Chairman of the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber and Detroit Heritage River Business Committee, he serves on the Board of Wyandotte Federal Credit and Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital. He also has invested his time and effort into the Board of the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance Workforce Development, the City of Wyandotte Police and Fire Commission, and the Advisory Panel of Wayne County Community College.

I am personally indebted to Randy Hicks for the support and active role he played in turning the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge from a dream into a reality. Randy understood immediately the long-term and lasting benefits the Refuge would create and with his support, we actively built both a Refuge and a constituency. As a result of Randy's involvement the BASF Corporation has put a couple of parcels of property into the Refuge and hopes to add others.

As Mr. Hicks enters his retirement years, I would like to extend my best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable future. I would like to thank him for all of his hard work and commitment to BASF Corporation and the Downriver community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that my colleagues join me in commending Randy Hicks for leadership in both his corporation and community, as we celebrate his twenty-seven years of dedication to the BASF Corporation.

RURAL JOB LOSS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today the Congressional Rural Caucus held a forum on job losses in rural America. This is a critical issue in my district and in rural districts across the country. I would like to submit my comments on this issue for the RECORD.

I represent Michigan's 1st congressional district—the most rural district in Michigan. My constituents are all too familiar with job loss. Michigan has an unemployment rate of 7.6 percent—well over the national average. There are areas in my district where the unemployment rate actually exceeds 12 percent. 12 percent!

Since January 2001, 2.8 million manufacturing jobs have been lost across the country, 128,900 in Michigan alone. That is a loss of 1 out of every 6 factory jobs. In Michigan manufacturing is the engine of economic growth for our state—so you can see why the impact of rural job loss has been particularly devastating.

Manufacturing jobs seem to be heading out of Michigan to Mexico in droves. Recently, a refrigerator manufacturer, Electrolux, announced it is closing its doors and relocating to Mexico, costing us another 2,700 Michigan jobs. And just yesterday, Johnson Controls Inc., an automotive supplier in Holland, Michigan, announced its plans to move almost 900 jobs to Mexico.

We all know the problem, but what about a solution? We need to fix our international tax law that gives incentives to companies for shipping jobs overseas through tax credits and tax deferrals.

We need to fully fund programs like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership that has successfully helped small manufacturers to modernize and stay competitive in the global marketplace. This program is essential to rural economic growth. But the Administration has proposed cutting it by 60 percent. That makes no sense when this country is hemorrhaging jobs.

For example, I know that MEP has directly helped a number of companies in my district including Jacquart Fabric Products with 100 workers in Ironwood.

Last year, my Democratic colleagues from Michigan and I proposed the H.E.L.P. initiative to assist in turning the economy around and getting people back to work. H.E.L.P. focuses on employee healthcare and pension issues, as well as leveling the international playing field, and supporting partnerships with states, businesses, and employees which promote research and development.

In many of the communities in my district, hospitals and schools are among the largest employers. We need to keep hospitals open, and attract health care providers. We need to provide our rural schools with much needed tools such as broadband access and Internet classes. We need to attract small businesses. And we need to expand services for our seniors and veterans.

Unfortunately, I don't believe that the current budget proposals recently passed by the House and Senate are going to help get the 8 million jobless in our country back to work. We have a lot of work to do to jump start the economy.

I am glad the voices of our rural communities are being heard today. I look forward to hearing your recommendations on how to best address the problem of job loss in rural America.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF NICHOLAS P. DINAPOLI, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas DiNapoli on the occasion of his 80th birthday. The son of Thomas "Pete"

DiNapoli and Jeanette DiNapoli, Nick DiNapoli was born on April 6th, 1924, in Roslyn Heights, New York. He and his sister Tina attended Roslyn Public Schools and Nick was graduated from Roslyn High School in 1942.

From 1942 until 1953, Nick was an active member of the Roslyn Highlands Volunteer Fire Department and from 1943 until 1946 he served his country in the United States Army Air Corps, 4th Air Force, where he attained the rank of Corporal.

On September 5th, 1948, after returning from his service in World War II, Nick married Adeline Abbondandolo, also of Roslyn Heights, at St. Mary's Church where as a child he had been an altar boy. The newly married couple lived on Carlyle Place in Roslyn Heights until, on an especially proud day in 1953, they moved into the house they had built at 52 Coventry Avenue in Albertson.

It was around this time that Nicholas DiNapoli began working for the New York Telephone Company, where he rose from splicer's helper to splicer in 1948 and was eventually promoted to foreman in 1969. He served as Maintenance Supervisor, Auditor and Acting Manager before retiring in 1985 with 40 years of proud service.

Nick's children, Thomas Peter, born in 1954, and James, born in 1955, have been a constant source of pride. When his sons were growing up, Nick participated in many of their activities and became involved as an adult leader in the Albertson Little League and Troop 481 of the Boy Scouts of America. He attended ball games as well as camping and fishing trips with his sons and their friends. Tom is now the Assemblyman from the 16th Assembly District and James is the Deputy Chief of the Department of Public Safety for the New York State Courts. Some of Nick's fondest memories are of Tom's first election to the State Legislature in 1986 and of James' wedding to his wife Rachel in 1993.

Today Nick enjoys golfing, fishing and travel and he walks regularly to stay healthy. The joys of his life, however are his two grandchildren, Victoria Adeline, 9, and Nicholas James, 6. Though his beloved wife Adeline, passed away in 1991, Nick is lucky to have found a close companion in Kay Menschling. He is a member of St. Aiden's Roman Catholic Church in Williston Park and a member of American Legion Post 144. He has been a Legionnaire for over 50 years. Nick is also an Exempt and Honorary Member of the Roslyn Highlands Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Nicholas DiNapoli all the best on the occasion of his 80th birthday and in recognition of his many years of service to the community, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me celebrating his outstanding life.

CHILDREN'S EXPRESS LANE TO HEALTH COVERAGE ACT

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to invite my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4031, the Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act. This bipartisan measure, authored by Senator RICHARD LUGAR and I, will help States' efforts to enroll income-eligible children in the States Children's Health Insurance Program, commonly referred to as SCHIP.

As you know, despite gains in recent years, nearly 9 million children in the United States remain uninsured. Of those, nearly 7 million children are eligible for public health insurance coverage.

H.R. 4031, the Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act, builds on our successful legislation in the 106th Congress that provides States with the option of using the National School Lunch Program and the Women's Infants Children Program (WIC) to identify uninsured children eligible for benefits under the SCHIP and Medicaid programs.

Many States have used this cost-saving option successfully in promoting the well-being of income-eligible children.

While existing law allows children to be income-eligible for WIC based on their enrollment in the Medicaid program, the law does not give States adequate flexibility to make an income determination of eligibility for the Medicaid or SCHIP program based on an uninsured child's enrollment in WIC or another public program.

The Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act will give States the option of establishing that their Medicaid or SCHIP financial eligibility rules are satisfied when a family presents proof that their child is already enrolled in another program with comparable income guidelines.

Mr. Chairman, the public is well served when Federal means-tested public programs are able to improve administrative efficiency and coordination, as well as reduce unnecessary bureaucracy.

Moreover, uninsured children are well served when their enrollment in a nutrition-based or other means-tested program serves as a gateway to health coverage.

My colleagues, money alone will not solve America's health care challenges. We must maximize our existing resources by being more creative and aggressive in our outreach efforts and making it easier for families to tap into these benefits. We all know that children who do not get routine, preventative health care will not reach their full potential. We simply cannot afford to put our children at that disadvantage.

I urge you to become a cosponsor of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.