

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM  
DILLS MCKEE

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, this past week, Cashiers, North Carolina, lost an institution. With a memory that stretched across decades and generations, William McKee who served as Cashiers' resident historian and gatekeeper, slipped away from earth, just days short of his 90th birthday.

I first met Bill as a guest of his family's famous hotel; the High Hampton, Inn. As was his way, Bill turned guests quickly into friends. My wife Emilie and I were no exception and soon after our meeting, developed a personal friendship with Bill. When I mentioned to Bill that I might be interested in buying a lot in Cashiers for a family summer home, Bill quickly did a thorough background check to determine my merit as a potential resident. By the time I returned, Bill knew more about me than many members of my family. It seems I was acceptable.

It appeared no one was exempt from his scrutiny. In one of my favorite stories about Bill, years later when my brother-in-law wanted to purchase property in the area, Bill rang me up and asked, "Clay, you want him in here?"

Beyond watching over the area like a shepherd to his flock, Bill entrenched himself in the enrichment of his community. He was a trustee of the Cherokee Historical Society, and instrumental in the establishment and flourishing success of the Cherokee Historical Museum. He also served as a trustee and officer of the Highlands Biological Association, as well as Chairman of the Jackson County Morehead Scholarship Foundation. He was also a member of the Biltmore Forest Country Club, a former member of the Pen and Plate Club, and the Zeb Vance Debating Society.

If the measure of a man is his ability to affect the lives of others, few among us measure up to William McKee. The life he led touched so many others. Indeed, we will feel the ripples of his influence throughout this community well into the future.

As we remember Bill, let us remember the warmth he radiated and his gift for hospitality that made each of us feel right at home in his beloved home of Cashiers, North Carolina.

HONORING 2004 RN OF THE YEAR  
AWARD RECIPIENT ALLEN GILES

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Allen Giles on the occasion of receiving the Central Valley Coalition of

Nursing Organizations' 2004 RN of the Year Award for Clinical Practice. A banquet honoring him and three other award winners will be held Friday, May 7th at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, California.

Allen Giles consistently provides the highest quality care to all of his patients. He started his career with Community Medical Center in 1978 as a Registered Nurse and later became a clinical instructor. Allen is currently employed by Community Home Health as an RN. Allen demonstrates proficiency in assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating the delivery of patient care. He has a proven track record for accurate assessment and appropriate treatment plans, which has earned him the respect of the physicians and colleagues.

Allen is an expert in IV management. He is a Certified Registered Nurse in Infusion and provides IV infusion training to other health care professionals on his own time. Allen reviews IV cases to determine if additional staff are needed. He assists in introducing new technology to the Home Care field by reviewing new product literature, field testing of the product and practical application in the Home Care setting. He collaborates with members of the health care team to formulate, implement and develop techniques for nursing care. Mr. Giles is a genuine humanitarian. He attends case conferences even on his days off so that he can communicate an accurate summary of care to his team members. Allen truly cares for every patient and does so with courage and poise that only a leader in the field of nursing could possess.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Allen Giles for his excellence in the field of Clinical Practice. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Allen many years of continued success.

COMMENTING ON THE UPCOMING  
ELECTIONS IN THE DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, just 200 miles off the coast of Florida lies the island of Hispaniola, an island that contains two politically diverse countries, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. While Haiti is slowly emerging from civil unrest and developing democratic institutions, their Dominican neighbors will once again exercise their right to elect their nation's next President on May 16th. Since 1966, a little less than 4 decades, the Dominican Republic has elected its President in free and fair elections, and 2004 will likely be no different.

Particularly in light of recent events in neighboring Haiti, it is important for us to recognize this notable moment of democracy in the Dominican Republic. I believe it is essential that we applaud these worthy developments in the

Dominican Republic as a noble example for other Caribbean and Latin American nations of the power and strength of democracy.

Relations between Washington and Santo Domingo are strong, and the Dominican Republic is an important ally in the global war on terror. Indeed, they have been a partner in the war against Saddam Hussein's despotic and terrorist regime and the Dominican Republic has also been a committed ally in the war against illegal drugs. Dominican officials have provided invaluable assistance to our immigration officials and have worked closely with our law enforcement agents to cut off the flow of illegal narcotics to our shores.

The Dominican Republic's democratic elections will impact the future of the island of Hispaniola, the greater Caribbean, Americans of Dominican descent, and the foreign policy of the United States. I sincerely hope that the Dominican Republic, its current government and the respective presidential candidates will continue to demonstrate their commitment to democratic stability, and the transparency of the electoral process.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I salute the Dominican people for their willingness and passion to support and promote a free and fair democratic process in their country, and for sharing our common ideals of liberty and the rule of law.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY FRANCIS

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resident of Vermont, Kathy Francis. I am not the first to recognize her merits. She has already been honored by the Vermont Foster and Adoptive Family Association as the Vermont Social Worker of the Year. In a week she will be recognized by the National Foster and Adoptive Families Association as National Social Worker of the Year.

We all know that our nation's future lies with its children. The young of today will be the adults of tomorrow. But being young is not always an easy or comfortable position: many children in America are at risk, and need adults—parents, relatives; teachers, social workers, families—to support and guide them.

Perhaps most at risk are those without birth parents. And it is toward these children that Kathy Francis has made a major, ongoing commitment. A child protective social worker for Vermont's Social and Rehabilitative Services Department for the past ten years, Kathy has worked overtime, and with great dedication, to make sure that the children she serves, and the families they are placed with, have support of every kind. That these children will move forward to live rich and productive lives, and that the families they live with will surround them with support and love (and will receive love in return), has much to do

• 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.

with Kathy's ardor, perseverance and devotion to these Vermont children.

She is profoundly deserving of being honored Social Worker of the Year, and Vermont is greatly proud of her.

A TRIBUTE TO WAYNE PHILLIPS

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Wayne R. Phillips, an extraordinarily gifted teacher of Geography, World History, Government, Economics, and International Relations at the San Mateo and Mills High Schools located in my Congressional district. During the past 32 years, Wayne Phillips has demonstrated a caring, supportive concern for each of his students and has profoundly influenced the lives of over 5,000 individuals with his extensive knowledge and wisdom, and his innovative teaching methods.

Even from the early days of his career, Wayne Phillips had a talent for creating and implementing innovative classes. For example, while at San Mateo High School, he helped to create and teach the Social Science freshman curriculum. In addition he created and taught a course titled, Government In Action, which required students to intern in different types of governmental agencies in order to acquire a first hand knowledge of the realities of public service. When he taught economics, his students participated in a San Francisco Bay Area stock market simulation. His instructions proved so successful that many students went on to win the competition. Currently, at Mills High School he created and is teaching a stimulating elective for Junior and Senior students in International Relations. In addition to his teaching duties, Wayne Phillips has served as the Social Science Department Chairman for the past 12 years, where he has helped to bring positive changes to the curriculum, teaching methods, and organization of Mills High School. For his diligent efforts, Wayne Phillips was recently selected as the San Mateo Union High School District's Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, beyond devoting countless hours in the classroom, Wayne Phillips has also selflessly dedicated himself to extra-curricular activities that have enriched the school environment, in particular working tirelessly to create an understanding of, and tolerance for the many ethnic and cultural groups on the campus. Along with other school and community leaders he helped to create a unique all day program to understand, appreciate, and celebrate cultural diversity. He was also the driving force behind the production of assemblies to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, the Chinese New Year, and the Japanese Cherry Blossom festival. Connected to the production of the Chinese New Year celebrations, students created a one hundred-foot dragon that has appeared in the San Francisco Chinese New Year's Parade for the past six years. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of participating in a very special event Wayne coordinated to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights, and needless to say I was very

impressed with what I saw. For the last 24 years he served as the Freshman Class Advisor and assisted students with planning get-acquainted evenings, welcome dances, homecoming parades, class competition activities, holiday decorations, class elections, fund raisers and much more.

For Mr. Phillips, the classroom extends beyond the campus and he has consistently encouraged young people to participate in many types of educational opportunities. I am always delighted to see his students in Washington, DC, as part of Project Close-Up, which brings young people to Washington to see their government in action. His students also traveled to the Southern part of this country to learn first hand about the Civil Rights movement with the "Sojourn to the Past" program. As a long-time member of the World Affairs Council of Northern California, Mr. Phillips reads scholarship applications for the Council, leads "Great Decisions" student discussion groups on foreign policy issues, and chaperones students to Council meetings, special events, and the annual conference on world affairs at the Asilomar in Pacific Grove, California. Mr. Speaker, Wayne Phillips' influence spreads even to the United States House of Representatives, where we have benefited from an outstanding Congressional Page whom only became involved in the page program due to Mr. Phillips' encouragement and recommendation.

Throughout Mr. Phillips' entire career, he has been an example of the best in the teaching profession, earning the respect and admiration of students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, and members of the community. It is not hyperbole to suggest that the teaching profession is losing one of its giants with his retirement. Every student learns from him and knows that he values them and is there for them whenever and however they need help. He truly loves his kids, and his crowded classroom during non-class time is but one expression of his students' respect and love for him. Wayne Phillips may be retiring from his formal classroom responsibilities, but to paraphrase the famous Dr. Seuss book, Oh, the Places You'll Go, he will continue to learn and share knowledge, and continue his commitment to education.

Mr. Speaker, as a former educator, I am proud to honor Wayne Phillips on his extraordinary career, to thank him for his contributions and dedication to public service, and to wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING 2004 RN OF THE YEAR  
AWARD RECIPIENT NANCY  
SCHREIBER

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Schreiber on the occasion of receiving the Central Valley Coalition of Nursing Organizations' 2004 RN of the Year Award for Advanced Practice. A banquet honoring her and three other award winners will be held Friday, May 7th at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, California.

Nancy Schreiber is a skilled, experienced nurse practitioner who provides exemplary

care. She is currently a Perioperative Advanced Practice nurse at Community Medical Centers in Fresno and is an adjunct faculty member at Fresno City College. Nancy was a clinical nurse educator and neurosurgical coordinator. She holds a Master of Science degree in Nursing.

Ms. Schreiber has been a significant part of Community Medical Center's surgical services for over 17 years. She is a genuinely thoughtful person who is not only doing her job to help others, but also, trying to make an impact on their lives. She is a founding member of the Fresno/Clovis/Madera OR Educators Group. Nancy is fluent in Spanish and provides classes in Spanish for Perioperative Services Providers and has developed an English-Spanish phrase manual for use in the Perioperative areas. She is also a "hands-on" educator and has been involved in the design and implementation of the Operating Room Scrub Class.

Nancy has been involved in the process of writing two nursing standardized procedure manuals, The Nurses Pre-operative Screening of Patients by Criteria, and Assisting Endoscopic PEG Insertion. She has also contributed to nursing research in numerous projects and provided legal consultation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Schreiber for her excellence in the field of Advanced Practice. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Nancy many years of continued success.

HONORING OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF PUERTO RICO YOUTH:  
MÓNICA CRISTINA MAYOL  
SABATIER AND RIDGE OLIVIERI

**HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of two young constituents that have excelled with particular success in community service. Mónica Mayol and Ridge Olivieri, both of San Juan, Puerto Rico, have been selected as Honorees of the prestigious Prudential Spirit of Community Awards representing the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This is an honor bestowed to only two students per jurisdiction, and as such is a very treasured award in our Island and in the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Mónica Mayol is a 17-year old senior from Academia María Reina High School in San Juan. She serves as the activities coordinator at Centros Sor Isolina Ferré, one of the most renowned charity institutions in Puerto Rico. She tutors disadvantaged children and teenagers in several subjects, organizes drives to obtain food contributions, and even coordinated an awards ceremony and a Christmas party to bring happiness to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, the other student recognized by the Prudential Awards is 11-year old Ridge Olivieri, a sixth-grader at Saint John's School. Ridge is a very motivated sixth-grader who established a project to collect gently used clothing for disadvantaged children in Haiti. He felt that it was important to foster a sense of citizenship in his fellow peers, and his program got off to a very successful start with the help

of students, faculty, and sponsors such as American Airlines, who delivered the clothing to Haiti free of charge. He has followed the footsteps of a very close role model, his brother Chase, who is an eighth-grader at Saint John's, began a book recollection program and recently won the Do Something Brick Awards, a program that recognizes community service involvement in young men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I can attest to the fact that both are extraordinary students and remarkable young people. I feel very proud of representing first-rate students like Mónica and Ridge in Congress. They are members of a whole new generation of Puerto Ricans greatly concerned with their people and their country and willing to take action to improve their community. During the course of their projects, they have demonstrated superb intellectual ability and undertaken a very commendable task: service to their neighbor.

PERMANENTLY EXTENDING INCREASED STANDARD DEDUCTION, AND 15-PERCENT INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE BRACKET EXPANSION, FOR MARRIED TAXPAYERS FILING JOINT RETURNS

### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that provides permanent relief from the marriage penalty for millions of married Americans.

Congress has debated this issue for years, but this is the first time we have really come close to getting rid of this onerous, unfair tax. Frankly, we should have done away with this tax a long time ago. It has not been for lack of trying by Republicans. In 2000, the Republican Congress sent President Clinton a bill that provided marriage penalty relief. President Clinton vetoed the bill before leaving Washington that day for a round of golf in Martha's Vineyard. Couples were left with another year of paying higher taxes simply because they were married.

In 2001 the Republican Congress sent President Bush a bill that gradually phased-in tax benefits for married couples. The 2001 Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act increased the standard deduction for married couples that filed joint returns and increased the width of the 15 percent bracket for joint filers. These provisions would be phased-in beginning in 2005. Shortly after Congress passed this legislation, President Bush signed it into law. After years of frustration, progress was finally being made on lowering the tax burden on married Americans.

Again in 2003 the Republican Congress signaled support for legislation that accelerated the tax benefits given to married couples. Instead of waiting around until 2005, under the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act, married couples would be able to receive tax benefits in 2003 and 2004. Beginning in 2005, however, the full strength of the marriage tax will again penalize taxpayers. We must not retreat from the progress we have made on eliminating the marriage tax.

Opponents of making permanent marriage penalty relief argue that the country cannot afford lowering taxes for married couples. Certainly, it is without dispute that the country is facing a federal deficit. Federal deficits are a concern and we must work immediately to erase the red ink. In my view, cutting wasteful government spending should be a top priority.

The legislation today leads us to accomplishing three main Republican priorities: permanent elimination of an unfair tax on marriage; continued economic growth through tax cuts; and deficit reduction because of a growing economy and job creation. For these important reasons, I support permanent repeal of the marriage penalty and urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF YOM HA'SHOAH—THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

### HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day. As in years past, today we honor those who were lost to the world forever in the horrors of the Holocaust.

More than fifty years have elapsed since that dark period in human history. Since that time, Grandparents have taught their children and those children have taught their own, to remember the events that changed our world forever so as never to repeat the mistakes of our past. Year-round, we fight ignorance and disbelief through educating and informing others about the causes, realities, and legacies of the Holocaust. Today however, we set aside the day of Yom Ha'Shoah, to memorialize the tragedy and pay tribute to all who suffered.

We remember those who endured, those who fought, and those who died during World War II. We recognize not only the loss of more than six million Jewish lives, but also the loss of human potential. Entire families were lost to the world forever. We think of the descendants of victims of the Holocaust who never had the opportunity to make their contributions to mankind. And we recall the heroes who risked and surrendered their lives in the greatest fight for freedom and democracy the modern world has ever known.

Our greatest tribute to the millions who suffered at the hands of the Nazis will be to ensure that their suffering was not in vain. It is through our reflections on Holocaust Remembrance Day that we acknowledge their loss, and it is through our actions that we build a better world for us all.

With contemporary examples of hatred and terrorism all around us, we think back and marvel at the strength and character of the Jewish people. Their steadfast determination to rebuild their lives following the Holocaust has given the world a remarkable model of resolve. Through their example, we can glimpse the extraordinary human spirit that rises above the fruitlessness of anger and resentment. With this special day and with our deeds we honor that spirit.

Mr. Speaker, today we observe Holocaust Remembrance Day and call to action all peoples of the world to build a more tolerant and

loving society. I am proud to recognize Yom Ha'Shoah and urge all Americans to do the same.

HONORING 2004 RN OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT CYNTHIA DOLATA

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cynthia Dolata on the occasion of receiving the Central Valley Coalition of Nursing Organizations' 2004 RN of the Year Award for Outstanding Education. A banquet honoring her and three other award winners will be held on Friday, May 7th at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, California.

Cynthia Dolata shows a strong dedication to the nursing profession. She has taught in a variety of healthcare, academic, and community settings. Cindy began her career as a staff nurse in Gynecology at Saint Agnes Medical Center in 1999. While maintaining her position in the Gynecology department she was also a clinical nursing instructor at California State University, Fresno and Fresno City College. In 2003 Cindy became a Breast Health Educator, a position she continues to serve in today.

As a Breast Health educator, Ms. Dolata meets with patients and their families prior to breast surgery and listens to their fears and anxieties while providing support. She also received grant money to purchase books for patient's family members. Her latest project was creating a video tape for women with breast cancer called, "A Patient's Journey." The video takes a patient with breast cancer on a journey from diagnosis through postsurgical follow up. She has also developed "comfort kits," a bag that includes educational materials and other items for her patients. Her lifelong achievements are reflective in her love for the profession and for the welfare of all people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cynthia Dolata for her excellence in the field of Outstanding Education. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Cynthia many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATING LISA C. HERMAN ELLISON ON BEING NAMED ONE OF THE FINALISTS FOR THE NCEE/NASDAQ NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Lisa Herman Ellison for being nominated as one of only five national finalists in the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) and NASDAQ National Teaching Awards. Lisa was selected from among applicants around the United States for her originality, creativity, and effectiveness in the teaching of economics.

One of the greatest educational challenges we face today is ensuring that students enter

the world financially literate. A sound grounding in economics is necessary for individuals to participate in an increasingly complex global economy. The need for innovative and effective methods for teaching about the global economy has never been greater, and Lisa effectively prepares Kokomo High School students for that environment. Lisa teaches senior-level Advanced Placement Macro- and Microeconomics, Economics, U.S. Government and Advanced Placement Government and Politics at Kokomo High School in my district.

Lisa's creative approach to the topic of economics tasks her students with running a mock corporation. The students develop written and graphic analyses of the effects of international political events, trade policies, and finance issues on their simulated corporations. The students then complete a mock stock market analysis based on their corporation's involvement in international trade and the effects of government policies. Finally, students participate in "International Day," which involves researching and preparing papers and presentations on a country and how government policies, cultural influences, and geography affect that Nation's economy.

Mr. Speaker and my esteemed colleagues, please join me in honoring and recognizing the service and commitment that Ms. Lisa Herman Ellison gives to her students on a daily basis. She is a fine example of the best the teaching profession has to offer.

#### TRIBUTE TO DONNA COVAIS

### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, we live in a nation in which the mass media are so obsessed with the antics of celebrities like Michael Jackson and Donald Trump that we often forget that courage and heroism are all around us, that for many of our friends and neighbors each day is a difficult but victorious struggle against tough conditions.

I want to talk today about Donna Covais, a Vermont woman who represents what is best in American daily life. Seven years ago, Donna began to lose her sight as a result of diabetic retinopathy. A year later, she was blind. Of course, she was afflicted by despair: who wouldn't be, in those conditions?

But she did not succumb to that despair. Formerly a florist, she began taking courses at the Community College of Vermont, and through the intercession of a local business, Gardener's Supply Company, she was encouraged to begin, even though blind, a garden. What a success her foray into gardening has been! Blindness has not impeded her from making the world bloom—or from playing a vital role in our social community.

Donna Covais has won a local prize for the best use of gardening space in Burlington. She has drawn upon her experience and made a gardening video for the Vermont Association for the Blind. She has traveled to Virginia to speak before the American Horticultural Therapy Association. Donna has recently completed her degree program in horticultural therapy at Johnson State College; she's even done a practicum in the world be-

yond the safe harbors of college classrooms, at Essex High School in Vermont. A wife, a mother, a gardener, Donna has not let physical disability stand in the way of living a rich and fulfilling life, and giving much to the community in which she lives.

I began by saying that many of our friends and neighbors struggle with adversity and triumph over it. Let me conclude by pointing out that not only Donna, but her husband Joe, has been the master of his fate. For Joe too has suffered first deteriorating vision and then blindness, as was the case with Donna. Joe too has had to remake his life, which he has done by earning first a B.A. in psychology and the then an M.A.: he is now teaching Psychology at the Community College of Vermont, and is interested in counseling disturbed adolescents. He will be particularly qualified to bring them proof that facing life with courage, determination, and an openness toward the future can really work. Donna and Joe Covais are examples, I believe, of what is best in America and the American spirit, and I commend them for the example they have provided to all of us.

#### COMMEMORATING THE CREATION OF THE MARLA BENNETT PEACE TILE GARDEN PROJECT

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, nearly two years ago, Marla Bennett, age 24, was one of the nine innocent victims of a terrorist attack at the Frank Sinatra cafeteria of the Hebrew University Mt. Scopus campus in Jerusalem. Ms. Bennett was a recent graduate of the University of California at Berkeley who was studying to get her Masters at Hebrew University. Marla's tragic and needless death brought the horror of the Israeli conflict home to the Berkeley community and on May 9, 2004, the Berkeley Hillel will unveil its permanent tribute to her with the dedication of the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project. This is a fitting tribute to a young lady whose life was ripped from those who loved her by a senseless act of terrorism.

During her academic career at UC Berkeley, Marla's face was a familiar one among the Jewish student population as well as the Jewish community of the Bay Area. She was an active student organizer, a Hebrew school teacher, and resident of the Bayit, the Jewish student cooperative of UC Berkeley. Marla's personality, her enthusiasm, and her zest for Judaism and the Jewish way of life made her well-known within her community and she was the first recipient of the Berkeley Hillel award, Hineni, given to the student who best exemplifies selfless devotion to the Jewish Community by answering "here I am" whenever a task needs to be completed.

Marla's tragic death had a profound effect on the Jewish Community at Berkeley and led to many inspiring endeavors in honor of Marla. The Rosh Chodesh Women's Group at the Berkeley Hillel was revived to honor her memory and scholarship funds in Marla's name for students seeking to study Jewish education in Israel were established. As wonderful as these tributes were, Dana Blecher, the Cultural Arts

and Educational Programs Coordinator, for Berkeley's Hillel wanted to create a permanent memorial to this extraordinary individual who blessed our world for too short a time. Ms. Blecher envisioned the unused backyard of the Berkeley Hillel as an ideal space to construct a lasting tribute to the memory of Marla Bennett.

During the past year, Ms. Blecher has been instrumental in the creation of the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project and I want to publicly commend her for incorporating so many aspects of the Berkeley and Bay Area community into the project. For example, she collaborated with Bay Area artist Jodi Gladstone, and invited the students of Berkeley Hillel to contribute sketches, poetry, and memories of Marla to be the foundation of the inspirational material for the creation and design of a tile project. Keeping with our Bay Area sensibilities, Dana contacted Jonathan Pilch, a student instructor in the subject of organic farming, and a UC Berkeley student, to prepare, recommend, and supervise the formation of the garden.

Mr. Speaker, friends of Marla's, as well as students who never had the opportunity to meet her, have come from across the country to help build the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project. They all came to Berkeley to create a lasting tribute to a person whose life touched so many and was tragically cut short. This new space at the Berkeley Hillel, while dedicated to Marla, also will be presented in the name of peace and hope that there will be a time in the future of Israel when violence does not play such a tragic and terrifying role in the history of the Jewish state.

The Marla Bennett Tile Garden will serve as a place for recollection and reflection, an appropriate memorial to a person who took investigating her Judaism very seriously. As the expression says, "to live in the hearts of those who love you is to never die," and this wonderful memorial will allow the memory of Marla to continue to live on so that in the words of the Executive Director of Berkeley Hillel, Adam Weisberg, "Her name will be for a blessing."

#### HONORING 2004 RN OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT MARY FARRELL

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Farrell on the occasion of receiving the Central Valley Coalition of Nursing Organizations' 2004 RN of the Year Award for Outstanding Administration. A banquet honoring her and three other award winners will be held Friday, May 7th at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, California.

Mary Farrell has been a strong leader in the health care community. She is currently the Vice President of Patient Care Services at Madera Community Hospital. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and is also a Registered Nurse. In her present position, all nursing and allied health care departments report directly to her. Mary always focuses on safe and professional health care delivery. Patients and families appreciate her open and playful way of taking chaos and replacing it with calmness and logical problem solving.

Ms. Farrell uses innovative strategies for workforce development and promotion of nursing. Faced with an increasing demand and a limited supply of nurses, she established partnerships with the local high school and higher education to train new nurses. In 2002, Mary initiated the MCH Nursing Scholarship Program, funded by MCH employees, which has provided over \$9,000 for local nursing students. She has been honored by various organizations for her leadership, and has formed partnerships with many organizations to keep the best and brightest nurses in their communities. Her dedication to nursing is an inspiration to nursing leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Farrell for her excellence in the field of Outstanding Administration. I invite my colleagues in wishing Mary many years of continued success.

ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE  
NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

**HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, as Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, I am proud to recognize the significance of "National Teacher Day". Teachers are a valuable source of morals, veracity and integrity for millions of students in Puerto Rico and the United States. The Congress of the United States and various teachers' organizations have recognized their devotion and commitment through "National Teachers Day," since the 1940's.

The work that teachers perform every single day is worthy of such recognition. Unfortunately, violence in schools has become a common denominator affecting teachers and students alike. Earlier this year in Puerto Rico, we have seen students and teachers attacked or killed by students in their classrooms, turning schools into a battle field where teachers and students are losing their lives. Episodes of this nature demean and undermine this remarkable profession, and erode the spirit of education.

Teachers are a testament of perseverance in every student. As Members of Congress, we must focus on the contributions that every single teacher makes to the development of a healthy, well-educated and cultured youth in our society. The issues affecting our teachers challenge all of us to contemplate what we genuinely value in our society.

Looking into the future of our communities in Puerto Rico, the role of a teacher in our children's lives becomes a necessity more than a luxury. The progress of a population is determined by the skills and the preparation that an individual acquires and develops during the early learning phases, phases that are often initiated by teachers.

Teachers are more than authority figures inside a classroom full of students—they are heroes in our society. Their love for their work should be awarded and respected everyday, "National Teacher Day" is a symbolic indication of the importance and magnitude of their profession in creating the future leaders of our society. As a proud Puerto Rican, I salute and thank the teachers in Puerto Rico and in the

United States for their remarkable job, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the "National Teacher Day."

TRIBUTE TO NEIL DE KOKER, IN  
HONOR OF EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP  
AWARD

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Neil De Koker, a giant in the automotive supply industry and the recipient of the 2004 Executive Leadership Award from the Marketing & Sales Executives of Detroit.

Known as a man who can turn a concept into reality, Neil founded the Original Equipment Suppliers Association, a strategic forum for automotive suppliers. With 353 members and global sales exceeding \$300 billion worth of components, modules, systems, materials, and equipment used by the original equipment automotive industry, the OESA has provided information for over 4800 customers since its founding in August of 1998.

A veteran auto industry executive, Neil's extraordinary skills as a manager creating consensus and delivering results, has led him to being recognized around the world as a key spokesman for the automotive supplier industry in North America.

Neil's career, from furthering the growth and welfare of OESA members, to his 39 years in the automotive field, including playing a key part in establishing the Saturn Corporation, has vastly improved the automotive industry, the outlook of this key economic sector and the people who work within it.

I am honored today to recognize Neil De Koker for his outstanding achievements and the undeniably positive impact he has had upon our State and Nation. He is truly an invaluable citizen.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. COAST GUARD  
PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS  
NATHAN B. BRUCKENTHAL

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Third Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal, who was killed on April 24th in a suicide attack in the northern Arabian Gulf. He is a true hero—a man who served his country and did the nation's work in the most dangerous part of the world. Our entire community grieves his loss.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal, 24, along U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class Michael J. Pernaselli, 27, and U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class Christopher E. Watts, 28, boarded a small boat that approached the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal in the northern Arabian Gulf in order to inspect it. As it turns out, the boat was carrying bombs and exploded, killing all three young men.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal was stationed at Air Station Miami at the Opa Locka Airport in

my Congressional district prior to his deployment in Iraq. He and his wife had their home together in nearby Ft. Lauderdale.

Our brave men and women in the U.S. Coast Guard have long fought alongside our other members of the U.S. Armed Forces, but Petty Officer Bruckenthal's death is the first combat death of a member of the Coast Guard since the Vietnam War. He will be buried on May 7th at Arlington National Cemetery.

My heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Petty Officer Bruckenthal and those of the other young men who were mortally wounded in this terrorist assault. They gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country, and we will never forget them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my vote on H.R. 4181 was not recorded. I would ask that the RECORD reflect that as a cosponsor of H.R. 4181 the record should reflect that I should have been recorded as voting "aye" on final passage.

CONGRATULATING RALPH AND  
CATHERINE BROSI ON THEIR  
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ralph and Catherine Brosi as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. A party is being held in their honor on May 2, 2004 at the Dante Club in Fresno, California.

Ralph and Catherine Brosi were married on May 2, 1954 at Our Lady of Victory Church in Fresno, California. They are both natives of Fresno, California and currently make their home in Clovis, California. Ralph graduated from Clovis High School in 1946 and went on to serve in the United States Army from 1952–1954. Catherine graduated from Edison High School in 1945, and was later employed as a medical secretary. Ralph and Catherine started a successful farming and ranching business, Brosi's Poultry Farm.

Ralph and Catherine have always set a strong example of family values for their children. Their son, Robert, was born in 1955 and is currently a dentist practicing in Oakhurst, California. In 1956 their daughter, Karen, was born. Karen currently works as a Financial Planner in Mountain View, California. They enjoy spending time with their three grandchildren, Deena, Jenna, and Cayla.

The Brosi's are currently retired, but have been involved with various volunteer organizations in their community throughout the years. Ralph is a member of the California Water Fowlers Association, the Sons of Italy, Ducks Unlimited and has served as the President of the Clovis 20/30 Club. Catherine is an active member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ralph and Catherine Brosi on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them many more years of happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 618

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce H. Res. 618, a resolution commemorating the 101st anniversary of Jack London's inspirational novel, *The Call of the Wild*. Originally published in installments from June 20th to July 18th 1903, *The Call of the Wild* is considered a uniquely American narrative, recounting the trials and tribulations surrounding the Klondike Gold Rush of the Yukon Territory in Canada, which impacted the District of Alaska and Washington State during the 1890s. This classic of world literature contributed to the spirit of exploration and discovery that swept the United States in the early part of the last century and led many others to explore what is now the great State of Alaska. One of the most widely translated and published works by an American author; *The Call of the Wild* has not been out-of-print in the past century.

Born John Griffith London in 1876 in San Francisco, California, the author began working during his adolescent years at various labor-intensive jobs, which included pirating for oysters on the San Francisco Bay, and serving on a fish patrol to capture poachers. It was his strong desire to escape the prospect of adult life as a factory worker that motivated him to begin his career as a writer. A restless spirit and strong sense of adventure led Jack to leave his native California in 1897, with his brother-in-law, James Shepard, to join the Klondike Gold Rush. His experiences that winter spent in a cabin by the Klondike river provided much of the rich material for his most well renowned novels, *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*, both of which became inspirations for full-length feature films. He went on to produce over fifty volumes of work in his lifetime, which included novels, short stories, and political essays. His literary portrayals of adventure and frontier life, unparalleled in their time, helped mark him as a truly great American author and seminal figure in turn-of-the-century social history.

*The Call of the Wild*, which remains London's most celebrated work, tells a story through the eyes of Buck the dog, half St. Bernard, half Scotch Shepard. Captured from his comfortable life on an estate in California's Santa Clara Valley, he is sold to dog traders who ship him north to the Klondike to serve as a sled puller. Surrounded by inexperienced and cruel masters, Buck must learn to survive the realities of the harsh winter. *The Call of the Wild* is a tale of travel, transformation, and adaptation, filled with Darwinian undertones of survival and written in a naturalistic style that London is so often praised for.

As a young child, my father read this moving novel to me on many occasions. Filled with recollections of adventure and explo-

ration, I too, as a young man left my home in California to explore a world full of budding possibilities. These notions led me to a land less discovered, the Last Frontier, the State of Alaska. What I found when I arrived there was an untold potential for greatness for the land and its people, an inspiring setting for leadership and representation. Had it not been for the spirit of Jack London's experiences that he eloquently shared with the world—and me—in *The Call of the Wild*, I might never have journeyed to this great state that I have called home for more than 47 years and have had the great honor to represent, here in Washington, for the past 31 years.

HONORING GENERAL LARRY R. ELLIS, COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY FORCES COMMAND, FORT MCPHERSON, GA

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor General Larry R. Ellis, Commanding General of U.S. Army Forces Command, on the occasion of his retirement from military service on May 7, 2004. His distinguished military career spans more than 35 years and as a four-star general and Commander of United States Army Forces Command he is the highest ranking African American officer within any branch of the United States military.

General Ellis assumed his current post as Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), at Fort McPherson, Georgia on November 21, 2001. FORSCOM, the Army's largest major command, consists of more than 750,000 Active Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard soldiers. FORSCOM trains, mobilizes, deploys and sustains combat ready forces capable of responding rapidly to crises world-wide. The FORSCOM commander functions as commander of the Army forces of this unified command and plans for and, on order, provides military support to civil authorities, including response to natural disasters and civil emergencies.

As the Army service component commander for U.S. Joint Forces Command, General Ellis has been responsible for the training and readiness of Army forces stationed in the continental U.S. and with the mission of performing as the Department of Defense's premier force provider, meeting the needs of Combatant Commanders worldwide. Therefore, General Ellis has overseen the preparation and deployment of every active duty division in the United States. In addition, he has commanded the mobilization, training, and deployment of more than 225,000 reserve component soldiers in more than 550 units across the nation.

Previously, General Ellis commanded the 1st Armored Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany from May, 1997 to July, 1999. Following this division command, General Ellis served as Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, and Plans from August, 1999 to November, 2001. When terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, General Ellis was responsible for Army operations, planned and exe-

cuted the Army's role in the National Military Strategy, and developed and implemented the Army's Transformation Campaign Plan. The Army's Transformation Campaign Plan serves as the Army's roadmap into the 21st century which General Ellis devised as a comprehensive modernization of the Army's doctrine, training, leadership and education, organizations, soldiers, personnel, and facilities through the year 2010. As part of this project, he oversaw the research, development, and fielding of the Stryker family of vehicles and designed "Task Force Soldier" which codified the Army's warrior ethos and fostered the redesign of basic combat training.

General Ellis devised the Army's initial response to the September 11th attacks which involved the deployment of force protection and security units to Washington, D.C. and the Capitol region, chemical and munitions storage facilities, airports and other transportation terminals, military installations across the world, and the nation's borders. He also led the deployment of Army forces to combat the war on terror in Afghanistan.

General Ellis has served in the United States, Vietnam, Germany, the Republic of Korea, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. His command assignments include 1st Armored Division, Germany; Multinational Division (North), Bosnia and Herzegovina; Assistant Division Commander, 2d Infantry Division, Korea; Brigade Commander, 3d Infantry Division, Germany Battalion Commander, 5th Infantry Division, Fort Polk, La.; Company Commander, 101st Airborne Division, Vietnam; and 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

General Ellis' awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with three stars, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with three stars, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry/Palm, the Korean Cheonsu Medal, the German Armed Forces Honor Cross (Gold), the NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Office of Secretary of Defense Staff Identification Badge, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge.

General Ellis received a Bachelor of Science degree from Morgan State University and a Master of Science degree from Indiana University. He is married to Jean and has two daughters, Renee and Debra. *Ebony Magazine* recently recognized General Ellis as one of the "100 plus most influential people in America." General Ellis enjoys physical fitness activities, traveling, and playing golf. Responding to an inquiry about his future plans, General Ellis says he is "sprinting to the finish line, moving 101 miles per hour, and has not slowed to consider what he will do following retirement."

Due to his honorable military career, I am pleased to honor him and his service to this great country. God bless General Larry Ellis and his family.

## DAILY DOUBLE-WIDE

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Aaron Tallent, a member of my staff, has written a very interesting and entertaining article for the current issue of the Washington City Paper.

He makes the very important point that just possibly some sophisticated city dwellers should not look down their noses at those millions around the country who live in mobile homes.

There are many good and intelligent people who live in these homes, and I would like to call this outstanding article to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Washington City Paper, Apr. 30, 2004]

## DAILY DOUBLE-WIDE

(By Aaron Tallent)

One night at the Capitol Lounge, after I'd been in Washington for a few months, I found myself talking to an aide for a Northern congressman. He was sharing a fact he'd picked up in a meeting with a housing-coalition representative that day: "Trailers are not considered real housing, because they depreciate in value the minute they are dropped off the truck."

Then he added, "Have you ever been in a trailer? They're downright trashy."

I let it slide. He didn't know that I come from Tellico Plains, Tenn.—population 900, according to the last census. Many of my closest friends still live in Tellico Plains. And many of them live in trailers.

My friend Chris, for instance, spent more than three years living in a single-wide after college. He's a high-school English teacher now, and his wife is a schoolteacher as well. He's also an ordained preacher. With the money they saved living up on blocks, he and his wife are now homeowners at 26.

No one in my group at the Capitol Lounge, freely cracking trailer jokes, was even close to owning a home. They weren't even able to take care of themselves. The Yankee socioeconomics expert ended the night puking on the floor. A self-proclaimed Southern belle kept talking about how frustrated she was because the guy she'd been hooking up with for two months still hadn't taken her out to dinner. I went out to get cigarettes with a lobbyist for a fiscally conservative nonprofit; he put Marlboro Lights on his Visa.

You want to talk about trailer trash? Put down your Stella, turn-off your Blackberry, and listen: You are trailer trash.

Just because your neighborhood is geographically broken down by blocks does not mean that you metaphorically don't live up on them. Urban America is full of trailer parks. You just have fancier names for them.

Let's stop by your studio apartment, shall we? You're proud of the location, naturally. In Dupont Circle, on Capitol Hill, in Georgetown—so sophisticated! So many urbane attractions: Now let's go inside.

Whoa! Almost tripped over your futon. Didn't expect it to be so close to the doorway! It seems your futon is the center of your place. Sitting on it, you can reach over to the bed and fluff your pillows with one hand, while you pop a DVD into your entertainment center with the other. How convenient!

Of course, I caught you at a bad time. Normally when you're expecting company, you

put the room divider up to hide the bed from the "living room." That's about as concealing as hair in a can. In the kitchenette, you have a two-burner stove and a counter with just enough room to make a peanut-butter sandwich. Is there a dishwasher? I think not. We could go into your bathroom, but with the clothes hamper, there's no room to move.

Your mini-estate, like a trailer, is simply the compromise you make to live on a lower income. And yours isn't necessarily the nicer compromise. Climb up on the porch and I'll take you inside a Tennessee trailer.

How about that! There's a living room with enough space for a couch, love seat, and recliner. Stick your head in the kitchen—the separate kitchen—and you've got a four-grill stove and a counter big enough for preparing dinner parties. Still convinced your prison cell is nicer? Walk down the hall and see, not one, not two, but three bedrooms! Then to top it off, we have a bathroom that can hold a hamper, a magazine rack, and two people. If you want to upgrade, there's room for a Jacuzzi.

On the inside, a well-kept trailer could hang with any nice apartment in the D.C. metro area. Step out the back door and . . . oh, look, it's a yard.

Most efficiency apartments don't even have a back door. But that's not your real home, you say. You're not planning on living there forever. You've just come to Washington to work for a politician or a nonprofit that stands for everything you believe in. The efficiency is just a stepping-stone, a place to lay your head until you figure out where you want to go with your life and career. Or until you buy a condo in Arlington.

Welcome to Tellico Plains. My college-graduate friends, starting out in nursing, physical therapy, or factory work, were able to buy or inherit pieces of land. They just couldn't build houses right away. So they bought trailers. Yes, their purchases depreciated fast. But not as fast as the \$12,000 you threw away in rent last year.

Now, some of the folks I went to school with may spend the rest of their lives in trailers. They've got low-income jobs and no means to find better ones. They can build a house now, or they can guarantee that their children will always have clothes on their back and three meals a day. It is no different from an urban family living in a cramped apartment.

I have received an e-mail no less than 10 times titled "Tennessee's Latest Lottery Winner." It contains a picture of a trailer with a limousine parked out front. Like most jokes based on stereotypes, it has some truth behind it. Growing up, I saw my fair share of broken-down trailers with new Corvettes in the driveway or satellite dishes in the yard.

But for every trailer owner who blows a third of his modest paycheck on lotto tickets, there is a D.C. studio-dweller running up a \$300 tab at McFadden's or Café Citron, then putting milk and bread on his credit card the next day. For every trailer with a brand-new, souped-up Ford F-150 in the driveway, there is a Washington efficiency with Brooks Brothers suits and a Burberry coat in the closet. And for every one of you who thinks a mobile home is the end of existence, trust me, there's someone who'd take one look at your one-room wonder, shudder, and thank the stars for his comfortable double-wide.

## COMMEMORATING THE BIRTHDAY OF PRESIDENT JAMES MONROE

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birthday of a great American president, and a son and servant of Virginia, James Monroe.

James Monroe was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on April 28, 1758, attended the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and served in the Revolutionary War, in which he was wounded at the pivotal battle of Trenton. After the Revolutionary War, Monroe was a member of the Continental Congress, the United States Senate, minister to France, governor of Virginia, was again sent to France to assist in negotiating the Louisiana Purchase, served again as governor of Virginia, as secretary of state for President James Madison, and briefly as secretary of war.

This extraordinary record of service to the Nation and the Commonwealth was further enhanced when James Monroe was elected president of the United States in 1816, and was reelected in 1820. It was in President Monroe's second term that he announced what would become a vital foundation of our Nation's foreign policy: the Monroe Doctrine. The doctrine announced American opposition to European colonization and interference in the Western Hemisphere, and served as a touchstone of American foreign policy for generations of presidents, helping to keep the Americas free of intervention by European powers.

After completing his second term as president, James Monroe retired to Oak Hill, his home in Loudoun County. I am proud to represent Loudoun County in the Congress, and proud of my district's association with President Monroe.

Mr. Speaker, I call the attention of the House to the life, legacy, and accomplishments of James Monroe.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, while attending meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly and fulfilling my official duties as a Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly, I missed votes on April 20 through April 22. Additionally, while representing the U.S. Helsinki Commission at the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism; I missed votes on April 27 and 28. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

Rollcall 118: "aye"; rollcall 119: "aye"; rollcall 120: "aye"; rollcall 121: "aye"; rollcall 122: "aye"; rollcall 123: "aye"; rollcall 124: "aye"; rollcall 125: "aye"; rollcall 126: "no"; rollcall 127: "no"; rollcall 128: "aye"; rollcall 129: "aye"; rollcall 130: "no"; rollcall 131: "aye"; rollcall 132: "aye"; rollcall 133: "aye"; rollcall 134: "aye"; rollcall 135: "aye"; rollcall 136: "aye"; rollcall 137: "aye"; rollcall 138: "no."

HONORING OFFICER RODNEY  
CHAMBERS

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to a true American hero, Officer Rodney Chambers, who without thought for his own safety, risked his life to save others from harm. Officer Chambers has been chosen to receive the prestigious Officer of the Year Award from the Amtrak Police Department because of his selfless heroism and courage, and I am proud to join them in saluting his bravery.

On June 9, 2003, Officer Chambers was on patrol in Washington's Union Station when he was dispatched to respond to a call for service from Union Station. Security reporting that a male put a grenade in a trash receptacle. Officer Chambers responded to First Street where a Union Station security officer identified the suspect. Capitol Police Officer Michael DeCarlo joined Officer Chambers in pursuit of the suspect. Officer Chambers came upon the suspect and instructed him to put his hands on the wall. The suspect removed a piece of clothing that he was holding and revealed a grenade. He then pulled the pin and attempted to drop the grenade.

Officer Chambers reacted immediately by pinning the suspect against the wall while wrestling the grenade away from him, holding the spoon and fuse from priming. At this time, Officer DeCarlo arrived on the scene and assisted in controlling the suspect.

As the suspect was being taken into custody by police officers, Officer Chambers along with his Sergeant removed himself to a safe distance from the area of onlookers while continuing to hold down the spoon on the grenade. Officer Chambers maintained his position for approximately 15 minutes while waiting for the arrival of the EOD team. During this period of time, a search revealed a second grenade.

The Capitol Police EOD responded and placed both grenades in an isolation chamber. Ultimately, both grenades were found to be inactive and filled with a gel-like substance. However, during the period of time Officer Chambers spent with the grenade he had no way of knowing this.

Officer Chambers was awarded the Medal of Honor from the Amtrak Police Department on November 10, 2003; a Resolution from Amtrak's Board of Directors on June 12, 2003; the Officer of the Month Award from the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund; and the Department of Transportation Award for heroism from the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Norman Y. Mineta and Federal Railroad Administrator Allan Rutter on October 21, 2003.

COMMENDING TEACHERS FROM  
NORTHWEST INDIANA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven dedicated

teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been voted outstanding educators by their peers for the 2003–2004 school year. These individuals, Yvonne Stoll, Laura Cullen, Jeremy Walker, Sandra Sidock, David Markley, Linda Scheffer, and Valerie Giacomini will be presented with the Crystal Apple Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This prestigious event will take place at the Andorra Restaurant and Banquets in Schererville, Indiana, on Tuesday, May 4, 2004.

Yvonne Stoll, from the North Newton School Corporation, has been a role model, an inspiration to her students, and an outstanding professional for more than 30 years. Yvonne, a dedicated kindergarten school teacher, knows the importance of developing creative thinking skills in her students. In addition to Yvonne's teaching abilities, she has made tireless efforts to further the education of kindergarten students through her active participation in organizations such as: the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, the Reading Council, and NNEA/ISTA/NEA.

Laura Cullen has been teaching kindergarten in the Hanover Community School Corporation for nearly 20 years. She is a loyal and enthusiastic person who has a passion to teach her kindergarten students. Laura's students graduate from her class with strong reading and writing skills which provide a solid foundation for a lifetime of learning. She is actively involved in the Jane Ball Literacy for Life Team, Grade Level Chairperson at Jane Ball Elementary, Teacher Assistance Team, Climate Committee, and the Public Law 221 Committee.

Jeremy Walker is known for his ability to connect with students in a way few other teachers are able to duplicate. Jeremy teaches Latin in the Crown Point Community School Corporation and is an integral person in his school's Latin program. A testament to Jeremy's teaching abilities, his students recently won the Indiana State Sweepstakes, establishing his Latin club as the best in Indiana. Jeremy truly has an outstanding teaching ability, while his dedication to his profession and to his students is equally outstanding.

Sandra Sidock has 30 years of experience in teaching and tutoring students in mathematics. At the Lake Central School Corporation, Sandra instilled in her students the skills needed to be successful at the next level. Although many students benefited from Sandra's knowledge, the students who needed extra assistance could always rely on her. Sandra incorporates the Legos, Cuisenaire Rods, and other techniques into her teaching curriculum to benefit the students who need extra guidance.

David Markley has taught music for seven years at Highland High School. The love and passion David has for music, both personally and professionally, is demonstrated through the creativity and enthusiasm that he projects. He not only inspires his students, but also the teachers at Highland High School, the parishioners of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, and many others in Northwest Indiana.

Linda Scheffer has been nurturing young minds at Munster High School for the past 32 years. Her enthusiasm for the subject matter, as well as her teaching style, has withstood the test of time. Linda makes learning an enjoyable experience, for she blends her creative spirit and her willingness to experiment with

new ideas and techniques to better foment home economic concepts in the minds of her students. Linda's compassion for others is exhibited by her thoughtfulness towards both students and teachers.

Valerie Giacomini has been a great asset to the Tri-Creek School Corporation throughout her years of teaching. She is conscientious about having her students meet the standards expected of them. Valerie's strong work ethic as a teacher allows her to make an extraordinary effort to provide the best possible education for her students. Valerie is a continuous source of strength and enthusiasm for her students, parents, and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on their receipt of the 2003–2004 Crystal Apple Award. The years of hard work they have put forth in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people is a true inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE TIRELESS  
WORK OF THE DURAND PATRIOTS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of some great Americans in Michigan's Eighth District, the Durand Patriots. The Durand Patriots are a non-profit organization working hard to support our fighting troops abroad by providing them with some of the comforts of home.

Since October, 2001, the Durand Patriots have shipped over 500 packages to active military personnel. Last year alone, the Durand Patriots raised \$25,000 for the purchase of convenience items and holiday gifts to be sent to our troops. In their latest undertaking, the Durand Patriots came to the rescue of a local soldier, CW3 Mike Mogg, when he lost all of his possessions in a fire in his Baghdad living quarters. The Durand Patriots sent over fifty boxes of supplies to Chief Warrant Officer Mogg and his unit to replace their lost possessions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the support of the Durand Patriots to our armed forces. Their commitment to helping boost military morale by ensuring that our fighting men and women have the comforts of home while they protect America, showcases the best of the American spirit.

DO NOT DISMANTLE TITLE IX

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the Bush Administration's record on education has been nothing but disastrous, and as a former member of the Los Angeles Unified School District board, I am especially dismayed by the Administration's relentless attack on Title IX, one of the most effective laws designed to expand educational opportunities for countless women.

Last year, President Bush attempted to roll back Title IX by dramatically reducing the participation and scholarships opportunities for women athletes. Just recently, the Department of Education announced its intention to throw out basic protections against sex discrimination in public schools.

Last week 58 members of Congress joined me in registering our opposition to the proposed changes in Title IX regulations. All Americans need to be aware of this Administration's abysmal education record. This President has adopted a "bait and switch" attitude regarding his support for education programs. He is at it again with a plan to dismantle Title IX. It is time for real educational funding and commitments, not just another hypocritical proposal.

RECOGNIZING MR. STEPHEN G. SHEETZ

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary vision of entrepreneur Stephen G. Sheetz, owner and chairman of Sheetz, Inc. for his "2004 Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Advocacy".

This prestigious award, presented by the Chamber of Commerce of Blair County, Pennsylvania, has been designed to honor an individual who has set the standard of excellence in achievement, both personal and professional.

Steve Sheetz is recognized as a true leader of both his family's business, Sheetz, Inc., as well as, the business community of central Pennsylvania.

He has served as a longtime mentor and visionary for generations of fellow business associates, family members, and employees, as well as, a devoted following of consumers.

He constantly sets an example of selflessness by helping to promote the overall business climate without focusing efforts on his own business or personal gains.

I am pleased to commemorate the excellence in achievement of Stephen G. Sheetz, of Sheetz, Inc.

This honor is appropriately "Made To Order".

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA MASON-CORLETT

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is my extreme pleasure and privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Cynthia Mason-Corlett for being awarded the 2003 Milken National Education Award.

Ms. Corlett began her teaching career in 1988, teaching science and math to middle school students. Currently, she teaches eighth grade at Sierra Middle School in Parker, Colorado. She has excelled at energizing students by using hands-on teaching methods. Students investigate everything from air pressure

to space travel, and share their knowledge by conducting science demonstrations for second graders from neighborhood elementary schools.

The Milken National Educator Award is today one of the largest teacher recognition programs in the United States; one hundred new educators from across the country will receive their awards for excellence in their profession. Ms. Corlett will join 72 previous winners from the state of Colorado to work on strengthening teacher quality, and serving as expert resources for policy makers.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Cynthia Mason-Corlett is a person who possesses dedication and commitment to her life long pursuit of educating young people. It is not only her devotion, but also her passion for contributing to the betterment of the Colorado community that I wish to recognize before this body. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Cynthia here today, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

WORLD MAGAZINE

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 21, I inadvertently failed to give proper attribution to World Magazine during my Case for Life Special Order. I read the following quote and would like to credit World Magazine as its source:

"A native of India, he just does not meet the stereotype, not just the head wrap, the neat beard, the Rollie Fingers-style mustache, but he views abortion as an unalienable right for women in America."

TREE CITY USA

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tree City USA cities located in the 26th District of Texas: Arlington, Carrollton, Colleyville, Coppell, Denton, Euless, Flower Mound, Fort Worth, Frisco, Grapevine, Keller, Lewisville, McKinney, Plano, Southlake, Trophy Club and Westlake.

The National Arbor Day Foundation is the primary sponsor of the Tree City USA program and works in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program and state foresters. The Tree City USA program creates a technology-transfer network that involves nearly 3,000 Tree City USAs in all 50 states, Mayors, City Foresters, and concerned citizens throughout the nation.

The Tree City USA designation is awarded to cities that meet four distinct qualifications. To become a Tree City USA, a city must designate responsibility for public tree care to a volunteer board or city department; have a tree-care ordinance in effect; spend at least \$2 per capita annually on community forestry; and proclaim and observe Arbor Day. Cities that fulfill these requirements display a clear dedication to the environment and trees in their community.

I believe that trees and forests are very important national resources. Community forests help to improve the quality of our air and water, reduce runoff and erosion and contribute to important national energy-conservation goals.

So I would like to congratulate the seventeen cities in the 26th District, as well as all of the other cities nationwide, that received the Tree City USA designation. It is my hope that other communities will take note of the model activities in these cities and strive to earn the Tree City USA distinction for their city in the future.

TRIBUTE TO HAZARD VARSITY CHEERLEADERS

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members and coaches of the 2004 Hazard High School varsity cheerleading squad. This year alone, the squad has cheered their way to four first place victories, an admirable accomplishment for a small-town team competing against much larger schools.

The Hazard cheerleaders began their winning streak in January, when they secured the top spot in the annual WYMT-TV Mountain Classic Cheerleading Competition. In February, the team traveled to Richmond, KY, where they competed with more than 50 cheerleading squads in the Kentucky All "A" State Cheerleading Competition. Their enthusiastic and skillful performance landed the squad with a first place showing. The team also received the coveted Team Spirit Award.

After their impressive showing in Richmond, the cheerleaders finished first at the KAPOS 54th District and KAPOS 14th Regional competitions, and earned the right to compete in the state competition. The squad earned an admirable fourth place finish in the statewide competition, marking the first time a Hazard squad has placed in the top five since they won the state championship in 1970.

It should be noted that the Hazard Cheerleaders accomplish as much during their regular season as they do in competitions. The squad cheers at all football games and basketball games, stirring up school spirit through their energetic routines and skillful stunts. They also have a commitment to community involvement, often volunteering at charitable organizations and local homeless shelters. I am proud of their contributions to Eastern Kentucky, both in cheerleading and their community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hazard High School cheerleaders for their tremendous success this year. I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring Hazard High School, coaches Cathy Hammonds, Vivian Carter, Lisa Combs, Wayne Noble and Shane Noble, and each and every talented member of the squad: Casey Smith, Lindsey Fields, Sydney Napier, Sarah Johnson, Jennifer Bryant, Jennifer Brock, Ashlei Mullins, Amber Hammonds, Paige Whitaker, Roxanne Whitaker, Marry Simms Carter, Kelly Hoskins, Becky Jo Brotherton, Sarah Hall, Whitney Francis, Brandi Hayes, Katie Hanson, Kayla

Sandlin, Chelsea Combs, Gabriella Woods, Reagan Kilgore and Lauren Delpont.

PERMANENTLY EXTENDING INCREASED STANDARD DEDUCTION, AND 15-PERCENT INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE BRACKET EXPANSION, FOR MARRIED TAXPAYERS FILING JOINT RETURNS

SPEECH OF

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2004*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today we will be voting on important legislation; legislation that will help roughly 21 million young Americans financially. I am speaking about marriage penalty relief. Thanks to the peculiarities of the tax code, when married couples earn roughly the same salaries, they tend to pay more in taxes than they would if both were single filers. Our previous action to extend this tax relief benefit has encouraged marriage and saved the average married couple \$1,400 a year, allowing them to spend on items that support their families.

This discrepancy financially penalizes couples for doing nothing more than choosing to get married, which creates a strong disincentive for people to build families. With a breakdown of the family and high divorce rates, we need to strengthen marriage not weaken it. As every study shows, children fare best and have the most promising life prospects when they are raised in intact families. Promoting marriage has the potential to significantly decrease poverty and dependence, increase child well-being and adult happiness, and to provide the safest environment for women and children.

Mr. Speaker, letting the tax penalty relief expire would cost families 1,400 a year. The federal government should not be picking pockets of people just because they are married. If we do not extend the marriage penalty tax today, Uncle Sam will not only once again be taking a gift at the wedding reception instead of giving one, but will also be contributing to the breakdown of our basic social institution: marriage.

IN RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC SAFETY APPRECIATION DAY

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support Monterey County's recognition of April 29, 2004 as Public Safety Appreciation Day. The County Supervisors have adopted a resolution on behalf of Monterey County and its residents recognizing the men and women who undertake the difficult and important work demanded of emergency services personnel. I would like to join the residents of Monterey County in thanking these personnel for their professional, heroic response to emergencies.

These men and women do their work to provide a timely, effective first response to un-

predictable, often dangerous circumstances with admirable bravery and commitment. Emergency services personnel include 9-1-1 dispatchers, fire fighters, peace officers and emergency medical personnel, but in fulfilling their responsibility for maintaining public safety their actions often transcend their job descriptions.

I would like to include in this recognition the efforts of the personnel of the Monterey County Emergency Communications Department and Office of Emergency Services, and all those who work to ensure that first responders have the support they need to continue providing effective emergency services to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join the Board of Supervisors and the residents of Monterey County in showing my appreciation to the men and women who maintain public safety and work quickly to restore it following an emergency. These same personnel are often mentors and role models even outside their job, and I am pleased to recognize their contribution.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM BOYAN'S SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BOSTON

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. CAPUANO. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William Boyan's leadership as Chairman of the Children's Hospital Boston Board of Trustees.

Mr. Boyan has had a long and distinguished business career in my state, culminating as President and Chief Executive Officer of John Hancock Financial Services. No less impressive, however, is his work on behalf of the children of Massachusetts.

Mr. Boyan recently completed a five-year term as Chairman of the Children's Hospital Board. He will remain as a Board member, where he has served with distinction for the past twenty-five years. Under his leadership, Children's Hospital Boston has continued its preeminent work in clinical medicine, research, and training, on behalf of our nation's youngest patients.

As a true public servant, Mr. Boyan has lent his wisdom and expertise to many initiatives throughout Massachusetts. He also currently serves on the Boston School Committee, and his commitment to the city's children and their education is well-known. His passion for excellence and his philanthropic efforts on behalf of the schools have made a real difference in the lives of children in every neighborhood of the city.

Children's Hospital has been a leading voice on behalf of children's health care needs. The hospital's many community service projects touch the lives of children and families throughout the state. Mr. Boyan's dedication has been an essential part of the hospital's success.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I recognize and honor William Boyan's efforts and achievements.

THANK YOU, BILLIE BRIGGS

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my gratitude and appreciation for Billie Briggs who has been named a recipient of the Milken Family Foundation's National Educator Award.

Ms. Briggs teaches math at Cobb Sixth Grade School in Houston, TX and is regarded as the best though she has only been teaching for eight years. I commend Ms. Briggs for her accomplishment and dedication to her students and to education itself.

Ms. Briggs displays her dedication to all students at Cobb Sixth Grade School and throughout HISD by Serving as Sponsor of the Math and Science Club, National Junior Honor Society Advisor, Math Department Chair and by representing secondary-level math on the District Planning and Advisory Committee. In addition, her innovative methods of presenting students with fun projects through which they learn essential skills are praised throughout the education community.

I would like to congratulate Billie Briggs on being named one of our nation's top teachers and extend my thanks for her dedication to students in Houston.

CONGRATULATING FELLOW ALUMNI ON THEIR INDUCTION INTO COLLINGWOOD'S HALL OF FAME

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as a proud Collinwood High School alumna, I would like to congratulate some of my fellow alumni on their induction into Collinwood's Hall of Fame.

The mission of Collinwood High School, in partnership with parents and community, is to provide a challenging academic and technologically based atmosphere with a commitment to literacy that encourages academic excellence and prepares all students to become productive members of a diverse society. The alumni that I am honoring today certainly reflect the success of this mission.

Ten people will be inducted into the Collinwood High School Alumni Hall of Fame on May 5. They are Francine Bruening, class of 1960, former Lake County domestic relations judge; Joseph Cannavino Jr., 1953, former Ohio State football star and basketball coach; Michael Cannavino, 1945, retired teacher and coach; Primo Del Calzo, 1952, retired speech, hearing and language teacher; Dan DiLiberto, 1966, Eastlake mayor; Dr. Albert Iosue, 1958, doctor and former chief radiologist in a Florida hospital; Milton Schalois, 1949, an insurance executive; Elinor Scricca, 1949, retired teacher, Principal and schools superintendent; Rocco Scotti, 1939, singer, noted for his rendition of the national anthem; and Mildred Teuscher, 1951, former Lake County commissioner. A pre-induction dinner will be at 4 p.m. at Redeemer on the Avenue Hall, 15901 St. Clair Ave., with the induction at 6 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

It is my pleasure to join with the Collinwood High School community and the citizens of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring this group of Hall of Fame inductees for their remarkable achievements. I encourage them to continue to demonstrate outstanding professionalism and leadership and thank them for the contributions they have made to their communities.

PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME REMAINING TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL IRAQ

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, it was a year ago that President Bush landed on the USS *Abraham Lincoln* and pronounced that major combat operations in Iraq had ended. The banner strung across the command tower of the carrier read "Mission Accomplished", and the President's words that evening gave the American people, and the families of those in Iraq, that our men and women would soon be coming home.

If this was a perfect world, our President's made-for-TV excursion would have made the perfect Hollywood ending to mercifully short war. Sadly, this is not a perfect world. War is never perfect, it is messy. It is grotesque, and it does not end on any schedule but its own.

The month that marked the year anniversary of announcing the end to major combat operations has been the bloodiest of the war. Since May 1, 2003 over five hundred men and women have been killed, including Private Holly McGeogh of Taylor, Michigan, killed when her vehicle hit a roadside bomb. Almost three thousand more have been injured. Many of our returning young men and women will have an even tougher fight ahead of them as they adjust to life in a wheelchair or with a prosthetic limb.

I say this, not to heap criticism on a situation where young men and women are risking their lives. I say this because one year after the tyrant was toppled we still have a long way to meet our goals. The men and women stationed outside Fallujah and Najaf can tell you that major combat is still a fact of life.

Today we have little more than eight weeks before we turn some measure of sovereignty to the Iraqi people. And much like a college student trying to cram before finals, our Iraq policy is now at a fever pitch trying to right the wrongs of a poorly planned reconstruction effort. General Eisenhower once said, "In preparing for battle I have found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." Sadly, today we are watching the results of cavalier planning.

The arrogant manner in which pre-war criticism was dismissed is tragic in hindsight. General Shinseki's belief that it would take 200,000 more troops to provide post-war security led to his unceremonious dismissal. Presidential economic adviser Larry Lindsey estimated the war would cost at least \$150 billion, rather than pay for itself as Vice President CHENEY asserted, led to his forced resignation. The wholesale dismissal of the Iraqi army created hundreds of thousands Iraqis unemployed with bitterness towards the US as

their only severance. Ironically, it's has been the dismissed generals who have tried to foster the tenuous truce in Fallujah.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against giving the President the authority to go to war in Iraq. Yet once engaged in battle, I believe we must do all we can to bring the troops home safely, provide them with the equipment needed to keep them safe, and to have a plan to bring them home. We have had none of these?

For all the vaunted leadership of this White House, with all accusations thrown around by their allies in Congress that impugn the patriotism of those that might question the President, our military is bearing the brunt of their poor planning. The hollow rhetoric from the President and his allies has not put more troops on the ground, has not brought more countries into the coalition, has not unburdened America of the costs of the reconstruction, and has not brought our brave men and women home to their families. Challenging terrorists and insurgents to, "Bring it on" is not a policy; it is a substitute for bravery that threatens our soldiers in the field.

This April has been the deadliest month of combat we have had since the Vietnam War. We all hope and pray that the months ahead will not be so brutal. I am not asking that President present the Congress and the American people with a detailed plan of how long we will be there; how much it will cost; who will take charge; and a myriad of other questions. I know that in war a plan can easily be overtaken by events. What I ask, one year after his now infamous speech, is that he just be honest with us. Respond to our questions, put our soldiers before other concerns, and level with us. We are a great nation, the Congress is a great institution and the voice of the people. We have precious little time remaining to ensure a successful Iraq.

It is my hope, that a year from today, that we can mark the end of this bloody month as the true turning point for the future of a free, prosperous, and democratic Iraq.

BI-PARTISAN REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FAIR FEDERAL COMPENSATION ACT OF 2004

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, for the first time, I am not alone in introducing a bill for a federal contribution to address the District's structural imbalance. I am grateful to my Republican and Democratic colleagues who, in generously joining me today, have made this the first structural imbalance bill to have critical bipartisan regional support. Their sponsorship is particularly valuable because these are the members of Congress who know the District best because they are from the region—Government Reform Chair TOM DAVIS, Appropriations Subcommittee Chair FRANK WOLF, Congressional Black Caucus Chair ELIJAH CUMMINGS and Representatives JIM MORAN, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and ALBERT WYNN. Montgomery County Council Executive Doug Duncan has authorized me to say that he supports the bill as well. These Members recognize the importance of federal support to

compensate the District for federally imposed requirements in order to forestall another fiscal crisis in the nation's capital, while the District itself continues on the path of improvement of its finances and services that the Congress has acknowledged.

This bill ranks as one of the most important I have introduced during my seven terms in Congress. Because of its significance, I have delayed introducing other bills this year until I achieved bipartisan support in order to make the Fair Federal Compensation Act my first bill of 2004. Without this bill, the long-term viability of the District of Columbia is at risk. This risk arises from a structural imbalance caused by expenditures rising faster than revenues. Notwithstanding this dangerous situation, the District is able to balance its budget every year and avoid operating deficits by maintaining tax rates and debt that are among the highest in the nation. District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer Natwar M. Gandhi has issued forecasts that show that in the out years, the structural deficit will overtake the city's diminished and inadequate tax base, not because of overspending by the D.C. government but because of the cost of federal requirements and statutes imposed on the District.

Today's bill is different from structural imbalance bills I have introduced in the past. This bill has as its predicate a May 2003 Government Accounting Office (GAO) report, which made three major findings—the first concerning the size of the imbalance, the second concerning its federal origin, and the third regarding the unavailability of options internal to the D.C. government.

First, the GAO confirmed that the District has a structural imbalance that it found is between \$470,000,000 and \$1,100,000,000 annually, the first determination that is based on a precise methodology for valuing, documenting and calculating the imbalance. This congressional report confines two prior privately commissioned reports that arrived at similar conclusions, a 2002 McKenzie study commissioned by the Federal City Council (an organization of regional and local business leaders) and a Brookings Institution study under the leadership of former Congressional Budget Office Director, Alice Rivlin, who also served as a chair of the former D.C. Control Board (Financial Management and Assistance Authority).

The GAO's second finding was that D.C.'s structural imbalance is caused by federal mandates and is therefore beyond the reach of D.C. government officials and taxpayers. The federal government retains 42 percent of real property, the most valuable in the city, for its own use; requires the city alone to provide costly state services, such as special education, although the District is not a state and lacks a broad state tax base; requires the District to provide services to more than 200,000 federal employees, who earn 66 percent of the income produced here; and prohibits taxation of federal workers to help pay for these services. These costs to the city trace directly to the federal government and only the federal government.

The GAO's third finding is that the only two options available to the District government are raising taxes and cutting services, each of which the GAO said it could not recommend. Rather, the options are to "change Federal procedures and expand the District's tax base or provide additional financial support and a

greater role by the Federal government to help the District maintain fiscal balance," according to the GAO.

The bill I introduce today is based on these three GAO findings. The bill offsets part, though not all, of the annual structural imbalance, by providing for an annual federal contribution of \$800 million. These funds are to be deposited into a D.C. infrastructure support fund that cannot be used for operating expenses but only for the specifically stated infrastructure purposes.

The bill removes some of the harm to the District's investment bond rating and the resulting high interest payments by requiring that federal contribution funds go only to the District Infrastructure Fund to be used exclusively for infrastructure and for debt service, most of which is debt from infrastructure costs. The focus on infrastructure is deliberate because the District's infrastructure is used by the entire region, where 80% of the vehicles originate and includes Metro, used overwhelmingly by regional residents. Regional complaints about the District's roads, bridges and tunnels are justified, but there is no reasonable hope of repair and maintenance if the District's taxpayer-raised budget is the only source. The focus on debt service is calculated to reduce the District's debt, the highest per capita in the country. With some relief from the structural imbalance through a federal contribution, the District will gradually be able not only to reduce its debt but also to lower the high tax rates that the imbalance forces on D.C. residents and businesses. This bill also takes into account past federal contribution failures. This bill does not allow the contribution to wither away by a failure to increase gradually with inflation but provides for annual increases tied to the Consumer Price Index.

In 1995 Congress came to grips with the reality that a city whose structure assumes it is a state although it lacks a broad tax base can no longer be responsible for the full set of costs shouldered by states. However, Congress relieved the District of the cost of some but not all state functions and left the unique federal structural impediments described in the GAO report. The District has made remarkable progress by maintaining balanced budgets and surpluses every year despite adverse national economic conditions and by improving city services. It would be tragic for Congress to allow this progress to be retracted because of uncompensated federal burdens. This bill allows the District to avoid great risks and to continue to build fiscal strength.

#### RECOGNIZING RANDAL G. HOBBS

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Randall G. Hobbs, Senior Auditor for the United States Department of Agriculture, the Great Plains Region, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Hobbs has been responsible to the Inspector General for development of policies and for providing leadership, supervision, and coordination of audit activities relating to the Department's programs and operations. The Regional Inspector General for Audit plans, di-

rects, and supervises the performance of all auditing activities. Senior Auditor Hobbs has played a major role in all of these activities.

Mr. Hobbs began Federal service with the Internal Revenue Service in January 1979. He then accepted a position as a regulatory auditor with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in March 1979 and worked there until September 1983. In April 1984, Randall Hobbs began his career with OIG as an auditor in the Great Plains Region in Kansas City, Missouri.

During his career, he was recognized for using advanced audit techniques, pioneering efforts in controls over automated systems, and in leading audits in various USDA agencies. Mr. Hobbs, who became a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Missouri in 1984, was invaluable as OIG began to become heavily involved in financial statement audits in the early 1990s. Mr. Hobbs worked on financial statements audits of the Farmer's Home Administration (now part of Rural Development).

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Hobbs for his outstanding career and wishing him well in retirement.

#### HONORING THE WORK OF THE PLEASANT VIEW RELIEF SOCIETY AND THEIR GROUP VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD

### HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of a group of women from Utah's Third Congressional District for their dedication to helping children that have been victims of abuse. On Wednesday, May 5, 2004, the Pleasant View Relief Society will be honored at the National Children's Alliance annual luncheon with the Volunteer Group Leadership Award of 2004.

Working with the Utah County Children's Justice Center, this group, now affectionately known as the "Teddy Bear Ladies," has created over 10,000 handmade teddy bears for distribution to children receiving social services as a result of severe abuse. What started as a simple service project has now turned into a labor of love for these giving women. Not only do the Teddy Bear Ladies donate their time and money to this worthy project, but they also help give these children a fresh start after years of abuse.

What is remarkable about these ladies is not just their work, but also the ladies themselves. These dedicated volunteers range in age from the early 20s to mid 90s. Some of the younger volunteers thread needles for the older members of the group. Not even illness can stop the Teddy Bear Ladies from their work. One woman continued to sew teddy bears while suffering from severe headaches as a result from a brain tumor.

The Teddy Bear Ladies from Utah County represent what all Americans should strive to be: caring, dedicated, giving and compassionate. Through volunteering their time and talents, they are making a real difference in one Utah community.

#### HONORING MR. JUAN ARCELLANA

### HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Juan J. Arcellana (Jay) in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the State of California. He has served the people of the state for over twenty-five years, and has been with the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board for the last sixteen of those years. I would like to take this time to highlight his many achievements and to extend public recognition and commendations to him for his professional and civic leadership over these many years.

Jay has been the Chief Administrative Law Judge for the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board for eight years, and is currently serving as both its Chief Administrative Law Judge and Executive Director. Jay has served with the utmost distinction as President of the National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Boards.

Jay has spent an entire career dedicated to serving the unemployed and disabled citizens of California. He is particularly proud of his efforts to enhance the accessibility of the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board administrative hearing process, and ensure prompt consideration and action on their appeals.

Jay has received numerous commendations for his professionalism, expertise, hard work, extraordinary effort, and spirit of cooperation over the years, and it is certainly well deserved. Jay has personally touched the lives of many people throughout his career, giving many an employment opportunity allowing them to demonstrate and develop their individual talents.

Jay is married to Betsy Arcellana, and this marriage has been blessed with three sons, Jason, James and Jonathan. Today I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in thanking Jay Arcellana for his longstanding and continued commitment to the Californians that need his help the most.

#### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise one of the most under appreciated professions in our society: teachers. In doing so, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for their often thankless, but noble efforts.

To quote Cicero, "What nobler a profession, or more valuable to the state, than that of a man who instructs the rising generation." Teachers, next to parents, are the most influential people in the lives of our children. Like parents, they prepare students for the future. Teachers serve as role models, mentors and friends. They strive to work with parents and guardians so that the full potential of each child may be realized.

Mr. Speaker, teaching has never been an easy job, and it hasn't gotten easier in recent years. Currently, the people to whom we entrust our children must teach in classes so

large many of us would find it impossible to maintain order, let alone create an atmosphere conducive to learning. Many teachers must work in dilapidated buildings where heating, plumbing and cooling systems are insufficient. At a time when many of us would find it impossible to function without a computer, teachers are confronted with the task of preparing kids to work in an increasingly technological society without the use of this most basic piece of equipment. Not only do teachers deserve our thanks, they also deserve access to the best tools possible. Our nation's future is, after all, in their hands.

The Bush Administration introduced the No Child Left Behind Act with the promise of reforming and improving education in our country. My colleagues have claimed that "education reform costs money, and this Administration is willing to spend it." However, this has proven to be yet another empty promise. This Administration has been unwilling to fund their own education bill, providing \$9.4 billion less for education reform next year than was promised in the No Child Left Behind Act. Rather than fund their education program, the Republican budget has found room for over a trillion dollars in tax cuts for their fat cat friends.

Furthermore, the proposed Republican budget provides only \$2.9 billion for teacher quality programs, \$234 million less than what the No Child Left Behind Act authorized. This means 56,000 teachers will not receive the extra training they need. Cutting extra training for our teachers not only hurts the quality of our education, but also hurts our ability to recruit and retain these teachers.

Mr. Speaker, under-funding education not only affects our children, it affects working families. To compensate for the loss in funding, local communities have been forced to raise taxes to pay for textbooks and teacher's salaries. Budget cuts have also resulted in more than two million children failing to receive tutoring in reading and math and more than one million children being denied access to after-school programs.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, not only under-fund education, they attack our public school teachers. In fact, Department of Education Secretary Rod Paige called the National Education Association a "terrorist organization", arguing that the NEA was against school standards and accountability. Instead of fostering resentment, this Administration needs to promote unity; education needs to be a cooperative, nonpartisan effort and we need to honor teachers, not demonize them.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that many of my colleagues and our nation's governors, acting either in haste, desperation or philosophical zeal, have continually tried to undermine real education reform by grasping at "revolutionary schemes" such as vouchers, which have proved to be destructive to public schools as well as ineffective in raising student performance. They have attempted to privatize public schools, where 90 percent of America's children are educated. In an attempt to highlight the problems faced by public schools, they have used teachers and schools alike as punching bags to further their own risky, underhanded schemes that only divert education money away from where it's most needed. I stand before you today to say we should not tolerate this rascality any longer.

Our teachers, our kids and our nation's future deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that we can work together, write quality legislation, help our schools and thank our teachers for their efforts by showing them we know how important educating our children—and their role in this mission—is to America's future.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE TIBURCIO VASQUEZ HEALTH CENTER CLINIC IN HAYWARD, CA

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the grand opening of the new Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, TVHC, Hayward Clinic. TVHC has been providing health care services to Hayward, California, residents since 1990. With a patient volume of more than 14,000 encounters annually, TVHC outgrew its previous clinic. To meet the growing demand for its community based health care services, TVHC embarked on a Hayward Clinic Relocation and Expansion Project, culminating in the grand opening of its new and expanded Hayward Clinic.

As one of the leaders in delivering multicultural and linguistically appropriate health care services in southern Alameda County, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc., is part of a centralized, effective system of licensed medical providers, community health education, social work and nutrition services. TVHC has been providing comprehensive primary care and supportive services to the medically indigent, low-income, primarily Latino population in southern Alameda County since 1971.

TVHC has repeatedly been recognized for its achievements in outreach and education that incorporates members of the clinic and surrounding community to govern, direct and participate in all aspects of the clinic operation to insure the quality and success of its service delivery and myriad of programs. They include a nationally recognized Women, Infants and Children, WIC, program out of three sites serving over 5,000 southern Alameda County clients and a comprehensive Family Support Service program through partnerships with the Every Child County/First Five Commission, the California Maternal and Child Health Branch Adolescent Family Life Program and the Alameda County Cal-Learn Program.

TVHC clinic sites are certified California Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program Providers. Comprehensive sick and well child-care, adolescent care, adult care, and care of chronic and acute illness associated with aging are also provided as well as HIV/AIDS education and prevention and case management services.

TVHC's award-winning community health programs, include the Nuestro Salud Nuestro Futuro chronic disease education program and Vide con Esperanza, a breast cancer support group for Spanish speaking Latinas and their families.

A comprehensive staff of over 135 health professionals is expert at providing culturally competent services to people of all ages, races, lifestyles and backgrounds. As a feder-

ally qualified health center, TVHC, Inc., as the parent nonprofit corporate entity, operates three primary medical clinic sites, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center in Union City, the Miranda Health Center in Hayward, and the Logan Health Center, located at the James Logan High School in Union City.

The new Hayward Clinic will have a capacity to provide health care services for 28,000 patient encounters and will attract 3,000 new primary care users. Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center is a model for community-based health care. Its mission reflects its commitment: Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center is dedicated to promoting the health and well being of its community by providing accessible, high quality care. Our organizational and individual commitment is to ensure this human right through quality service, advocacy and community empowerment.

I applaud Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc.'s commitment to excellence. I offer my heartfelt congratulations on the opening of its newest clinic in Hayward, California to be dedicated on May 20, 2004.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on April 27 and 28, 2004, I was unavoidably detained in my district and was not able to vote on rollcall votes numbered 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, and 138. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, and 138. I would have voted "nay" on rollcalls 136 and 137.

HONORING THE RHODE ISLAND SMALL BUSINESS PERSONS OF THE YEAR

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Ian Hardman, David Fowlkes, and Henry Seemore, who were all recently honored as the 2004 Rhode Island Small Business Persons of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration. Mr. Hardman, Mr. Fowlkes, and Mr. Seemore are the founders of Davin Wheels, an automobile wheel company based in Providence, RI.

It was David Fowlkes' design that made Davin Wheels so popular. While attending the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Fowlkes created a stylish wheel composed of the base wheel and a spinner. After the car stops moving, the spinner continues to rotate, giving the appearance that the car's wheels are still in motion. Today, with 12 years of experience in the engineering and manufacturing industries, Fowlkes still puts his creative touch on all the products of Davin Wheels, where he currently serves as the President and Chief Operating Officer.

Ian Hardman, the Chief Executive Officer of Davin, met Fowlkes while they were both working at Reebok. Ian worked in marketing

while David was a senior designer. Ian used his 15 years of experience in finance, operations, and marketing to help launch and run Davin Wheels. His knowledge and expertise have driven the development, expansion, and success of Davin Wheels since the beginning.

Hank Seemore, Davin's Chief Financial Officer, met Fowlkes while he was Vice President of Fleet Bank's Private Client Group. After 17 years in the banking industry, Seemore was responsible for a \$200 million portfolio. Upon observing Fowlkes' prototype, Seemore and Hardman teamed up with Fowlkes to launch the company in 1998.

Davin Wheels' first product, the Revolution 1.0, made its official debut in January 2001. Since then, sales have been driven by word of mouth and celebrity plugs, including features on MTV, ESPN, and in various music videos. Davin Wheels is seen as the final touch to many celebrities' and athletes' flashy cars. The first three lines of the Revolution wheels have completely sold out, a sign that this Rhode Island company is sure to succeed for years to come on this simple, stylish product.

Fowlkes, Seemore, and Hardman join a distinguished group of Rhode Islanders who have been named Small Business Person of the Year. Small businesses are key to the economic growth in my home state, and I wish these gentlemen, and the 33,000 other small business owners in Rhode Island, great success in the future.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE READING FAILURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2004

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2004. This bill would authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to States to establish statewide screening programs for children who are 5 to 7 years of age, in an effort to prevent reading failure.

Reading failure is epidemic. Declining test scores in reading have been noted in many states. Nationally, 38 percent of 4th graders score below the basic reading level and 28 percent of 8th graders score below the basic reading level in our public schools.

The Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2004 proposes that the grants be used to screen incoming students for traits that indicate dyslexia or other reading failure risks. It would also provide adequate professional development for personnel who administer the screening programs. Dyslexia, often referred to as a language based learning disability, is the most common form of learning disability. Approximately 15–20 percent of the population has a learning disability and, according to the National Institutes of Health, 60 percent to 80 percent of those with learning disabilities have problems with reading and language skills. Predictions for the coming decades indicate that the number of children with learning disabilities will increase for associated social, economic, and educational reasons.

In spite of the fact that reading success in early grades is an essential basis for success in later grades, current methods of identifying children as learning disabled rely on a "wait

and fail" model, where children must demonstrate severe academic problems before remediation is rendered. The Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2004 allows for the early screening of children so that remediation can begin immediately.

Because reading disorders, such as dyslexia, often affect oral language functioning, individuals with these disorders are at a disadvantage as they enter their adolescent years when language becomes more central to peer relationships. Being at odds with the mainstream environment causes these children to experience great stress, creating social and emotional adjustment problems. Usually, they become vulnerable to feelings of low self-esteem and suffer from frustration and anxiety. If these students are not met with proper intervention, they can begin to experience academic failure. However, when learning disorders, such as dyslexia, are caught early by trained professionals, learning strategies and proper treatment can help them to succeed academically and to develop a positive self-image.

I believe that this legislation will be a very important step in ensuring that our nation's children are adequately prepared for lifelong reading success. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by co-sponsoring the Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2004.

#### ARKANSAS CHAPTER OF THE LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, Monday, May 10, marks the first observance of World Lupus Day. Coordinated by the Lupus Foundation of America, this event will focus on accurate lupus diagnosis, improved patient healthcare services, and increased research into the treatment and cure of lupus. I am pleased the Arkansas chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America will host World Lupus Day activities. The chapter has scheduled a public open house on May 10 in its main office located in Hot Springs that will feature a live radio broadcast on KLAZ–105.3, videos of lupus patients sharing their experiences, and dissemination of educational materials.

Started in October 1993, in the guestroom of the founder's home, the Arkansas chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America has grown to 200 members and serves the entire State of Arkansas. Mrs. Jamesetta Smith saw the importance of starting the chapter when she and her husband moved to Arkansas in 1992. As a lupus patient herself, Jamesetta knows about the importance of education and support for those directly and indirectly impacted by the devastating disease. Lupus patients need someone to talk to who understands and knows firsthand about the physical and emotional challenges that lie ahead. To help these individuals, the chapter's Hot Springs and Ft. Smith offices host monthly support groups, free of charge. To support the Arkansas chapter's many efforts and awareness activities, patients, family members, and supporters come together regularly to raise funding.

It is estimated that nationally 1 out of every 185 persons has lupus. According to the

Lupus Foundation, about 1.5 million Americans have a form of the chronic, incurable disease that can result in severe joint pain and swelling, fevers, fatigue, and other health effects, including organ failure and death. Needless to say, lupus is a widespread disease that touches the lives of millions of Americans. I am glad Mrs. Jamesetta Smith, Founder of the Arkansas Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America, took on the challenge of developing and implementing a chapter and based it in my Congressional District. She and the chapter's volunteers are to be commended for their hard work in informing Arkansans about the symptoms and health effects of lupus and providing important facts to help the public better understand the impact of the disease.

#### NEGOTIATIONS ON SHANNON AIRPORT SHOULD NOT PROCEED UNTIL ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY IS COMPLETED

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Chairman HYDE, Ranking Member OBERSTAR, and Rep. PETER KING and DONALD PAYNE, to introduce legislation on a critical and timely issue of interest to both U.S. and Irish companies operating in western Ireland and the impact on jobs in that region. The concern arises out of negotiations between the United States and Ireland that will determine the status of Shannon Airport, an important gateway for commerce and tourism between our two countries.

Under the "dual gateway" policy international carriers currently operating flights between to and from the United States through Dublin are required to undertake an equal number of flights to Shannon Airport and Dublin Airport over each calendar year.

The Dual Gateway Policy Review Act we are introducing today provides for an economic impact study proposed changes to the "dual gateway" policy might have on U.S. businesses operating in western Ireland, Irish businesses operating in and around Shannon Airport, and U.S. air carriers serving Ireland.

This matter came to my attention recently through the persistent efforts of Dana Rosemary Scallon, a Member of the European Parliament representing much of western Ireland, the region that would be most adversely affected by changes actively under negotiation between Washington and Dublin. In fact, it is my understanding that talks are underway this week in Washington between American and Irish negotiators.

At Ms. Scallon urging, I arranged for us to meet with the chief U.S. aviation negotiators in February, here in Washington. I was shocked and dismayed to learn that no consideration whatsoever had been given to the potential loss of jobs and negative economic impact that such a policy change would have on western Ireland.

A key element missing from these talks—is a glaring omission in my view—is an expert assessment of the economic impact of changing the status of Shannon Airport, an economic hub critical to development in western Ireland and the estimated 140 U.S. corporations operating in the region. My legislation would correct this shortcoming.

Mr. Speaker, in a series of meetings arranged last week by Ms. Scallon, I met with representatives of scores of U.S. corporations deeply concerned over the potential impact of modifications or discontinuance of the "dual gateway" policy on their operations. Approximately half of U.S. investment in Ireland is made in the western part of the country. Many of these corporations have made sizable investments in western Ireland and are keen to maintain their presence in the region, but would be forced to reevaluate their positions should Shannon Airport's status be downgraded.

These business executives estimate that 40,000 jobs on the western corridor from north of Galway to south of Limerick are directly affected by Shannon Airport. An additional 80,000 jobs are indirectly affected by Shannon operations according to these business representatives. I also met with local leaders along the west coast who were united in their concern over the likely economic and social consequences of a downgrading of Shannon Airport's status. Business leaders from County Donegal warned of the ripple effect their region would feel from such a change.

The potential threat posed by possible changes to the "dual gateway" policy have galvanized U.S. business executives representing many different sizes and types of enterprises along the west coast to speak out with a single voice on this matter. They highlight the fact that Shannon Airport is a major access point to and from the U.S. and European cities necessary to sustain and promote development and growth in the region.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly six decades Shannon Airport has served as a vital gateway for the United States to Ireland and beyond. Indeed, many Americans, including me, trace their family roots back generations to counties along the rugged western coast of Ireland. Hundreds of thousands of American tourists pass through this gateway each year. An estimated 140 U.S. corporations have come to rely upon Shannon Airport as a vital gateway to doing business in western Ireland.

#### RECOGNITION OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN BELARUS

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again bring attention to the upcoming elections in Belarus.

The current leader, Aleksandr Lukashenko told the National Assembly on April 14th, "The new parliament that is to be elected this fall should include representatives of all groups aside from "businessmen, merchants and capitalists."

At a time when Belarus desperately needs business and entrepreneurs, it is appalling that the Belarussian leader would declare that candidates with business backgrounds or professions would not be allowed to run or to serve in the Belarus Assembly.

In response to this repressive political environment, we need to focus our efforts on helping to promote the institutional survival of the country's democratic political organizations and helping their leaders and activists prepare for political and public policy.

The important thing for the current regime in Belarus to understand is that Washington and the world are watching.

#### HONORING FLAG CITY USA

### HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the official designation of my hometown of Findlay, Ohio, as Flag City USA.

Findlay's spirited celebration of Flag Day dates back to 1968, when an area businessman shared his passion for Old Glory with the community. John B. Cooke, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, determined that every household in Findlay should display the flag on June 14. Speaking to industry and community groups throughout Findlay in support of this idea, he spearheaded a successful effort to purchase 14,000 flags. Area Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls distributed these flags to area households and businesses.

My predecessor in Congress and former boss, Jackson Betts, recognized this achievement in a speech to the House on June 12, 1968. "The strong patriotism of residents of my district," he said, "has rarely been better exhibited than the present project which will make Findlay, Ohio, Flag City USA on June 14, 1968." Congressman Betts also contributed a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to Findlay's Flag Day display.

The event was heralded in the House by my immediate predecessor in Congress, Tennyson Guyer. On May 7, 1974, Congressman Guyer introduced a joint resolution to designate Findlay as Flag City USA, citing the 1968 Flag Day event and the dedication of a plaque in Findlay to our armed forces on that day. This Friday, May 7, I will join my constituents at an event in Findlay hosted by the Hancock/Flag City Heritage Commission to commemorate the 30th anniversary of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Flag City know that Old Glory is far more than a piece of cloth. This point was most clearly illustrated in 1989, after the Supreme Court upheld flag burning as a protected act. More than 2,000 area residents gathered in Findlay's Dorney Plaza to celebrate our flag end express their strong opposition to this ruling. I was proud to join them at this event, where they presented me with a petition containing more than 5,000 signatures objecting to the Court's act.

Our flag has never gone out of fashion in Findlay, but the post-September 11 era has brought even more poignancy to the banners readily seen throughout our city. They remind us of the debt we owe to the brave men and women who fight in defense of our freedom—both those protecting our homeland domestically and those engaged on our behalf across the globe.

As I go to work each day and see Old Glory flying over the Capitol dome, I reflect on our enduring freedoms celebrated each day in Findlay and in towns and villages throughout the nation. Our flag remains the most visible symbol of our nation and of the liberties we have too often taken for granted. It is a uni-

fying sign in times of peace and war, renewing pride in America and continued hope for our future.

It has been three decades since we were officially named Flag City USA, but Findlay's spirit of patriotism has shined brightly throughout its history. I salute the hard work of the Hancock/Flag City Heritage Commission for coordinating this commemoration, and thank all of the fine citizens of our community who maintain the pride of Flag City USA. They remind us that ours is the greatest nation on earth, and that our city is brimming with the American spirit.

#### NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

### HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I want to take time to recognize an important group of individuals who are being honored today, Tuesday, May 4, National Teacher Day.

Growing up in Stamford, my own teachers played an important role in my upbringing. It is one reason why I chose to become a teacher myself.

Since starting out as a vocational agriculture teacher, education has been a passion of mine. That is why I now spend so much time in our schools. And I certainly realize the important role that teachers play in our children's lives. Our teachers go above and beyond the call of duty time after time to help their students learn and be successful.

I'm happy we take this day to honor those who have chosen to enter this profession. It sometimes can be a thankless job. But it is rewarding to see the kids grow and mature before your very eyes—even after they have left your classroom.

I am pleased to cosponsor several pieces of legislation that support America's teachers, including:

The LEARN Act (H.R. 1643), legislation that would provide a \$2,000 tax credit to teachers and principals who work in low-income schools.

Student loan forgiveness legislation (H.R. 1751, H.R. 934 and H.R. 2811), designed to result in the recruitment of new and talented teachers to educate the next generation of students. These bills would provide student loan forgiveness up to \$17,500 to a teacher who teaches for five years in a low-income school, rural school or in high-demand subjects such as mathematics, science, special education, foreign languages and bilingual education.

The Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 594), which would end unfair discrimination against Texas teachers and other public employees who currently are denied the Social Security survivors benefit. I strongly support this legislation, and have signed a discharge petition that would bring H.R. 594 to the House floor for a vote.

As a former educator and grandfather of three, I will continue to be concerned about providing the best educational opportunities to all American children. Yet, the successful education of this nation's children is inextricably tied to the quality of the teachers educating them. We must provide the proper financial

and workforce incentives to retain the dedicated core of education professionals who daily shape the hearts and minds of the children of West Texas.

Today we recognize this important and influential group of people. My hat is off to our Texas teachers. And I encourage all Americans to take time on Tuesday to thank our teachers for the great job.

RECOGNIZING CARNEGIE MEDAL  
FOR NEIL JAY ROSENBERG

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Mr. Neil Jay Rosenberg, formerly of Westerly, Rhode Island, who will be awarded the Carnegie Medal for his heroism on the morning of July 17, 2002. This year, 19 individuals from throughout the United States and Canada will receive the Carnegie Medal for risking their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. The medal and \$3,500 grant will be presented posthumously to Mr. Rosenberg's father of Brooklyn, New York.

Alerted to a fire in the livingroom of his family's two-story house on July 17, 2002, Mr. Rosenberg quickly evacuated his step father, Robert L. Ingram, who required the use of a wheelchair. He then turned back into the house where his girlfriend, Tara Verrier, and two half sisters, Crystal L. and Carol Ingram, remained on the second floor. Tragically, neither Mr. Rosenberg nor the others survived the fire.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues will join me in honoring a true hero, Mr. Neil Jay Rosenberg, for sacrificing his life in the hopes of saving others.

HONORING MR. HOTS MICHELS

**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to Hots Michels, one of Chicago's best liked and most enduring entertainers. During his 50-year musical career, Hots has played for three different Presidents and many famous people including Zsa Zsa Gabor, Abbott and Costello and Bob Hope.

In case you didn't know it, the "piano bar" began in Chicago, where people would gather around a piano and sing away their troubles to a wonderful guy like Hots.

Hots started in the old Sherman House Hotel at Clark and Randolph in Chicago. It was the original piano bar across the street from City Hall where politicians, union leaders and the media gathered. More recently he has been playing at the Chicago Chop House for the last 18 years, entertaining the throngs of individuals visiting the "Windy City."

On May 2, the Chicago Sun-Times featured Hots Michels in an article entitled, "Piano Player to the Stars": Hots Michels." Today, I am pleased to share this article with my colleagues in recognition of Hots, a guy who still knows how to pack them in.

"PIANO PLAYER TO THE STARS": HOTS  
MICHELS

Strangers in the night are the only people who tip piano player Hots Michels. He's got too many pals.

"I was never a tip guy, mainly because people knew me too well," Hots says. "I'd be in business with them, how could I take a tip? And I wouldn't want to; it would have to be from a stranger."

Hots has a fishbowl on his piano in the Chop House, just in case any strangers drop by.

Hots Michels is the original Chicago piano bar guy. The gang at the bar in the Chicago Chop House busts his chops and calls him "the pianist to the stars!" He has tickled the ivories for the likes of Zsa Zsa Gabor, Abbott and Costello, Bob Hope, Don Rickles, Sidney Poitier, Nat King Cole and Wayne Newton. One night while plunking the 88s at the Sherman House, he saw a face peek through the curtains from the dining room. The face belonged to another piano player who had just retired and was on a book tour. Hots says, "The maitre d' came over to me and said, 'President Truman would like you to join him.'"

He's had pops with three different presidents (Truman, Reagan, Bush I) and said prayers with the Pope. He's been playing piano in saloons for more than 50 years. How old is he? "That's an unpublished number."

He's no teenager but he sure looks good for his age.

Hots started out in Little Flower Parish near 79th and Ashland. How did he get the name "Hots"?

"I have no idea," he says, "It has nothing to do with music."

Did your parents name you Hots? "Hots Michels, yeah." Gotcha.

His dad, Walt, was a musician and songwriter, and Hots must have it in his genes. "I play by ear, I can't read music. I don't know what it was, but anything that had to do with a formal education, I just went south. I have no idea how I really got to play the piano, but hey, thank God."

Chicago Chop House owner John Pontarelli says, "He can probably play 2,000 songs."

The piano bar was born in the old Sherman House Hotel at Clark and Randolph. Hots says, "They had the College Inn, the Porterhouse Room and the Well of the Sea. We had strolling violins at the Porterhouse Room, and in between was a little lounge where people would sit and wait to be called to a table. Someone got the idea, just put a piano in there and entertain 'em while they're in there. Then someone said, well let's build a bar around it. All by accident, it wasn't planned. They did, and it's hard to believe but people would wait in line to sit at the piano bar because it was so new." It's karaoke with class.

The Sherman House was across the street from City Hall. Pals would wander over for a couple of carnables along with union leaders and media folk, and most of them became friends with Hots over the years. Along the way he was involved in a multitude of schemes.

"Piano was never enough for me. I was involved in other things all my life. I had a small loan business, used cars, Christmas trees, launched a new lipstick, bubble bath, radio stations in Alaska, Mill Run Playhouse, video games. I had a detective agency. We were in the slot machine business, drilled oil three times in my life, had a burial vault company in Melrose Park, and on and on and on."

Hots and his friend Hal White raised championship hogs in their backyard in Beverly and entered them in an international livestock show. "We took grand champion of the show."

On the wall next to his piano is a picture of the two city slickers crossing the Rock Island Line tracks with their two prize pigs, Lightgreen and Coolbreeze.

Hots used to wear a turban at the piano when he was doing his act, "The Musical Wizard of Mental Telepathy." Folks would conceal the name of a song on a piece of paper and Hots would tear it up and play it for them on the piano. The gang at the Chop House says, "Carnac stole his act!"

He's been playing from 5 to 8 p.m. every weekday at the Chop House for the last 18 years. The joint is drenched in Chicago history with thousands of photos of the toddling town's sinners and saints, including Sally Rand sitting nude on a horse, a gallery of gangsters and every mayor in the history of the city. Grab a stool at the piano bar and request a tune from Hots. If you feel like singing, he'll be your accompanist. I ask him what's the most requested song and he says, "As Time Goes By," requested by the young and the old.' It's still the same old story.

If you're lucky, Joe Sullivan might stop by to do some crooning at the bar. Hots says, "He owns Clark & Barlow Hardware, but Joe could have easily made it in show business. He brings down the house." I've watched Pete Nolan warble here with hand moves and phrasing that rival Sinatra's.

It's not just the music that draws you to Hots' piano. There's a camaraderie among those half-dozen stools as we listen to him play his favorites. One night Charlie Carey and I were chillin' with Hots, and Charlie mentioned that he was on his way to Washington, D.C. Hots picked up the phone next to his piano, called his best friend, U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde, and handed Charlie the phone. Lobbyists charge heavily for that kind of clout, but Hots was just putting two pals together.

After a half century of playing piano in saloons and more than a few cockeyed business schemes, Hots tells me, "I have no beefs."

He's been around long enough to know that only suckers beef.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GIRL  
SCOUTS ON THEIR 92ND BIRTHDAY

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor an American icon and an organization that we all know well, Girl Scouts of the USA. This year, Girl Scouts is celebrating 92 years of service to our communities and our nation. For 92 years, Girl Scouting has made a remarkable difference in the lives of girls in so many ways.

The Girl Scouts is an organization that has always been ahead of its time, and the experiences that girls have in Girl Scouting today are profound. For example, they travel the world, learn about science, math and engineering by working with some of the most innovative thinkers in these fields, and perform community service projects that are literally changing many of our communities for the better.

In March, I had the opportunity to meet with Girl Scout representatives from my district who came to Washington, D.C. with nearly 600 other Girl Scout executives, professional staff and volunteers from across the nation. The

Girl Scouts/San Diego-Imperial Council is the council that serves girls in my district, and I am proud of their work and leading expertise on the challenging issues affecting girls in today's world. This council serves over 30,000 girls in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

During their time in Washington, the representatives of Girl Scouts were discussing a very important issue: safety for girls. I am impressed by their dedication to helping all girls feel emotionally and physically safe, secure and strong. In our contemporary society where child abductions, rampant abuse and other violence against children occurs too frequently, their task is extremely important. I commend the Girl Scouts for their national and local leadership on this issue.

Through a nationwide call to action, Girl Scouts of the USA is leading an effort to create communities in which all girls feel safe and empowered. I ask that schools, churches, youth-serving organizations, Congress, and other government entities join with Girl Scouts to bring attention to this very important issue. All of our nation's children deserve to feel safe, secure and strong.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion I congratulate Girl Scouts for a job well done and look forward to working with them on ensuring the safety of our nation's youth.

H. RES. 598 RECOGNIZES THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MILITARY IMPACTED SCHOOLS

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res 598, sponsored by my colleague Mr. HAYES of North Carolina. The resolution recognizes the valuable contributions of military impacted schools, teachers, administration, and staff for their ongoing contributions to the education of military children.

The federal Impact Aid program has been assisting school districts since its inception in 1950. The Impact Aid program provides financial assistance to school districts that are limited in their ability to raise local revenue by the presence of tax-exempt federal property, and must educate larger numbers of children because of the presence of federal employees. The program provides formula grants to cover a portion of per pupil education costs, as well as grants to support construction and maintenance needs.

This program has been a life-line for many school districts like the El Paso Independent School District (EPISD), which I represent, whose annual budget includes a significant amount of federal Impact Aid funds.

Fort Bliss, Texas, also located within my district, is home to the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center as well as the Army's Sergeant Major's Academy. Fort Bliss is also a major employer in my district. The children of troops and civil servants at Fort Bliss attend EPISD schools.

I ask my colleagues to support our troops, their families and this resolution. I would also urge my colleagues to support H.R. 932, a bill sponsored by my colleagues Mr. KIRK and Mr. LARSON. This bill would make Impact Aid an entitlement for our local education agencies. This is a fair, just and more efficient way to fund our federally impacted schools.

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRO ROMERO

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Centro Romero, a community-based organization that has been serving Salvadoran immigrants in the Chicago communities of Rogers Park, Edgewater, Ravenswood, and Uptown. Since its founding in 1984, Centro Romero has served Latino immigrant and refugee populations by providing services to adults and children to help them overcome barriers of integrating into U.S. society. Last year, Centro Romero served over 5,600 clients through its adult education, women's empowerment, youth learning and leadership and legal assistance programs.

Centro Romero was founded by a group of Salvadoran refugees living in Chicago who wanted to assist other incoming Central American refugees arriving in the United States to seek safe haven from the political and civil repression and human rights abuses that were plaguing the region during the 1970s and 1980s. Centro Romero is named in honor of Archbishop Oscar Romero, a Salvadoran Roman Catholic cleric, on behalf of his service of the poor and oppressed people. Archbishop Romero was assassinated in 1980 for his outspoken denunciations of the ruling elite and his defense of human and civil rights during El Salvador's civil war.

Centro Romero began its work in Chicago communities by providing basic services such as food, job placement, housing orientation and immigration procedures. Today, Centro Romero provides these services and has added a women's program and youth program to address additional needs in the growing Latino community.

Today, in the House of Representatives, I would like to extend my congratulations and

appreciation from the grateful communities of Chicago to the dedicated staff and volunteers of Centro Romero for their many contributions providing vital information and essential services for the Latino communities. All of us who live in the Chicago area are fortunate to have Centro Romero in our midst and we all benefit from its unparalleled commitment to improving our community.

JOIN ME IN IMPROVING INSURANCE FOR DISABLED VETERANS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to urge support for improvements for veterans who have become disabled in their service to our country. I have introduced H.R. 4229, the "Fair Insurance for Disabled Veterans Act" to address this need.

First, when the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance, SDVI, began in 1951, it was intended to provide service-disabled veterans with the ability to purchase life insurance coverage at "standard" rates.

Unfortunately, these life insurance premiums are based upon mortality rates for 1940, while current standard life insurance policies have premiums based upon the 2001 mortality table. This means that service-disabled veterans are being charged premiums based on a table that is 60 years out of date. The Independent Budget, prepared and endorsed by many veterans service organizations, has recommended that the mortality table be updated so that service-disabled veterans pay lower premiums for insurance. My bill would provide insurance comparable to standard policies, based on 2001 tables.

Second, the VA provides mortgage life insurance, VMLI, up to \$90,000 to severely service-disabled veterans who qualify for specially adapted housing grants. Currently, this amount covers only about 72 percent of the outstanding mortgage balances because the maximum amount has not been increased since 1992. We know how the cost of houses has skyrocketed since then in many areas of our country! In May, 2001, an evaluation by the Department of Veterans Affairs recommended that the coverage be increased to between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The Independent Budget has also recommended that the coverage be increased. H.R. 4229 implements those recommendations by increasing the maximum to \$200,000 to cover 98 percent of mortgage benefits outstanding.

I invite my colleagues to support H.R. 4229 to improve insurance policies for our Nation's service-connected disabled veterans.