

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DELFINO GALLEGOS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Delfino Gallegos of Capulin, Colorado. Mr. Gallegos is one of only a handful of living World War I veterans, and was recently honored for his service at the American Legion's 85th birthday celebration at the Dickey-Springer Post 113, an organization founded by World War I veterans.

Mr. Gallegos was born December 28 1903 in Costilla, New Mexico. He answered his nation's call to service, joining the military at the age of 17, and was sent to Camp Sherman, Ohio for basic training. Towards the end of the First World War, his duties included guarding prisoners from Germany and other countries. Upon his honorable discharge from the service in 1923, Delfino met and married his wife Deliria, and moved to Capulin where he worked as a potato farmer and shepherd.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Delfino Gallegos before this body of Congress and this nation. The freedoms we enjoy today are a direct result of the sacrifices made by veterans throughout our nation. He is a great patriot and treasure to his community and veterans across Colorado. I sincerely thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING DOWNINGTOWN AREA SENIOR CENTER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Downingtown Area Senior Center for its 30 years of dedicated service to the senior citizens of the Downingtown, Pennsylvania area.

The Downingtown Area Senior Center has existed since 1974 to serve the nutritional, social, and educational needs of the people aged 60 and older and to enhance their dignity, independence, and encouraging involvement in the community.

The Senior Center began as a Meals Together program with four seniors from the Downingtown United Methodist Church. The Downingtown Area Senior Center rented space from the Church until April, 2002. In August of that same year, the Downingtown Area Senior Center moved into the Ashbridge Commons. In this location, the Senior Center was responsible to continue and improve services to seniors. They did so by outfitting a kitchen, arranging a telephone system, networking a computer system, and creating a new living space. The new Downingtown Area Senior

Center opened its doors in October 2002 and has continued a tradition of excellence in providing for the senior citizens.

Ongoing programs and activities are perhaps one of the most important aspects of the Downingtown Area Senior Center. The Center participates in: an AARP driving class, arts and crafts, audiologist visits, ballroom dancing, blood pressure/weight checks, exercise classes, consumer awareness classes, historical presentations, income tax preparation, golf tournaments, and volunteer opportunities. These programs indeed foster and improve the quality of life of all participating seniors.

In addition, the Downingtown Area Senior Center has created a program for seniors called "Fit and Fun." The Fit and Fun program concentrates on health and wellness, while it also supplies its members with timely information and support to increase the likelihood of a longer, happier, and more fulfilling life. Seniors participate in "body recall" to improve muscle tone, line-dancing for aerobic activity, and yoga sessions to balance the mind and body. Weekly seminars are also given on Medicare supplement programs, chronic diseases management, and home health care. These seminars are critical for seniors if they are to continue to live healthy and active lives. As of June 2003, 2,150 people participated in the Fit and Fun program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Downingtown Area Senior Center for its dedication to the health and well-being of senior citizens in the Downingtown community and for their service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

CELEBRATING CINCO DE MAYO AND MEXICO'S CONTINUED STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE IN THE HEMISPHERE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Cinco de Mayo and in recognition of the many contributions that Mexicans and Mexican-Americans have made and continue to make in my congressional district in California and across our nation.

The Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates the May 5, 1862 victory of an ill-equipped and vastly outnumbered Mexican army, under the command of General Ignacio Zaragoza, over Napoleon's army at the Battle of Puebla. Although Napoleon eventually installed his brother as regent over Mexico, the triumph of the Mexican people over the French in this battle has come to symbolize the fight for freedom and justice in the Hemisphere—a fight that many dissidents in Cuba continue to wage intensely against Castro's brutal regime.

Mr. Speaker, the recent diplomatic furor involving our friend and ally Mexico and the removal of Fidel Castro in Cuba is an appropriate

issue in the context of Cinco de Mayo. I want to pay tribute to President Fox and the Mexican government for their principled stand on human rights.

I find it absolutely appalling that one year after 75 Cubans were tried in kangaroo courts in Havana, sentenced to prison terms ranging from 6 to 28 years, and imprisoned in rat-infested, dank cells, Castro's totalitarian machine is still trying to crack the backs of Cuba's internal opposition by continuing to lock up some of its most renowned leaders.

These 75 individuals are suffering indescribable horrors at the hands of Cuban authorities simply because they sought to express their disagreement with Castro's government, provide an independent media voice, stock their shelves with banned literature, represent the interests of independent labor, and otherwise improve the lot of their fellow citizens. In other words, these soldiers of freedom were thrown behind bars because they practiced their professions or attempted to exert their political rights and civil liberties.

Recently, Chairman HYDE and I led our Committee's consideration of H. Res. 563, which was sponsored by my good friends and colleagues, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida and BOB MENENDEZ of New Jersey, among others. H. Res. 563 recognized the reprehensible state of human rights in Cuba. It also called upon the international community to pass a resolution denouncing Cuba's human rights record at this year's session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Two weeks ago, the Commission passed a resolution, sponsored by Honduras, which condemned the imprisonment of the 75 dissidents and urged Cuba to allow a special representative of the Commission to visit Cuba and report on the state of human rights in the island country. Havana so far has resoundingly rejected the request of the international community and reportedly refused to accept the Commission's special representative.

Mr. Speaker, Mexico joined the United States and twenty other countries in voting for this resolution deploring human rights violation in Cuba. In the weeks that have followed, Castro has vilified President Fox and his Administration for the courageous stand that Mexico took in Geneva as a defender of freedom in the Hemisphere—a stand similar to General Zaragoza at Puebla.

Mr. Speaker, although we in this House and across the globe disagree on how best to bring about change in Cuba, we stand together in solidarity with those who endure torture, incarceration, and deprivation because they refuse to submit to the boot of an authoritarian regime.

I am proud to call my friends in neighboring Mexico our allies in this unfortunately never-ending struggle against tyranny. Amigos, desde cinco de mayo de 1862 hasta cinco de mayo de 2004, la lucha continúa!

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY PFC JEREMY RICARDO EWING OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of U.S. Army PFC Jeremy Ricardo Ewing, who was killed on April 29th in a car bomb attack in Iraq. He served his country with dignity and honor, and he was a true hero.

Private First Class Ewing's death is particularly saddening to me as he grew up in our community and was one of my constituents. He graduated from Miami Central High School in 2000. He was known for his independence and ambition, and for his sense of duty. He enlisted shortly after the September 11th attacks and became a member of the 1st Armored Division of the Army's 4th Battalion's 27th Artillery Regiment.

The 1st Armored Division's tour of duty was recently extended due to increased insurgency in Iraq. Private First Class Ewing, 22, was one of eight soldiers mortally wounded last Thursday, in a car bomb attack on his Army convoy near Mahmoudiyah, south of Baghdad.

Private First Class Ewing is a symbol of bravery and freedom, and the sacrifice he has made for his country will never be forgotten.

My heartfelt condolences go out to Private First Class Ewing's parents, Arthur and Hilda Lewis, and to his family and friends. All of America mourns their loss.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 578, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. This bill, introduced by my colleagues Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT and Congressman RUBÉN HINOJOSA, supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month and requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, schools, businesses, and others to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

Our financial services industry benefits millions of people, allowing individuals and families to build homes, buy cars, finance educations, and start businesses. Financial literacy is particularly important for the Hispanic and minority communities. It empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions in an increasingly complex economy. Despite the importance of financial literacy, the numbers show that our work is just getting started.

Recent studies have found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 5 years ago. Between 25 and 56 million people over the age of 18 do not use mainstream, insured financial institutions and are consid-

ered "unbanked." Over one-third of Hispanic families do not have bank accounts. Despite these figures, fewer and fewer States include personal finance in education standards for students in kindergarten through high school.

That is why the National Council on Economic Education, the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, and its partner organizations have designated April as "Financial Literacy Month." Our goal is to educate the public about the need for increased financial literacy for youth in the United States. In today's world, we must continue to expand access to mainstream financial institutions and provide all Americans the tools they need to become productive members of our society.

RECOGNIZING VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MILITARY IMPACTED SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATION, AND STAFF FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION OF MILITARY CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during the National Teacher Appreciation Week of 2004 in strong support of H. Res. 598, which recognizes and commends the teachers, administration, and staff of Military Impacted Schools, as well as those serving at the Department of Defense Education Activity schools world-wide.

As a member of the House Impact Aid Coalition, I would like to thank these teachers and staff for their dedication to the over 750,000 children of military personnel.

In our current War on Terrorism, it is especially important for the children in these schools, many of whom have at least one parent deployed abroad, to have the support of these extraordinary teachers. Teachers serving Military Impacted schools encounter unique challenges every day as they help military children achieve a high degree of educational attainment.

While none of the schools in the Texas 26th District are militarily impacted, the State of Texas is home to thousands of military personnel, and I would like to thank each and every one of the teachers who provide military children with support and an excellent education.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEANNINE FORD ARTAZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize a remarkable woman from my district. Jeannine Ford Artaz of Glenwood Springs, Colorado has displayed the kind of selfless dedication to her community that enriches the lives of all around her, and it is my pleasure to thank her for her many

contributions to Glenwood Springs and the State of Colorado.

In 1950, Jeannine moved to Colorado and began her career in television and radio. She served as the Butternut Weather Girl for KBTV, Channel 2 in Denver, was "Miss Jenny" on Romper Room, and was an editor and journalist for Channel 9 News. In 1965, she moved to Glenwood Springs and had radio programs on KGLN and KDNK, and Television Talk shows on Cable 12.

While many people in Colorado might have known Jeannine as a television and radio personality, she became a beloved member of her Glenwood Springs community through her generosity and extensive community involvement, where she was known affectionately as Grandma Nene. A small sampling of her participation includes volunteering for the Valley View Hospital Auxiliary; Glenwood Springs Sheriff's Department; Brownies, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts; and Glen Valley Nursing Home. For the annual Newcomers Fashion Show she designed and made the featured wedding ensemble, initiated some of the first efforts in starting a local animal shelter, and was the Strawberry Days Grand Marshall in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Jeannine Ford Artaz plays a vital role in her Glenwood Springs community. Her dedication and selfless efforts have done much to enhance the lives of those around her, and is worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation. Thanks for your service to your community Jeannine, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. THEODORA JOHNSON: A TRULY GREAT LADY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a quiet and dignified matriarch, the late Theodora Johnson. Her passing last week has cast a veil of deep sadness over our community.

"Momma Dear" Johnson was an extraordinary person by any measure. Her life was a delicately drawn picture of a calm, confident, dignified and strong woman with an unwavering commitment to the well being of her family and to those who shared her vision of a community of service and faith. She volunteered her time at Christ the King Catholic Church in South Dade—she was a founding member of the parish—and dedicated countless time and effort to enhancing her community.

She taught and volunteered in her parish school because she firmly believed in the high stakes involved in the education of children. Her work with children literally transformed their lives. She was keenly aware of the fact that giving our children the care and attention they need in life was her vocation.

She understood full well that either we pay now or we pay later. And so, she reached out to the parents of these children because she instinctively knew that the future of society is inextricably linked to the education of the young. Her approach to motivating youth emphasized personal responsibility and communal sharing.

Theodora Johnson lives on in the lives of the people she touched, in the good works she left behind, and in the wonderful memories we have of her. I know that I speak for all my colleagues in extending to her family our deepest sympathy and condolences.

RECOGNIZING EAST PIKELAND
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the East Pikeland Elementary School on its 75th anniversary and for its exemplary dedication and service to the children of the East Pikeland Township and the Phoenixville School District.

Originally, East Pikeland School was a one-room schoolhouse that in 1928 followed the national trend of school consolidation, in consolidating with two other schools, the Schuylkill School and the Charlestown School. This consolidation was made possible through the generous philanthropy of a local entrepreneur, Frank B. Foster.

In its early years, the East Pikeland School was one of the first in Pennsylvania to start an elementary school newspaper. In 1932, Miss Helen Ottinger created "The Tattler" and the newspaper later won an award for being the best elementary newspaper in the Commonwealth.

Beginning in the 1970s, the East Pikeland School further exhibited its excellence in teaching and learning when students in grades five, eight, and eleven were required to begin participating in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. Each year, the East Pikeland School students' scores were among the top in Chester County and the state in both reading and math. This outstanding performance by the students led to numerous awards, including a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. In the year 2000, the School was recognized by the East Pikeland Township for ranking highest among Chester County schools in reading and math. In 2000–2001, East Pikeland received a Maintenance of High Standards Award for maintaining high scores for three consecutive years. In 2002–2003, East Pikeland received an achievement improvement award from the East Pikeland Township for increased scores in reading and math.

Aside from an impressive academic record, the East Pikeland School has also excelled in extracurricular activities starting as early as 1946. Basketball was a popular sport, with the East Pikeland boys' team winning the West Chester playoffs in 1946. And in 2004, an old tradition of basketball games between Phoenixville area schools was reinstated. Fourth and fifth grade boys named "the Future Phantoms" represented East Pikeland in the tournament. Along with participation in sports, the students of East Pikeland participate in band and chorus and perform twice a year in the winter and spring concerts. In 2000, the East Pikeland Chorus won a superior rating in its first participation in the Music in the Parks competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Two years later in 2002, the tradition of a second grade play began with all students singing and acting in the spring performance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the East Pikeland School for its 75 years of dedication and excellence in teaching and for its considerable contributions to and unparalleled achievement within the East Pikeland community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was absent attending meetings in my Congressional District in Ohio and missed the votes on rollcall No. 139, on H. Res. 600, Congratulating charter schools; Roll Call Number 140, on H. Con. Res. 380, Recognizing school-based music education; and Roll Call Number 141, on H. Res. 599, Congratulating the University of Connecticut men's and women's basketball teams.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 139, "yea" on rollcall No. 140, and "yea" on rollcall No. 141.

FOURTH DISTRICT JUNIOR
CONFERENCE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from a constituent of mine who is an Americanism Chairman for the American Legion in Osage, Iowa. This person asked for the attached article's inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Because of the exceptional work that the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary do for our country, I believe that this gesture is a small token of the appreciation of the Congress.

4TH DISTRICT JUNIOR CONFERENCE

The Osage Unit 278 hosted the Fourth District Junior Conference on March 21, 2004 with about 70 people in attendance.

The new officers for the coming year will be:

President—Nicole Schroeder, Unit 672 Fort Atkinson.

Vice-President—Alicia Brandau, Unit 278 Osage.

Secretary—Mallory Schweiger, Unit 278 Osage.

Historian—Amy Schroeder, Unit 672 Fort Atkinson.

Chaplain—Kelsey Klimesh, Unit 266 Calmar.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Brittney Shannon, Unit 9 Oelwein.

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms—Kalinda Kolek, Unit 605 Protivin.

The many talents of the young people of the Fourth District shown through once again in the form of contest entries that were submitted for judging. Congratulations to all who worked so hard on their projects. The top place contestants were:

Poppy Posters: Class I—1st—Jake Tyler, Hawkeye, 2nd—Dustin Elsbernd, Calmar, 3rd—Miranda Walz, Monona Class II—1st—Holly Randall, Guttenberg, 2nd—Lukes Elsbernd, Calmar, 3rd—Megan Fink, Fort Atkinson Class III—1st—Emily Faust, Colesburg, 2nd—Kelsey Klimesh, Calmar, 3rd—Lindsy Franzen, Calmar

Poppy Corsages: Class I—1st—Grace Blocker, Fort Atkinson, 2nd—Kalinda Kolek, Protivin, Class II—Micki Schuck, Oelwein, 2nd—Carrie Pout, Oelwine, 3rd—Cassidy Pout, Oelwine, Class III—1st—Jessica Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 2nd—Kristen Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 3rd—Kerri Boies, Oelwein

Chaplain's Book of Prayers & Inspirations: Class II—1st—Jessica Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 2nd—Kristin Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson, 3rd—Kalinda Jo Kolek, Protivin

Junior History Book: Kristin Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson.

Junior Scrapbook: Jessica Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson.

Americanism Essay Contest: Kristin Milbrandt, Fort Atkinson.

Handiwork: 1st place all classes—Fort Atkinson.

A wonderful lunch was served by the host Unit and the entertainment of Hawaiian dancing very enjoyable. The Oelwein Unit will host the 2005 conference and I hope to see many Juniors in attendance. Mary E. Lukes, Fourth District Junior Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO VINCE DEMUZIO, ILLINOIS
STATE SENATOR AND MAJORITY LEADER

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of an exceptional statesman from Illinois, Senate Majority Leader Vince Demuzio. Throughout his career, Senator Demuzio has been a tremendous leader for the State of Illinois. His efforts in the Illinois Assembly, too numerous to even mention, serve as a model for each of us in public service.

For twenty nine years, Senator Demuzio proved to be a true leader in the state legislature as he worked to represent the needs of his constituents while reaching out to all of his colleagues. Senator Demuzio was admired and respected on both sides of the aisle. His spirited partisanship, which included a reputation of being both tough and fair, brought members together across party lines, for the good of Illinois.

Senator Demuzio consistently possessed a keen understanding of what it truly meant to be a public servant. Vince put the needs of his community first and foremost in everything he did. The people of Illinois have truly benefited from Senator Demuzio's legislative initiatives that included massive education reform, transportation projects, agricultural research, and necessary state-wide water and sewage improvements. He remained focused on state government throughout his entire political career and has greatly contributed to the development of downstate Illinois.

Senator Demuzio's leadership and political abilities have been recognized by his colleagues throughout his entire career. Vince served as the state chairman of the Democratic Party from 1986 to 1990, becoming the first downstate official to hold the post in decades, giving the areas surrounding the 49th district a greater voice in the state government. In 2003, Senator Demuzio became the Dean of the Senate, having served more

years than any other current member of the Illinois State Senate. Senator Demuzio is credited with rebuilding the infrastructure of the Illinois Democratic Party and the Illinois delegation stands united today as a result of his superb leadership.

The Illinois Senate and the people of this state have lost a great leader. Mr. Speaker, I join the State of Illinois in mourning the loss of this statesman, and extend to Senator Demuzio's family my thoughts and prayers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA
HOWEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to stand and recognize Virginia Howey for receiving the Southwest Colorado Not-for-Profit Director of the Year Award. Virginia has spent twenty-two years starting early childhood and family support programs in Montezuma County, and this award is a well-deserved testament to her dedication to her community and the State of Colorado.

Virginia's extensive involvement with community organizations comes from her firm belief that one person can make a difference, but it takes a whole community to make a lasting impact. As the current Pinon Project executive director, she has implemented 12 programs for prenatal moms, infants and toddlers, preschoolers, school-age youth, families, and individuals, serving roughly 900 families in Montezuma and Dolores counties. She also has served as chair of the Family Resource Association's state board of directors, on the United Way of Montezuma advisory board, as fiscal agent for the Montezuma/Dolores Community Summit, and as Southwest KIDS coordinator for four years. She also was responsible for securing a Department of Transportation grant for a seat belt campaign and implemented the Montezuma-Cortez school district's Early Reading First Program for 300 preschool children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Virginia Howey on receiving the Southwest Colorado Not-for-Profit Director of the Year Award before this body of Congress and this nation. The award is a testament to her hard work and great skill as an organizer building programs that benefit individuals, families, and communities throughout Southwest Colorado. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AMADOR
VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS
TEAM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students of the Amador Valley High School civics team, from Pleasanton, California. The 19 seniors and their coach, social studies teacher Matt Campbell are here in Washington to represent California in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution"

civics competition. This weekend, these bright young men and women will face 49 other teams from around the nation, demonstrating their knowledge of the Constitution of the United States of America and how it has shaped the history and institutions of this land. I am extremely proud of these students, the future leaders of the 11th district of California and the Nation and I wish them the best of luck in the competition.

This is not the first time the Amador Valley High School team has been to the National competition. Since 1992, the team has made it to this level four times, and in 1995 they were crowned National Champion. This record of accomplishment is truly a testament to the talented, dedicated teachers of the Amador Valley High School.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating these fine young scholars, and all the students from around the country whose dedication to civics and the history of this great Nation brings them here this week.

HONORING THE SHARP
HEALTHCARE VICTORIES OF
SPIRIT EVENT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 14th annual Sharp Healthcare Victories of Spirit event. This event is a celebration of all that is right in health care and the value of community ties. For over 40 years, the Sharp model of rehabilitation care provides innovative services that assist individuals impacted by catastrophic injury or illness in reaching their greatest potential—at home, at school, on the job and in recreational and sports activities. Their success is demonstrated through the achievements of those who are privileged to serve within Rehabilitation Service. Victories of Spirit showcases great work and partnerships that lead to even greater patient outcomes and achievement.

This special evening is dedicated to honoring incredible people who have played a hand at turning tragedy into triumph. The Eagle Spirit Award represents the symbolism of the Eagle Spirit, a Navajo sign of the most potent healing power, one that elicits images of soaring, of conquering and of excelling. Victories of Spirit is a night that celebrates triumphs and those who make them possible. Year after year it demonstrates to our community just how powerful the human spirit is and inspires each one of us to be the best we can be. I would like to individually recognize each of the recipients of the Eagle Spirit Award:

Josephina Everett is a mother and a teacher for deaf children in need. Josefina and her husband, Luke, live in Mexico and run a free Christian home and school for deaf children in Mexico. Josephina, who became deaf at the age of five, has dedicated her life to helping deaf children learn and appreciate their gifts. Following a burst aneurysm that almost took her life, Josephina learned to sign again using one hand and eventually learned to write and to walk. Josefina and her family have shown great strength against all odds. Their love and faith have brought them all back to the deaf children of Valle de Guadalupe.

DeShjon Mitchell knows he's not defined by his paralysis, and that his dreams before his injury continue on. He's just altering how he plans to accomplish them. This athletic teen went back to school and graduated with his class. He then went on to San Diego State University and completed his degree in Economics just four years later. Through his work with Sharp On Survival he is rediscovering his confidence. He is still playing sports and enjoying music, and he's added public speaking to his talents, working as a Voice of Injury Prevention (VIP) for Sharp On Survival.

Juan Solis was diagnosed at the age of 37 neurocysticercosis and hydrocephalus with which required multiple surgeries and shunting to drain the fluid on his brain. He spent months in the hospital followed by several years in a nursing home. With the help of the patients and staff of Sharp Cabrillo Skilled Nursing Unit, Juan is forever grateful he's got a second chance on life. He is finally home with his family and working two jobs after being away for five years. He hopes to return to coaching the neighborhood kids in "futbol-soccer" this year.

Mathew Sparks was temporarily sidelined from his dream of service to his Country by a spinal cord injury at the age of 23. While Matt may not be able to fly with the Marines, he is now telling his story as a Voice of Injury Prevention (VIP) for Sharp On Survival. Through Matt's work in the program, he's able to serve by speaking at the Marine Corps and Navy safety stand-downs, helping to protect the men and women who protect our country.

Christine O. Timmins is an educator who hasn't let a 1978 spinal injury change her. She is full of capability, dedicated to serving, and dedicated to her students. Christine's courage has benefited teens for more than 30 years now. Her colleagues will tell you, "She can no longer leave footprints in the sand, but she leaves imprints on the hearts and minds of all whom she has taught and touched with her ability for so many years."

The San Diego Brain Injury Foundation has been serving brain injury survivors and their loved ones since 1983. The foundation started as a grass roots effort by families of survivors who knew they needed help and that many others would too. Over the last 20 years, those initial seeds have blossomed into a regional not-for-profit organization that has raised over \$700,000 to provide support, resource and information, networking opportunities and service referral to 11,000 people affected by brain injury each year in San Diego County. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for brain injury survivors and their families and promote public awareness and social advocacy.

More than 500 guests including business, government and educational leaders, physicians and health care executives, rehabilitation providers, the media and honored community members from the San Diego area will join in the celebration. I would like to thank the Honorary chair of the event, Donnie Edwards of the San Diego Chargers. Donnie will be joined by Bree Walker, a producer/broadcaster, who has hosted the celebration for more than a decade.

This inspiring evening will benefit Sharp On Survival, Sharp's Institute for Injury and Violence Prevention, the recognized model chapter of the Think First National Injury Prevention Foundation. All proceeds raised from this event benefit Sharp On Survival and help to

bring vital prevention education to more youth throughout San Diego County. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Victories of Spirit event, the recipients of the Victories of Spirit award, and all those who assisted in making this event a success.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4262, THE
SOLVE ACT OF 2004

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4262, the SOLVE Act of 2004, that reforms our nation's immigration laws. This legislation was introduced yesterday by Congressman GUTIERREZ and I am proud to be one of its many original cosponsors.

This bill reunites families by reducing the years or decades of family separation caused by backlogs and harsh restrictions.

Under this bill, immigrants waiting more than 5 years will be given a visa outside the per-country limits. In addition, immediate relatives would no longer count against the 480,000 limit on family-based visas. If we truly value the family unit, we cannot keep in place policies that tear it apart.

We must reward work by granting immigrants who work hard and pay taxes the opportunity to earn a green card.

This bill will allow immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for 5 years and worked for 2 years to be eligible for legalization, including spouse and children.

Also, immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for less than 5 years would be eligible for a 3-year visa. The visa will allow immigrants to live, work, and travel legally in the U.S., and apply for a green card after two years of work history.

Congressman GUTIERREZ' bill respects workers by protecting wages and working conditions for U.S. workers.

This proposal creates a new visa for low-skilled workers, such as agricultural farm workers. These workers will be paid a prevailing wage so that Americans do not suffer from lower wages, and the bill makes sure companies hire American workers first.

The confusing system we have today is so difficult to navigate that it encourages many to immigrate illegally as a first resort.

According to the Department of Labor, our economy will need a stable supply of legal immigrants to maintain our economy.

Hospitals in California are importing nurses from South East Asia and Latin America because of a nursing shortage. Restaurants and other service jobs are hiring immigrants to fill in thousands of vacancies.

The fact is that we can reduce illegal immigration by having fair and reasonable immigration laws.

Our government must work hard to prevent people and businesses from violating our laws. That is why we must support comprehensive immigration reform.

Our current system loves immigrants one day and hates them the next. We need a system that is logical, orderly and sympathetic to human needs. This system forces the average Mexican and Filipino to wait over ten years before being reunited with their spouse.

Some people will claim that this bill opens our borders. That is false. The SOLVE Act simply brings order to an immigration system that is broken.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD
OF EDUCATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision.

This month we honor and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, a landmark decision that not only desegregated public schools, but led to the desegregation of every segment of our society. Half a century ago, on May 17, 1954, the Brown decision advanced the Constitutional principle that every American should be guaranteed equal protection of the laws.

In this decision, the United States Supreme Court declared, "in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place." It was Brown that reversed Plessy v. Ferguson, the case that established this "separate but equal" doctrine, which stamped Africans Americans with a badge of inferiority as articulated by Judge John Marshall Harlan, the lone dissenter in Plessy.

Brown commenced an era that began to strip African Americans and other minorities of this badge of inferiority. With Brown, millions of minorities and women would be afforded educational opportunities. This decision also provided momentum to the Civil Rights Movement and this nation would come to realize change not just within the realm of education, but in other segments of society as well.

The Brown decision helped lead to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which advanced the idea that discrimination in the workplace and in public establishments would not be tolerated. The decision also helped lead to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which promotes every American's right to participate in the political process and the Fair Housing Act of 1968 which promotes equal and fair access to housing for every American.

Fifty years after Brown, however, the pursuit for equal rights and equal opportunity for every American citizen continues. This notion can best be evidenced by statistics that reflect the socio-economic disparities within the African American community:

In March 2004, the Department of Labor reported that 10 percent of African Americans were unemployed, compared to 5 percent of white Americans.

In 2003, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) or "the nation's report card" indicated that 60 percent of African American fourth graders were not reading at a fourth grade level, compared to 25 percent of white American fourth graders.

In 2003, the Kaiser Family Foundation estimated that 20 percent of African Americans were uninsured, compared to 12 percent of white Americans.

In 2003, United for a Fair Economy (UFE) reported that 24 percent of African Americans live in poverty, compared to 8 percent of white Americans.

It is because of such disparities that this resolution calls upon Congress to do more than celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Brown decision by noting its historical significance. This resolution asks Congress to renew its commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown with a pledge to acknowledge and address the modern day disparities that perpetuate a separate and unequal society.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUTH
SUMMONS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Ruth Summons. Ruth's long life of one hundred years saw many changes, and her kind soul touched many lives. Her journey ended in Colorado, a place that she loved dearly, and where she chose to spend her retirement. As her family and friends mourn her passing, I believe it appropriate to call to attention her legacy before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Ruth was born to a family of eight children in Louisiana, where she attended a one-room schoolhouse. Her adventurous spirit carried her to Texas for business school, and then on to Denver, where she worked as a secretary in a law firm for forty-seven years. Ruth met her husband Harold at a singles dance for seniors in Denver, and they married and moved to Grand Junction to enjoy their retirement. Ruth lived her life in such a way that her husband will forever remember her, saying: "there wasn't a better woman on Earth."

Mr. Speaker, Ruth Summons lived a long and full life, and she will be sorely missed by those fortunate to have known her. It is my honor to recognize her life before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to extend my heartfelt respects to her family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

HONORING NORA BUTLER OF
CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor the contributions that Ms. Nora Butler, one of our most active community members, has made to the 36th Ward in the 5th Congressional District and Chicago's North Side.

At 91 years young, Ms. Butler still is going strong. She is an instrumental volunteer at Alderman William J.P. Banks' service office, and still serves as a precinct captain for the ward. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm during this past March's primary election would have been remarkable for someone even half her

age, and I cannot wait to see the results that her renewed efforts will bring in November.

Born in San Bernardino, California, Ms. Butler was raised in Springfield, Illinois, and moved to Chicago after high school seeking employment. During her younger years, she served in a variety of posts for the Chicago Park District.

For the last 40 years, Ms. Butler has worked as a precinct captain and assistant precinct captain for the 36th Ward. She loves reaching out to people and is willing to do whatever it takes—from placing lawn signs to driving residents to and from the grocery store—all to make her community a better place.

Alderman Banks' staff at the 36th Ward Office look toward Ms. Butler as an inspiring example of a truly dedicated public servant through her spirit of volunteerism and her commitment of time two days per week to provide assistance to the staff with correspondence, answering phones, and constituent service.

Mary Aiello, an aide to the Alderman, put it best in her description of Ms. Butler's personality and grace: "No matter where you go with her, she is always friendly, gracious and interested in helping anybody who needs or wants anything. She is always conscious of other people's needs and concerns."

Ms. Aiello also provided an example that underlines Ms. Butler's selfless dedication. Each year she is charged with the important assignment of organizing Alderman Banks' annual senior citizens' function. Instead of just relaxing and enjoying the event, Ms. Butler serves food and does everything she can do to make sure the other seniors are having a good time. She is also involved with the monthly senior citizens' meetings at the Mont Clare Baptist Church.

Ms. Butler's positive outlook and uplifting sense of humor are evident to all who know her. Although residents of the 36th Ward are often surprised to learn that the woman helping them is 91, she recently said, "They always tell me I should run for office."

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Butler for her many years of dedicated service and for the assistance she has given to so many residents of the 5th Congressional District. I hope her uplifting spirit, warm smile, and infectious personality will remain a presence in the 36th Ward for many more years to come. I am very proud to represent Nora Butler.

IN RECOGNITION OF CINCO DE
MAYO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Cinco de Mayo, an important day in the Mexican community. In recent years the holiday of Cinco de Mayo or The Fifth Of May has gained much popularity in American culture. However, it is not, as many people believe a celebration of Mexican Independence. Mexico's actual Independence Day is September 16. Cinco de Mayo memorializes the Mexican army's triumph over the French at The Battle of Puebla in 1862. Cinco de Mayo pays homage to an ill prepared militia of about 4,500 overcoming what appeared to be the in-

surmountable well outfitted French army of 6,500 soldiers. This victory was a glorious moment in Mexican history, thus Cinco de Mayo is remembered.

Cinco de Mayo's increased popularity is apparent in the innumerable celebrations along the U.S.-Mexico border and in parts of the U.S. that have a high population of people with a Mexican heritage. In these areas the holiday is a celebration of Mexican culture, of food, music, beverage and customs unique to Mexico. This date provides me with a welcome opportunity to recognize and appreciate the contributions being made by the growing Mexican-American communities across the United States. We in New York City and in my community are benefiting from the dynamic presence of this vibrant culture.

It is important that on this day of remembrance that we do not let the message of triumph in the face of adversity be overridden by festivals, food, and music. Let us never forget the great contributions that Mexican-Americans have made and continue to make to our nation. Their presence is apparent in politics, arts, athletics, entertainment, military excellence, science, culinary arts, and embedded in the American language.

On this important day we must recognize that the Mexican-American contribution to our nation is similar to the many other immigrant groups that came to our great nation with the same hopes of self-betterment and the pursuit of the American Dream. On Thanksgiving we commemorate the Pilgrims and Native Americans overcoming the harshness of winter and settlement into the New World, which speaks to the overcoming the seemingly insuperable.

Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the power of faith in the face of adversity. It is rooted in our nation's history that in order to achieve greatness we must find the power within ourselves and never give up. If we are able to work hard and never lose faith then the sky is the limit. It is this exact belief that Cinco de Mayo truly embodies. Thus, this date has yet to receive the official recognition that it deserves. I sincerely hope and believe that one day Cinco de Mayo will be a designated national holiday.

COLONIAL HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT—IN CELEBRATION OF
THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Colonial Heights Fire Department, in celebration of their 75th Anniversary.

The Colonial Heights Fire Department was organized in 1929, and operated with 12 volunteers. The first Fire Chief was Benjamin Keys. Today there are 45 career personnel and 35 volunteers for the department. The fire department has been instrumental in saving lives during times of natural disasters, as well as other disastrous occasions.

The fire department has worked closely with the community to ensure the best quality of care for the citizens of Colonial Heights. In times of disaster, the community has been able to rely on the dedicated and dependable men and women of the fire department. In

1982, the Colonial Heights Fire Department was instrumental in the evacuation of North Elementary School, and the chemical cleanup that ensued for two weeks.

When other agencies are unable to respond, the fire department ensures that the citizen's emergencies are given proper attention. With the establishment of the Emergency Medical Services in 1987, the fire department has been able to expand the services that it provides. Prior to 1987 the department received approximately 300–350 calls per year. Over 7,000 calls were received last year related to medical needs, public service and fire assistance.

In addition to the life saving efforts of the Colonial Heights Fire Department, two scholarship programs have been established for students wanting to pursue careers in either a medical or fire fighting related field. In recognition of their many valiant efforts, the fire department has been recognized by the American Legion, the Optimist and the Moose.

Throughout the 75 years of operation in Colonial Heights, the fire department has been persistent in delivering quality care and service to those in need. The community has benefited immensely from the Colonial Heights Fire Department's resounding success, and distinguished years of service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Colonial Heights Fire Department in celebration of their 75th Anniversary of loyal and dedicated service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHET ALLEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Chet Allen of Grand Junction, Colorado. His efforts and vision earned his business, Boomers nightclub on Main Street in Grand Junction, the designation "The Best of the West places to go for people over thirty" by Daily Sentinel readers. Since opening Boomers in 2002, Chet has helped revitalize Main Street, as well as spread his love of Blues, Jazz, and art, all of which figure prominently in Boomers atmosphere.

Chet came to Grand Junction in 1981 as an engineer for the Rio Grande Zephyr Railroad. He and his wife Janet fell in love with the town and decided to stay, but felt the town was somewhat lacking in nightlife. In 2000, he and his wife purchased and renovated an old furniture warehouse on Main Street, expecting to lease it to someone who would turn it into a downtown hotspot. When the first tenants failed, Chet and Janet took the task upon themselves, and thanks to their responsiveness to the community needs, Boomers has thrived since opening in September 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Chet Allen before this body of Congress and this nation. Through his vision and determination, he has made remarkable contributions to his community. I sincerely thank him for his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

MARKING 120 YEARS OF
COMMUNITY SERVICE**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the anniversary of a very helpful institution in Jacksonville, Florida. The institution is Daniel. Their mission is to help youth build character by helping them forge strong values, enhance their self-worth, and erect a sense of community. I would like to enter into the record, a brief history of this organization, and how it came to help so many children through its 120 years in operation.

Established in 1884, Daniel has met the physical and emotional needs of children. It is considered Florida's oldest child-serving agency. Originally founded as an orphanage, and later named after James Jaquelin Daniel, Daniel has evolved into a multi-service agency that assists troubled youth and their families with a variety of innovative and nationally recognized programs.

Originally established as the Orphanage and Home for the Friendless, its mission was "to receive into a suitable home to support and provide for all who shall come under the provisions of the constitution as far as our means and facilities will enable us."

To meet this goal, a cottage was rented on the corner of Liberty and Ashley Street and a fund was started to open a permanent home. Three years later, a two-story frame building was built on the corner of Evergreen Avenue and Center Street.

The earliest minutes of the organization that would become Daniel begin with a Preface as follows:

Before Organization a few children in the city occupied themselves in the winter of '83-'84 in working for a little fair, the proceeds to be devoted to the care of little orphan children. Dell Hungerford, Edie Fitzgerald, Kitty and Eva Havener began in a quiet way & soon other children became interested and in Feb. 1884 quite a large company, old and young, met at Mrs. A.L. Hungerford's where she had carefully arranged a programme of interest to the children and where all were supplied with good things under the supervision of herself and the friends whom she had invited to assist her. The proceeds amounted to \$41.57 which were generously supplemented by Mr. & Mrs. Hungerford by a donation of \$15.00.

In 1888, a yellow fever epidemic ravaged the Jacksonville community. Colonel James Jaquelin Daniel, the president of the Auxiliary Sanitary Association, well-known attorney and religious leader, worked tirelessly to combat the disease and coordinate volunteer efforts. As a result, however, Daniel died of the fever. Financial contributions poured in from around the nation to "build a living monument to his memory" and the Daniel Memorial Association was formed and consolidated with the Orphanage in 1891. Daniel Memorial Home for children was incorporated in 1893.

During the intervening years, the needs have changed as society and the family structures have changed, however, Daniel Memorial continues to support and provide for children as far as their means and facilities will allow.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be associated with the remarks concerning the history of this

organization. Daniel currently assists up to 61 children at any given time, ages 5 to 18 years of age, from throughout Florida. Daniel Memorial Incorporated also operates a charter school, foster homes, and other services for children.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude with this thought. Were it a perfect world, organizations like Daniel would have no place in our society. But the sad truth is organizations like Daniel are necessary and provide a vital service. Daniel truly makes a difference in the lives of children, and for our entire community. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the good work of Daniel, all they have performed for the last 120 years, and in wishing Daniel another 120 years of community service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 4, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the following: Rollcall vote No. 139 on H. Res. 600, Congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education; Rollcall vote No. 140 on H. Con. Res. 380, Recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based music education; and Rollcall vote No. 141 on H. Res. 599, Congratulating the University of Connecticut Huskies for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men and women's basketball championships.

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN UKRAINE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to join Rep. HYDE, Chairman of the International Relations Committee, in sponsoring an important resolution urging Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the upcoming presidential election. By urging the Ukrainian authorities to abide by their freely undertaken OSCE commitments on democratic elections, this resolution emphasizes our commitment to the Ukrainian people and the goal of Ukraine's integration into the Western community of nations.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have been a steadfast supporter of human rights and democracy in Ukraine, and I value independent Ukraine's contribution to security and stability in Europe. The stakes in the upcoming elections are high, not only with respect to the outcome, but also as a fundamental indicator of Ukraine's democratic development.

Recent events have dramatically underscored the need for this clear statement of resolve to support a truly democratic process in

Ukraine. The pre-election environment in Ukraine has been discouraging, with examples of obstacles to free assembly and free speech, the limiting of access to Radio Liberty, Voice of America and other international broadcasts, and substantial transgressions in recent parliamentary by-elections and mayoral elections.

Mr. Speaker, the most blatant of these took place just a few weeks ago in the city of Mukacheve. These elections witnessed violence, intimidation, fraud and other massive violations both of the electoral code and any standards of civilized human behavior. The mayoral elections have been roundly and rightly criticized by the United States, Europe, and the OSCE. Many observers fear that Mukacheve is a harbinger of things to come. As Chairman of the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I join OSCE PA President Bruce George in calling upon Ukrainian President Kuchma to ensure a proper investigation of the violations which took place and to rectify the situation so that the will of the voters is realized.

Mr. Speaker, Ukraine remains at a crossroads. Developments with respect to democracy have been discouraging over the last few years. The elections represent a real chance for Ukraine to get back on the road to full respect for the tenets of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The United States stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they strive to achieve these essential goals.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REV. GARY
MACDONALD**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Reverend Gary MacDonald of Durango, Colorado, who passed away recently at the age of forty-six. Reverend MacDonald was pastor of Durango's New Life Chapel, and his sudden death comes as a shock to us all. He was a man of devotion, hard work, and humility, and while his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to pay tribute to the life of an exceptional person.

Involved in the ministry for twenty-four years, Reverend MacDonald served as senior pastor of the Lubbock First Foursquare Church in Lubbock, Texas before he and his wife Tammy moved to Durango. In 1998, he was named senior pastor at New Life Chapel in Durango, and in April 2000 he was appointed as the divisional superintendent of the Western Slope Division of Foursquare Churches. Known for his passion and leadership, Reverend MacDonald spoke at youth camps, retreats, conferences, and churches throughout the country; and wrote many songs of worship.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life of Reverend Gary MacDonald before this body of Congress and this nation. Reverend MacDonald was a kind and devoted spiritual leader who did much to uplift the lives of his congregation. I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and members of his church as they mourn his passing.

HONORING ALBERT R. MORRIS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Albert R. Morris, President of A.R. Morris Jewelers in Wilmington, DE. On behalf of the citizens of the First State, I would like to pay tribute to this outstanding individual, and extend to him our congratulations on being chosen as the 2004 recipient of the Small Business Council of America's Small Business Person of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, for over 40 years, A.R. Morris Jewelers has set the standard for business and civic leadership in Delaware. The Morris family's steadfast commitment to dependability, integrity, quality, and trust has cemented A.R. Morris' position at the pinnacle of small business in Delaware, and as this award indicates, throughout the nation. Based on an unwavering commitment to his community, Mr. Morris has proven that businesses can succeed, while still maintaining an individual relationship with their customers. Now, in A.R. Morris' second generation of family ownership, they continue to provide value and excellence in their craft.

It is with great pleasure that I offer the most heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Morris upon receipt of this award. His tireless diligence and dedication to work and family should serve as an example for all small businesses. Mr. Speaker, I commend Albert R. Morris for his exceptional leadership and I ask that we recognize the substantial contributions his family and business have made to the state of Delaware.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ASTHMA
AWARENESS DAY**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Allergy and Asthma Network for holding today's 7th annual Asthma Awareness Day and the Breath Freely Briefing to increase asthma awareness. I also want to thank my colleagues, Representative STEARNS, Chairman BARTON, Representative TUBBS-JONES, Representative ENGEL and Representative KENNEDY for their leadership on this issue.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 2023. I signed onto this bill because I understand the life-altering effects of asthma. As you know, asthma is the 6th ranking chronic condition in the United States and the leading serious chronic illness of children in the United States.

The African American community is disproportionately impacted by the effects of asthma. More than 3 million African Americans currently have asthma. We are three times more likely than the general population to be hospitalized for asthma. Sadly, African Americans constitute 26 percent of all asthma deaths. The fact that asthma can be managed with proper health care and appropriate medi-

cations, makes these deaths all the more tragic.

I hope that our efforts through this bill and as well as the attention that we can bring to this disease through Asthma Awareness Day education and outreach activities today and throughout the weekend at the Omni Shoreham Hotel will help us reduce the incidence of asthma and the fatality rate associated with it. With this kind of bi-partisan effort and supported at the state and local level, we can make sure that every asthma patient has a chance to breath freely.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RICHARD MICKA**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, Richard "Dick" Micka, on the occasion of his retirement from La-Z-Boy Corporation after 36 years of distinguished service.

A longtime Monroe County, Michigan resident, Dick graduated from Monroe Catholic Central High School in 1956. He then earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Detroit in 1960. That same year, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force. For nearly three of his seven years in the military, Dick served at Okinawa. He became a captain with the Medical Service Corps.

Dick began his career with La-Z-Boy's Monroe Headquarters in 1968 as Factory Payroll Supervisor. In 1970, he moved to inventory control, and then to the production-planning department in 1971. He was special projects manager from 1974 to 1979, working closely with the Fabric Processing Center. In this position, he was among the first to witness the company's computer-controlled system in Monroe, Michigan command a South Carolina factory machine to mechanically choose and pick up a fabric roll from the thousands on hand. In 1979, Dick was promoted to his current position. As Vice President of Administration, Dick has dealt with the assets, patents, trademarks, and administrative functions of La-Z-Boy, but he is certainly best known for his service as La-Z-Boy's community and civic affairs director.

Dick has faithfully served many community organizations, including the Monroe County Historical Commission, the United Way of Monroe County, and the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce.

He is also a noted conservationist. The Michigan United Conservation Club honored him with their Conservationist of the Year award in June 1974 for his efforts to save the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area in Monroe County, Michigan. He is still very actively involved in efforts to restore Lake Erie wetlands, clean the lake of environmental contamination and restore native habitats and species.

As Dick enters his retirement years, I would ask that my colleagues rise and join with me to wish him and his wife, Jeanne, a very happy, healthy, and relaxing future. I would also like to thank him for his dedicated service both to La-Z-Boy and the Monroe Community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALTA
CASSIETTO**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Alta Cassietto of Montrose, Colorado. Throughout her fulfilling life, Alta has fulfilled many roles with great success, including being appointed Telluride's first woman Postmaster. Her service, both in her career with the Postal Service and her community involvement, is certainly commendable and deserving of recognition by this body of Congress and nation.

Alta Cassietto was born in Cedaredge, Colorado in 1907. After traveling with her parents to their native Italy in 1908, the family returned to Telluride at the outbreak of the First World War. In 1927, as only a junior in high school, Alta began to work as a reporter for the Telluride Daily Journal. When economic conditions forced the paper to become a weekly in 1929, Alta became the editor, a position she held until 1934, when she became Telluride's first woman Postmaster, a position she held for thirty-six years until her retirement in 1970.

In 1975 Alta moved to Montrose to better care for her mother. She has remained very active in the community, volunteering at the Montrose Memorial Hospital and with the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. She has also pursued her love of traveling, having crossed both the Atlantic and Pacific ten times.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Alta Cassietto before this body of Congress and this nation. She is a truly great treasure for her Montrose community and the State of Colorado. I sincerely thank her for her service.

THE WOOL SUIT AND TEXTILE
TRADE EXTENSION ACT OF 2004**HON. AMO HOUGHTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join my colleague from New York, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, introducing the "Wool Suit and Textile Trade Extension Act of 2004." This legislation extends and improves an existing program designed to equalize the trade treatment provided to domestic manufacturers of worsted wool suits.

Over the last decade a provision in our trade laws has had a devastating impact on the tailored clothing industry in the United States—reducing employment by half. This provision effectively created a suit export industry overnight in Canada and Mexico. Effectively, finished suits were able to enter our market duty-free, while our domestic producers were forced to contend with a tariff of more than 30 percent on the fine fabrics used in their production.

With a shrinking customer base the textile mills that once produced enormous amounts of worsted wool fabric reduced their fabric production. Competition for supply and prices paid to woolgrowers in turn were impacted negatively.

Our proposal builds on action taken by Congress in 2000 and 2002 to address this situation. Under the existing legislation, domestic

suit makers, textile producers, and the domestic sheep industry received a combination of tariff relief and incentives to stabilize employment and production in the United States. This program has been extremely successful, and stopped the precipitous decline in employment in the tailored suit industry.

However, these provisions expire next year. Because the suit industry must design their lines months in advance, the expiration of this program will affect pricing and competitiveness much earlier than the close of 2005.

Our proposal extends these provisions for an additional five years, and makes improvements in the program for all interested parties. We are pleased to note that our legislation has the strong support of the suit manufacturers, the garment workers' union—UNITE, the sheep association, and the textile industry. As the domestic tailored clothing industry and wool textile mills continue to face significant challenges maintaining employment and production as a result of an unlevelled playing field, an extension of this program is timely and vital to the continued health of this important manufacturing sector.

We hope our colleagues will join us in co-sponsoring this legislation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL
VISION STRATEGY

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I rise to recognize May as Healthy Vision Month, and to discuss the importance of the recommendations of the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy to the prevention of blindness and vision loss.

Good vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living, and it affects developmental learning, communication, work, health, and quality of life. Unfortunately, far too many people are at risk for losing their eyesight. More than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and an additional 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. Despite the fact that half of all blindness can be prevented, far too many people do not have access to the care they need. If current trends continue, the number of blind and visually impaired individuals will double by 2030.

Healthy Vision Month, a component of Healthy People 2010, is a national eye health campaign to raise awareness about the various conditions that can affect eyesight and cause vision loss. Additionally, a coalition of leading eye health experts have just released the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy to provide our nation with a framework for preventing vision loss. This groundbreaking study recommends that, in order to reduce the occurrence of vision loss and its accompanying disabilities, we must concentrate our efforts on three priority areas: prevention; access to care and treatment; and research.

Our public health and prevention campaign must ensure that vision programs at the Na-

tional Eye Institute (NEI) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have the resources they need to improve communication and education campaigns, increase surveillance, support epidemiology and prevention research; and implement appropriate program and policy changes.

In order to ensure access to and availability of treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals with vision loss, we must support programs at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that remove barriers and improve access to eye exams currently covered under Medicare, such as diabetic eye exams and glaucoma detection for high risk populations. We must also strengthen the Medicare program to advance coverage for vision rehabilitation services as provided by orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers, and low-vision therapists.

Finally, we must bolster our research efforts to improve our understanding of the eye and visual system in health and disease, and to develop the most effective means of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. This report provides the roadmap we need to raise awareness about vision loss, give individuals the tools they need to prevent it, and give hope to the millions already suffering from vision loss that better treatments for can be found.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I would like to thank all of the organizations involved in crafting this report, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, the CDC, Lighthouse International, the National Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, the NEI and most importantly, Prevent Blindness America. Prevent Blindness America should be commended for spearheading this effort, for bringing together this coalition of experts, and for its almost century-long dedication to preventing vision loss.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INCORPORATION
OF THE TOWN OF TAOS, NM

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an historic and outstanding community—Taos, New Mexico—and to congratulate the residents on the celebration of the town's 70th anniversary.

On May 7, 2004, the Town of Taos will commemorate the 70th anniversary of its incorporation as a general law municipality in the State of New Mexico. This event will also mark 389 years since the King of Spain colonized the Taos area in 1615—five years before the Pilgrims landed in New England.

Further, this will be the 209th anniversary since the Don Fernando de Taos land grant was declared an Ayuntamiento under the laws of the Spanish government in 1795. Finally, this will also mark 156 years since the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed by the United States and Mexico in 1848.

It is the traditions of the long-established cultures that make Taos a proud community, a desirable place to live, and a wonderful place to visit. Although the Town of Taos celebrates its 70th birthday this month, we must not forget that it is an area that has been home to American Indians for nearly 1,000 years. The arrival of the Spanish Conquistadores, led by Capitán Hernan Alvarado on August 29, 1540, marked the beginning of the three cultures that would eventually dominate the area.

Yet other newcomers emerged in the 18th century with the arrival of French and American traders. Taos, no more than a tiny mountain village, was transformed into a bustling trade center as wagon trains, frontier scouts and mountain men gathered. Taos was also the home of famous frontier scout Kit Carson, who is commemorated in a state park and museum.

The once geographically-isolated village became more accessible when the Atcheson, Topeka and the Santa Fe Railroad reached Santa Fe. The era of America's love affair with the West had begun. As tales of the region's beauty spread, tourists, writers and artists from the east discovered northern New Mexico's uniqueness. Some settled permanently.

By the end of the Roaring Twenties, Taos had an established reputation as a thriving art colony. Writer D.H. Lawrence is credited with saying, "I think the skyline of Taos is the most beautiful I have ever seen. . ." Perhaps the most prominent resident of the 20th century was none other than artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

The incorporation of the Town of Taos began as a community-wide initiative after several large structure fires destroyed most of the plaza buildings in existence at the time.

Community volunteers undertook an effort to organize a volunteer fire department, a community water supply system and a municipal form of government to ensure stability over the long term.

Taos, sometimes described as "The Soul of the Southwest," is a flourishing community today in New Mexico. A hundred galleries showcase the works of artists past and present, local and international. Scattered within walking distance around the plaza and along side streets lined with bright hollyhocks and geraniums, the galleries invite thousands of tourists each year. World-class contemporary fine art, southwestern art, sculpture, ceramic, crafts, jewelry, and weavings are long-time economic staples of the town.

Wheeler Peak at over 13,000 feet looks down on the world-class Taos Ski Basin. During the warmer months, the area provides a scenic chair lift and trails for hiking, biking, horseback trips, llama treks and fishing.

Today, as in the past, Taos is a mecca for a wide range of people who are attracted by its mystique, unique heritage, historical significance, and beauty.

Mr. Speaker, I could speak for hours on the rich history of Taos. Let me finish by saying that this special occasion is a time for all Taoseños to honor 70 years of proud and noble history. While we are grateful for the past seven decades, I know that the best is yet to come. I ask that my colleagues join me as we honor all the contributions Taos has made to New Mexico.

ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL
ZOBERMAN

HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I share the following article on behalf of a constituent, Rabbi Israel Zoberman.

What a golden opportunity Mel Gibson had to introduce a significant note of much-needed harmony into the alarming discord of a polarized and fractured world community, and even here at home, with heightened religious and political strife. I fear that he missed it. It happened—and to Gibson's credit he didn't hide it—because so far he is passionately locked into the anti-Vatican II stance which longs for the "good old days" when the Mass was in Latin and Jews were not collectively free from the outrageous charge of deicide (the killing of God). The world-impacting crucifixion of a fellow Jew historically resulted in the varied crucifixion of millions of his brethren, including gas chambers, thus figuratively crucifying the suffering Jesus time and again.

Indeed Jesus' message and mission of Israel's shalom have been tragically overtaken by history's greatest and longest hatred fueled by The Passion, so ironically toward Jesus' own flesh and blood. Jews are still victims of nails spread in their bodies by suicide bombers. How in the world did Gibson cast that governor Pontius Pilate as a pussycat, manipulated by those scary-looking, menacing rabbis that he after all appointed to high office? He surely knows that all the Jews at that time were under terrorizing Roman rule which gave rise to the fertile messianism so poignantly represented by Jesus.

Gibson allowed his creative imagination to really soar high, but at what price? Millions will consider his take as gospel truth and perpetuate those stereotypical images pursuing us, Jews and Christians, with so much damage to both. Isn't it time to loosen those destructive bonds of oppression?

Gibson succeeded in resurrecting through the power of his artistic talent the ghosts that Catholics and Protestants courageously tried through revised doctrine and practice to bury in humanity's graveyard of monumental sins and errors. But he also presents us with a precious opportunity to redouble our ecumenical dialogue and sectarian educational efforts of all religions to prove that blood should lead to love, violence to vision, and reality to redemption.

Perhaps now that Gibson's risky financial investment—prompted by an evident deep faith which I'm glad he found—has borne substantial fruit, he would contemplate another version of The Passion that is less threatening to our common dream. It is high time to prove that religion can and should be a source of infinite goodness and not only of inexhaustible evil. My own young congregation met for 10 glorious years from 1985 to 1995 at the most gracious Catholic Church of the Ascension in Virginia Beach. That inspiring interfaith model could not have happened without the reforms of Vatican II when Pope John XXIII began and current Pope John Paul II enhanced the promising rapprochement with the Jewish people.

This sea change culminated in the Vatican's official recognition of the Jewish state, the Jews no longer rejected by the church's teaching of contempt condemning us to forever be wanderers with Cain's mark upon us. The Polish pope's visit to Israel's eternal capital Jerusalem witnessed his paying trib-

ute and praying at the Western Wall around the temple where Jesus left his mark, and Yad Vashem's Holocaust Memorial reminding the courageous and visionary pope of his own proud anti-Nazi saga and the Jewish classmates he lost. And could I have honored retiring Bishop Walter F. Sullivan at our holiest service on Yom Kippur Eve? Our dear Catholic bishop, who has become a close friend, held our Holocaust Torah scroll from Czechoslovakia. He was instrumental in establishing the new Holocaust museum in Richmond.

Following Gibson's penetrating film, Jewish children in Virginia Beach and elsewhere have been socially ostracized. Would Gibson like to face the two high schoolers in my congregation who had swastikas left on their desks? And what might yet happen in a Europe that is experiencing the worst resurgence since the Holocaust of the virulent virus of anti-Semitism, as well as the vast Muslim world with its growing radicalism?

On the eve of Passover and Easter's shared rejoicing in the divine gifts of renewal and resurrection, respectively for Jews and Christians, there is much that Gibson can so ably do to help us build together God's kingdom on earth of healing, hope and harmony for all. There is much at stake and we are all in it together.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, is son of Polish Holocaust survivors. He is immediate past president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis.

HONORING VALERY (LAWRENCE)
WEINBERG PRESIDENT, PUBLISHER,
AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
OF NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valery (Lawrence) Weinberg, President, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Novoye Russkoye Slovo. On May 8th Mr. Weinberg will be celebrating 40 years of service at Novoye Russkoye Slovo (New Russian Word). Novoye Russkoye Slovo is the oldest and most widely read Russian-language daily newspaper in the United States.

Born in the Ukraine in 1945, Mr. Weinberg emigrated first to Poland, and then to the United States in 1964—the same year he began his career at Novoye Russkoye Slovo. From 1964–1982 he held numerous positions at the paper. He was named Executive Vice President in 1982 and President in 1986. In 1995, Mr. Weinberg founded and became President of People's Wave Radio (WYDM 1380-AM), the only 24-hour, seven-day-a-week Russian-Language radio station in the world.

Under Mr. Weinberg's leadership, Novoye Russkoye Slovo played an important role in bringing democracy to the Soviet Union by supporting Russian dissidents and publishing their work. Former presidents from both political parties, including President Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan, have acknowledged Novoye Russkoye Slovo anniversaries and noted the newspaper's part in helping new immigrants adapt to life in the United States and understand U.S. policy and democracy.

After the collapse of communism, the Russian government honored Mr. Weinberg for his

and the paper's support of freedom and democracy. In 2000, he received an award from former President Boris Yeltsin celebrating the paper's 90th anniversary. In 2003 he was honored at an event in Moscow for his efforts to preserve Russian culture in the United States.

Mr. Weinberg is also a well-known philanthropist in the Russian-American community. He is the founder and President of the UJA-Federation Russian Division, which raises funds for economically disadvantaged Russian Jews worldwide. With his wife Lilly, Mr. Weinberg helped raise funds to build several projects in Israel, including a school for disabled children. In addition to his work the UJA, Mr. Weinberg is President of the Fund for the Neediest Russian Immigrants. The fund was instrumental in building an emergency room and hospital in Israel, and was active in providing assistance to Russian-American victims of September 11th. Finally, Mr. Weinberg also serves as President of Litfundt, which provides assistance for Russian-American artists and writers.

I am pleased to stand here today to congratulate Mr. Weinberg for his 40 years of service to the Russian-American community and thank him for his commitment to freedom and democracy. He is a man of integrity and drive, and I wish him all the best now and in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAYNA
LEONARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dayna Leonard of Montrose, Colorado on being named Youth of the Year by the Black Canyon Boys' and Girls' Club. The award, in its fifty-seventh year, recognizes contributions to family, community, school, and the club. Dayna will serve as a representative for the club for the remainder of the year, and it is my pleasure to recognize her achievement today.

A fifth grade student at Pomona Elementary School in Montrose, Colorado, Dayna was named Youth of the Month by the Boys' and Girls' Club in February 2003. This honor allowed her to compete for the honor of Youth of the Year. Dayna was selected Youth of the Year from fourteen other winners because of her moral character, life goals and public speaking ability, after a competition which included an essay, an interview, and a speech. In addition to her participation in the Boys' and Girls' Club, Dayna is active in Black Canyon Gymnastics, the Torch Club leadership program, as well as several community service projects.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Dayna Leonard before this body of Congress and this nation; and to congratulate her on having the distinction of being named Youth of the Year. Her dedication to improving herself and her community are truly remarkable and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR LUIS GALLEGOS ON "INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS: THE PROPOSED U.N. CONVENTION" BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS, MARCH 30, 2004

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on March 30th, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held a groundbreaking Members' Briefing entitled, "International Disability Rights: The Proposed U.N. Convention." This discussion of the global situation of people with disabilities was intended to help establish disability rights issues as an integral part of the general human rights discourse. The briefing brought together the human rights community and the disability rights community, and it raised awareness in Congress of the need to protect disability rights under an international law to the same extent as other human rights through a binding U.N. convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

Our expert witnesses included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mark P. Lagon; the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations, Ambassador Luis Gallegos; the United Nations Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Johan Schölvinck; the distinguished former Attorney General of the United States, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and former Governor of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Dick Thornburgh; the President of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), Alan A. Reich; Kathy Martinez, a member of the National Council on Disabilities (NCD); and a representative of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USCID) and Executive Director of Mental Disability Rights International, Eric Rosenthal.

As I had announced earlier, I intend to place the important statements of our witnesses in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, so that all of my colleagues may profit from their expertise, and I ask that the statement of Ambassador Gallegos be placed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Chairman, Members of U.S. Congressional Human Rights Caucus, Representatives of the U.S. Administration, Representatives of Disability and Human Rights Organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am deeply honored by the invitation extended to me to address you at this distinguished panel of the United States Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

I regard the privilege of addressing you as imposing upon me three obligations: first that of discussing the background of the Ad Hoc committee on an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities; second, that of informing you of its ongoing work and third my analysis concerning development of an international convention and the newly emerging disability rights movement.

I. BACKGROUND

The commitment of the United Nations to promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities is deeply rooted in the goal of the Organization: realization of the Charter's vision of a just and peaceful world and the bet-

ter standards of life in larger freedoms. The work of the Organization in disability in its early period focused on improvement of the well-being of persons with disabilities to meet their needs in the social context. In the 1960s, initiatives within the disability community and adoption by the United Nations of the international human rights conventions both in civil and political and economic, social and cultural realms, resulted in a fundamental reevaluation of the rights of persons with disabilities within the context of development. The growing concern for the need of adopting a human rights perspective since 1970s were specifically addressed by the United Nations in adoption of the declarations concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

The human rights of persons with disabilities became part of the international policy agenda in the 1980s since adoption of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session in 1982. The World Programme transformed the disability issue from "social welfare" issue into that of integrating the human rights of persons with disabilities in all facets of development.

The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the United Nations in 1993 to focus on the human rights perspective of the World Programme of Action. Though the Standard Rules was not a legal instrument, it has been widely used as a set of strategic guidelines to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. The international frameworks to promote the rights of persons with disabilities were further advanced by a series of 1990s United Nations development conferences and their respective five-year reviews, the Millennium Development Goals and other relevant international commitments.

Proposals to elaborate a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities were presented during the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), many of which have reflected reformulated concepts of disability that have moved away from the traditional model of care, social welfare and medical support to a human rights framework. These proposals were required of further study by the international community.

The initiative on a comprehensive and integral convention to promote and protect the rights of disabled persons is the result of a proposal made by President Vicente Fox of Mexico during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which called upon the international community to combat poverty and social exclusion with Mexico taking the lead in promoting an agenda for development. The importance was highlighted to involve all citizens as stakeholders and that a just world must be inclusive of all groups. For that reason, Mexico had proposed the establishment of a "Special Committee" to study the elaboration of an international convention on promoting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, which was endorsed by General Assembly resolution 56/168.

II. PROGRESS IN ELABORATING A "COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRAL" INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The outcome of the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee (29 July-9 August 2002) was a resolution, adopted by the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly as resolution 57/229 of 18 December 2002, on further action related to elaboration of a comprehensive and integral international convention. The Committee, in close collaboration with disability organizations and civil society organizations, reaffirmed the commitment to the goals set out before it by General Assembly resolution 56/168.

The outcome of the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee was the decision to elaborate an international convention and to establish the Working Group to draft a text that would form the basis for negotiations on the convention, which will be submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee at its third session, from 24 May to 4 June at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

III. THE WORKING GROUP OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE JAN. 5-16, 2004

The Working Group was chaired by the Permanent Representative of New Zealand, Don MacKay. It took into account all contributions submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee by States, observers, expert meetings, United Nations bodies, regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations, as well as by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), independent experts and national disability and human rights institutions.

Members of the Working Group were of a diverse body of policy makers, legal practitioners, disability advocates, and experts, consisted of 27 representatives of governments, one national human rights institution and 12 NGO representatives, mainly from organizations of persons with disabilities, resulting in a broader and enhanced understanding of disability in the context of promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in today's society and in development.

Disability advocates, working side by side with experts in international law and other relevant fields, helped to view the existing human rights norms and standards from a disability perspective, which, in turn, proposed viable options to strengthen the existing system for promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities as well as to incorporate the disability perspective into the human rights norms.

(1) Summary of the meeting

The Group identified possible approaches and narrowed down the options, which resulted in the draft text with options for consideration of the Ad Hoc Committee. The draft text embodies successful collaboration among all the members of the Working Group. It covers, in its 25 articles and the Preamble, encompassing human rights principles and norms, such as general principles and obligations, equality and non-discrimination, the right to work, and equal recognition before the law with a disability focus. It also addresses disability-specific issues and concerns, such as accessibility, independent living, protection of persons with disabilities from violence and abuse, accessibility, education, personal mobility, social security and adequate standards of living, as well as issues of inclusion, such as inclusion of disabled children, disabled women and persons with multiple disabilities, promotion of positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities, inclusion in the community, participation in political and public life, and participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport.

(2) Analysis

The draft text by the Working Group, reflecting their diversity in background and approach, resulted in a broader and enhanced understanding of disability in the context of promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in today's society and in development. The work of the Group facilitated interpreting the existing human rights norms and standards from the disability perspective as well as incorporating the disability perspective into the human rights norms.

Members of the European Union advocated that a proposed new convention should focus on the model of a non-discrimination human

rights treaty, such as the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which would minimize proliferation of detailed standards and mechanisms. Other Members, such as Mexico, Venezuela, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Thailand, and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, promoting, in most cases, the model of a comprehensive convention, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, emphasizing on the specificities of the situation of persons with disabilities as their focus in elaborating the Convention.

The draft text by the Working Group, as it stands now, is the result of a hybrid between the two approaches and there are number of complex issues and tasks left to the Ad Hoc Committee for its consideration.

(3) The issue areas requiring close attention

The following issues would require close examinations and consultations by the Ad Hoc Committee as the views differed significantly among the Members: definition(s) of disability and persons with disabilities; disability statistics and data collection; international cooperation; special and inclusive education, and the monitoring mechanism(s). The Group did not cover the international monitoring mechanism at this time and focused instead on national frameworks for implementation and monitoring of the convention.

(4) The third session of the Ad Hoc Committee

The third session of the Ad Hoc Committee will take place from May 24–June 4 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Ad Hoc Committee will have before it the draft text as a basis for negotiation of the text of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

IV. THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE PLAYED BY U.S. LEADERS AND ADVOCATES IN DISABILITY RIGHTS IN THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The commitment of the United States to further goals of human equality and dignity for persons with disabilities has been demonstrated in a number of legislative and policy initiatives, such as American with Disabilities Act (1992) and "New Freedom Initiative" (2001), which resulted in a comprehensive set of regulations and enforcement mechanisms and the new disability-sensitized community—leadership of government, organizations of disabilities, countless advocates, scholars, practitioners in disability rights, as well as civic groups. I am delighted to see many of those leaders present at this meeting today. Those leaders have made extraordinary contributions not only to their own society, but also to the work of the international community.

Such outstanding contributions are exemplified in a wide range of activities from legislative and policy initiatives, scholarship, research to advocacy at national, regional and international levels: for example, one of the finest institutions of higher-learning in the United States, University of California at Berkeley co-organized with the United Nations "The United Nations Consultative Expert Meeting on international norms and standards relating to disability (December 1998). The work is considered as a first step to consider promotion of the human rights of persons through the use of international normative framework, including implications of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. A number of US participants and leading scholars participated in both Berkeley and its follow-up meeting (the Interregional Seminar on international norms and standards relating to disability organized by the Equal Opportuni-

ties Commission, Hong Kong SAR, Republic of China).

During the past two sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee and the most recent session of its Working Group in January 2004, US participants as government and NGO representatives, panelists, researchers or individual advocates played a major role in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. The international community, along with the disability communities worldwide, would have much to gain from the continuing and active participation of the United States in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and the newly emerging international disability rights movement.

CONCLUSION

As a result of consultations at national, regional and international levels concerning an international convention since the Ad Hoc Committee was established, new networks and communities of disability-sensitized policy makers, programme specialists, academics and advocates have emerged. Together, they are contributing to a process of promoting and developing universal norms and thereby contributing to implementation of the universal human rights for all.

The on-going international discourse on disability rights in the process of elaboration of an international convention demonstrates our common foundation—a fundamental aspiration of the humankind to establish an integrated community of its members based upon the principles of the universality of human rights—the fundamental freedoms, the dignity and worth of every human person.

As we strive to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities through the work on an international convention, we are embarking upon a significant endeavour in translating the universality of the human rights into reality and taking a concrete step toward a just and equitable society.

MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a paper by Mr. James Rieder, Jr., of Colonia, New Jersey, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I would like to offer my congratulations to Mr. Rieder on his accomplishment of winning the 2004 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. Following is the paper that Mr. James Rieder, Jr., wrote:

"The meaning of America is not to be found in a life without toil. Freedom is not only bought with a great price; it is maintained by unremitting effort." (Thirtieth President of the United States of America, Calvin Coolidge)

Consider these words by the late former President. "The meaning of America is not to be found in a life without toil." In order to be a true American, one must not take his/her responsibilities lightly, and must instead strive to achieve not only what's best for himself/herself, but also what is good for all, no matter the task at hand. "Freedom is not only bought with a great price . . ." Our great nation was constructed from the ultimate sacrifices of others, their lives, but not just our forefathers, but our grandfathers and fathers, as well. ". . . it is maintained by unremitting effort." The United States does not only thrive on those who lost their lives on the battlefield, nor even on those

who govern our democratic nation, but on the American people. And because of this supreme responsibility, it is our duty as a free people to work hard in preserving our rights for the future generations. This is my commitment to America's future.

My commitment to America's future is to uphold the freedoms we were granted by the blood and sweat of our elders. For some, this may be as simple as voting on Election Day to empower a governing body capable of protecting our rights. For others, their commitment may lie in the front line, physically stopping those who endanger the American way of life. Does this mean that the soldier's blood runs redder than that of the simple voter? Of course not; both hearts beat strongly with American pride and both souls soar along with the majestic eagle. It is not what you are committed to, but how committed you are that counts. As for myself, I believe that I will perform whatever duties my nation calls on me to perform. I will be just as pleased if I can donate to a helpful cause, as I would be if I were to be called to a foreign shore to fight for our rights. Whatever my responsibility, I will certainly be dedicated.

My commitment to America's future is to educate my children and raise them in an environment where they, too, can respect and cherish their American citizenship. As Theodore Roosevelt stated, "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." We must educate our future generation so that they may continue the legacy of our grand country. If we do not teach them properly, they may lose sight of the importance of their freedom, and the rights we presently have may exist as just unachievable aspirations. The path these children traverse leads to America's future. Thus, we must keep them on this path and ensure that they view the end of the journey with the utmost respect and dedication.

My most significant commitment to America's future would be to always keep my American pride strong within my heart, for Coolidge never specified whether the "unremitting effort" he mentioned should be physical or spiritual. I believe that you must first achieve a spiritual dedication to the United States before you can move on, and the more spiritually dedicated you are, the more American you become. And so, as long as the stars and stripes continue to wave grandly over these fifty unified states, so, too, will my heart beat with pride for my nation. I conclude yet again with this small, yet powerful, phrase from Mr. Coolidge and I implore you to always remember it and keep it in your heart, as I keep it in mine: "Freedom is not only bought with a great price; it is maintained by unremitting effort."

A TRIBUTE TO JANE BAKER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pride that I pay tribute to an extraordinary woman, Jane Baker. For the past twenty years Jane has been an inspiration to those who wish to make positive change in their communities, as she has dedicated herself to serving both San Mateo city and County, located in my congressional district, through the various public service positions she held.

Jane Baker was born in Hamilton, Ohio, and after graduating from Purdue University, she

and her husband Bill moved to San Francisco. Shortly after moving to California, Jane hosted and produced a television cooking-show that aired in San Francisco and San Jose, where she demonstrated easy meals that one could make on an average night for the average family. By 1963, the Bakers had settled in San Mateo, where they have resided ever since.

Mr. Speaker, Jane had always participated in community events, being very active in her local Parents Teacher Association (PTA) and the Girl and Boy Scouts. Her commitment to save open space on Sugarloaf Mountain in San Mateo from overdevelopment prompted her to run for the San Mateo City Council in 1973. Her historic victory, at that time only the second woman ever elected to a City Council seat, was made more dramatic by the fact that she captured more votes than two male incumbents. Jane's traditional smashing ways continued when she became the first-ever female mayor of the city of San Mateo. During the twenty years that Jane Baker served on the San Mateo City Council she remained devoted to public service and although people encouraged her to run for higher offices, such as State Senate and Congress, Jane declined because she recognized the value of local government and the closer relationship to the public that comes with it.

Jane Baker's commitment to community service did not merely stop at being an elected official, as her drive and energy led her to serve on many boards and commissions. The number of boards and commissions that Jane served on is incredible. She represented the cities of San Mateo on the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission and served as Chair from 1993 to 1995. Jane also chaired the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for two years and was a member of the Joint Powers Board-CALTRAIN. Additionally, she served on the Association of Bay Area Governments for ten years, from 1975 to 1985.

In addition to her dedication to local government service, Jane was an active member of various statewide and national organizations. The litany of those organizations is too large to list in its entirety, but includes; the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities, the State Job Training Coordinating Council, the American Association of University Women, California Elected Women for Education and the Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church of San Mateo.

As one would expect, Jane Baker has been honored for her numerous achievements by many of the organizations, including being named Safety Woman of the Year by the San Mateo Safety Council. She was also chosen as an Outstanding Graduate by the Purdue University School of Consumer and Family Services and inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, Jane Baker was often hailed as a maverick mayor because she wasn't afraid to speak her mind. In an era where women were often seen and not heard in City Hall Jane helped shatter the glass ceiling. A true pioneer for women's rights, Jane Baker has diligently served San Mateo for over 20 years. I know that I will not be the only one to miss her presence in our city government. I extend my very best wishes to her and hope she finds the future as rewarding as her years of public service.

JUDGE WILLIAM B. BRYANT
ANNEX TO THE E. BARRETT
PRETTYMAN FEDERAL BUILDING
AND UNITED STATES COURT-
HOUSE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this bill has an unusual origin. The Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, for himself and the members of the trial court, visited my office to request that the annex under construction for the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building be named for senior U.S. District Court Judge William B. Bryant. Judge Bryant was unaware of the desires and actions of his colleagues, who unanimously agreed to request that the annex be named for the judge. It is rare that Congress names a courthouse or an annex for a judge who has served in that court and even more rare for a judge who is still sitting. Judge Bryant's colleagues, who know his work and his temperament best, have found a particularly appropriate way for our city and our country to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a great judge. I know Judge Bryant personally, I know his reputation in this city and on the law, I know that the request to name the annex for Judge Bryant reflects deep respect for his unusually distinguished life at the bar.

Judge Bryant began his career in private practice in the segregated Washington of the 1940s and 50s, when African-American lawyers were barred from membership in the District of Columbia Bar Association and from using the Bar law library. He established his legal reputation as a partner in the legendary African-American law firm of Houston, Bryant and Gardner and taught at Howard University Law School. His reputation as an extraordinary trial lawyer led to his appointment as the first African-American Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. He rose to become the first African-American to serve as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court whose members now ask that the annex be named for Judge Bryant.

For his representation of criminal defendants in private practice, Judge Bryant was admired as one of the city's best and most respected lawyers. Among his many notable cases is the landmark *Mallory v. United States*, 354 U.S. 449 (1957), where the Supreme Court ruled that an arrested person must be promptly brought before a judicial officer.

Judge Bryant graduated from D.C. public schools, Howard University and Howard Law School, where he was first in his class. After graduation, Judge Bryant served as chief research assistant to Dr. Ralph Bunche when Bunche worked with Gunnar Myrdal, the famous Swedish economist, in his studies of American racial issues. Judge Bryant served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1947.

Judge Bryant, who is 92, took senior status in 1982. He raised a family but, as Chief Judge Thomas Hogan wrote, "lost his beloved wife, Astaire and now lives alone—with this Court and the law as the center of his life."

I am grateful to our judges of the U.S. District Court here for the thoughtful proposal that

the annex to their court be named for Judge William B. Bryant. The residents of this city that Judge Bryant has served so well and the members of the bar here would be particularly pleased. I am delighted that Senator PATRICK LEAHY, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has agreed to sponsor this bill in the Senate and I urge rapid approval to give honor to one of the great judges of our court.

TRIBUTE TO FORREST L. WOOD

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Arkansan who loves this country as much as any person I've ever met. Forrest L. Wood is an entrepreneur who has proved Americans can get as far in life as their talents will take them.

It was his own fortitude that made Ranger Boat Company what it is today. The company was founded in 1968 and almost as quickly was destroyed by fire in 1971. With no insurance and armed only with 60 salvaged boat orders, the Wood family nailed a telephone to a scorched tree, cleaned off the blackened site and began rebuilding. Within 40 days the company was back in operation building boats.

Mr. Wood's simple business philosophy continues to drive the Ranger Boat Company today, "You must build a good product—price it fairly—let folks know you have it, and treat your customers right."

In addition to his many business achievements, all leading to revolutionizing the Bass Fishing Boat industry, Mr. Wood is an aggressive conservationist. His efforts to save the environment for sportsmen are as legendary as the equipment he provides them to enjoy those lands. As a result, in 1998, he was named to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Mr. Wood, his wife, Nina Kirkland, and their four daughters work together, simultaneously running a cattle ranch, construction company, and fishing guide operation. Unlike so many other business success stories, Mr. Wood's drive is based on a true desire to further his community and this country. On behalf of the Congress, I extend gratitude for all the Wood family does to make the world a better place.

RECOGNIZING AN EXTRAORDINARY CITIZEN, DR. NEARI FRANCOIS WARNER

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary citizen from the Fifth District of Louisiana, Dr. Neari Francois Warner, who will soon be retiring as acting President of Grambling State University. Dr. Warner's tireless service and genuine commitment to education, and to GSU, her alma mater, are remarkable and inspiring.

In January 2001, Dr. Warner became the first female to hold the title of acting president

of Grambling State University, a position she held with great honor and distinction for three years. In this short period of time, Dr. Warner successfully obtained 100-percent accreditation of Board of Regents-mandated programs, from 87 percent when she accepted the position. Under Dr. Warner's leadership, six endowed professorships and a mini college by the Division of Continuing Education were established. She also took the leading role attaining the unconditional reaffirmation of Accreditation by Southern Association Colleges and Schools at Grambling State University.

Dr. Warner has shown many noteworthy accomplishments throughout her tenure at GSU. The Fall 2003 enrollment showed the first increase in three years, and retention rates increased system-wide and campus-wide. Under her leadership, funding was raised and groundbreaking began on the new Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building and Multi-purpose Center. Additionally, Dr. Warner signed several strategic partnerships in distance learning and created student and faculty computer labs.

I thank Dr. Warner for her outstanding contributions to the university and to our community and am proud to recognize her notable accomplishments and manifold contributions. I extend congratulations to Dr. Warner and best wishes for her future endeavors as she retires from acting president of Grambling State University.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS HEALTHY
VISION MONTH

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Healthy Vision Month and to highlight the important recommendations of the Vision Problems Action Plan, a National Public Health Strategy as a way to prevent blindness and vision loss.

As Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

As the son of an optometrist and someone who has focused carefully on proper eye care, I know that good vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living. Vision not only affects our ability to learn and work, but it also affects our ability to adequately communicate with others. Therefore, it is essential that we in Congress have the foresight and insight to put forth measures that will improve our eyesight. And, by encouraging awareness, early diagnosis and prevention of eye disorders, I am confident that we can.

First, it's about having the foresight to recognize the problems associated with eye disorders. Unfortunately, far too many people are at risk for losing their eyesight. In fact, more than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and an additional 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. In my state of North Carolina, over 6 million people over the age of 18 have some case of vision impairment or age-related eye disease. However, despite the fact that half of all blindness and some eye disorders can be prevented, far too many people do not access the care they need. If nothing is done, the number

of blind and visually impaired individuals will double by 2030.

That is why it is so important that we have the insight to address these concerns now. And, what better way to do that than to highlight May as Healthy Vision Month—a national eye campaign to raise awareness about the various conditions that can affect eyesight and cause vision loss. A component of Healthy People 2010, this initiative will undoubtedly serve as a catalyst to highlight the horrors of serious vision problems.

Additionally, it is important that we highlight the recently released report, Vision Problems Action Plan, a National Public Health Strategy. Developed by a coalition of leading eye health experts, including Prevent Blindness American, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lighthouse International, the American Optometric Association, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, this report will provide our nation with a framework for preventing vision loss.

In addition to its focus on preventing vision loss, this groundbreaking study also recommends that in order to reduce the occurrence of vision loss and its accompanying disabilities, our nation must concentrate on access to care and treatment including rehabilitation and research. The report also states that we must ensure that vision problems at the National Eye Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have the resources they need to improve communication and education campaigns and prevention research.

To better ensure access to and the availability of treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals with vision loss, the report recommends the importance of supporting programs at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and the Department of Health and Human Services that remove barriers and improve access to eye exams currently covered under Medicare, such as diabetic eye exams and glaucoma detection for high risk populations.

The report also recommends bolstering our research efforts to improve our understanding of the eye and visual system in health and disease, as well as developing the most appropriate and effective means of prevention, and access to treatment and rehabilitation.

Finally, it's about improving our eyesight. Working in conjunction with Healthy Vision Month, the Vision report will undeniably provide the roadmap that is necessary to raise awareness about vision loss, provide individuals with the tools they need to prevent it, and give hope to the millions already suffering from vision loss that better treatments can and will be found. I applaud those who played an integral role in developing this report, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to adopt its recommendations.

As a member of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I recognize the severity of eye disorders and the risks associated with not having regular check-ups. At the very least, proper eye care should be a basic component of adequate health care. Today, I stand committed to making it a national priority.

CINCO DE MAYO

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to reflect on this important day in history where a relatively small group of valiant men met and overcame tremendous odds to bring hope and unity to a struggling nation.

On Cinco de Mayo, 1862, General Zaragoza led an untrained and outmatched group of 2,000 Mexican fighters to defend the town of Puebla against the French. Under the command of Napoleon III, these 6,000 French soldiers were among the best-trained and best-equipped armies in the world. However, their sophisticated armor and weapons were no match for the iron will and solidarity of the Mexican people.

Their victory became a symbol of the pride and patriotism of the Mexican people, who defended themselves against a superior force. In the United States, Cinco de Mayo has become a celebration of the achievements and rich contributions Hispanics have made to our great nation, as well as a reminder of the values and freedoms all Americans hold so dear.

Hispanics in my Congressional District, and across the nation, have added much to the cultural fabric of our country. As the fastest-growing minority population in the nation, they are a driving force in the U.S.—economically, politically, and socially.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor House Concurrent Resolution 163, a resolution which recognizes the historical significance of Cinco de Mayo and calls upon the American people to observe the date with appropriate festivities. I know in West Texas, folks are participating in local festivals and gatherings to commemorate Mexico's victory at Puebla.

Hispanics share with other Americans the common goals of freedom, opportunity, and a chance to build a better life. I am happy to be here and remember this momentous day as we are reminded that all people—regardless of their race, color, creed, or gender—deserve the opportunity to experience liberty, freedom and the right to self-determination. America stands behind these ideals and appreciates the contributions of Hispanics everywhere.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARY
MCLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL
HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT—
MAKE A HISTORICAL SITE MORE
ACCESSIBLE TO TOURISTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act. This is the original home of the National Council of Negro Women founded by the great Mary McLeod Bethune. Ms. Bethune is also the legendary founder of the historically black college, Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls, now Bethune-Cookman College, and she played a powerful role in the Roosevelt Administration.

The Bethune Council House, declared a National Historic Site by Congress in 1982, was acquired by the National Park Service (NPS) in 1994. The Bethune Council House, a historic house museum, features original furniture, photographs and facsimiles of historic documents from the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). This legislation is needed for two reasons. First, the Bethune House is not handicap accessible, and as a historic building, it would be impossible to alter the house in any way without endangering its historic nature. This bill would extend the current boundary of the Bethune House by authorizing the NPS to acquire the abutting property to allow handicapped accessibility. Second, the bill provides space for administrative offices for the NPS to conduct duties related to the Bethune Council House.

This legislation is needed to carry out the important mission of the Bethune Council House. The Bethune legacy is carried forward today by the nation's most prominent civil rights leader, Dr. Dorothy Height, Chair and President Emerita of the NCNW, who recently received the Congressional Gold Medal of here in the Congress. Consequently, this bill honors both of these heroes of our country by assuring that the first home of the organization to which they dedicated their lives is accessible to all Americans. I ask that the House pass this bill promptly.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ESTHER WRIGHT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Esther Dolores Wright has dedicated her life to the service of others as an educator for over 40 years. She began her teaching career in Newark, N.J. in 1964, and over the years, she has literally touched thousands of lives in a positive way. Ms. Wright received her Masters of Arts in Education with a concentration in Administration and Supervision from the University of Virginia in May, 1976. She has served the students, parents, and teachers of Maple Avenue School as an Administrator for over 15 years.

During her tenure as Principal of Maple Avenue School, she has presided over many important changes to the school facility and programs, including complete renovations to the school auditorium, gymnasium, and playground area, as well as the establishment of a state of the art science lab and the creation of a computer network, which provides internet access to all of Maple Avenue School's primary and middle school students. They have implemented a distance learning program in conjunction with the New Jersey State Department of Education, which recognized Maple Avenue School with a 'Best Practices' award. She has continued to provide support for innovative programs to encourage student achievement such as the Morning, After School, and Saturday Academy enrichment programs; character development programs such as Best Friends for girls and Best Men for boys; the Afternoon and Evening After School Youth Development Programs, which serve the student and community populations; and Project ACCEL, which reduces high school drop out rates and retention rates for students.

In addition, under Ms. Wright's guidance and direction, Maple Avenue School and students have been at the forefront of a number of innovative initiatives such as Law Day, Career Day, Instrumental and Choral Music programs, the Talented and Gifted Program, and a school wide Science Fair. Maple Avenue School students have represented the school in the district Science Fair, Math Fair, and Technology Fair, and have consistently won local and regional Art awards. In addition, their debate team has been City Champion for several consecutive years and their basketball team played in the 2003 District Championship finals.

During Ms. Wright's time as Principal, Maple Avenue School has also been recognized by the district for achievements in Literacy, Science, and Math. Based upon 8th grade GEPA scores for the past two years, Maple Avenue School has been cited as one of the top 5 schools and one of the top 10 schools, respectively, in the district in Literacy. During the same time period, Maple Avenue School has been recognized as one of the most improved schools and as one of the top 10 schools in the district in Science. During the 2001-2002 school year, Maple Avenue School has been one of the top 10 most improved schools in Math, according to ESPA scores, and has been a past winner of the Math Olympics and most recently went to the district semi-finals.

Maple Avenue graduates are accepted into the Newark Public School's Magnet High School Programs; Arts High; Science High; University, Technology, and Essex County Vocational High School; as well as area Private and Catholic High Schools at a rate of 30 percent. Many more participate in Magnet Career Academies, which provide transition into skilled career opportunities after High School.

I salute Ms. Wright for her dedication to the students, parents, and teachers in our community, and I am proud to have her in my district. Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to Ms. Wright for her lifetime of public service, and I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of the Maple Avenue School.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL
VISION STRATEGY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, as a founding member of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I rise to recognize May as Healthy Vision Month, and to discuss the important recommendations of the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy as a way to prevent blindness and vision loss.

Good vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living, is a portal for language, and affects developmental learning, communicating, working, health and quality of life.

Unfortunately, far too many people are at risk for losing their eyesight. More than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and an additional 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. Despite the fact that half of all blindness can be pre-

vented, far too many people do not access the care they need. If nothing is done, the number of blind and visually impaired individuals will double by 2030.

That is why awareness, early diagnosis and prevention are so important. Healthy Vision Month, a component of Healthy People 2010, is a national eye health campaign to raise awareness about the various conditions that can affect eyesight and cause vision loss.

Additionally, a coalition of leading eye health experts, including Prevent Blindness America, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lighthouse International, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, just this week have released the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy, to provide our nation with a framework for preventing vision loss.

This groundbreaking study recommends that, in order to reduce the occurrence of vision loss and its accompanying disabilities, our nation must concentrate our efforts in three priority areas: prevention/public health, access to care and treatment including rehabilitation, and research.

Our public health and prevention campaign must ensure that vision programs at the National Eye Institute (NEI) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have the resources they need to improve communication and education campaigns, increase surveillance, epidemiology and prevention research; and implement appropriate programs, policies and systems changes.

In order to ensure access to and availability of treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals with vision loss, we must support programs at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that remove barriers and improve access to services covered under Medicare.

Finally, we must bolster our research efforts to improve our understanding of the eye and visual system in health and disease, as well as developing the most appropriate and effective means of prevention, and access to treatment and rehabilitation.

This report provides the roadmap we need to raise awareness about vision loss, give individuals the tools they need to prevent it, and give hope to the millions already suffering from vision loss that better treatments can be found.

I would like to thank all of the organizations involved in crafting this report, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, Lighthouse International, the National Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, the National Eye Institute (NEI) and most importantly, Prevent Blindness America. Prevent Blindness America should be commended for spearheading this effort, for bringing together these various groups, and for its almost century-long tradition of preventing vision loss.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COLLEGE
ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, in 1965, Higher Education Act was established to assist low

and middle income students striving for a higher education. It was as simple as that; the law was put into place to ensure college access for those who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

In the last two years, I and other members of the Committee on Education & the Workforce have worked tirelessly to craft higher education legislation that will live up to that original mission. Our number one priority is, and must be, expanding college access for current and future students.

Today's introduction of the College Access & Opportunity Act represents the culmination of those efforts. We are pleased to be offering a bill that ensures students are priority number one, and are proud to have worked closely with the stakeholders of America's higher education system to have produced legislation that meets our principles of access, affordability, accountability, and quality; abiding by these principles has produced a measure that will ultimately ensure fairness for low and middle income students.

The College Access & Opportunity Act includes comprehensive reforms that will strengthen Pell Grants, student aid, college access, and Minority Serving Institutions. The bill will reduce loan costs and fees for students, and eliminate red tape for students and graduates. The College Access & Opportunity Act also includes steps to remove barriers for non-traditional students, and importantly, will empower consumers through increased sunshine and transparency in college costs and accreditation.

The bill will benefit students in numerous ways; in fact, there are far too many student benefits for me to list individually today. However, I'd like to describe some of the highlights of the bill that will show just a few of the many ways the College Access & Opportunity Act will expand college access for current and future students aspiring for the dream of a college education.

The College Access & Opportunity Act strengthens college access programs, particularly those serving students who may struggle to enter higher education. The bill enhances TRIO and GEAR UP programs targeted to first-generation, non-traditional and minority students, and ensures low-income working adults can also receive the valuable services provided through these access programs.

In Pell Grants, which are the cornerstone of federal need-based student aid, the bill includes an initiative we call "Pell Grants Plus" to provide additional Pell Grant aid to needy students who have completed a rigorous high school curriculum through the State Scholars program. The proposal, similar to one offered by President Bush in his FY 2005 budget request, would not only provide up to \$1000 of additional Pell Grant assistance to Pell-eligible students, but would also serve as an incentive for more states to participate in the State Scholars program and prepare more students to excel in higher education.

The bill also repeals the unfair limit on Pell Grants called "tuition sensitivity," which punishes very low cost schools and the students who attend those schools by reducing their Pell Grant aid they can receive. In addition, the College Access & Opportunity Act would permit year-round Pell Grants to allow students to accelerate their studies and graduate sooner.

Because Minority Serving Institutions play an important role for expanding college access, the bill makes a number of reforms designed to strengthen these institutions and allow them to better serve their students. For instance, the bill would make it easier for these schools to use technology to improve education, and would reduce red tape that creates unnecessary burdens as they apply for grants.

Importantly, the bill would make the student aid funding provided through the campus-based aid programs more fair and equitable. By phasing out unfair advantages given to older, more well-established schools, the College Access & Opportunity Act would ensure these funds are targeted to the students who need them the most.

Chief among our principles for reforming higher education was the need to increase accountability, and the College Access & Opportunity Act includes a number of steps that will accomplish that goal. By empowering the consumers of higher education—students and parents—with information, we will ensure they can fully exercise their power in the marketplace of higher education. Be it adding transparency to college costs or adding sunshine to the accreditation process, the bill will give consumers access to significant new information to help them make their own best decisions about higher education.

The College Access & Opportunity Act also includes a number of significant reforms to the multi-billion dollar federal student loan programs, with major steps to realign resources in order to better serve low and middle income students striving for a higher education.

Federal student loans provide access to low-cost funding that many students need to finance their higher education. The College Access & Opportunity Act will expand access to this important resource in a responsible manner that will not allow students to be burdened by unmanageable debt levels.

The bill will update loan limits for first and second year students, ensuring more money is available at the beginning of students' studies when loan limits are significantly lower and students may struggle with college costs. However, the bill will not increase the aggregate borrowing limits, ensuring students are not saddled with higher overall debt levels. The bill also reduces origination fees for students, an important step that will ensure students have access to more of the money they borrow.

In order to make these positive reforms that provide students with greater access to student loan resources, the bill includes significant realignment of federal resources within the loan program. The bill would limit excess subsidy payments made to lenders, changing provisions in current law and requiring lenders to return excess income that can be better used to expand student access.

The bill will eliminate the anti-consumer "single-holder" rule, which needlessly limits consumers' ability to shop around for the best deal on a consolidation loan by requiring borrowers to consolidate with their current lender if that lender holds all their loans. The bill will also ensure consolidation loans are provided under the current variable interest rate structure provided for other federal student loans, eliminating unfair treatment of borrowers

based simply on the date the loans are consolidated. The variable interest rates for consolidation loans will ensure all consolidation borrowers have access to low rates while being protected from interest rates that rise too high through an interest rate cap.

In addition to ensuring consolidation loans are provided under the current successful variable rate structure, the bill will also prevent other student loans from moving to a fixed rate as they would in 2006 unless we take action to prevent that change. Without preserving the current variable rate structure for these loans, borrowers would be forced to pay 6.8 percent interest rates on all loans. With borrowers today paying 2.82 percent in school and 3.42 percent in repayment, it would be shameful to impose an arbitrary fixed interest rate that would double the rate available to borrowers today.

While strengthening the loan programs to better serve borrowers, the College Access & Opportunity Act will also protect the credit history borrowers earn while repaying these loans. The bill will require lenders to report federal student loan information to all national credit bureaus, ensuring borrowers are given the positive credit history they earn by repaying their student loans.

Recognizing that the face of America's higher education system has changed significantly in recent years—both the students and the institutions that serve them—the bill will ensure all colleges and universities are treated fairly as they seek to better serve students. The bill will repeal the unfair 90–10 rule, a requirement imposed only on proprietary schools. The 90–10 rule was implemented as a safeguard, yet there is no evidence it reduces fraud and abuse and significant evidence that it may reduce access for the neediest students by forcing schools to raise tuition or move out of inner cities where many students are receiving full federal funding.

The bill also recognizes the importance of distance education at the forefront of technological advancements that can give students new opportunities to learn. By eliminating the 50 percent rule, which restricts the number of students that can be enrolled in distance education and the number of courses an institution may offer via distance education, the College Access & Opportunity Act will increase access to quality higher education through alternate channels. The bill would maintain and even enhance safeguards to ensure the integrity of these programs, while removing restrictions that prevent innovation and expanded use of new technology for student learning.

Finally the bill will no longer include separate definitions of institution of higher education, placing all eligible schools on an even playing field as they work to provide higher education to their students.

The College Access & Opportunity Act is important legislation that will help fulfill the original mission of the Higher Education Act—expanding college access. By placing students as our first priority, we are bringing forward a bill that I am proud to say will significantly improve higher education in America. I am pleased to be offering this legislation with my good friend Rep. McKeon, and am eager to move forward with these important reforms to ensure access, affordability, accountability, and quality.

INTRODUCING THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act. This legislation improves the Assistive Technology Act to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to assistive technology services and equipment throughout their lives. I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for his assistance in bringing this bill to this point.

Since 1988, the federal government has played an important role in helping states develop systems to provide access to assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities. The original intent of this program was to provide seed money for states to establish state-wide systems to help individuals with disabilities. Since then all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the outlying areas have established systems of some design and scope. In the original legislation, we wisely put in a sunset provision that caused us to reexamine the role and scope of the original program.

For the past 2 years, my subcommittee has been investigating this program; we have held a hearing on this important program, visited assistive technology centers, and discussed the benefits and drawbacks of the existing program. We have sought broad input from our friends across the aisle, from the disability community, and from the state programs to gain valuable insight into this program. As we go through the legislative process we will continue to seek input from our friends on the other side of the aisle as well as our friends in the disability community to make this a strong bill.

In the bill we are introducing today, we are shifting the focus of the program to individuals with disabilities. Our goal is to help states get more pieces of assistive technology into the hands of individuals with disabilities. This new focus will expand the reach of the state programs by moving away from support of administrative activities toward emphasizing the importance of getting the technology itself to the individuals with disabilities that need it.

Although we are refocusing the program, we certainly recognize the importance of state flexibility, and our bill maintains that important element of the program. We direct states to focus their efforts of putting technology into the hands of individuals with disabilities.

We ask that States develop alternative financing methods to enhance the ability of individuals with disabilities to access assistive technology devices and services through low interest loans, interest buy-down programs, revolving loan funds, loan guarantee, or other mechanisms of the State's choice.

Additionally, we allow States to choose to develop: Assistive technology device loan programs to support short-term loan programs of assistive technology devices to individuals with disabilities; assistive technology device reutilization programs (i.e., recycling) to use assist-

ive technology devices multiple times with multiple individuals; or assistive technology device demonstration programs to teach people with disabilities about the variety of available assistive technology devices and how to use them.

These are important and necessary activities and I am confident that states will continue to work with stakeholders in their communities to enhance or develop comprehensive programs that will provide tremendous benefit to individuals with disabilities. In fact, we require that states do just that, so we are ensuring that individuals with disabilities will continue to have important input in this program.

I deeply appreciate the importance of assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities. These devices can make a major difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities. Assistive technology can help individuals meet the challenges they face every day, and through the use of assistive technology, an individual with a disability can overcome almost any obstacle he or she faces.

I look forward to working with the members of the Committee, other members of Congress, and other stakeholders as we craft legislation that will build upon and improve previous reforms. These steps to strengthen assistive technology programs will also complement our ongoing effort to ensure that children with disabilities receive a quality education. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act.

TRIBUTE TO EVA GALLAGHER AND THE ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care. These nurses are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients experience. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our nation's cancer care delivery system.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. This year alone, 1.3 million Americans will hear the words, "You have cancer." In addition, 556,000 will lose their battle with this terrible disease. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment. Oncology nurses play a central role in the provision of quality cancer care as they are principally involved in the administration and moni-

toring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients may experience.

Today, more than two-thirds of cancer cases strike people over the age of 65, and the number of cancer cases diagnosed among senior citizens is projected to double by 2030. At the same time, many of the community-based cancer centers are facing significant barriers in hiring the specialized oncology nurses they need to treat cancer patients. It is estimated that there will be a shortage of 1.1 million nurses in the year 2015.

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 30,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. To that end, ONS honors and maintains nursing's historical and essential commitment to advocacy for the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities and networks for peer support.

On behalf of the people with cancer and their families in Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District, I would like to acknowledge Eva Gallagher for her leadership within the Oncology Nursing Society as a member of the ONS Board of Directors. Through Eva's and ONS' leadership, our nation is charting a course that will help us win the war on cancer.

The ONS has 4 chapters in my home state of Minnesota. Located in the Bloomington, Esko, Hayfield and Milan areas, these chapters serve the oncology nurses in the state and help them continue to provide high quality cancer care to patients and their families in our state.

I commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 29 years and thank the Society and its members for their ongoing commitment to improving and assuring access to quality cancer care for all cancer patients and their families. I urge my colleagues to support them in their important endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my colleagues my distinct pride in a winning institution in my district, the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT). Located in Klamath Falls, Oregon, OIT is nationally recognized for its high standards and results-oriented approach to education. The school motto, "First Hired, Highest Paid," is no idle boast. A few years ago I had the honor of serving as commencement speaker during an OIT graduation, and nearly all of the graduates I addressed had been offered high-paying jobs.

Ably led by President Martha Anne Dow, OIT pursues excellence in every aspect of the college experience, from research and technology application to career-oriented instruction and competitive athletics.

Mr. Speaker, it is in the realm of athletics that OIT most recently demonstrated its championship mettle when the men's basketball team won the NAIA Division II National Title. Seeded 16th, the OIT Hustlin' Owls were not favored to win, but when the final buzzer sounded they had proven themselves to be the best team in the nation among NAIA Division II teams. Their series of upset victories may have surprised some sportscasters, but it was no surprise to the fans of OIT who have come to expect great things from the Hustlin' Owls under the phenomenal coaching of Danny Miles.

Coach Danny Miles, a NAIA Hall of Fame coach, took over a losing basketball program at OIT thirty-three years ago and never looked back. Racking up 734 career wins, Danny ranks 17th on the all-time career victory list. It is no surprise that this year he was named NAIA Coach of the Year, an honor that he shares with his able staff: Mike Pisan, Doug Kintzinger, Jarrod Davis, Milijia Mitrovic, and Aristide Agnimele.

Although Coach Miles is proud to have won the national championship, he is even more proud of the fact that he, his staff, his team, and the OIT fans won the James Naismith Award for sportsmanship. This was not just a victory of superior athleticism and coaching; it was a victory of strong character.

I join the OIT family in my pride over senior Kevin Baker's winning the tournament's Most Valuable Player award. Baker was also joined by teammates Florian Houget and Todd Matthews on the All-Tournament team. It goes without saying that a championship performance involves every team member, so I also want to share with you my pride in Hustlin' Owls Michael Nunes, Jared Hall, Levell Heslia, Joe Billings, David Michaelis, Matt Johnson, Elijah Page, and Alex Carlson, each of whom contributed so much to their team's winning effort.

Mr. Speaker, for those who are familiar with the story of the Klamath Basin in my district, you know the story of a strong, proud people who live their lives with heart and determination. It is no surprise that the bond between OIT and the Klamath community is so strong. They share the character of winners who never, ever give up. We can all find inspiration from OIT's achievements, many more of which I expect to recognize in the future.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS MARQUIS ANTOINE
WHITAKER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay special tribute to one of our nation's many heroes, Army Pfc. Marquis Antoine Whitaker. Pfc. Whitaker lost his life April 27 while serving his country in Iraq. He was only twenty years old.

A beloved son and brother, a proud American and a devoted Christian, Marquis loved football, music, his GMC Jimmy and his girlfriend, Tarai, who misses him very much. He graduated from Kendrick High School in 2002 and joined the Army only months later, to give back to his country and put his career on a responsible path.

He began basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and eventually became a motor transport operator assigned to the Regimental Headquarters Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Pfc. Whitaker was deployed to Iraq in July 2003. Although his family expected him home April 14, his tour was extended due to the increase in insurgent activity in Iraq. Two weeks later a truck crashed into the back of his Humvee, pushing it partially over the side of a bridge. Marquis Whitaker fell while attempting to climb to safety.

Pfc. Whitaker joins 756 American troops who have given their lives to bring freedom to the people of Iraq. We mourn their loss and the promise of their futures, like that of Marquis, were cut all too short.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in honoring Pfc. Marquis Whitaker. I promise his mother Jacqueline, his father Anthony, his five sisters and two brothers that Marquis will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his country and that we will never forget the sacrifice he made in the name of freedom and democracy.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHIRLEY V.
EDWARDS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the achievements of Shirley V. Edwards, a visionary and the principal of EBC High School/Bushwick, Brooklyn in the 12th Congressional District.

After 25 years of blight, Bushwick is experiencing a renaissance. Despite this, it continues to suffer from a high rate of unemployment and poverty. Shirley Edwards, armed with her education specialist background, knew she had a mission to fulfill. She understood that education was the key to breaking the cycle of poverty, and she dedicated herself to the creation of EBC High School for public service and academic excellence.

For the last 10 years, Principal Edwards has called EBC High School/Bushwick her home, serving as a mentor to both students and teachers alike. She is said to have led EBC/Bushwick down the "road not taken," showing many in the community that it was possible to leave an imprint when they had lost all hope. She was instrumental in creating an array of innovative programs, leaving behind an important legacy that forms the foundation of the high school.

Principal Edwards, among her many positive contributions, introduced students to the value of public service and giving back to their community, encouraging them to make a real difference. She witnessed first-hand how drugs, crime and poverty devastated lives, and she made it her mission to empower students and to give them a second chance at earning an education and forging a better path for themselves in the future. Principal Edwards motivated students to become enthusiastic lifelong learners and responsible adults. She truly changed lives—now over 90 percent of her graduating classes are pursuing college degrees.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shirley V. Edwards, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize her extraordinary work in New York City's public education system.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR F. JAMES
ROHLF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Professor F. James Rohlf, for his outstanding career as a scientist and professor at Stony Brook University, who was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences in 2001.

Professor Rohlf's current research is concerned with the development, evaluation, and application of new statistical methods for use in geometric morphometrics. Over the last few years he has written papers demonstrating how standard statistical methods such as principal components analysis, canonical variates analysis, multiple regression, and other methods can be adapted for the analysis of shape.

His work also emphasizes the development of interactive computer software to perform the unique computations needed in geometric morphometrics. This software also provides the special interactive graphical displays to enable users to visualize shapes and has made it possible for these new methods to be applied routinely by many biologists.

Due to the unfamiliarity of most biologists with the types of mathematics needed to understand the methods used in geometric morphometrics, many one to two week workshops have been held in cities and universities around the world, which Professor Rohlf has organized or in which he has been the principal lecturer. These programs are to teach the necessary techniques and to give potential users a chance to collect data, learn how to use the software, and to interpret the results.

Professor F. James Rohlf is also author and co-author of many publications. Early in his career he received fellowships from U.S. Public Health Service to conduct predoctoral research in 1959–1962, and a National Science Foundation postdoctoral appointment in 1962. He has received many honors including: W.J. Eckert Visiting Environmental Scientist; IBM T.J. Watson Research Center; Professor Visiting, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe, Argentina; Visiting Professor University of Rome "La Sapienza," Dipartimento di Biologia Animale e dell'Uomo; and the election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Professor Rohlf held positions such as research assistant in 1958–59, teaching assistant in fall of 1959 and research associate in the summer of 1962 at the University of Kansas. He was visiting assistant professor of entomology in the spring of 1965 and associate professor of statistical biology, 1966–69. And, he was an assistant professor of biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara 1962–1966.

Professor F. James Rohlf is interested in and has been involved in the applications of mathematical methods and statistics (especially multivariate statistics) to problems in biology with emphasis on morphometrics and

the theory of systematics. I am proud to recognize and honor Professor F. James Rohlf for his outstanding career as a scientist and professor and for all the many accomplishments and services he has provided to the community of biological science.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 139, 140, and 141 on May 4, 2004. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 139, "yea" on H. Res. 600—Congratulating charter schools; rollcall 140, "yea" on H. Con. Res. 380—Recognizing school-based music education; and rollcall 141, "yea" on H. Res. 599—Congratulating the UConn men's and women's basketball teams.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF ITCHE GOLDBERG CELEBRATED ON APRIL 25, 2004

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Itche Goldberg on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Itche is at once a leader, scholar and educator, yet he still remains a student. It is rare to encounter a man who has achieved as much as Itche has, but that is not what truly makes Itche unique. What sets Itche apart from those few who can match his accomplishments is his continued passion to learn, explore and delve further into the subjects he studies. The greatest beneficiary of Itche's work has never been Itche himself, but rather those who have had the pleasure of reading his works and the work he has translated and for the important role he has played in preserving the Yiddish language.

Itche began his path of scholarship in Canada, where he studied philosophy, political economics and German. At the age of twenty, he was already teaching in the Toronto Workmen Circle Folkshul, the first step onto a path of instruction that extended to Philadelphia and New York as well. His lectures have been in both Yiddish and English, covering Jewish culture and literature. From 1970 to 1985, Itche was professor of Yiddish language and literature at Queens College of the City University of New York.

From 1936 to 1951, Itche edited Yungvarg, a Yiddish children's magazine, and others for both parents and teachers. During that time, he wrote many children's stories in Yiddish. Also among Itche's work are numerous Yiddish textbooks he authored, and even more he edited. As Director of the Service Bureau for Jewish Education and the Zhitlowsky Foundation, Itche's mission was to make sure these books were not only produced, but also provided to their target audiences in Jewish secular schools. Itche was also recently awarded the prestigious Raoul Wallenberg medal.

Today, Itche goes to the office every day to ensure that the journal he is editor-in-chief of, Yiddish Kultur, sees continued life. Even after forty years on the job, he remains tirelessly devoted to the endurance of one of the few surviving quality journals published in Yiddish language worldwide.

In a society such as ours, which values hard work, education and culture, Itche Goldberg is priceless. A child wishing to study Yiddish culture can turn to Itche's work at every stage of life; whether it is his children's stories, textbooks, journals or upcoming second volume of essays. Itche is an asset to us all, and I feel privileged to honor him for his profound contributions towards the preservation of Yiddish, and for doing so with such an inspiring passion. Mir shatsn op ayer vunderlekhe arbet l'toyves der yidisher kultur vos hot baraikehert dem gontsn Yidishn yishev. (English Translation "We honor your wonderful work for the benefit of Yiddish culture which enriches all of Yiddish heritage.")

RECOGNIZING LALO ALCARAZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lalo Alcaraz, a leader and political activist in the Latino community who exemplifies the best in American journalism today.

For almost 10 years, Mr. Alcaraz has touched the lives of millions of newspaper and magazine readers here in the U.S. and in Mexico. Born in San Diego, CA, in 1964, he grew up near the U.S.-Mexico border with his Mexican immigrant parents—each day sharing two different cultures. He began his journalism career as student at San Diego State University by drawing politically and culturally driven editorial cartoons for the university newspaper. As he gained notoriety among readers across campus, Alcaraz also grabbed the attention of top publishing media syndicates in southern California.

An award winning editorial cartoonist, screenwriter, and journalist, Alcaraz continues to entertain his readers today by skillfully capturing the essence of our country's changing cultural and political landscape. He is the creator of nationally syndicated and hardhitting editorial cartoons that depict pressing issues affecting the Latino community. Published in English and Spanish in publications such as the New York and Los Angeles Times, La Opinion, and Hispanic Magazine, his cartoons include the Latino-themed daily strip La Cucaracha, and Migra Mouse, a satire on Latinos and immigration. Alcaraz is also the co-editor of the satirical magazine Pocho and he is the illustrator of the book Latino USA: A Cartoon History.

Throughout his illustrious career, Alcaraz has been honored and recognized for his exceptional journalistic work. He has received four Southern California Journalism Awards for Best Cartoon in Weekly Papers between 1994–1999. He is also the 1998 winner of the Los Angeles Hispanic Public Relations Association's Premio Award for Excellence in Communications; the 2000 Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Media Fellowship; the 2003 Center for the Study of Political Graphics and the Keep

On Crossin' Awards; and, most recently, the 2004 Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace Award.

Lalo Alcaraz is a loving husband, father and a devoted member of the Writers Guild Union, West. I commend him for his numerous contributions to the Latino community through his journalism career and political activism.

THE PASSING OF ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR RALPH DUNN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Illinois State Senator Ralph Dunn on May 3.

Senator Dunn had a long list of accomplishments during his years as a State Senator, a State Representative and as a member of the Illinois Constitutional Convention—which he described as "the greatest thing I've ever been involved with."

Illinois State Representative Mike Bost said, "He gave me some tremendous advice, even after he left office. He was well-respected and he served his district and his state well. Everybody knew Ralph was a square shooter. I never got in trouble if I followed him."

Du Quoin Mayor John Rednour said, "I always knew the best way to get something done for my town was to call Ralph. He was not only a gentleman, he was a gentle man."

Mayor Rednour, Representative Bost and many others will join together on Friday, May 7th to celebrate the life and legacy of this Southern Illinois giant. There is little doubt that Ralph and his wife Ellen will be watching with their typical mix of pride and humility.

They have earned this moment of recognition as well as our thanks for a lifetime of service to all of us.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF LYNDSEY LEA TELLER, 2004 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF LITCHFIELD, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Lyndsey Lea Teller, winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Lyndsey is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Lyndsey is an exceptional student at Litchfield High School. Aside from being at the top of her class academically, she possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. She is the Secretary for the National

Honor Society and the Treasurer for her graduating class. Lyndsey has run cross country and track for four years. She is also very active with her church.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Lyndsey Lea Teller for her accomplishments and selection as winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes her efforts, but it is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE ALTAMED
HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the AltaMed Health Services Corporation (AltaMed). For 35 years, AltaMed has exemplified exceptional leadership in America by providing increased access and award-winning quality health care to the medically underserved multi-ethnic communities of Los Angeles County.

Established in 1969 at a modest storefront in East Los Angeles, AltaMed has never strayed from its commitment to serve medically underinsured and uninsured individuals. First known as El Barrio Free Clinic and later as La Clínica Familiar Del Barrio, the AltaMed organization was first managed by doctors, nurses, and social workers, who generously volunteered their non-working hours to treat individuals and their families with the best-available medical care. Spurred by a federal government measure known as the Urban Health Initiative and a federal grant in 1977, La Clínica Familiar Del Barrio managed to increase its services and the organization officially changed its name to the AltaMed Health Services Corporation.

Thirty-five years after its inception, AltaMed continues to provide quality medical service to over 46,000 patients at 19 service outlets, six stand-alone health care clinics, two mobile health care units, and 11 social service sites throughout Los Angeles County. Proudly serving predominantly low-income and underrepresented communities, AltaMed continues to be at the forefront of quality health care service. Its extensive services provide individuals of all ages with state-of-the-art medical and dental clinics, geriatric care, home safety, HIV/AIDS prevention, youth support groups, and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs.

With an annual operating budget of \$55 million, AltaMed is the largest nonprofit health care agency in the greater East Los Angeles area—servicing 46 Zip codes in Los Angeles County. With support from various grants, AltaMed works to enroll uninsured individuals into low cost or no cost insurance programs such as Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, California Kids and Healthy Kids. In addition, AltaMed continues to promote economic and community development and is the second largest

employer in the greater East Los Angeles area, with over 900 racially diverse and multi-lingual staff members.

I want to commend the work of AltaMed's President and CEO Cástulo de la Rocha, the Board of Directors, its nine senior management professionals, and its generous supporters for their tireless and excellent leadership efforts. Their hard work made AltaMed's 35th Anniversary Gala a reality.

May this historic event be an opportunity for everyone to commemorate the vision, compassion, and commitment that the original AltaMed founders had for their community 35 years ago. And may today's AltaMed leadership and medical team carry their mission forward into the future.

THE PASSING OF ILLINOIS STATE
SENATOR VINCE DEMUZIO

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Illinois State Senator Vince Demuzio who passed away on April 27. Senator Demuzio, or Vince as most people knew him, lived a life dedicated to public service. While committing himself to the public good, Vince still found time for his family—his wife, Deanna, their two children and their four grandchildren.

In central Illinois, Vince Demuzio is remembered as a champion for education, a fighter for good jobs and roadways, and a tireless advocate for the needs of his constituents.

Illinois Senate Minority Leader, Frank Watson, said of Vince, "If we all emulate the concerns that Vince Demuzio had for the people he represented and the people of this state . . . we would all be better off and be better people for it."

I couldn't agree more. Illinois has lost a great leader with the passing of State Senator Vince Demuzio.

2004 LEGRAND SMITH
SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with my sincerest pleasure that I rise to recognize the finalists of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship Program. This special honor is an appropriate tribute to these remarkable young adults for their academic accomplishments, demonstration of leadership and responsibility, and commitment to social and civic involvement. We all have reason to celebrate their success, because our future rests in their promising and capable hands.

The finalists are being honored for showing the same generosity of spirit, depth of intelligence, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

They are young men and women of character, ambition, and initiative, who have already learned well the value of hard work and commitment.

These exceptional students have consistently displayed their dedication, intelligence and concern throughout their high school careers. They stand out among their peers not only because of their many achievements, but also the disciplined manner in which they meet all challenges. Although they have already accomplished a great deal, these young people possess unlimited potential.

On behalf of the United States Congress, we join the many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to the finalists of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Congressional Scholarship Program:

Tinsley Hunsdorfer of Albion, Michigan; Renee Gaudreau of Albion, Michigan; Benjamin Wilson of Battle Creek, Michigan; Heather Taylor of Homer, Michigan; Michael Schneider of Litchfield, Michigan; Lacey Ferro of Jonesville, Michigan; Joshua Robare of Hillsdale, Michigan; Amy Sanford of Reading, Michigan; Elysia Berry of Reading, Michigan; Kimberly Emens of Waldron, Michigan; Zachary Risk of Jonesville, Michigan; Ryan Cherry of Brooklyn, Michigan; Amanda Jones of Michigan Center, Michigan. Tiffany Lambert of Jerome, Michigan; Eric Palmer of Jerome, Michigan; Amy Nemeth of Jackson, Michigan; Kathryn Gillen of Jackson, Michigan; Zachary Kanaan, Jr. of Clark Lake, Michigan; Susan Hammond of Jackson, Michigan; Benjamin Stafford of Parma, Michigan; Rachel Osborne of Hudson, Michigan; Lyndsey Banks of Adrian, Michigan; Olivia Rawson of Onsted, Michigan; Leanna Pelham of Onsted, Michigan; Sara Worsham of Onsted, Michigan; Blythe Crane of Chelsea, Michigan; Ashleigh Doop of Dexter, Michigan; and Elizabeth Parker of Dexter, Michigan.

RECOGNIZING MR. SERGIO RASCÓN

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Sergio Rascón, a labor union leader who exemplifies the best in American leadership today.

Born in 1953 in Sonora, Mexico, Mr. Rascón grew up and graduated from high school in the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles. Possessing a strong passion for labor union politics, in 1979 he was named Labor Foreman of the Laborers' International Union of North America LIUNA Local 300, a powerful subdivision of the American Federation of Labor.

In 1984, he was named an official agent of the LIUNA Local 300, while becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen that same year. Demonstrating a natural ability to lead, motivate, and organize workers, he earned the highest honors by his peers and was promoted to the executive board of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement LCLAA in 1989 and later to Business Manager and President of the LIUNA Local 300 union throughout the 1990s.

Currently holding politically influential positions as First Vice President of the LCLAA State Chapter and as Los Angeles Commissioner on the Convention and Exhibition Center Bureau, Rascón is regarded as one of the most powerful and youngest political activists in the United States. Under his direction, the LIUNA Local 300 is involved in more political races than any other in its history.

In addition to being an effective political lobbyist for progressive politicians, Rascón's achievements extend from being a once active water board member to generous community provider. From 1997 to 2001, he served as a Board Director for the Metropolitan Water District MWD in southern California. During his position as a member of the board, he worked to ensure that everyone in Los Angeles County have safe drinking water. He served important roles in the MWD, such as being Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Organization and Personnel and an active member of the MWD's Budget and Finance and Legal and Claims committees.

As an active leader in his community, Mr. Rascón is involved in numerous charitable and educational activities in Los Angeles County. By collaborating with other prominent labor organizations, his LIUNA Local 300 has helped raise over \$120,000 in scholarship funding for the children of southern California union members.

Mr. Sergio Rascón is an advocate for every working American in the United States. I am honored to recognize his illustrious career of exceptional and tireless leadership during this year's Cinco de Mayo week in the Latino community. May his legacy continue to live forever.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL
BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS
ACT OF 2004

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, SAM JOHNSON, in introducing the "Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004."

I have long felt that the most pressing crisis we face in health care today is the number of uninsured Americans, which currently stands at more than 41 million. And the problem is not going away. With health care costs continuing to rise sharply across the country, more and more employers and workers are sharing the burden of increased premiums. Health care costs rose by 14 percent in 2003, and surveys project another increase of 13 percent this year. As costs escalate, the ranks of the uninsured will increase as well.

Today we introduce the "Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004," which represents a bipartisan solution to this problem. The bill gives small businesses the opportunity to band together through bona fide trade associations and purchase quality health care for their workers at a lower cost.

The bipartisan bill would increase small businesses' bargaining power with health care providers, give them freedom from costly state-mandated benefit packages, and lower their overhead costs by as much as 30 percent—benefits that many large corporations like GM and UPS and many unions already enjoy because of their larger economies of scale.

President Bush addressed this point directly last year during a speech at the Women's Entrepreneurship Summit, where he said, "Small businesses will be able to pool together and spread their risk across a large employee

base. It makes no sense in America to isolate small businesses as little health care islands unto themselves. We must have association health plans." The President is right, and we should help level this playing field so that small businesses can offer quality coverage to their workers.

Importantly, the bill addresses both the access and cost issues at the heart of the health care reform debate, giving uninsured working families new hope for a solution that can give them access to quality health care. Small businesses in most states are stuck with disproportionately high costs because they have to choose from fewer than five providers, so AHPs offer them a new option for them to choose from. By pooling their resources and increasing their bargaining power, AHPs will help small businesses reduce their health insurance costs. Most importantly, AHPs will expand access to quality health care for the people for whom it is currently out of reach: uninsured working families.

I urge my colleagues to join Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DOOLEY, Mr. BURNS and I in this effort, and to cosponsor this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL
BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS
ACT OF 2004

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004."

Today we introduce an important component of the Bush administration agenda—the "Small Business Health Fairness Act"—to allow the establishment of certified, federal, association health plans (AHPs).

AHPs will significantly expand access to health coverage for uninsured Americans by: (1) Increasing small businesses' bargaining power with health care providers, and (2) Giving employers freedom from costly state-mandated benefit packages. As such, AHPs will increase the number of insured Americans by up to 8 million people. According to figures released by the U.S. census bureau, one in seven Americans lacks health insurance.

You might ask, just who are these uninsured?

Well . . . they are working people who simply don't have access to insurance, can't afford it, or their employer can't afford to participate in a plan for them. Sixty percent—or 24 million—of uninsured Americans work in small businesses. Some of these people are offered insurance and turn it down because they can't pick up their part of the tab. According to the same census report, the increase in the number of uninsured comes solely from declining coverage in the small employer market. And there is no sign that the trend will reverse, or even slow. Health insurance costs are still rising and many small employers are forced to drop health coverage, while some cannot offer it in the first place.

The cost-saving benefits of AHPs would help the small employers of Main Street access coverage at a more affordable price. Let's face the facts. Costs are rising, busi-

nesses are dropping coverage and more people are left uninsured. Congress must address the uninsured problem and move forward with increasing the insured through Association Health Plans. It's the least Congress can do to ensure that the American people will receive better health care at a more reasonable price.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

COMMENDING FREMONT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Fremont Elementary, a school located back home in my Colorado district, for displaying the kind of academic excellence that is to be recognized at a national level.

Fremont recently received word that they are one of the top three finalists for the 21st Century School of Distinction Award. Over 1,200 schools nationwide applied for this distinction. To be a finalist is an amazing honor for them.

The award is open to all public, private, charter and parochial schools. There are ten different categories of merit. Fremont is in the "Technology Implementation" category. Schools in this category have shown sensible improvement in the implementation of technology in at least one school program or the curriculum itself.

The review board will soon be making a visit to the remaining three schools and will make their final decision pending that visit. The awards program will conclude with a national awards ceremony in June. Also, the winner will be highlighted in a future issue of "Scholastic Administrator".

Recently, I had the honor of being able to read to the students at Fremont during their Celebrity Read Week. It was a pleasure to be in the presence of such great and enthusiastic young minds.

I am continually impressed with this school's administration and their dedication to educating these young leaders of tomorrow. The school and its staff raise the bar of academic expectations and set an example for all elementary schools, in and out of my district, to follow. I am proud to live in the same district as a school that exemplifies such superior academic programs.

I would like to wish the best of luck to Fremont Elementary with this award and with all future endeavors. This educational institution has shown amazing academic excellence and I would like to congratulate them for the distinction this has earned them.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROWARD
COUNTY, FL

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two programs in Broward County, Florida, that were awarded Acts of Caring

Awards by the National Association of Counties on April 21, 2004. Broward County's Water Matters Program and Library Friends Tutoring Program were both recognized by the National Association of Counties for their outstanding performance and service to the community.

The Water Matters Program of Broward County was designed to educate residents in the Everglades area on the importance of water conservation and environmental responsibility. Broward County educates their citizens on environmental awareness in several different ways, including public service announcements and the development of an informational web page. The county also implemented Water Matters Day to further support the program, including hands-on activities for those who attend. The program is supported by a large number of volunteers, allowing it to exist on a very small budget.

The North Regional/BCC Library Friends Tutoring Program was designed to create intergenerational relationships through education. Volunteer tutors who participate in the program vary in age from high school students to senior citizens. The diligent work of this program has impacted over 400 children since 1995 and also operates on a minimal budget.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to those citizens of Broward County who seek to improve the environment as well as educate the youth of our nation through volunteer tutoring services. Broward County best exemplifies a county government that has achieved its full potential, setting an example for other county governments around the nation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL
VISION STRATEGY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I would like to recognize May as Healthy Vision Month, and to discuss the important recommendations of the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy as a way to prevent blindness and vision loss.

Good vision is critical to conducting activities of daily living, is a portal for language, and affects developmental learning, communicating, working, and quality of life.

Unfortunately, a large number of people are at risk for losing their vision. More than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and an additional 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. Despite the fact that half of all blindness can be prevented, far too many people do not access the care they need. If we do not take action, the number of blind and visually impaired individuals will double by 2030.

Awareness, early diagnosis and prevention are crucial for all. Healthy Vision Month, a component of Healthy People 2010, is a national eye health campaign to raise awareness about the various conditions that can affect eyesight and cause vision loss.

This week, a coalition of leading eye health experts, including Prevent Blindness America,

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lighthouse International, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, released the Vision Problems Action Plan, A National Public Health Strategy. This important document will provide our nation with a framework for preventing vision loss.

This groundbreaking study recommends that, in order to reduce the occurrence of vision loss and its accompanying disabilities, our nation must concentrate our efforts three priority areas: prevention/public health, access to care and treatment including rehabilitation, and research.

Our public health and prevention campaign must ensure that vision programs at the National Eye Institute (NEI) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have the resources they need to improve communication and education campaigns, increase surveillance, epidemiology and prevention research; and implement appropriate programs, policies and systems changes.

In order to ensure access to and availability of treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals with vision loss, we must support programs at the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that remove barriers and improve access to eye exams currently covered under Medicare, such as diabetic eye exams and glaucoma detection for high risk populations.

We must also strengthen the Medicare program to advance coverage for Medicare vision rehabilitation services as provided by orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers and low-vision therapists including in patients homes and their environment.

Finally, we must bolster our research efforts to improve our understanding of the eye and visual system in health and disease, as well as developing the most appropriate and effective means of prevention, and access to treatment and rehabilitation.

This report provides the roadmap we need to raise awareness about vision loss, give individuals the tools they need to prevent it, and give hope to the millions already suffering from vision loss that better treatments for can be found.

We would like to thank all of the organizations involved in drafting this report, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, Lighthouse International, the National Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, the National Eye Institute (NEI) and most importantly, Prevent Blindness America. Prevent Blindness America should be commended for spearheading this effort, for bringing together these various groups, and for its almost century-long tradition of preventing vision loss.

HONORING EL GRUPO FOLKLORICO
ATOTONILCO

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to announce a celebration to honor El Grupo

Folklorico Atotonilco, a nationally renowned traditional Mexican folk dance troupe.

On May 6, 2004, they will be celebrating 25 years of performing outstanding traditional Mexican folk dances for audiences in the greater Kansas City area. The event at the Folly Theater in Kansas City is part of a week of celebrations commemorating the 142nd anniversary of Cinco de Mayo. May 5, 1862, is the date of the famous triumph of Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin's small, poorly armed band of 4,500 men over a well equipped French army of 6,500 soldiers, which occurred against all odds. Mexican culture and heritage is traditionally celebrated in commemoration of this historic victory for independence.

El Grupo Folklorico Atotonilco was founded in 1979, when Maria Chaurand was asked to round up some neighborhood children and teach them a dance to entertain festival goers. It was an opportunity for Chaurand to share her love of dance and Mexican culture. Since then, the dance troupe has had over 700 children learn this art, and the dance company currently boasts 85 members, ranging in age from 5 to 40 years old. El Grupo Folklorico Atotonilco is also the most highly requested dance group on the state of Missouri folk arts roster.

Dance in Mexico is considered one of the most basic artistic expressions of the culture and spirit of its people. Each region has its own unique style and each dance is performed in its distinctive costumes native to that region. An extensive repertoire, presented in lavish costumes worn by energetic dancers, makes El Grupo Folklorico Atotonilco's program an exciting and educational experience. The swing of every folkloric skirt and the bow of every sombrero represent the rich cultural heritage and unique characteristics of Mexico's 32 states.

Over their last 25 years, El Grupo Folklorico Atotonilco dancers have showcased their talents in theaters and performance halls in: Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa, New Mexico, Texas, Illinois, California, Spain and Mexico. The dance troupe has received numerous awards and recognition for their performances and has garnered a reputation as one of the best Mexican folk dance companies in the country. In 1997, El Grupo Folklorico Atotonilco received the honor as the "Premiere Mexican Folk Dance Company in U.S." They are the sole recipient of that honor to this day.

Maria Chaurand has come a long way from her first Cinco de Mayo fiesta 25 years ago, when she coached 16 children in the art of sharing Mexican culture through regional dance and costume. Thousands of people throughout Kansas City and around the country have been thrilled to hear the exuberant beat and see colorful performances that have graced stages in many communities. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Maria Chaurand and the dancers of El Grupo Folklorico Atotonilco for carrying on the folkloric traditions of old Mexico through the pagentry of music, costume and dance for the past 25 years. Viva El Grupo Folklorico Atotonilco!

HONORING THE LEGACY OF PAT TILLMAN: AN EXTRAORDINARY AMERICAN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Pat Tillman was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and was based at Fort Lewis, Washington. On April 22, 2004, he was killed in the line of duty near the Pakistan border as he led his Army Ranger team to help comrades caught in an ambush. He was 27 years old.

Pat Tillman attended Leland High School in San Jose, California. As a linebacker on the Arizona State University football team, he was named the 1997 PAC-10 Defensive Player of the Year. Finishing with a marketing degree in three and a half years, he graduated summa cum laude with a 3.84 GPA.

He was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals in the seventh round in 1998, the 226th pick overall. He became the Cardinals' starting safety and in 2000, he set a new franchise record with 224 tackles.

Following the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001, Pat Tillman spoke of his admiration for his relatives who had taken up arms to defend the nation in previous conflicts. He went on: "I really haven't done a damn thing as far as laying myself on the line like that. And so I have a great deal of respect for those that have and what the flag stands for." In 2002, he turned down a \$3.6 million contract from the Arizona Cardinals and enlisted in the Army instead.

Following his death, the military posthumously promoted Pat Tillman from specialist to corporal. He also was awarded a Purple Heart and the distinguished Silver Star award for gallantry on the battlefield.

In the world of professional sports, Pat Tillman's story is extraordinary; choosing duty over dollars. However, in the context of our military, his sacrifice is typical of our soldiers.

His death reminds us about the sacrifices that our veterans and fighting forces have made for us. Not for fame or fortune, but for a love of country, with determination, courage and honor, the men and women of our armed services have dedicated their lives to the defense of our democratic ideals. Pat Tillman will be remembered as one of the most admirable of America's heroes. His legacy will strengthen the United States of America forever.

The life we live today is shaped by men and women like Pat Tillman. Each has stood ready in defense of their country. Our nation owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude for their service. We enjoy our freedoms because of their valor.

I join a grateful nation in sending my thoughts and prayers to the Tillman family and all families who have lost loved ones serving to protect our sacred liberty.

CALLING FOR SHARED SACRIFICE IN THE WAR ON TERROR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon our nation to share the sacrifice imposed upon us by our war on terrorism. I have introduced a bill to reinstitute the draft for young Americans between the ages of 18 and 26 and national civilian service for all those not needed in the military.

Since I have submitted this bill in January 2003, my conviction that we need a draft has risen on an almost daily basis. In March 2003 the administration decided to take the nation to war against Iraq for doubtful reasons. I do not think that members of this administration and Congress would have been so willing to launch a war if they had known that their own children might have to fight it.

Fact is, that we are currently a nation in which the poor fight our wars while the affluent stay at home. The majority of our brave servicemen and women come either from poor rural areas or poverty-shaken inner-city neighborhoods. About thirty-five percent of our soldiers are minorities. These young people enlist in the military mainly for financial and educational opportunities.

I believe that the burdens of war should not be shouldered solely by the poor segments of our society, but must be fairly shared by all racial and economic groups. I am pleased to see that during the last couple of months the support for a reintroduction of the draft has risen substantially among the American people. As our casualties in Iraq increase daily and exhausted soldiers are kept in Iraq under stop loss orders, the debate about shared sacrifice is gaining ground.

I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article by journalist and Vietnam War Veteran William Broyles Jr. which was published in the New York Times on May 4, 2004. Mr. Broyles' article is one of the strongest pieces favoring the draft that I have read so far and it fully reflects my own opinion on this subject.

[From the New York Times, May 4, 2004]

A WAR FOR US, FOUGHT BY THEM

(By William Broyles Jr.)

WILSON, Wyo.—The longest love affair of my life began with a shotgun marriage. It was the height of the Vietnam War and my student deferment had run out. Desperate not to endanger myself or to interrupt my personal plans, I wanted to avoid military service altogether. I didn't have the resourcefulness of Bill Clinton, so I couldn't figure out how to dodge the draft. I tried to escape into the National Guard, where I would be guaranteed not to be sent to war, but I lacked the connections of George W. Bush, so I couldn't slip ahead of the long waiting list. My attitude was the same as Dick Cheney's: I was special, I had "other priorities." Let other people do it.

When my draft notice came in 1968, I was relieved in a way. Although I had deep doubts about the war, I had become troubled about how I had angled to avoid military service. My classmates from high school were in the war; my classmates from college were not—exactly the dynamic that exists today. But instead of reporting for service in the Army, on a whim I joined the Marine Corps, the last place on earth I thought I belonged.

My sacrifice turned out to be minimal. I survived a year as an infantry lieutenant in Vietnam. I was not wounded; nor did I struggle for years with post-traumatic stress disorder. A long bout of survivor guilt was the price I paid. Others suffered far more, particularly those who had to serve after the war had lost all sense of purpose for the men fighting it. I like to think that in spite of my being so unwilling at first, I did some small service to my country and to that enduring love of mine, the United States Marine Corps.

To my profound surprise, the Marines did a far greater service to me. In 3 years I learned more about standards, commitment and yes, life, than I did in 6 years of university. I also learned that I had had no idea of my own limits: when I was exhausted after humping up and down jungle mountains in 100-degree heat with a 75-pound pack, terrified out of my mind, wanting only to quit, convinced I couldn't take another step, I found that in fact I could keep going for miles. And my life was put in the hands of young men I would otherwise never have met, by and large high-school dropouts, who turned out to be among the finest people I have ever known.

I am now the father of a young man who has far more character than I ever had. I joined the Marines because I had to; he signed up after college because he felt he ought to. He volunteered for an elite unit and has served in both Afghanistan and Iraq. When I see images of Americans in the war zones, I think of my son and his friends, many of whom I have come to know and deeply respect. When I opened this newspaper yesterday and read the front-page headline, "9 G.I.'s Killed," I didn't think in abstractions. I thought very personally.

The problem is, I don't see the images of or read about any of the young men and women who, as Dick Cheney and I did, have "other priorities." There are no immediate family members of any of the prime civilian planners of this war serving in it—beginning with President Bush and extending deep into the Defense Department. Only one of the 535 members of Congress, Senator Tim Johnson of South Dakota, has a child in the war—and only half a dozen others have sons and daughters in the military.

The memorial service yesterday for Pat Tillman, the football star killed in Afghanistan, further points out this contrast. He remains the only professional athlete of any sport who left his privileged life during this war and turned in his play uniform for a real one. With few exceptions, the only men and women in military service are the profoundly patriotic or the economically needy.

It was not always so. In other wars, the men and women in charge made sure their family members led the way. Since 9/11, the war on terrorism has often been compared to the generational challenge of Pearl Harbor; but Franklin D. Roosevelt's sons all enlisted soon after that attack. Both of Lyndon B. Johnson's sons-in-law served in Vietnam.

This is less a matter of politics than privilege. The Democratic elites have not responded more nobly than have the Republican; it's just that the Democrats' hypocrisy is less acute. Our president's own family illustrates the loss of the sense of responsibility that once went with privilege. In three generations the Bushes have gone from war hero in World War II, to war evader in Vietnam, to none of the extended family showing up in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Pat Tillman didn't want to be singled out for having done what other patriotic Americans his age should have done. The problem is, they aren't doing it. In spite of the president's insistence that our very civilization is at stake, the privileged aren't flocking to the flag. The war is being fought by Other

People's Children. The war is impersonal for the very people to whom it should be most personal.

If the children of the nation's elites were facing enemy fire without body armor, riding through gantlets of bombs in unarmored Humvees, fighting desperately in an increasingly hostile environment because of arrogant and incompetent civilian leadership, then those problems might well find faster solutions.

The men and women on active duty today—and their companions in the National Guard and the reserves—have seen their willingness, and that of their families, to make sacrifices for their country stretched thin and finally abused. Thousands of soldiers promised a 1-year tour of duty have seen that promise turned into a lie. When Eric Shinseki, then the Army chief of staff, told the president that winning the war and peace in Iraq would take hundreds of thousands more troops, Mr. Bush ended his career. As a result of this and other ill-advised decisions, the war is in danger of being lost, and my beloved military is being run into the ground.

This abuse of the voluntary military cannot continue. How to ensure adequate troop levels, with a diversity of backgrounds? How to require the privileged to shoulder their fair share? In other words, how to get today's equivalents of Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Dick Cheney—and me—into the military, where their talents could strengthen and revive our fighting forces?

The only solution is to bring back the draft. Not since the 19th century has America fought a war that lasted longer than a week with an all-volunteer army; we can't do it now. It is simply not built for a protracted major conflict. The arguments against the draft—that a voluntary army is of higher quality, that the elites will still find a way to evade service—are bogus. In World War II we used a draft army to fight the Germans and Japanese—two of the most powerful military machines in history—and we won. The problems in the military toward the end of Vietnam were not caused by the draft; they were the result of young Americans being sent to fight and die in a war that had become a disaster.

One of the few good legacies of Vietnam is that after years of abuses we finally learned how to run the draft fairly. A strictly impartial lottery, with no deferments, can ensure that the draft intake matches military needs. Chance, not connections or clever manipulation, would determine who serves.

If this war is truly worth fighting, then the burdens of doing so should fall on all Americans. If you support this war, but assume that Pat Tillman and Other People's Children should fight it, then you are worse than a hypocrite. If it's not worth your family fighting it, then it's not worth it, period. The draft is the truest test of public support for

the administration's handling of the war, which is perhaps why the administration is so dead set against bringing it back.

NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR
CALIFORNIA FFA

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Tulare Chapter of the Future Farmers of America, I am proud to announce that the California FFA is in the process of building a permanent \$5 million home. This building will be located north of Galt, California, on Highway 99 and will contain housing for state officers, meeting rooms and dormitories. The new FFA headquarters will provide not only needed facilities but also long-term continuity for this important organization. Indeed, many future leaders of California will have their first leadership training experiences at this facility.

Funds for the project are being raised by 59,000 high school students who are studying vocational agriculture. In addition, former alumni and friends of the FFA have already contributed \$1.3 million toward the project.

The Future Farmers of America is an organization that contributes support to vocational agriculture students through home projects and leadership training programs. It once was mostly a rural program, for high school students of vocational agriculture. Now, many of the students are from metropolitan areas and have projects designed for a broad spectrum of urban living.

I am very pleased to congratulate the FFA on this important step in preparing for and prosperous future.

THOMAS FARIA: MORE THAN
THREE DECADES OF SERVICE TO
THE RIGHT TO WORK CAUSE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I didn't know Thomas Faria. But I know of the work he did. And I know the importance of the fight he waged for years for freedom. I rise today to give tribute to Thomas Faria and his work.

Mr. Faria was a Connecticut businessman who had contributed to the efforts of the National Right to Work Committee. In 1977, after already contributing to the cause for 8 years, he sent a letter to Committee President Reed Larson offering his services as a member of the Board of Directors.

In that letter, Mr. Faria explained his strong desire to be more deeply involved with the Committee's efforts.

He wrote: "Although I have supported the National Right to Work Committee for a number of years because of my strong belief in individual freedom, I did not really appreciate the clout of Union political power until I worked on trying to close loopholes in Connecticut's Unemployment Compensation law. I would like the opportunity to do more in the area of right to work as I feel America's future depends on it."

Luckily for those in the Right to Work movement, Reed Larson took Mr. Faria up on this offer, beginning a quarter century fight together for workers' Right to Work.

Mr. Faria joined the board of directors of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation shortly thereafter.

The Right to Work principle—the guiding concept of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation and one of the guiding principles of Thomas Faria's work—affirms the right of every American to work for a living without being compelled to belong to a union. The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation gives legal assistance to employees who are victimized because of their assertion of that principle.

Mr. Faria generously supported the Foundation with his time and resources until his death almost 1 year ago. His efforts helped to provide free legal assistance to thousands of Americans whose rights had been violated by abuses of compulsory unionism and helped make more Americans free.

Many workers, and many Americans who believe in the American ideal of freedom, owe thanks to Mr. Faria. I am speaking on their behalf, and on my own today, to publicly acknowledge this gratitude.

So, Mr. Speaker, today I proudly pay tribute to Mr. Faria and the National Right to Work organization with whom he served. Their efforts have preserved and advanced freedom for individual workers for more than 35 years. I applaud their unwavering dedication and tireless action on behalf of what should be every American's birthright not to be forced to join a labor union to get or keep a job.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 7

9:30 a.m.
 Armed Services
 Closed business meeting to markup proposed legislation authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities for the Department of Defense.
 SR-222

Joint Economic Committee
 To hold a hearing to examine the employment situation for April.
 1334 LHOB

11:45 a.m.
 Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine allegations of mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners.
 SD-106

MAY 11

9:30 a.m.
 Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine the deadly intersection of AIDS and hunger.
 SD-419

10 a.m.
 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 Aging Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine breakthroughs in Alzheimer's research.
 SD-430

Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings to examine the impacts and costs of last year's fires, focusing on the problems faced last year and what problems agencies and the land they oversee may face next season, including aerial fire fighting assets and crew, and overhead availability.
 SD-366

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine conservation programs of the 2002 Farm bill.
 SD-628

Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine tax payer dollars subsidizing diploma mills.
 SH-216

Judiciary
 Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine rapid bioterrorism detection and response.
 SD-226

MAY 12

9:30 a.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 To hold hearings to examine the environmental regulatory framework affecting oil refining and gasoline policy.
 SD-406

Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine the current situation in Afghanistan.
 SD-419

10 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Defense Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Defense.
 SD-192

Governmental Affairs
 To continue hearings to examine tax payer dollars subsidizing diploma mills.
 SD-342

Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine S. 1715, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes.
 SR-485

Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine S. 2013, to amend section 119 of title 17, United States Code, to extend satellite home viewer provisions.
 SD-226

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.
 Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine combating corruption in the multilateral development banks.
 SD-419

10 a.m.
 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 To hold hearings to examine Commodity Futures Trading Commission regulatory issues.
 SD-106

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 Children and Families Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine causes, research and prevention of premature births.
 SD-430

2 p.m.
 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine prescription drug reimportation.
 SD-430

2:30 p.m.
 Armed Services
 Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine acquisition policy issues in review of the Defense

Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005.
 SR-222

MAY 18

9:30 a.m.
 Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine the way ahead in Iraq.
 SD-419

MAY 19

9:30 a.m.
 Foreign Relations
 To continue hearings to examine the way ahead in Iraq.
 SD-419

10 a.m.
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.
 SD-538

Indian Affairs
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by a hearing to examine S. 1696, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes.
 SR-485

11:30 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
 SD-366

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine S. 2382, to establish grant programs for the development of telecommunications capacities in Indian country.
 SR-485

2:30 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 National Parks Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine S. 1672, to expand the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida, S. 1789 and H.R. 1616, bills to authorize the exchange of certain lands within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for lands owned by the City of Atlanta, Georgia, S. 1808, to provide for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings at historically women's public colleges or universities, S. 2167, to establish the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in the States of Washington and Oregon, and S. 2173, to further the purposes of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000.
 SD-366

SEPTEMBER 21

10 a.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.
 345 CHOB