

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CLAIRE LUKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Claire Luke for over 13 years of dedicated service to the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce as the Executive Director.

Ms. Luke first served the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (CFCC) as Events Coordinator in 1989. At that time, chamber membership was comprised of 250 businesses, and the group held only two events per month. Since then, largely due to Ms. Luke's dedicated efforts and impressive organization, membership has increased to over 850 businesses. Today, 3,500 area business people are able to participate in 7–10 events per month.

For years, Ms. Luke has worked tirelessly on the chamber's behalf. She successfully has overseen coordination of seminars, breakfasts, luncheons, mixers, and 12 active committees. Additionally, she skillfully has directed special events such as the Regional Business Showcase, the Taste of Fairfax, Fall Family Festival, and a golf tournament.

Under Ms. Luke's guidance, the CFCC scholarship, awarded annually to a select number of deserving high school seniors, has gained great recognition. Ms. Luke further contributes to local education by serving on the board of directors for the Margaret Kilpatrick Adams Scholarship Fund.

Ms. Luke also has been incredibly involved in the annual Chocolate Festival, which the CFCC sponsors. She was a member of the founding board for this event and has served on this committee for 14 years. For the past two years, she has served as committee chairman.

Throughout her accomplished career, Ms. Luke has received numerous awards, among them the 1999 ATHENA Award honoring her efforts in fostering business leadership and assistance. Ms. Luke was also admitted into the DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) Hall of Fame for her assistance to Robinson Secondary School with their National Projects. Furthermore, in 1998, Ms. Luke's high standards and extensive contributions led to her selection as the Rotarian of the Year, and also as a Paul Harris Fellow in 1996.

Not only a dedicated community servant, Ms. Luke also is a loving wife and mother of two. While raising her family, she was able to make time to serve on the Family Services Board of Directors, as President of the Officers' Wives Club, and as a volunteer in the Red Cross during her husband's military career in the Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Ms. Luke on her retire-

ment from the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. While I know that she will be greatly missed, her retirement is well deserved. Her significant contributions are much appreciated and greatly admired. I congratulate her on a job well done. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Luke and in wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF KATHLEEN KELLUMS—PRESIDENT OF THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN OF OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kathleen Kellums, as she is named President of the Business and Professional Women of Ohio. Since 1919, Business and Professional Women-USA, has served to support, promote and advance opportunity and equity for all women, in and out of the workplace.

Light years ahead of their time, the Ohio Federation of Business and Professional Women was instated in 1920, the same year that women finally won the right to vote. Today, as in 1920, this agency continues to build on a strong and brilliant foundation of support, education and guidance, focusing on women who were previously denied any opportunity to advance themselves personally or professionally. And even today, as women continue to rise above the stormy waters of gender inequality in the workplace, the Business and Professional Women exists to provide safe passages for women—pathways and bridges of support that help connect professional dreams to professional accomplishments.

A consummate professional in her own right, Kathleen Kellums continues to reflect accomplishment, leadership and tenacity throughout her professional endeavors. Her professional background includes executive positions in both the public and private sectors, and also includes significant community outreach contributions as a committed activist with many organizations, including the Parent Teacher Association and local Jaycee's. Ms. Kellums became a member of the Berea Business and Professional Women (BPW) in 1992, and currently holds the position of President. Her activism and leadership within the BPW has made a significant impact on the lives of many women by opening doors of opportunity and offering guidance, assistance and tangible support.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Kathleen Kellums, as she evolves from President of the Berea Business and Professional Women to President of the Business and Professional Women of Ohio. Her work as a state leader will serve

to uplift the lives of countless Ohio women of all ages, as they journey toward advancing their professional and educational dreams—thereby advancing the progression of our entire community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANGELA CINQUINO

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lifelong service of Mrs. Angela Cinquino. A dedicated civil service employee, Mrs. Cinquino has worked for City of Philadelphia Register of Wills Office for twenty-four years.

Mrs. Cinquino began her career with the City of Philadelphia in January 1980 as a Record Clerk II in the Register of Wills. For the next two and half decades, she provided Philadelphia with exemplary service as a Record Clerk III, Account Associate I, and Receptionist Clerk. In addition to her professional success, Mrs. Cinquino has remained involved in her local community by serving as a committeewoman for the past thirty years and serving as a member of Democratic Women for the past seventeen years.

Mrs. Cinquino will enjoy the fact that retirement allows her to spend more quality time with her wonderful family. I am sure that her husband Joseph, her two children Nicholas and Angela, and her four grandchildren, Nicholas, Noelle, Mia Nicollete, and Santino are all very proud.

Mrs. Cinquino will retire from the City of Philadelphia Register of Wills Office on May 19, 2004. In recognition of her years of service to the Philadelphia community, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate her on her retirement.

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week was Cover the Uninsured Week, I rise today to salute an organization which is working to do just that, working to provide assistance to some of the 44 million Americans who can not afford health insurance today.

Dr. Dana Kuhn, President and Co-founder of Patient Services Incorporated (PSI), is a policy entrepreneur who thinks outside the box on how to provide health insurance coverage for those with chronic and catastrophic illnesses. PSI has successfully found a potential solution to this epidemic problem, which affects 44 million of our fellow Americans.

Since PSI was established in 1989, this national non-profit has worked with struggling

• 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.

families afflicted with such disorders as Hemophilia, Alpha One Antitrypsin Deficiency, Colorectal Cancer and Breast Cancer, Crohn's Disease, and Immune Deficiencies, just to name a few. PSI assists by identifying health insurance policies as well as subsidizing the health insurance premiums and pharmacy copayments for these families. PSI is financially supported through private donations from individuals, pharmaceutical manufacturers, foundations, and other corporations and uses these donations to ensure affordable health insurance coverage for the uninsured and underinsured.

PSI has a 15-year success rate of putting the uninsured and underinsured back to work by providing a bridge from insecurity and disease to one of accessing affordable duality health care therapies. During its 15 years of existence, PSI has helped about 20,000 Americans. The PSI model works to provide Americans with millions of dollars worth of medical care for just 5% of the total cost of care.

PSI saves middle-class families from becoming financially devastated when they have a family member with an expensive chronic illness. It is the only non-profit of its kind providing health insurance premium assistance and pharmacy copayment assistance. In 2002, PSI received a positive Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General Opinion for the work it does with Medicare Part B Copayments, Deductibles, and Medigap Premiums.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to salute Dr. Kuhn and the staff of Patient Services Incorporated for their hard work and resourcefulness in developing a workable solution for the epidemic of uninsured Americans.

H.R. 3722, THE UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, I would like to include an exchange of letters to be included as part of the discussion of H.R. 3722, the Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2004.

Hon. JOE BARTON,
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BARTON: I am writing concerning H.R. 3722, the "Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004," which was introduced on January 21, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over matters concerning Medicare. Sec. 3 of H.R. 3722 waives the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA), and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill.

This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3722, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2004.

Hon. BILL THOMAS,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, 1102
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you for your letter of May 17, 2004 concerning H.R. 3722, the Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004. Although this bill was referred solely to the Committee on Energy and Commerce upon introduction, I will be happy to keep you apprised of the status of this legislation.

As requested, I will include this exchange of correspondence in the Congressional Record on H.R. 3722.

Sincerely,

JOE BARTON,
Chairman.

HONORING SOPHIE R. HOFFMAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF GREAT-
ER WASHINGTON

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sophie R. Hoffman for over two decades of dedicated service to the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, including 2 years as their president.

Sophie R. Hoffman has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Jewish community, advocating Jewish interests, strengthening public support for Israel, building ties with other faith, minority, and ethnic groups and establishing a framework for social action.

While serving the Jewish community, Ms. Hoffman has enhanced the quality of life for those around her. She played a key role in securing over \$2 million in grants for Jewish social service agencies, which provide for vulnerable citizens throughout Greater Washington.

For years, Ms. Hoffman has committed herself to strengthening public support for Israel. Her duties included presenting Cardinal McCarrick with a menorah to honor the heroes and martyrs of the Holocaust. This was then permanently placed on the campus of the Catholic University of America.

Furthermore, the Council has established and developed public school literacy programs under Ms. Hoffman's guidance. She has also been incredibly involved in preserving the principles of religious freedom in public schools and working to nurture a positive environment for the children. Her remarkable organization efforts have helped to create a framework for social action.

Throughout her accomplished career as a dedicated public servant, Ms. Hoffman has

continuously demonstrated her vitality and commitment towards the Greater Washington community. Due to her contributions of time and talent, the diverse society is able to maintain its beauty while evolving to keep pace with the rapidly changing region.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Ms. Hoffman on her retirement from the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. Her significant contributions are much appreciated and greatly admired. I congratulate her on a job well done. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Hoffman and in wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF JOHN DROTLEFF,
CONDUCTOR OF THE WEST
SHORE CHORALE AND ORCHE-
STRA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of John Drotleff—admirable conductor, musician and friend, as he celebrates his Twentieth Anniversary of performing, leading and conducting the West Shore Chorale and Orchestra.

Beyond his exemplary work with the West Shore Chorale, Mr. Drotleff has taught music at several local colleges, middle schools and high schools throughout Ohio—consistently inspiring our youth to attain their personal best and allow their natural musical talents to shine through. Mr. Drotleff was Chairman of Fine Arts at Lakewood High School, and has been a faculty member with Hiram College for the past 6 years, where he conducts the Hiram College Choir and Hiram College Madrigal Singers. At Hiram, Mr. Drotleff teaches choral conducting, music theory and secondary choral methods.

Mr. Drotleff's college ensembles have performed in New York, Boston, Chicago, and Detroit, and most notably, they, have performed at the Kennedy Center and the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Mr. Drotleff has also conducted the Youngstown Symphony Chorus and has served as a guest conductor for many musical groups throughout the northeastern United States.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to Mr. John Drotleff as he celebrates 20 years of leadership, inspiration and guidance as conductor of the West Shore Chorale and Orchestra. His remarkable ability to connect, inspire and uplift every member of his orchestra has significantly raised the level of musical offerings and has significantly increased public interest in every performance of the Chorale. An outstanding conductor, teacher and musical scholar, Mr. John Drotleff's love of music and strong confidence in his charges serves to draw the highest level of excellence from within the heart and soul of each performer. The lyrical and joyous concerto that personifies Mr. John Drotleff's life is a brilliant and treasured gift within our community that connects us through the universal language of music—uplifting our entire community on the wings of a song.

APPLAUDING THE MEN AND
WOMEN WHO KEEP AMERICA
MOVING AND RECOGNIZING NA-
TIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR, for introducing H. Con. Res. 420, which properly applauds the men and women who keep our country moving—the American transportation workers.

There can be no doubt that the transportation sector is the most critical sector of our economy. We cannot produce or sell goods, agricultural products or raw materials if we cannot move them throughout our great land, or ship them overseas. And yet, despite the importance of these workers, they now find themselves under attack from within and without. But, their government has, at best, abandoned them in their hour of need. In some cases, the Federal government has actually joined in—and even led—the assault on their safety, their livelihoods and their rights.

Mr. Speaker, we can never forget that the very first victim on September 11, 2001 was a flight attendant, sliced by a box cutter our lax security measures allowed on board. And yet, three years later, these underpaid and overstressed workers find themselves fighting for proper security training and for safer conditions. Will we ever truly honor the dead of that infamous day as long as these citizens are at risk? And today, two years after it expired, the flight attendants of Southwest Airlines continue to work without a contract, victims of the alliance between management and the National Mediation Board (NMB), the agency responsible for administering the Railway Labor Act (RLA) which governs their work class. Management has refused to offer a new contract after the rejection of woefully inadequate opening offers. However, NMB has refused to declare an impasse, which would allow workers and the Transport Workers Union, which represents them, to move forward in exercising their rights.

And the Southwest Flight attendants are not the only victims of the recalcitrance of the NMB. Despite the fact that the current round of national rail negotiations is well into its fifth year for thousands of workers, the NMB has refused to move the bargaining process along in a timely manner. Specifically, the NMB has refused to “release” the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and the Sheet Metal Workers International Union (SMWIA) from mediation despite the fact that both unions have reached an impasse with management and further talks would be fruitless. It is intolerable for our government to force a rail worker to wait five years for a new collective bargaining agreement.

The NMB, whose three members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the other body, is responsible for providing bargaining and mediation assistance, and fostering productive collective bargaining between labor and management. The NMB’s ability to either advance or delay labor-management talks is a power the agency should use fairly and with great care. The NMB is well known

for touting its own record of having parties reach agreements without resorting to “self-help” such as strikes or lockouts.

In fact, the statute has survived since 1926 because it can work well if implemented fairly. But by failing to act on a release in the JAM and SMWIA case, the NMB is ignoring its own policy of expediting the bargaining and mediation process. Forcing employees and their unions to stay at the table well beyond the point of any productive negotiations frustrates the rights of workers and denies settlements within a reasonable time frame. The problems surrounding these excessive delays have little to do with the RLA, but rather with the manner in which the NMB administers the process. By failing to change the endless cycle of delay in rail bargaining, the NMB is denying basic due process. In other words, justice delayed is justice denied.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to truly honor America’s transportation workers by helping to make them safe on their jobs and secure in their contracts.

BURMA

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, this week, the military dictators in Burma opened a “constitutional convention” whose purported aim is to establish democracy in Burma. Anyone who has followed the situation in Burma knows that the brutal dictators of the State Peace and Democracy Council (SPDC) are the last people who should be guiding the democratic process.

While on the one hand, the SPDC talks of democracy and peace among Burma’s ethnic and political groups, it continues to terrorize these same groups, impress people into forced labor for the military, and imprison those working for democratic change. This constitutional convention is a deception designed to give the perception of democracy while maintaining maximum military control.

While the SPDC organizes its constitutional convention, the legal and duly elected leader of Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi remains under house arrest. Nearly one year ago, the SPDC engineered an unprovoked attack on Aung San Suu Kyi’s motorcade as she traveled throughout Burma spreading her message of freedom and democracy. In the aftermath of the attack, she was taken into custody for her own safety—at least that is what the Burmese military wants us to believe.

Wherever she goes crowds gather to hear her message. Despite the danger of attending these rallies, the Burmese people do not care. Countless Burmese of all ethnic persuasions look to Aung San Suu Kyi as the very heart and soul of the Burmese democracy movement. The credibility and charisma of Aung San Suu Kyi cannot be denied; it cannot be sold; it cannot be bought. It comes only from standing up for what is right.

To be sure, the movement is bigger than one person, but Aung San Suu Kyi has led the forces of democracy in Burma for many years. On many occasions, she could have left Burma behind, but at great personal sacrifice, she has remained. She provides a shining ex-

ample of standing tall and standing firm in the face of relentless opposition and hardship. And although she has been in prison or under house arrest for 9 of the last 15 years, her commitment to freedom, democracy, and a better life in Burma has never wavered and never faltered. She is the public face of thousands of men, women, and children who have suffered unspeakably harsh conditions and who remain prisoners in their own country.

As leader of the National League for Democracy, it would seem natural that Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD Vice Chairman Tin Oo, who is also in the hands of Burma’s merciless thugs, would attend the convention. Shamefully, the SPDC has refused to release either freedom fighter before, during, or after the convention.

Equally regrettable is that the SPDC has refused to allow NLD offices to reopen around the country. The SPDC has also failed to clarify procedures of discussion and has limited the parameters for discussion. The convention is being held in grim isolation with limited access by outside observers. In short, the SPDC is so tightly controlling the convention that it would seem that the participants can only rubber stamp the SPDC’s agenda. That is not democracy; that is dictatorship.

The National League for Democracy is boycotting the convention, and I support that decision. Participation in such an obvious fraud can only undermine all for which the NLD is working.

Democracy in Burma is a goal that cannot be compromised. The United States believes in that goal. American sanctions on Burma have had a profoundly positive impact over the last year. Reports coming from inside Burma and from groups knowledgeable about the situation in that country have praised the tough stance the United States has taken against the dictatorship in Rangoon.

Our tough stance is in danger of faltering unless the sanctions are renewed during this Congress. H.J. Res. 95, which has 46 bipartisan co-sponsors, approves the renewal of American sanctions and show our continuing commitment to freedom, liberty, and emancipation from tyranny. I urge all of my colleagues to fight for the passage of this important resolution.

If the daylight of freedom feels like it’s a long way off, it will be even longer unless the United States stands side by side with Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD, and the people of Burma struggling under the heavy yoke of oppression and cruelty.

HONORING THE SPIRIT OF CUBAN
FREEDOM

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, 102 years ago, Cuba achieved its hard-fought independence from the tyranny of Spanish imperialism. This moment of triumph and relief ushered in a new era of freedom, a republican age. The ideals of self-government had trumped despotic rule, and all were captivated by the promise of enduring liberty. May 20, 1902 immediately assumed a profound significance for the Cuban nation, melding a fierce

passion for independence with a zeal for democracy. Indeed, May 20, paralleling America's own 4th of July, celebrates the same democratic fervor that Americans fondly recall whenever we reflect on our own sorely won freedom.

Unfortunately, the promise of a lasting and viable democracy would never be fully realized in Cuba. As we know all too well, the veil of "freedom" Fidel Castro promised with his Revolution soon descended into one of the worst tyrannies in modern history. July 26, a date sanctified by Castro as a symbol of his own political triumph, replaced May 20 as the new national holiday, wiping away all memories of democratic hope.

The Cuban people watched in stunned silence as they witnessed the dismantling of their republic and the institution of Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism. Soon the Soviet juggernaut had extended its iron fist across the ocean, marking the dawn of crushing religious, political, and artistic repression and the emergence of a culture of fear, theft, stagnation, and moral bankruptcy. After suffering countless state-sanctioned crimes throughout the decades, the indomitable will and courage of the Cuban people keep the hope of freedom and democratic change alive as an achievable goal.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly serve the cause of democracy as a United States Congresswoman, and continue the fight against the Castro regime and the oppression of the Cuban people. Ever cognizant of Cuba's plight, I feel compelled to call this oppression to your attention this day, May 20, 2004, a day representing freedom, and reminding us all of the tyranny that has usurped freedom.

Mr. Speaker, this 20th of May, liberty has once again eluded the Cuban people. Yet, I know that soon May 20th will once again stand as an affirmation of Cuban democracy, as a new birth of freedom, as a celebration of victory over dictatorship. Positive change will no doubt come, and we work toward it every day. I unite my thoughts and prayers with the Cuban people, and ask them to believe: a true 20th of May celebration is on the horizon—Cuba will once again be free.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS JESSE BURYJ

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated soldier and citizen from my district in Ohio who gave his life defending our country. Private First Class Jesse Buryj (pronounced booty) died protecting a U.S. Army checkpoint in Iraq.

A graduate from McKinley High School in Canton, Ohio, he was a member of the marching band all four years and an outstanding citizen to his community. Growing up he served as a member of the Canton City Police Youth Corps with the lifelong dream of becoming a police officer in his hometown. Upon learning the age requirement to become a police officer was twenty-one years, he decided to join the army to serve his country until he could join the police force.

Pfc. Jesse Buryj served as a Military Police Officer for the Army and displayed great cour-

age and dedication during his tour of duty. He died saving the lives of three of his comrades in Karbala, Iraq. He will be remembered as a hero to those men in Iraq and to all who knew him.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to his mother, father, sister, wife and all of his family and friends who are now mourning the loss of his life.

I pray for the safe return of all of our servicemen and women and thank them for the sacrifice they make every day defending our country.

HONORING COLONEL DEAN E.
DETAR USAF (RET.) FOR HIS
HEROISM AND LEADERSHIP

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Dean E. DeTar of Azle, Texas, for his combat heroism in Vietnam, and his leadership as National Commander of the Legion of Valor for the year 2003–2004.

The Legion of Valor of the United States of America, Inc. traces its heritage to the founding of the Medal of Honor Legion in 1890 by Medal of Honor recipients from the Civil War. In later years, recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, and Air Force Cross were made eligible for this elite organization, and those medals were authorized by Congress for extraordinary heroism in combat against enemy forces.

COL DeTar received the Air Force Cross for his extraordinary heroism in Vietnam on March 21, 1970, while leading a force of twenty-nine aircraft against one of the most heavily defended enemy locations in Southeast Asia to successfully rescue a downed airman.

COL DeTar's other U.S. decorations include the Silver Star; Legion of Merit; Distinguished Flying Cross with five oak leaf clusters; Air Medal with fifteen oak leaf clusters; Purple Heart Medal; and Air Force Commendation Medal, plus numerous USAF service medals and skill badges; and foreign decorations. COL DeTar will conclude his term of office as National Commander of the Legion of Valor by presiding over that distinguished organization's 2004 annual meeting to be held in Fort Worth, May 19–23.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to commend COL Dean E. DeTar to my colleagues for his outstanding patriotism during his exemplary military career which included combat heroism in Vietnam. Since his retirement from active duty, he has shown devotion to the membership of the Legion of Valor and leadership as National Commander during the past year.

HONORING COLONEL FRANK S.
VAJDA, MASON DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS
MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Frank S. Vajda on winning the Mason District Council of Civic Associations' Man of the Year award. This special honor is truly well-deserved.

Colonel Vajda first relocated to Fairfax County following his retirement from the United States Air Force after 28 years. He quickly became active in both volunteer and community activities, demonstrating a strong commitment to improving Fairfax County. Currently a member of the Court of Camelot Civic Association, Colonel Vajda has also served the organization as president. Moreover, Colonel Vajda founded and continues to orchestrate Camelot's annual holiday charity fund drive in support of the Children's Hospital.

With community safety as a top priority, Colonel Vajda has served on the Camelot Neighborhood Watch Group for the past 15 years. As the organization's current coordinator, Colonel Vajda has tirelessly upheld the highest standards of care in the nation's oldest continuously active watch group. Furthermore, he organized and promoted the first park watch group at Pine Ridge, a local neighborhood park. Stemming from Mr. Vajda's efforts, the Park Authority, the Fairfax County Police, and the Rose Purple have effectively established the county-wide PARKWATCH system.

Since 1997, Colonel Vajda has notably contributed to the Friends of Mason District Park as a member of the Steering Committee. His other efforts include acting as a park volunteer for the Mason District Park Festival, the Spring Egg Hunt, and the Spotlight by Starlight summer concert series. Colonel Vajda's actions have ensured that all of these events were carried out in a safe and secure environment.

In 1998, Colonel Vajda was selected as the Mason District Representative to the Public Safety and Park Bond Referendum Committee. On this committee, his duties included speaking commitments informing county voters as to the purpose of the bonds during many speaking commitments. In 2001, Colonel Vajda extended the scope of responsibilities upon his appointment to the Park Authority Board. He continues to maintain the highest standards of service and dedication to this group.

Throughout his accomplished career of service, Colonel Vajda has received numerous awards including the 1998 Elly Doyle Park Service Award on the Pine Ridge Park Green Team.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Colonel Vajda for his extensive service to the Mason District. His contributions and efforts are much appreciated and greatly admired. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Vajda on his award and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I wholly support an immigration policy designed to enhance the economic, social and cultural well-being of the United States of America. I am looking forward to working on immigration policy as a member of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims. I intend to carry out the responsibility for crafting the immigration and naturalization policy that was delegated to Congress by our Constitution.

Immigrants have made, and will continue to make, a valuable contribution to our Nation. I will work to develop an immigration policy that aids in the assimilation of newcomers by ensuring that the United States does not admit more immigrants than it can reasonably accommodate. Assimilation is valuable to immigrants who benefit from our shared American culture of personal responsibility, freedom and patriotism. The values shared by our civilization, founded on a heritage of western civilization, religious freedom and free enterprise capitalism, serve immigrants and native born alike. I am concerned that the recent rise in immigration levels in this country will make it difficult for newcomers to assimilate and find jobs. We must ensure cultural continuity for our great Nation.

As Americans, we should promote a naturalization process that promotes American values, the responsibilities of citizenship and our constitutional principles. We must be careful to admit only as many newcomers as we can accommodate with jobs so that our society will not be burdened by unemployed immigrants.

Candidates for naturalization should be proficient in the English language. Not only will English proficiency help newcomers attain better paying jobs, it also provides a means of communication with all Americans. For this reason, I have recently introduced the English Language Unity Act of 2003, H.R. 997 to declare English the official language of the United States.

Finally, as a sovereign nation, we must control our borders. We must ensure that terrorists do not infiltrate the United States. We must tighten and strengthen border control efforts so that illegal aliens do not enter our country. I support elimination of the visa lottery which gives randomly selected individuals visas, when many law abiding would-be immigrants are waiting to have their applications approved. I am also concerned about the enforcement of immigration laws within our borders.

I hope that this Congress will be vigilant in our oversight of the enforcement of existing immigration laws and make necessary changes to existing laws.

RECOGNIZING KATE A. SCANNELL, MD FOR HER ARTICLE "DELIRIOUSLY DUMBFOUNDING DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS"

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kate A. Scannell, MD for bringing to light many of the shortcomings of the Medicare drug discount card program. Dr. Scannell is not only a respected geriatrician in the Bay Area, she is also a noted medical ethicist and author. With years of experience delivering services to Medicare beneficiaries, there is no one more qualified to pass judgment on the Medicare drug card program than Dr. Scannell. I appreciate her honesty, and willingness to stand up and inform people in my district about the confusing and wasteful drug card policy.

It is with pleasure that I submit the attached article, "Deliriously Dumbfounding Drug Discount Cards," for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The article originally appeared in the May 16, 2004 edition of *The Argus* (Fremont, CA).

DELIRIOUSLY DUMBFOUNDING DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

(By Kate Scannell)

Medicare officials call it the "drug discount card"—a code phrase referring to a small piece of paper that has the capacity to blow up your mind and destroy your sanity. These "drug discount cards" or "DDCs"—also known as "deliriously dumbfounding cards"—are supposed to offer pharmaceutical discounts between 10 to 25 percent to Medicare enrollees who have no prescription drug coverage. However:

The DDCs were launched last week when the federal government initiated its new "discount drug program" or "DDP"—otherwise known as "Doing a Darn Pittance" about outlandishly high drug costs. While the official stated mission of the DDP is to make drugs more affordable for elderly and disabled Medicare recipients, in practice the system is cumbersome, confusing and inefficient.

The new program also smells like a political ploy during an election year. By giving Medicare enrollees a card to make it appear as though they had some control over out-of-control drug costs, the DDP functions to distract everyone from the root causes of excessively high drug prices: profit-driven pharmaceutical companies that wildly overcharge for medications, and a federal government that can't (or won't) help to control drug prices.

Here's how the new card system and drug program operate. The DDP requires that elderly or disabled Medicare enrollees first try to obtain "the card." Here we encounter our first daunting hurdle, in that there exists not one but many cards from which to choose. Medicare enrollees must select a single card from among at least 40 companies and organizations that have been approved by the Department of Health and Human Services to distribute them.

Fortunately, all our elderly and disabled Medicare patients are tech-savvy, and they own personal computers equipped with Internet services which they can navigate freely for the necessary comparison shopping.

Those Medicare patients will also want to print out Excel spreadsheets to help them sort out the fine details, because each card

provides different savings on different medications. And it would be wise to keep a copy of the spreadsheet in a readily accessible location, because the companies can change the prices of those drugs at any time.

I have heard nothing but disappointment, confusion, frustration and anxiety voiced by Medicare enrollees who are trying to make sense of the president's drug card program. Its inhospitable and labyrinthine structure defies the will and the capacity of people to negotiate it.

To make matters worse, the new Medicare Web site (www.medicare.gov) unveiled last month by the Bush administration contains substantial inaccuracies and errors. Proposing to offer helpful information about the DDP and drug price comparisons, the site was found to be riddled with erroneous information and incorrect prices. For example, a spokeswoman for Walgreen's reported that about half their drug prices were listed inaccurately. To rub more salt into the wound, the prices of drugs from Canada tended to run below those offered by the Medicare discount cards.

Finally, millions of Medicare patients will spend many precious hours trying to choose the best card and to decipher the DDP when the stunning fact remains that the entire program is scheduled to end in January 2006. At that point, we will be under the thumb of the disastrous Medicare Drug Bill—the subject of my first installment of "Weapons of Medicare Destruction." In that piece, I wrote about the sweetheart deals our government made with the politically powerful pharmaceutical companies. Most notable and mind-boggling was our government's forfeiting its right to bargain with drug companies for price reductions on the drugs it offered through the Medicare program.

Further illustrating the unhealthy collusion between our government and the pharmaceutical industry, last week the *New York Times* reported that employees at companies that the Bush administration certified to distribute the drug discount cards already contributed almost \$1.8 million to Republican candidates in this year's election. This included a \$275,000 contribution to Bush's reelection campaign.

The drug discount card system exacts a phenomenal waste of effort and time and money that would have been better spent in a more cost-efficient manner by creating direct subsidies to Medicare recipients—like automatic rebate cards.

Still, we must be wary of any surface deceit offering "discounts" because it only masks the real problem: unregulated pharmaceutical costs that are driving our seniors into poverty or to Canada.

The fact is that "discounts" are easily "discounted" by the drug companies.

They can bump up the price of any drug and wipe out the effect of any apparent discount.

I urge everyone to become "Armchair Activists" and to contact their legislators by phone or e-mail to voice concern about prescription drug costs and our government's conflicted relationship with the drug industry. This is not a time to be "discounted."

HONORING CORPORAL WILLIAM A. SYDNOR

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Corporal William A.

Sydnor Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3398, located in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, on its 55 years of community involvement and dedication.

Since its beginning in 1939, Post #3398 has represented the efforts of an entire community. The building itself has changed several times, but the underlying spirit has never wavered.

Post #3398 has a long history of helping the community. The Post's involvement includes sponsoring several annual community events such as the Children's Halloween Party, the Senior Citizens Dinner, the Easter Egg Hunt, and Memorial Day Services. In addition, each year Post #3398 presents the William C. Purcell Scholarship to students planning to attend college. The Post now has four registered service officers to take care of the needs of veterans, widows, and the families of veterans.

Today the Corporal William A. Sydnor Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3398 has grown from 36 Charter Members to over 250 members, and approximately 75 Ladies Auxiliary members. I wish the members of Post #3398 continued success and commend them for 55 years of service.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
LANCE CORPORAL JEFFREY C.
BURGESS, USMC

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lance Corporal Jeffrey C. Burgess, USMC, who was killed on March 25 in an enemy attack near Fallujah, Iraq. He served his country with courage and dignity. There is no greater valor than sacrifice in the name of our freedom and national defense. LCPL Burgess and his family will always be in our prayers.

With deepest sympathies, Mr. Speaker, I submit to my colleagues this deeply moving letter written to LCPL Burgess by his mother, Michelle Shea, which was read at his funeral on April 5:

Dear Jeff,

I thought you might want to know what's happened since you left this world for a better place. As usual, life continues on, but oh SO DIFFERENTLY now. Just like you, I am wounded also. The mail still comes each day at the same time, but it now brings letters and cards full of comfort and love from many friends and family.

Jordan still comes up each morning and has his breakfast with me, delivering a big, dimpled smile and a big "HI" comes out of his voice, welcoming in another day with his Nana and Papa.

The other morning before he came upstairs, I was by myself wondering if I might get some kind of spiritual sign that you were okay and asking myself why I couldn't remember some simple things about you. Maybe that's the brain's way of protecting a grieving parent? I don't know.

The church asked me to think of saying some words at your service or maybe having a favorite hymn or song played. I tried, Jeff, but nothing would come to me. I tried ever so hard to concentrate in my quiet morning time alone, feeling so frustrated with myself—when I realized that my concentration

was being disrupted by all the birds that were chirping from the trees in the backyard. I went to the back door to investigate why they were so worked up, only to find just ONE BIRD. There was a bright red CARDINAL perched on the highest limb trying over and over to get his message out loud and clear—over and over he sang to me.

Returning to my coffee and note pad, I realized that I had gotten the message. It was in the form of a familiar song, but I didn't know the title or artist. So, I sent Jen to the Mall in search of a song containing the words that I could think of, at the time. She returned with nothing, but on returning home she retrieved her mail, which contained some CD's she had previously ordered. Watching her open her package, I saw a confused look on her face, because she couldn't understand why TIME LIFE had sent her a 60's CD, when she'd ordered a 70's CD. All of a sudden there was a look of amazement on her face as she realized that the CD in her hand contained the very song we'd been looking for. Your song for us. We immediately played it, listening to the lyrics and realized that this was the message that you wanted to share with everyone. So, I'm carrying out your wishes, Jeff, and will make sure that it's heard by all.

Several more mornings have come and gone since you left and you still come to me each morning, in the form of a Cardinal perched high in the branches of our tree outside and singing your song. I feel better now, knowing you are still with me in the beautiful bird. I now know that you are okay.

In closing, I want you to know that you touched so many of us in so many ways, just in the short time you were here with us. And, although, I won't ever be the same person I was before, I'll go on thankful that you were once mine and that we'll be together again some day in heaven.

I'm gonna sign off now so everyone can hear that beautiful song that is the message from you. I'm sure they'll get what you are trying to say, but to be sure, I had it printed in the program for you.

I love you, Jeff; take care and be forever safe and at peace knowing your brother Marines will finish the job for you.

Love and Kisses,
Mom

GET TOGETHER
(The Youngbloods)

Love is but a song to sing
Fear's the way we die
You can make the mountains ring
Or make the angels cry
Though the bird is on the wing
And you may not know why
Come on people now
Smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another right now
Some may come and some may go
We shall surely pass
When the one that left us here
Returns for us at last
We are but a moment's sunlight
Fading in the grass

*Come on people now
Smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another right now

*(Repeat)
*(Repeat)

If you hear the song I sing
You will understand (listen!)
You hold the key to love and fear
All in your trembling hand
Just one key unlocks them both
It's there at your command

*(Chorus)

*(Repeat)
*(Repeat)

HONORING TROOPER FIRST CLASS
ANTHONY JONES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay special tribute to Maryland State Trooper Anthony Jones who was killed last week while on duty assisting another trooper. Trooper First Class (Tfc.) Jones every day exemplified the service and sacrifice that we honor in our law enforcement officers. As the recipient of awards for his valor and bravery, and as the anticipated recipient of the "Top Cop" award from the College Park Barracks this month, Trooper Jones demonstrated a commitment to public service and a sincere dedication to protecting and serving our community.

Tfc. Jones joined the state police after retiring from the U.S. Air Force in 1998. He spent his entire police career working as a road patrol trooper. He was on patrol when he stopped shortly after 2 a.m. to assist another trooper working at the scene of a single-vehicle crash in Prince George's County. Investigators said Jones crossed the four-lane highway on foot to remove a tire that was part of the accident debris and was making his way back across the road—using a flashlight to warn oncoming traffic—when he was struck and killed.

Every day, law enforcement officials like Trooper Jones risk their lives in dangerous situations on our highways and roads to protect the citizens who travel along our roadways. Last week we joined together in commemorating Trooper Jones and all of the law enforcement officers whose brave deeds led them to make the ultimate sacrifice, or left them disabled.

Trooper Jones is the 39th Maryland trooper to die in the line of duty, and we say a special prayer for his family, friends, and fellow officers of the Maryland State Police. The Joneses must know that a grateful nation mourns their loss and shares their pain.

We honor Tfc. Jones for his service to our country and to his community. I am confident that he will long be remembered with the utmost gratitude and respect. He willingly answered the call to duty, sacrificing his own safety for the safety and security of his community. We shall never forget that sacrifice and will bear witness to future generations the honor and courage Tfc. Jones exhibited as he served the State of Maryland.

Although we don't often thank them for it, officers like Trooper Jones help protect our most cherished rights as laid out by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence: the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We owe these fine and hard working people a great deal for their contribution to our freedom and security.

The words of John F. Kennedy strike a chord this week, "a nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." As these valiant men and women died because they made it their duty to protect and serve, it is our duty to honor and remember them for their selfless contribution to our communities.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD MARTIN
CHASE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant achievements of Howard Martin Chase, the principal of Riviera Elementary School in Kelseyville, California.

Howard Martin Chase earned his Bachelors of Arts and Elementary Teaching Credential from California State University, Chico. Anxious to educate and serve, after graduation Mr. Chase became an elementary teacher in the Fairfield-Suison Unified School District.

Mr. Chase returned to school to pursue a postgraduate degree. He received his Administrative Services Credential in 1984 from California State University, Sacramento. He went on to serve as Principal at Kelseyville Primary School, Gard St. Elementary School and Riviera Elementary School. In 2003, he earned his Masters Degree in Education from Ashwood University.

It is not surprising that Mr. Chase is also very active in his community outside of his duties as principal. He has served as a board member of the Lake County Red Cross, acted as president of the Kelseyville Park Association, is a founding member of the Kelseyville Quality Educational Foundation and has served as chairperson for numerous committees for the Kelseyville School District.

Mr. Chase has also been involved in many fundraising events within Lake County. Through his efforts as an auctioneer, he helped raise over \$1.5 million dollars for charities, schools and many nonprofit groups. He established the first Educational-Business Partnership in Lake County. This partnership between Lake County Schools and Konocti Harbor Resort and Spa has resulted in over \$600,000 being donated to local schools.

Mr. Chase has already received several awards of recognition. The California State Senate named Mr. Chase the California Educator of the Year in 1996, and he was named Man of the Year for Lake County in March of 2004.

Mr. Chase is devoted to his family. He and his wife Pat have been married for over 20 years. They have one child, Jessica, and two grandchildren, Jenee and Aliyah. After the passing of his mother, Mr. Chase placed a sign in front of the school in her memory that says, "Welcome To A Place Where Everyone Is Special."

Mr. Speaker, because of the many contributions Howard Chase has made to his community, it is proper for us to honor him today as he moves on to his new position as superintendent of North County Joint Union School District in Hollister, California, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION
MISSES THE BOAT ON RISING
GAS PRICES

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, an article in today's Washington Post, entitled "Bush's Handling of Gas Costs Criticized" by Jonathan Weisman, reports that not only Democrats, but also the President and Vice-President's former associates in the oil and gas industry are growing more critical of the Administration's inaction and lack of attention to the rising cost of gasoline. "The average guy on the street is getting killed because this administration does not care," said John Meade Huntsman, founder of the largest privately held chemicals manufacturing corporation in the U.S.

While I did not hold high hopes for the Bush Administration in general, I certainly thought that with two former oil executives running the country, the one thing they could get right would be the supply of affordable gasoline. But instead, America is heading into a long, hot summer of higher prices for the gasoline we use to get to work and to go on vacation. After all, this was an issue George W. Bush promised to make a high priority during his 2000 campaign for the presidency.

But, apparently, as with so many other promises, the President did not mean what he said about meeting the needs of Americans who depend on affordable gas prices to find work, get to work and provide for their families.

In March of this year, according to the American Automobile Association, the average price for a gallon of regular gasoline in West Virginia had increased to \$1.72. At that time, I asked Attorney General John Ashcroft and Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to launch an immediate investigation into whether price fixing is the cause behind skyrocketing gasoline prices. Now, less than 2 months later, the price has risen 27-cents to an average price of \$1.99. One year ago, the average price was \$1.54—that's a 50-cent increase over the last 12 months. This steep jump in price is severely affecting my constituents in West Virginia. Today, I add my voice to Senator ROBERT C. BYRD's request that the Federal Trade Commission review whether consumers are being unfairly squeezed.

So far, the Administration has done precious little to address the surge in oil prices. This past week, the price of oil reached a 13-year high. And these prices will continue to rise as fears and uncertainties rise over the Administration's ill-planned "regime change" in Iraq. Members of Congress have called on the Administration to suspend delivery of oil in-kind to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and to bring greater pressure to bear on OPEC to increase oil supplies.

These near-term actions would have some beneficial effect. In the end, however, the Nation requires a serious, workable energy strategy. As Ranking member of the Resources Committee, I can say with confidence that neither the House nor the Senate has developed such legislation. Despite the President's continued call for an energy bill, his Energy Information Administration has concluded that a number of the provisions in the energy bills

currently before Congress will have only a negligible effect on energy production, consumption or prices.

Certainly, there is a serious need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil sources. However, enacting legislation to open the ANWR or other environmentally-sensitive areas in the Rocky Mountains is not the answer. Instead, we should focus our efforts on developing alternative fuels and strategies. For instance, with an increased investment in energy efficiency, we can meet more of our transportation and other needs through the development of coal, renewable and other resources.

CONGRATULATING THE TYLER
STREET BOYS TRACK TEAM

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tyler Street Boys Track Team of Dallas, on their 2-A State Title. The Crusaders upset the two-time defending champions, Muenster Sacred Heart, to capture the title.

The Tyler Street Relay Teams won both the 4x200 and 4x400 relays, no doubt the result of hard work throughout the season. The Tyler street track team also finished in the top three positions in the field events, including a first place finish in the shot put.

This year's championship team includes members: Bobby Lewis, Darrian Sanders, Daunte Borden, Jared Carter, Cshammah Reed, E.J. Rusher, Richard Solis, Britt Jones, Austin Albutis, Freddy Holland, Nicholas Wright, Cjaborne Reed, and Joshua Carter. This year's team is coached by Walter Favors.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Tyler Street Track team on their championship and also on a great season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 17, 2004, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 177, 178, and 179. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 177 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 420, Recognizing National Transportation Week; rollcall vote 178 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 423, Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds; and rollcall vote 179, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended to H. Con. Res. 403, Condemning the Government of the Republic of Sudan for Its Attacks Against Innocent Civilians.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 177, 178, and 179.

SECTION 8 HOUSING FLEXIBLE
VOUCHER PROPOSAL**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the administration's proposed restructuring of the Section 8 Housing Program, particularly in regard to the block grant funding proposal, which is especially important to low-income men and women in my home state of New Jersey.

The Section 8 Housing Program currently assists two million individuals including elderly citizens, persons with disabilities, and low-income working families to meet their housing needs. The proposed Section 8 restructuring will leave states and local public housing authorities starved of the necessary financial resources they need to keep up with the demand for housing. Local housing authorities will be forced to either substantially raise rent or cut the number of vouchers distributed, severely hampering the program's effectiveness in helping Americans afford a safe and secure place to live.

Nationally, the Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that proposed changes to the Section 8 Housing Program will lead to the elimination of 600,000 vouchers by 2009, which equals thirty percent of all vouchers now in use. In 2005 alone an estimated 250,000 families could lose their housing assistance, including 7,181 families in New Jersey. For example, in Fiscal Year 2005, the Jersey City Housing Authority, located in my district, will face an expected \$3,117,611 in funding reductions resulting in an estimated cut of 351 currently assisted families. The Housing Authority of Bergen County, also located within my district, expects a funding cut of \$4,056,468, resulting in 434 families currently receiving assistance to lose their vouchers.

While losses such as these could be devastating to many families, several of my colleagues have argued the proposed restructuring is necessary in part to counteract escalating costs of the Section 8 Housing Program. Indeed, the cost of the Section 8 voucher program has increased, but these increases have been reasonable, legislatively driven, and permanent. Over half of the growth in cost has resulted from Congressional decisions to increase the number of families the Section 8 Housing Program assists, often as a result of ending other federal public housing initiatives. Another 37 percent of the growth has resulted from an increasing gap between housing costs and the earnings of low-income families. In addition, the program has expanded because of efforts to improve its efficiency; the share of authorized vouchers rose from 90.5 to 96 percent between 2001 and 2003. Cutting the funding would, therefore, punish the program for more effectively achieving its objectives. Furthermore, the actual Section 8 Housing Program costs have risen at a low annual rate of only four percent, and the Congressional Budget Office expects future growth to slow markedly due to the cooling of the housing market, with an expected small 1.8 percent growth in fiscal year 2005.

Studies have shown that a large percentage of low-income families and individuals spend

more than half of their income on housing, severely inhibiting their ability to meet other basic needs. Affordable housing is the foundation of economic self sufficiency, the loss of which is a barrier to employment that affects children, families, and entire communities. Cutting housing funding and reducing opportunities for American families to live in safe housing, will directly correlate with escalating costs in federal spending for welfare, crime, health, and homelessness in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we guarantee the Section 8 Housing Program an adequate level of funding by rejecting the administration's proposal. I hope that my colleagues will join me in taking preemptive action against escalating financial and social costs in the future by providing stable housing for our working poor today.

STATEMENT HONORING PFC. JOHN
S. AMOS II**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding American, a true patriot, and a hero to his country, Army Pfc. John D. Amos II. Pfc. Amos died Sunday, April 4, 2004 while bravely serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom for the Army's 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks. He bravely sacrificed his life to ensure the safety of his fellow soldiers, the Iraqi people, and the very idea of freedom throughout the world.

Pfc. John Amos' unit was sent to the Tamin area of Kirkuk to set up a vehicle inspection point near the police academy. When his unit arrived, residents were conducting a demonstration in the streets surrounding the academy. With the streets cluttered by protesters, Amos' unit began inspecting vehicles and groups of people before they moved through the crowd. Amos was walking in a line of six soldiers when a car attempting to clear the checkpoint exploded. Pfc. Amos was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Pfc. Amos, a native of Griffith, Indiana, graduated from Valparaiso High School in 2002. Throughout his life, John always had the urge to protect his fellow man. In September 2001, John witnessed a fatal car accident. He tried to help the victim, called 911 and waited for help to arrive. The victim didn't make it and it affected John deeply. It's one of the reasons that prompted him to join the U.S. Army. After the terrorist attacks in 2001, John felt especially compelled to defend the United States.

John Amos is survived by his mother, Susan Amos, his father, John Amos, his sister, Rebecca Amos, two half-brothers, Hunter and Tyler Amos, his grandfather Hank Amos, and grandparents Doug and Lucy Whitehead. John's spirit and compassion will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the memory of Pfc. John Amos, and in sending our heartfelt condolences to his

family. John is a hero, not only to his family and friends, but also to Northwest Indiana and to the United States of America. He fought bravely for the ideals of freedom, truth, and liberty, and as our nation mourns his loss, let us honor his life and his dedication to the service of his country.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BROWN v.
BOARD OF EDUCATION**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the historical Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* of May 17, 1954. The struggle against racial discrimination did not end with this decision nor has it ended today. Racial segregation in public places like restaurants and buses was still legal after 1954 and the *Brown II* decision of May 31, 1955 was a step backwards by allowing Southern district courts to integrate public schools "with all deliberate speed." But by declaring the segregation of public schools unconstitutional, the Supreme Court took a first step towards making the United States a society that lived up to its ideals of social equality, democracy and freedom.

The future of every country depends to a large extent on its children. Social values are conveyed to our youngest generation mainly by their parents, but also by their schools. Racial hatred and intolerance are products of a lack of knowledge and the fear of the unknown. Only schools that are racially mixed will increase children's understanding of each other, of other cultures and backgrounds. But today our country is drifting into the wrong direction. Our schools are more racially intermixed than in 1954 but less than in 1968, when our great national leader Martin Luther King was assassinated. While 43 percent of all black youngsters attended predominantly white schools in 1988, this figure has fallen to only 30 percent today. And Hispanic students are even more segregated than African Americans. My home state New York is among the most segregated states in the country and my district is particularly hardly hit. Minority students in my district still attend schools that perform worse than predominantly white schools.

While we should celebrate the historical event of the 1954 Supreme Court decision, let us keep in mind that racial discrimination and social inequality still exist in our country. Our education system still does not offer equal opportunities to all young people. Many schools are chronically underfunded. Let us celebrate the achievements of the civil rights movement in the past, but not forget that the biggest challenges still lie ahead.

MEMORIAL DAY

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, shortly, we will be celebrating Memorial Day, a sacred

time of remembrance where we pay tribute to the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives to protect the freedoms we hold so very dear.

I believe that it is especially fitting at this time to share a poem written by my constituent, Mr. Cordell A. Dickey of Roanoke, Virginia. Mr. Dickey is a veteran of World War II where his unit was part of the division that invaded Guadalcanal on August 8, 1942. The poem was written in the Southwest Pacific in 1943 to honor a fallen friend, Hiram DiAlfordi, who was killed in New Caledonia in 1942.

The commemoration of Memorial Day will likely be a trying time filled with vivid memories of the son or daughter, husband or wife, mom or dad who will never come home. It is the hope of Mr. Dickey that his poem will bring comfort to the family of those who sacrificed for a cause greater than one's self.

LOST VIGILANCE

(By Cordell A. Dickey)

Twas here I stepped, here I fell, and here
On this far, unfriendly shore,
A dream was lost and shattered forever:
Leaving only fragments scattered on the
sands.

To you who loved my life:
Whose heart knew pain when earth's cold
bosom

Embraced and held me fast;
I would not have you grieve too much!
Sing no more sad songs for me . . .

Wipe away your last falling tear.
For when I quietly slipped into the void,
To keep with destiny my final rendezvous;
I did not fear to face Infinity,
Or plunge into a dark abyss.

To you who still have life:
Whose shattered spirit needs a healing balm
To make you whole again;
I would that you should know much joy;
Find new faith and hope again!

This above all:
Learn to laugh and sing again . . .
The world is filled with beauty.

COSPONSORSHIP OF HOMEOWNER-
SHIP TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, the low-income housing tax credit created by Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, commonly known as the rental credit, is responsible for the production of more than one million affordable housing units valued at over \$100 billion since 1987. Because of its tremendous success, the Bush administration and a bipartisan group of Members have proposed the creation of a new credit modeled on the rental credit and targeted at creating affordable housing for purchase by low- and moderate-income families. Concerns have been raised, however, that a homeownership credit, not properly crafted, could have unintended, negative consequences on the highly successful rental credit and on the very low-income Americans who benefit from the housing produced by it.

Until today, these concerns have led me to withhold my support from H.R. 839, the "Renewing the Dream Tax Credit Act," which was introduced early last year by the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN and the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN. I have decided,

however, that despite my continued reservations, I will add my name as a cosponsor today because the goal of increasing affordable homeownership opportunities is one I strongly support and a well-developed tax incentive could play an important part in that effort. Of course, I will work to ensure that the matters detailed below are considered carefully as the bill moves forward in Congress.

My prime concern is that the legislation when enacted not adversely affect the existing rental credit. How might this happen? Put simply, in the event that rental credits are less attractive than homeownership credits to equity investors, pricing for rental credits may fall and the program may be less effective in meeting the demand for high quality, affordable housing.

In addition, it is worth emphasizing that the affordable homeownership tax credit should be utilized in communities where a new subsidy is clearly needed to enable homeownership. In some parts of the country, the supply of new subsidized homes resulting from the credit's creation may endanger the economics of existing multifamily rental properties and cause the value of homes presently owned by low- and moderate-income households—the successful result of current affordable housing programs—to fall. We must be exceptionally wary of this possibility.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, despite the reservations I have raised that deserve continued analysis and deliberation, I am pleased today to add my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 839. Increasing affordable homeownership opportunities for my constituents and families across America has long been a top priority for me and this proposal can certainly help us work toward that goal.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMER-
GENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, while I inadvertently missed the final vote on H.R. 3722, Roll Call Vote #182, I would have voted in favor of the resolution.

The Medicare and Prescription Drug Reform bill last year appropriated \$1 billion over four years to pay state and local health facilities for the costs they incur in treating illegal aliens. Without denying health care to anyone appearing in the emergency room for treatment, H.R. 3722 would have required that local hospitals turn over information to the Department of Homeland Security about the illegal aliens they treat, as a condition of being reimbursed under the new program.

If hospitals chose not to do so, they would still be free to continue treating undocumented aliens. They simply wouldn't receive payment for these services.

Although H.R. 3722 was not approved, as a member of the House Immigration Reform Caucus, I will continue to work with others in Congress toward meaningful solutions to curb the trend of illegal migration to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. HABUSH

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Robert L. Habush. On May 24, 2004, the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee will bestow upon Mr. Habush the 2004 Community Service Human Relations Award at the Pfister Hotel. The Community Service Human Relations Award honors individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership. Mr. Habush has shown through his significant contributions to Wisconsin and the law that he is richly deserving of this award.

As anyone in Wisconsin can tell you, Mr. Habush has achieved a high level of professional success. He has practiced law for forty two years as a litigator, principally for plaintiffs, and over the years has been involved in some of the most significant cases in Wisconsin, as well as the development of the law. His law firm, Habush Habush & Rottier S.C., is well known in Wisconsin with its ten offices throughout the state.

Mr. Habush is widely admired for his philanthropy, including his strong commitment to the two law schools in Wisconsin. He has established the Robert L. Habush Bascom Professorship in Trial Advocacy and the Robert L. Habush Moot Court Advocacy Fund at the University of Wisconsin Law School. At Marquette Law School, he has funded a scholarship and a gift to create the Howard Eisenberg Memorial Hall.

Mr. Habush has also been honored by serving as President of the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers and President of The Association of Trial Lawyers of America. In 2001, he was named by the National Law Journal as one of the top ten litigators in the United States. In 2002, he received The Association of Trial Lawyers of America's highest award, The Champion of Justice. Mr. Habush has also been named as one of the top Wisconsin leaders in the law, by the Wisconsin Law Review. In honor of Mr. Habush's esteemed work, The Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers has named its Trial Lawyer of the Year award after him, as well as The Association of Trial Lawyers of America naming their endowment in his honor.

Today, I join the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee in offering my sincere congratulations for receiving the 2004 Community Service Human Relations Award. Robert Habush is one of Wisconsin's best and I am proud to recognize him today.

TRIBUTE TO BOB ERICKSON

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and neighbor, Bob Erickson, and to recognize him on the occasion of his retirement from the position of City Administrator for the city of Lakeville, Minnesota.

Over the past 44 years, Bob Erickson has compiled a distinguished record of public service. He has been honored by such groups as

the Dakota Electric Association for his devotion to the people of Minnesota.

During his 15-year tenure as City Administrator, Bob helped transform a sleepy bedroom community into a thriving suburb with thousands of new jobs and thousands of new homes. Lakeville has benefited from his leadership and we owe him our gratitude.

Bob Erickson will be remembered for his undivided devotion to his community and his tireless work to ensure the citizens of Lakeville receive the best possible services from their city government.

The city of Lakeville thanks you, Bob, and so do I.

PERMANENT EXTENSION OF 10-PERCENT INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE BRACKET

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of making permanent the 10% tax bracket for low-income families. I am supporting the Tanner substitute because it, unlike the underlying bill, is paid for and does not drive our country deeper into debt.

The Tanner substitute, like H.R. 4275, makes permanent the change in our lowest tax bracket from 15% to 10%, and exempts from taxation the first \$7,000 for single taxpayers and \$14,000 for married couples. The Tanner substitute, however, requires that the funds needed to pay the tax cut do not come from Social Security and Medicare trust funds. Passing the Tanner substitute would help low-income families protect Social Security and Medicare while also helping eliminate the need to borrow from foreign banks to fund the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, today the national debt is the largest in history. Americans now collectively owe more than \$7 trillion. That is \$24,304 for every man, woman, and child. We have borrowed an additional \$280 billion so far this year. The Majority would now like to borrow another \$218 billion with the passage of this bill.

Here we have another tax cut that is not being paid for, even as the Bush Administration and the leadership of this Congress spend more than the American government has ever spent on homeland security and on all the other expenses of running the government—especially the huge costs of the war in, and occupation of, Iraq. The resultant borrowing places the burden of repaying our debts on our children.

I want the people of this country to realize that, right now, we owe collectively, in hard money, about \$4 trillion to foreign countries. We owe Japan \$607 billion; China (including Hong Kong) \$205 billion; the U.K. \$137 billion; Taiwan, \$50 billion; Germany, \$45 billion; OPEC countries, \$43 billion; Switzerland, \$41 billion; Korea, \$37 billion; Mexico, \$32 billion; Luxembourg, \$26 billion; Canada, \$25 billion—the list goes on and on.

More tax cuts without offsets will not only jeopardize critical public services now, but they will also hurt Americans well into the future. Massive deficits now create large debt

and will create high interest payments that will crowd out spending on public investments for future generations. Moreover, these deep deficits threaten to increase interest rates in the future—making it harder for Americans to buy homes and afford higher education and making it harder for businesses to raise capital.

The President is pretending that we can have war without sacrifice. Eventually, someone has to pay. I believe Chairman Greenspan's recent comments are appropriate: "Our fiscal prospects are, in my judgment, a significant obstacle to long-term stability because the budget deficit is not readily subject to correction by market forces that stabilize other imbalances. The free lunch has still to be invented."

Now, we, all of us Americans, have to pay interest on the debt. We are literally squandering the wealth of this country by not paying for our tax cuts. The underlying bill is a good idea—keeping the lowest tax bracket at 10% helps all taxpayers equally. Unfortunately, by not paying for the tax cut, we are contributing to a far greater problem—the breathtaking fiscal irresponsibility that is going on here in this town.

A TRIBUTE TO ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to commend the millions of Asian Americans who have contributed so much to make this a great nation. I am fortunate to have the great privilege to represent the ethnically diverse 12th Congressional District of California that has one of the largest populations of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States and the largest population of Filipinos outside of the Philippines.

This month we celebrate the many Asian and Pacific Islander cultures that enrich our community. The Asian Pacific American community is quite diverse and includes some two-dozen distinct ethnic groups who came to this country from around the world. Their diverse cultures come together under a common umbrella and their presence in my community adds a wonderfully distinct flavor. I would be remiss to selfishly consider the impact on San Francisco and San Mateo alone, because the nation as a whole have benefited from the assimilation of the Asian Pacific American population.

We know the architecture of I. M. Pei and Maya Lin, we see the reporting of Connie Chung and Ann Curry, we listen to the music of Yo Yo Ma, we watch the movies of Lucy Liu and Pat Morita, we cheer Kristi Yamaguchi and Greg Louganis at the Olympics.

Our lives have been made easier with companies like Yahoo! Inc. and Computer Associates, founded by Jerry Yang and Charles Wang, respectively. George Artani wanted to make a better stereo system and succeeded when he founded, now the most popular electronics producer, Kenwood. Military life has also proven conducive to many in the community, and many have excelled. Major General Antonio Taguba exposed the Abu Ghraib pris-

on abuse scandal, and General Eric K. Shinseki became the Chief of Staff for the Army in 1999.

The advanced strides can be measured in the heights reached by the public officials. In government we depend on the leaders like San Francisco Supervisor Fiona Ma, our distinguished colleagues in the Senate, DANIEL INOUE and DANIEL AKAKA, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, and here in the House of Representatives, my good friends from California, ROBERT MATSUI and MIKE HONDA. Sec. Mineta also represented California for 20 years before becoming the first Asian American to be appointed to a cabinet-level position when he was appointed Secretary of Commerce by President Clinton.

Our appreciation of their culture has come full circle. Today we celebrate, but in the not too distant past, racist and nativist sentiments met the newest immigrants with severe prejudice. Many who came faced strict quotas and unfair immigration laws, and suffered horrible prejudice and barbarous discrimination.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, we interned 114,000 persons of Japanese descent, whether or not they were citizens. In San Francisco, 7,800 Japanese Americans were rounded up, taken to the Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno and housed in the stables. "Relocation Camps" were built, but as President Roosevelt's Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes described them, they were nothing more than concentration camps.

Although interned by their country, many Japanese heroes fought for the freedom that their government took from them. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was a regiment made up of persons of Japanese descent from the continental U.S. and Hawaii. The unit became the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. history. The Honorable DANIEL INOUE earned the Medal of Honor fighting for the 442nd.

The Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1934 gave the Philippines its independence, but reclassified Filipinos as aliens rather than citizens, and reduced the amount of people who could legally immigrate to 50 per year. President Roosevelt used the Tydings-McDuffie Act to conscript the Filipino army into service against Japan. After fighting so courageously for our government, in 1946 Congress denied them the benefits that all other veterans received, especially disabled veterans. Today I am trying to correct this injustice and have cosponsored H.R. 664 to give Filipino Americans residing as a legal alien, or citizens of the U.S. the same health and pension benefits that all other veterans of World War II receive.

Since 1977, the month of May has been set aside to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This is the time that we can renew our focus on the problems that face the Asian Pacific American community, problems like affordable housing, immigration concerns, and racial profiling, and we can celebrate the accomplishments of the community.

I would like to thank my colleague Mr. MIKE HONDA for his leadership on the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and on H.R. 56, supporting the goals of the Japanese American, German American and Italian American communities in recognizing of a National Day of Remembrance, of which I am also a cosponsor.

Their vibrant community and array of perspectives have been firmly woven into the fabric of America. I am extremely proud to serve

so many Asian Pacific Americans as their Congressman.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY N. TISDALE, PRESIDENT OF CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Henry Nehemiah Tisdale, the 8th President of Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. A native South Carolinian, Dr. Tisdale's commitment to higher education has enabled scores of students to achieve their dreams of a college degree. This year marks his 10th year as President of this esteemed institution, and I believe a good time to highlight some of his outstanding contributions to South Carolina's higher education community.

Born in Kingstree, South Carolina, Dr. Tisdale received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Claflin University in 1964. In 1967, he was awarded a Master of Education degree from Temple University, and in 1975, received a Master of Arts in Mathematics from Dartmouth College. He later obtained a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Mathematics from Dartmouth College in 1978.

Dr. Tisdale's professional experiences include a twenty-four-year tenure as Senior Vice-President and Chief Academic Officer at Delaware State University, where he also served for a year as Assistant Academic Dean for Administration, Planning, and Information Management.

His vision and zeal to position his alma mater Claflin University as a premier institution in the Southeast is nothing short of extraordinary. Under his tutelage, the University has earned "Top Tier" and "Top Ten" ranking among comprehensive baccalaureate granting institutions in the South with U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Colleges 2003." He has increased enrollment by 60 percent, achieved national accreditation for Business Administration and Teacher Education, restored many of the campus buildings, and transformed the campus with the new Living and Learning Center and Legacy Plaza.

Dr. Tisdale has also been the recipient of numerous honors and awards including the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) Distinguished Alumni Award, Who's Who Among Black Americans, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Educator of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commemorating Dr. Tisdale's ten years at Claflin University. He has blazed a trail in his community through education and service that continues to influence future generations and enhance the national reputation of South Carolina in the field of higher education. Not only are Claflin's students and faculty, friends and alumni fortunate to have a person of Dr. Tisdale's caliber at the helm of their institution, but South Carolina is also a grateful beneficiary of Dr. Tisdale's passion for public service, and I am personally proud to have him as a personal friend.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2004

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Technology Administration and National Institute of Standards and Technology Act of 2004.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is a lynchpin to commercial activities of the private sector and the health and safety of all Americans—from its small-scale measurement activities that support the development of nanotechnology energy to its investigation of the collapse of the World Trade Center.

Lynchpins are noted for their reliability and criticality, and as such they are frequently overlooked until they break. That is the situation NIST finds itself in today. FY04 budget cuts are causing drastic cutbacks in NIST programs and causing NIST to lay off its employees. These reductions in NIST's budget and in its workforce threaten future U.S. competitiveness and the health and safety of Americans.

The bill I'm introducing today is an attempt to reverse this downward spiral. This bill would put NIST back on a positive growth track. It authorizes funding for NIST's standards support activities based on the FY05 budget request, and also includes funding for NIST's role in the implementation of the Help America Vote Act. The bill then provides a 5% increase for these support activities in FY06, FY07 and FY08. The bill also provides full funding for NIST to renovate its existing laboratory infrastructure. Many of NIST's labs are over fifty years old and are not suitable to house NIST's high-quality research equipment. This is especially true at NIST's Boulder, Colorado facility. This bill also provides full funding for the Advanced Technology Program (ATP) and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program.

The Science Committee has repeatedly heard from industry about the importance of funding for NIST's laboratory activities and for the ATP and the MEP programs. My bill is based on these recommendations.

Less than three weeks ago, the Science Committee held a hearing on NIST. Panelists included representatives from a chemical industry company, an information technology association, a biometric company, a nanotechnology company, and a fire safety association. They were all unanimous in their support for NIST and the need to increase its funding.

As one witness succinctly stated when asked about what other countries were doing in the standards area and what it meant to U.S. competitiveness: "So the question becomes where do we want to place ourselves as a nation. Do we want to be the lead dog on the sled or do we want to be somewhere else in the line? And my perspective is that our nation's interest is served better and our future is served better and our people are served better if we are the lead dog on the sled."

I urge my colleagues on the Science Committee and my colleagues in the House to sup-

port this legislation to help the U.S. remain the lead dog on the sled.

HONORING MARGARET PARKER FRETWELL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor Margaret Parker Fretwell. Mrs. Fretwell just recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday and it is my great pleasure to note that she is still working hard to better her community. Through her enjoyment of community service and a love for her family, Margaret Fretwell has made sure that her ninety years here on this earth have been spent in the service of others.

As an active member in her family, church, and community, she has become a symbol of service and charity. Those around her have been able to rely on her hard work and giving nature to promote charitable programs and educational events that benefit everyone in her hometown of Anderson, Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to stand here and honor Margaret Fretwell with my deepest thanks for her continued service and contributions to her local community. It is my hope that those that have been touched by her generosity will remember her example and use it in their own lives.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON PHILANTHROPISTS ROBERT AND BEVERLY LEWIS

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize two important philanthropists who in their generosity to the University of Oregon are making a difference.

Robert and Beverly Lewis attended the University of Oregon in the 1940s. They deserve special recognition for their contributions to cognitive neuroscience. Robert and Beverly Lewis donated \$10 million to the University of Oregon for its Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative and in doing so provided the philanthropic version of venture capital to grow this project into a world class center. I take a special interest in the Brain, Biology, and Machine Initiative, a research effort that brings together the university's top scientists in molecular biology, cognitive neuroscience, genomics, optics, and computational science to study how genetic factors affect brain development at the Robert and Beverly Lewis Center for Neuroimaging. It is a project that combines robust competitive federal grants, state support, private philanthropy, and congressional interest funds. It is already yielding compelling research and significant breakthroughs in our understanding of the mind and brain.

Thank you Bob and Beverly Lewis for your commitment to the University of Oregon. You are truly transforming lives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROPOSED
NORTH MAUI COASTAL PRESER-
VATION ACT OF 2004

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the proposed North Maui Coastal Preservation Act of 2004, a bill directing the National Park Service to assess the feasibility of designating certain coastal lands on the north shore of the Island of Maui between the towns of Pa'ia and Sprecklesville as a unit of the National Park Service. This area is fully worthy of designation as a National Seashore, National Historic Park, or National Recreation Area.

Since assuming office as the representative for Hawai'i's Second Congressional District, I have heard loud and clear from the people of Maui, in person during countless times on the island and through petitions and postcards from some 2,000 constituents, about their deep concern for preserving this beautiful, historically significant and resources-rich coastline. Although the 128 acres identified in the bill are currently zoned as open space or parkland, they lie directly in the path of development in Maui's hot real estate market.

The desire of the people of Maui is to have the natural, scenic, and cultural resources of this unique area preserved and protected from development, and ultimately designated as the Patsy Takemoto Mink North Shore Heritage Park. As many of my colleagues know, my predecessor in this body, the late Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink, was born and grew up in Hamakua Poko, a small village near Pa'ia on just this coastline. If the Park Service finds that the area merits inclusion in the National Park System, I will introduce legislation authorizing establishment of a park and directing that it be named after Congresswoman Mink.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of the Maui Sierra Club and especially of Lance Holter, a dedicated community activist, for inspiring the introduction of this bill. I can tell by the hundreds of cards I continue to receive from Maui residents in support of establishing such a park that there are many more people who have dedicated enormous energy and time in the hopes of preserving our precious natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and invite you to come to the Island of Maui to visit this special area. I know that if you do so, you will be convinced as I am of the vital importance of protecting these lands.

50 YEARS OF RFE/RL
BROADCASTING OF BELARUS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, May 20, 2004 will mark the 50 year anniversary of Congressional action which authorized broadcasting to Belarus. This is an anniversary, which I note with some regret. It is unfortunate that we still need to broadcast to Belarus, and it is unfortu-

nate that democracy and freedom of speech have not made greater progress there.

The transition to democracy and genuine freedom of speech in the former communist countries has never been easy. Belarus, a former Soviet republic that regained its independence when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, is an exception when compared to its neighbors, such as Ukraine and Russia. Since elected President in 1994, Alexander Lukashenka has relentlessly curbed independent media outlets in Belarus. As his regime became increasingly authoritarian, leaders of the democratic opposition have disappeared; civil society activists have been routinely detained, beaten by Special Forces, imprisoned and fined by government courts; and numerous NGOs have been closed. Belarus is the only country in Europe where Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) continues to broadcast as it did during the darkest days of the Cold war—exclusively from abroad and relying primarily on short wave radio.

Mr. Speaker, RFE/RL listeners in Belarus greatly appreciate this service provided by U.S. taxpayers. The atmosphere of fear does not stop people from expressing their feelings of gratitude and support. A priest from a regional town writes to RFE/RL: "When I listen to your programs I think that it is God who is speaking through your waves to Belarusians." A listener from Minsk, the country's capital, writes: "Radio Liberty is doing more for democracy in Belarus than all the opposition taken together." A former member of parliament, Uladzimer Kudinsky, imprisoned by the Lukashenka regime, was listening to the RFE/RL Belarus service over a radio smuggled into prison and found out that due to international pressure he was to be released in a week. The ground breaking reporting of the RFE/RL Belarus service helped discover and document illegal arms deals between the Lukashenka regime and Saddam Hussein.

It is a tradition of the Belarus service to step in and give an outlet to those who the government tries to muffle—opposition leaders, journalists from banned newspapers and magazines, children from the only Belarusian language high school which was shut down by the authorities, and civil society activists who are harassed and arrested. For 50 years the RFE/RL Belarus service was the major and most popular independent voice from abroad broadcasting domestic and international news into a state-controlled media environment and it has been carrying out this mission with professionalism, courage and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Belorussian service of RFE/RL for its persistence and professionalism on this 50th anniversary. The Belorussian listeners of the RFE/RL who tune in to its broadcasts, truly hear a "voice of freedom"—objective coverage of events within and outside of Belarus and, perhaps even more precious, a sense of solidarity with the world communities of democracies and hope for freedom for themselves.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. EVELYN
ALETHIA BONAPARTE HAYNES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Evelyn Alethia Bonaparte Haynes, a native South Carolinian whose dedication to the education of all children—regardless of economic background or racial identity—shines as an example to all who love children. On June 23, 2004, would have celebrated her 91st birthday, and in commemorating her legacy, I believe it is important to highlight a few of the contributions that she made.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Mrs. Haynes attended Wallingford and Buist Elementary Schools and Charleston's Avery Institute. She later graduated from South Carolina State College—now South Carolina State University—where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. In 1958, she received a Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education, Supervision, and Administration from Teachers College at Columbia University in New York.

Mrs. Haynes made significant contributions to the education of children through her dedicated service in a number of positions. She began her teaching career in Beaufort, South Carolina. In 1936, she was employed by the Charleston County Department of Education, now the Charleston County School District. She served as teacher and principal at Miley Hill Elementary School in Ravenel, South Carolina for 14 years. In 1964, she was appointed the Jeanes Supervisor for the Charleston County Department of Education where she served until 1967. It was during these years that I met and for three years worked in consultation with her. After desegregation of the public schools in 1967, she was the first African-American appointed to an administrative position in the Charleston County public school system. She became Assistant Personnel Director for the Charleston County Public School District and remained in that position until her retirement in 1974.

Retirement, however, did not quell her passion for service. In 1974, Mrs. Haynes was elected to the City of Charleston's Constituent School District #20 Board of Trustees and served in that position until 1978. She advocated for high academic standards, high-quality learning materials, smaller classes, competitive salaries, trained administrators, and parental involvement.

Mrs. Haynes received numerous awards, citations, and honors for her active membership in her church, her public service contributions, and her distinguished career in education. She has been recognized by the Charleston Branch of the National Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), by Shaw University, and by Miley Hill Elementary School for her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of this venerable woman on what would have been her 91st birthday. She blazed a trail in her community through education and service that continues to influence future generations. This committed teacher from South Carolina has demonstrated with great fervor, her commitment to excellence and to the highest of

standards for the educational well-being of the children of South Carolina.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 3722, the Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004.

First and foremost, I oppose the way this bill was brought to the floor. There have been no committee hearings or markups. Instead, the bill was rushed to the floor under suspension so that no amendments could be offered to the bill. There has not been any proper debate on this piece of legislation.

Studies have estimated that there are between 8–12 million illegal immigrants in the country. Hospitals throughout the country, but particularly in border states, are overcrowded and often cannot afford to provide vital services to their patients. The Medicare bill which recently became law provided for a total of \$1 billion over four years to reimburse hospital expenses incurred by providing medical services to illegal immigrants. While the Medicare bill does not mandate the use of the reimbursement program, many hospitals depend on these funds simply to remain open.

The Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments will require further paperwork to be done by doctors and nurses in hospitals who are already overworked and overburdened. These doctors and nurses are not trained to enforce immigration law and should not be expected to do so. We should not use hospitals to fight the influx of illegal immigration but rather should provide more resources to law enforcement so that they can better enforce immigration laws.

This bill also has the potential to discourage illegal immigrants from seeking treatment for life-threatening conditions. Immigrant women who become victims of domestic violence may not seek help for fear of being deported. Pregnant women may not seek prenatal care or even go to the hospital for the birth of their children out of fear of being separated from their families and deported. It is likely that this bill will actually increase the cost of emergency services because illegal immigrants are more likely to wait until their conditions have worsened and require more expensive treatments.

Doctors and nurses create important trust-based relationships with immigrant communities which may be broken if this legislation is enacted. Discouraging immigrants from seeking medical assistance will have ill effects on our public health as well. Without proper treatment, communicable diseases such as tuberculosis are likely to spread and cause a much larger public health hazard.

I also have many concerns about requiring doctors and nurses to ask so many questions of their patients. It is not always possible or practical to ask such questions of every patient who enters the hospital; as a result, doctors and nurses might have to pick and

choose those they ask, opening themselves up for accusations of profiling and possible legal recourse. This also may slow the delivery of medical treatment, as patients will have to provide documentation of their citizenship or immigrant status.

These are just some of the concerns this bill raises, and none of them has been adequately discussed. H.R. 3722 clearly is controversial and thus deserves to be properly debated on the floor, with amendments allowed to be offered. For all the reasons I've outlined, I must vote against suspending the rule and passing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same so that H.R. 3722 can be considered under normal procedures.

POEM FOR A SOLDIER'S WIFE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I am going to read a poem written in honor of the wives of soldiers, specifically for Betty Calabrese whose husband, Master Sergeant Robert Calabrese, just returned from a tour in Iraq. The poem was written by Lt. Commander Don Flanagan, U.S. Navy, Retired.

ONE SOLDIER'S WIFE

If she could take the time today to sit and stare
She would find her emotions ranging from hope to despair
So long ago her life was filled with daily chores
With joys and sorrows in and out like revolving doors.
In the early years of serving his country she was so proud
And anyone can tell you she certainly said so out loud
As a member of the National Guard he was called up each year
When he went to Vietnam and Kosovo she was filled with fear.
Fast forward to that terrible day in September 2001
She knew the dangers to him would increase one by one.
The talk of terrorists became much more intense
Until President Bush said that we would help the people of Iraq in their defense.
Too soon the day came for him to go
And as a soldier's wife she knew the dangers would grow.
The military promise of a limited tour did not come true.
Time passed with no firm planning to do.
In mortal combat he has comrades to stand by his side
But who really there for his worried and burdened bride?
Although family and friends say that they understand
They do not know unless a spouse had to fight for this land.
What does the war mean to you and me?
Only a distraction or an interruption of a program on TV.
Yet to her it is crying, despair, not knowing of a dead soldier and who it might be.
In spite of all she rallied her church members to pray for all to return safely.
Is there anything we can say or do but Just realize how simple the challenges we go through.
Let us now allow her an extra fault or two
And most of all pray God to help her in all she must face and do.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEO LARGE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Leo Large and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as a Montrose County Commissioner. A two-term commissioner, Leo will always be remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader of his community. As Leo celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Montrose County and the State of Colorado.

Born and raised in La Juanta, Colorado, Leo is a lifelong farmer and rancher who served his country proudly from 1950 to 1953 in the U.S. Army. His intimate knowledge with agricultural issues and dedication to his community later took him into a career in public service. For 16 years he served as vice-president for the Montrose County Farm Bureau Board, represented District 9 for the Colorado Farm Bureau, and served as chairman of American Farm Bureau Natural Resources for 9 years. As a county commissioner, he served on the Montrose Airport Advisory Board. Some of the other numerous boards and committees Leo served on and or chaired include Club 20, C.S.U. Task Force, Society for Range Management Board of Directors, National Public Lands Committee, Water for Colorado Task Force, and the Region 10 Transportation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Leo Large before this body of Congress and this Nation, and to congratulate him on an outstanding career of public service. His selfless dedication to his community and the people of Colorado as a Montrose County Commissioner is truly remarkable. I wish him and his wife Mickie all the best in their future endeavors. Thanks for your service.

MALCOLM X WOULD HAVE BEEN 79 TODAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a revolutionary African-American leader, Malcolm X, who would have turned 79 today, May 19, 2004. Malcolm X is recognized in my community and several others as a hero. His contributions towards racial and social equality will never be forgotten, thus his legacy still exists today.

Malcolm X's life was cut short when his influence as a political leader was reaching its pinnacle. Although his ability to leave a clear institutional legacy was thwarted, his influence was and continues to be wide reaching. Malcolm's religious and social transformation is something to be recognized and emulated.

Malcolm X played a pivotal role in American and African-American history. He helped shape the course of the Civil Rights Movement and the path for equal social justice. Let

us never forget the positive legacy Malcolm X left behind. On this day, May 19, 2004 let us all wish Malcolm X a Happy 79th Birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK DANIELS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and pay tribute to Frank Daniels and thank him for his outstanding commitment to serving the people of Colorado as District Attorney for the 21st Judicial District. As he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a wonderful and strong legacy of dedication to the District Attorney's Office and the citizens of Colorado.

Appointed by Governor Ray Romer in 1993, Frank was elected three times to serve the position of District Attorney. In 1982 he graduated from Colorado University Law School, and from 1983 to 1993 he served as Deputy District Attorney and then Chief Deputy District Attorney for the 1st Judicial District. During his tenure in the District Attorney's Office, he handled thousands of cases of all varieties, including the well-known Blagg murder trial. He has also implemented many programs through the District Attorney's Office, including the Intensive Juvenile Diversion Program, Adult Diversion Program, and the Consumer Crime Program. A dedicated member of the community, Frank served as President of Mesa County Peace Officers Association, Western Slope Center for the Children, and the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that District Attorney Frank Daniels has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his district and the people of Colorado in the District Attorney's Office for the 21st Judicial District. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service Frank, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHWEST GUILFORD GOLF TEAM

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize the Southwest Guilford golf team for their terrific talent and teamwork which resulted in a state championship on May 11, 2004. It is my honor to congratulate the Southwest Guilford golf squad from the Sixth District of North Carolina for their victory and remarkable team effort in the state 3A golf tournament. Led by Head Coach Don Dixon and assistant Larry Rice, the Cowboys were able to work together and capture the title. Special congratulations to Matt Dowdy, Shawn Hardesty, Greg Williams, Will Duke, T.J. Christensen, Andrew Smith, Taylor Radison, Tyler Smith, Drew Hilliard, Andrew Chakasem, and Wes Swaim for their efforts.

As team leader Greg Williams told the High Point Enterprise, "We knew to stay more fo-

cused on golf this season, and not worry about having too much of a good time." The Cowboys dedication proved to pay off which should not only bring pride to Southwest Guilford, but to the entire Sixth District. T.J. Christensen, who played another vital role on the team, fought through injury with a broken bone in his hand to finish the year and contribute to the state championship. This was a clear example of the dedication exhibited by the Cowboys golf team.

Congratulations to Principal Arthur Legrand and Athletic Director Brendan Christen. This was a remarkable season of golf for the Sixth District. I am very proud of these young men and wish them the best of luck for the future. We are looking forward to more impressive play in the years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROY CRAIG

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before you today to pay tribute to the life of Roy F. Craig, an extraordinary American and distinguished scientist, who recently passed away at the age of seventy-nine. For the past twenty-five years, Roy enjoyed life on his La Boca Ranch outside of Ignacio, Colorado, where he took an active role in community issues, particularly land use. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community, state and country.

Roy F. Craig was born May 10, 1924 on his parent's homestead on the Florida Mesa. Upon graduation from Durango High School, Roy attended Fort Lewis College, but left his studies to serve in the Army during the Second World War. After the war, he resumed his studies and earned his doctorate in physical chemistry from Iowa State University. During his professional career he taught at the University of Colorado, founded the Four Corners Research Institute, and served as a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii and at Ponape, an island in the South Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize the life of Roy Craig. He dedicated his life toward the betterment of his community, state and nation, and he will be greatly missed. My thoughts are with his loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.

COMMENDING THE PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS OF THE TROOPS FROM EL SALVADOR IN IRAQ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the brave troops from El Salvador who are participating in the peacekeeping operations in Iraq. Their bravery, honor, competence and professionalism are playing a critical role in the creation of a free and democratic Iraq.

The Salvadoran peacekeepers have been doing remarkable work delivering humanitarian relief and reconstruction assistance in Iraq. These peacekeepers have provided supplies, electricity, books, and playground equipment to impoverished schools as well as delivering aid to local farmers. However, Iraq remains a dangerous place for those who are contributing to the liberation of Iraq. The hazards of this important task were apparent on April 4, 2004 when the Salvadoran soldiers encountered armed resistance around Najif.

On April 4, 17 Salvadoran troops bravely stood their ground in the face of overwhelming opposition from the armed followers of Sheik Muqtada al-Sadr. In the face of mounting injuries and certain defeat, at one point fighting when 12 of the 17 were wounded and one had died, the Salvadoran soldiers never stopped fighting. Fortunately, a relief unit arrived to join the fight and rescue the Salvadoran troops.

The brave deeds of these valiant few will be remembered by all. Mr. Phil Kosnett, who leads the Coalition Provisional Authority in Najiv, described the Salvadoran troops as "the bravest and most professional troops I've ever worked with."

Tragically, PVT Natividad Mendez perished on the field of battle. He will always be in our hearts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we recognize the enormous efforts of every nation and every troop serving in Iraq. The world has arrived at a momentous turning point. If Iraq can become a stable democracy the world will have changed for the better. El Salvador and the Salvadoran troops in Iraq recognize the importance of this moment and are acting to ensure that Iraq is transformed from a terrorist state into a free and democratic nation. They will always have our profound gratitude.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUTH HULSEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ruth Hulsey for her selfless dedication to her Pueblo, Colorado community. A lifelong coach and teacher, she is a pioneer in Colorado sports, helping to establish girls' high school athletics in school district 60 in 1971. It is Ruth's determination and love of sports and her community that enabled her to help shape the history of athletics in Colorado.

A lifelong native of Pueblo, Ruth graduated from Centennial High School in 1947. Although there were no female scholastic athletics programs at the time, she found a way to compete, as her marksmanship earned her a spot on the rifle team. While attending Colorado State Teachers College, she participated in hockey, soccer, basketball, swimming, tennis, and volleyball. After graduating with a degree in physical education in 1951, Ruth began her teaching career at the Keating School in Pueblo.

Her dream for female athletics finally came to fruition after several years of effort and planning in 1971. That year she coached gymnastics, tennis, and track and field at Centennial High School, taking the relay team to the

state track meet in their first season. Ruth moved to East High School in 1981, where she taught and coached swimming until her retirement in 1989. In 1983, she became only the fourth woman inducted into the Greater Pueblo Sports Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to the achievements of Ruth Hulsey before this body of Congress and this nation, and to thank her for her contributions to the great tradition of athletics in Colorado. Her efforts to instill the love of sport in the youth of her community is truly commendable. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND THE "E-REACH PROJECT" IN ILLINOIS 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to my colleagues that the Medical Library Association will hold its Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. on May 22–May 26. Headquartered in my congressional district in Chicago, MLA is a nonprofit, educational organization of more than 900 institutions and 3,600 individual members in the health sciences information field, committed to educating health information professionals, supporting health information research, promoting access to the world's health information, and working to ensure that the best health information is available to all.

The advancement of information technology holds great promise for dramatically increasing the delivery of health care to underserved communities across the country and throughout the world. Medical librarians and health information professionals play a key role in the delivery of quality health care services by facilitating access to web-based health care information and telemedicine services. Despite the value of electronic-based health information, a recent needs assessment survey conducted by Loyola University Health System, the Loyola University Health Sciences Library and their Pediatric Mobile Health Unit highlighted the fact that 60 percent of respondents in the predominately minority communities of Bellwood, Maywood and Cicero, IL had not used the Internet to access health care information. Moreover, 80 percent of respondents had never consulted a librarian to help them find health related information.

In response to these findings, the Loyola University Health System, Loyola University Health Sciences Library, and Loyola University Health System Mobile Health Unit have developed a project designed to strengthen and enhance access to health information among underserved and under-represented populations in Maywood, Bellwood and Cicero. The E-REACH (Electronic Realtime Education Aiding Community Health) initiative will provide "on demand" health information to patients and families served by the Loyola University Health System Mobile Health Unit and Loyola Children's Center. The program will focus on expanding electronic access to health information at the point of patient care, promoting the use of health information by physicians and

other health workers involved in the project, increasing patient awareness of health insurance programs and other health information resources, and increasing awareness of electronic health care information for individuals with Internet access.

The E-REACH initiative is partially funded by a grant from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and is an excellent example of how the NLM has taken a leadership role in promoting educational outreach to underserved populations as part of an ongoing effort to reduce health disparities among large sections of the American public. NLM currently funds over 280 outreach projects, with at least one such project in every state.

I congratulate all those involved in this promising new initiative, including the project director, Dr. Logan Ludwig, Associate Dean of Library Services and Telemedicine at the Loyola University Health Sciences Library. It is my hope that the E-REACH program will serve as a model for other communities seeking to expose the benefits of health information services to medically underserved and minority populations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming the Medical Library Association to Washington for their Annual Meeting, and recognize the invaluable contribution that health information professionals make to our nation's health care system.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEN NESBITT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Ken Nesbitt, who recently passed away after sustaining fatal injuries in a motorcycle crash. I personally knew Ken well, and he was a devoted family man, a dear friend, and a beloved member of his Grand Junction, Colorado community. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community and state.

After graduating from Arizona State University in 1968, Ken served our nation for five years as a Navy pilot where he was selected for the Apollo 16 Recovery Mission. In 1973, he moved back to Grand Junction where he joined the family construction business that his father started in 1954. He took over the business in 1977 at age twenty-eight, and his strong leadership and business acumen saw the company grow into an industry leader and a vital asset to the community. Due in large part to personally donating land and the resources of his business, he made sure the Grand Junction/Mesa County Riverfront Project was completed, which Grand Junctionites still enjoy today. For his efforts, Ken received the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award by the State of Colorado Parks Board, and his company received an award for Reclamation Project of the Year for Greenbelt.

One of the most dedicated, hard-working, and likable people that I have ever known, Ken has made a lasting impact on Grand Junction and the State of Colorado. He helped

found the Grand Junction Economic Partnership and was a president and board member of the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. He was a trustee on the Board of Directors for St. Mary's Hospital and sponsored the Winter Sports Clinic for the Vietnam Veterans of America in 1993. He also served on the board of numerous civic and business organizations, including the Colorado National Bank, Riverfront Commission, Mesa County Economic Development Council where he also served as chairman, and the Grand Junction Lions Club. Above all, Ken was devoted to his beloved wife JoAnn, sons Chris and Jeff, and daughter Ashley.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life and memory of Ken Nesbitt. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family and community. My heart goes out to his family, friends, and Grand Junction community during this difficult time of bereavement. Ken, we will miss you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, I was returning to Washington from the World Economic Forum in Amman, Jordan and, therefore, missed three recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on recorded vote No. 180, "yes" on recorded vote No. 181, and "no" on recorded vote No. 182.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JENNY INGE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jenny Inge of Creede, Colorado, on being recognized by the Creede-Mineral County Chamber of Commerce as their 2004 Employer of the Year. The award recognizes an employer who has shown an exceptional devotion to the community and to promoting the local economy. This award is a well-deserved testament to her achievements.

Jenny is the proud owner of Rare Things, a business that sells fine jewelry, antiques, and various works by artisans. In addition to running the business, Jenny also creates many of the fine pieces of jewelry and art displayed in the store. The business has been a success in the community for thirty years, and is Creede's largest year-round employer. The success of the business can be credited to the creative and open environment Jenny creates, as well as her entrepreneurial skills in attracting tourists and other customers to Creede. Her civic involvement and dedication to Creede includes the Mineral County Gem and Mineral Show, and her work with the Mineral County Fairgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Jenny Inge before this body of Congress and this nation. Her efforts to strengthen her community are truly remarkable, and the recognition she received from the Creede-Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, as their 2004 Employer of the Year, is a well-deserved testament to her tireless efforts. I sincerely thank Jenny for her service, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3722, which I believe poses a significant threat to the health of all Americans. If H.R. 3722 is enacted, the fear of deportation will inevitably discourage undocumented immigrants from seeking care for potentially communicable diseases. As a result, serious health problems will likely go untreated and unreported with serious negative consequences to the health of entire communities.

In addition, numerous hospital and local government organizations have told Congress that the reporting and record keeping requirements included in H.R. 3722 will not only place a serious administrative burden on already overburdened hospitals, but also harm the relationship of trust between health care providers and their patients. This will undermine health care providers' basic and vital mission—tending the sick and injured. I would like to include in the RECORD a letter in opposition to H.R. 3722 I received from El Centro, an organization in my district dedicated to family improvement.

Like many of my colleagues, I am dedicated to continuing to seek solutions to the challenges we face in our immigration policy. I have supported multiple efforts to strengthen our immigration and border patrol systems. I do not believe, however, that denying emergency health care to those critically in need is consistent with the successful curbing of illegal immigration.

EL CENTRO, INC.,

Kansas City, KS, May 7, 2004.

Congressman DENNIS MOORE,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSMAN MOORE: El Centro, Inc. sincerely hopes that you will oppose Representative Dana Rohrabacher's (R-CA) extreme bill threatening access to emergency health care for undocumented immigrants and, we fear, for many U.S. citizens living in immigrant families and communities.

Among its provisions, H.R. 3722, the Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004, would deny hospitals and other health care providers reimbursement for uncompensated emergency care they provide to undocumented immigrants unless they report those immigrants to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As a practical matter, this would oblige providers to verify the immigration status of all uninsured patients presenting health care emergencies. The information health care providers would be required to

transmit to DHS would include their patients' financial data, identity of employer, and biometric information.

H.R. 3722 would also narrow the scope of emergency health services available to undocumented persons and make inability to pay medical expenses a basis for removal from the U.S. Employers of undocumented workers whose medical expenses are reimbursed by the federal government would be required to repay the government for those costs.

This proposal would jeopardize the health of immigrants and the general public. The threat of separation from their communities and families would deter immigrants and their family members from seeking needed health services, including testing and treatment for communicable diseases. Overburdened emergency health care providers would be forced to verify the immigration status of emergency patients, and report those believed to be undocumented to immigration authorities, in conflict with patient privacy rights and the fundamental principle that they refrain from harming their patients. The bill would impose additional burdens on employers, including small businesses, who already are required to verify the citizenship and immigration status of workers. It also would increase the likelihood of discrimination against persons assumed to "appear foreign" because of their race, accent or other prohibited factors.

Though Rep. Rohrabacher's intentions may be to contain emergency health cost and the flow of undocumented immigrants via this proposal, this is certainly not the way to do it. In fact, we believe the only possible outcome of the proposal is the creation of a disastrous and costly public health scenario. We ask that you oppose attempts to move this proposal forward.

Most sincerely,

MELINDA K. LEWIS,

Director of Policy Advocacy and Research.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF THE ROCKIES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation today to pay tribute to First National Bank of the Rockies, a business that has given a century of service to the citizens of Colorado. Recently, the bank moved its headquarters from Meeker to Grand Junction where most of its corporate officials reside. As First National celebrates its 100th Anniversary, let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, are grateful for the valuable service it provides.

First National Bank of the Rockies first opened its doors in 1904. Originally chartered as The First National Bank of Meeker, the name was changed in 1989 when a group of investors bought the bank, as well as First Federal Savings & Loan in Craig, and renamed it. Since the new owners took over, the bank has rapidly expanded, increasing its total assets ten-fold, and buying Rocky Mountain State Bank and Rio Blanco State Bank in 1997. As First National continues its expansion, it sees a bright economic outlook for Grand Junction and the State of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the service and dedication of First National

Bank of the Rockies to Grand Junction and the State of Colorado. It has maintained strong community involvement and excellent personal customer service while continuing to grow and expand throughout the state. I congratulate First National on its 100th Anniversary and wish it continuing success.

PAPERWORK AND REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I speak out in opposition to H.R. 2432, the "Paperwork and Regulatory Improvements Act of 2003." This bill would weaken, rather than improve, the process of developing federal regulations by elevating the interests of regulated industries over all other considerations. The bill would needlessly divert resources from implementing important regulations and does nothing to protect current public health and environmental regulations, which are under fire from the Bush administration. These are regulations that even the Office of Management and Budget has indicated have immense benefits: in September of 2003 an OMB study concluded that environmental regulations are well worth the costs they impose on industry and consumers, resulting in significant public health improvements and other benefits to society. For example, the study found that the health and social benefits of enforcing clean-air regulations during the past decade were five to seven times greater in economic terms than were the costs of complying with the rules. Yet the Bush administration continues to issue rules and guidelines that weaken the Clean Air Act.

I strongly support the Waxman-Tierney amendment to establish an independent commission on the politicization of science in the regulatory process. The amendment responds to a growing concern among scientists and the environmental community that the Bush administration is placing politics above science. From refusing to release a report contradicting their views in the Klamath basin of Oregon to removing information on global warming in an Environmental Protection Agency report, this administration has shown little more than flat out contempt for science. Just last month we saw the Bush administration issue a new policy that would allow hatchery-raised salmon in the Pacific Northwest to be included in wild salmon population counts, which could have a significant impact on whether or not the species are listed under the Endangered Species Act. Press accounts show that this was done over the objection of an independent panel of scientists commissioned by National Marine Fisheries Service to advise them on the issue.

In February of this year, 60 leading scientists—including 20 Nobel laureates, leading medical experts, former federal agency directors, and university chairs and presidents—voiced their concern over the misuse of science by this administration. I am deeply disappointed that H.R. 2432 takes us in the wrong direction by advancing a misguided concept that elevates the interests of regulated industries over the health of our communities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TED HAYDEN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and pay tribute to Ted Hayden and thank him for his dedication to Colorado as a four-term Delta County Commissioner. His dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for his constituents. As Ted celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Delta County and the State of Colorado.

As a member of the Delta County Board of Commissioners for sixteen years, Ted has been instrumental in implementing a variety of projects. He represented Delta County on the Rail Transportation Research & Advisory Committee, helping to secure funding for a rail corridor safety improvement plan to upgrade public railroad crossings on the North Fork branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. Ted has also been very active in the North Fork River Improvement Association, the North Fork Coal Working Group, the Delta County Fairgrounds, and in developing a park and sports complex in Paonia. Ted served as Chairman of the Delta County Board in 1991, 1994, 1997, 2001, and 2003. Before serving as commissioner, Ted spent fourteen years in the service of the Colorado State Patrol.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that Ted Hayden is a person that has displayed a terrific level of dedication and commitment to his pursuit of public service. Ted's selfless dedication to his Delta County community and the State of Colorado is truly outstanding, and it my privilege to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this nation. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PAPERWORK AND REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2432. Like so many other bills that have come the House floor recently, this one has a good title that belies its real substance. The paperwork and regulatory burdens on businesses could certainly use improvement, but this bill is actually an underhanded way to weaken so many important regulations that protect American citizens by giving us clean air, clean water, protected public lands, and safe workplaces.

It is ironic that, even as we operate under one of the most industry-friendly administrations in recent history, the paperwork burden on the average American businessman has actually gone up. In fiscal year 2003, total government paperwork reached an estimated 8.1 billion hours. According to OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the paperwork burden rose a record 570 million hours in fiscal year 2002 and another 72 million hours in fiscal year 2003.

So even as the Bush administration and the House leadership dole out special interest

goodies to oil and gas companies, HMOs, and many others, the paperwork burden for businesses is going up. The bill we have in front of us will not relieve that burden or do anything to undo the sharp increase in paperwork that we have seen from this White House. Instead, it weakens the process of developing federal regulations that protect the health and safety of Americans and our natural environment.

It is also ironic that the House leadership has chosen to attack environmental regulations as imposing undue burdens on businesses when our laws and regulations still do not fully account for externalities like pollution. Polluting industries may decry the costs of burdensome government regulations, but it is average citizens who pay the real price when they breathe dirty air and drink polluted water.

Some reports have concluded that my home state of New Jersey has the worst air quality in the nation. So it is hard for me, and for my constituents, to tolerate the cries of the power industries when their pollution leads to the premature deaths of so many New Jerseyans. I am outraged when the Bush administration insists on rewriting environmental regulations to pad the profits of polluters and ignores the human costs of pollution.

There is a real danger with the details in this legislation, especially concerning environmental and health regulations. The bill directs OMB to have every federal agency provide an annual report estimating the total costs and benefits of regulations and paperwork pertaining to that agency. So the agency measures the costs, say, of installing pollution controls on a power plant and filling out the relevant paperwork. When it comes to measuring the benefits of a given pollution control regulation, however, are we going to include the value of premature deaths avoided and reduced asthma rates? I sincerely doubt that most federal agencies are going to be inclined, or even be able, to estimate such external benefits.

As a research scientist, I am also concerned that the bill does not require the cost-benefit analyses to be done using rigorous scientific analysis. If we want to seriously look at the real costs and benefits of our regulations, we need to use scientific methods, or we risk using complete speculation. This Administration has already undermined and ignored science numerous times—let's not give them another opportunity.

I understand the burden that many businesses, especially small businesses, face in filling out government paperwork. This bill, however, is more about coming up with excuses to undermine vital health, safety, and environmental regulations than about relieving the evergrowing paperwork burden.

ARE WE BETTER OFF THAN WE WERE?

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE-JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on where we as a Nation have come over the last 3 years of the Bush Administration.

The question that deserves to be answered is, Are we better off than we were three years

ago? Is our security better? Are we as safe as we should be? Do the Republicans have a plan to create jobs, or to reduce the deficit? Is our health care better? Have the costs for college tuition gone down? Have we ensured our children a better start in life?

Mr. Speaker, I can categorically and honestly answer each of these questions with a solid "no."

But what has happened in the last three years?

When President Bush took office, we had a \$236 billion budget surplus; the Nation had created 22 million jobs in the previous eight years and gas prices averaged \$1.47 a gallon.

Today, the government spends \$900,000 more a minute than it takes in. We are borrowing \$1.1 billion daily; 8.2 million are looking for work; gas prices are at a 23-year high with a national average of \$2.01 a gallon; and wages have grown flat while college tuition and health care costs have skyrocketed.

As a result, most Americans are not better off today than they were three years ago.

Most Americans do not feel safer; they are living in fear and are losing hope. Forty-four million Americans do not have health insurance. Most Americans cannot afford to send their children to colleges and universities. This trend must stop.

America can do better for Americans than this. We can restore hope. We can restore peace. We can get back on the right track.

Democrats want to put America back on the right track. We just need the Republicans to get out of the way.

HONORING JOHN CONRAD KAPTUR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Father's Day, 2004, it is a great privilege today to offer respectful words of tribute on behalf of the entire Kaptur family—loving wife Rita, children and spouses Stephen, Christopher/Renee, James/Christine, Kenneth, Regina/Jeff. Sisters Virginia, Lillian, Christine, and the grandchildren, Nicole, Michael, Cassandra, Ashley, Brittany, Jacob, and Lucas—as we honor the beautiful life of John Conrad Kaptur. Surely, he is loved.

His children observe: "Dad has a smile that would immediately tell all that he was happy to be in company with you. He enjoyed a good joke and always enjoyed a brewed cup of tea. 'Refreshing', he would say. John was a gentleman, also a strongman, a man who exemplified the motto by which he lived 'always faithful'. Our beloved father, Steve, his uncle, said of John, 'He knew how to be a man.'"

Born in 1925, John was a devoted son of Szeplan and Mary, an American of Polish heritage. He was his parents first and only born son. His father was the eldest of 16 children. John grew up attending St. Stanislaus Church and Libbey High School during tough economic times. He knew struggle. He worked hard. He possessed the drive, inventiveness and skill for which Kaptur men are known. His kindness was rooted deeply in his early years when people survived by holding onto one another.

He valued family—to celebrate life and to weather the rough times. At 79, he was the patriarch of the Kaptur family.

John was a tot when Wall Street crashed in 1929 ushering in the Great Depression of the 1930's. No jobs were to be had. For people today, it is hard to describe how hard life was back then—before America had a minimum wage, before there was enough to eat for so many families, before there was Social Security and Medicare. That was the world into which John was born. He never forgot. But he always kept moving forward. He was so talented. He possessed the Kaptur man's physique—sturdy, square jawed, full of wanderlust, but steady, with a heart of gold so big his body could hardly contain it.

At 17, following in his father's footsteps, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps—the elite, special branch of the US Armed Forces especially trained for amphibious assault. He served in the Pacific Theater during WWII—first training at Camp Le Jeune in New River, North Carolina. In September 1942, he departed on a troop ship out of San Diego as a member of the 3rd Marine Division for the Bouganville invasion of American Samoa. He contracted a mosquito borne illness in late 1943 after the Guadalcanal invasion. A natural leader, he rose in rank in the Corps and later in the Reserves from Private First Class, to Lance Corporal, to Corporal, to Sergeant, and Staff Sergeant. He served honorably 12 years in the Corps and Reserves. He was a Patriot.

When I look at his beautiful family, I repeat the Marine Corps saying: "The marines have landed, and the situation is well in hand." John maintained a keen interest in world events and helped shape them. In his mid 30s, John married Rita Mominee. What a match this has been! Smiles, a house full of activity-travel-joy. Together, they raised a magnificent family—4 boys—Stephen, Christopher, James, Kenneth and finally a girl! Regina. What a blessing he was able to watch them grow up and flower into adulthood. He enjoyed every minute.

During his long life, he also experienced the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, Sputnik and "the landing of the first man on the moon, the collapse of the Soviet Union, where his own father had served in Marine Corps in Vladivostok, and he ushered in the 21st century. All the while, John kept steady with his family and garden blooming, a man of quiet strength, a gentleman, good, and kind. To ease the sorrow, we should think about

what each of us can do in his name, as a living prayer. For he will come to us now in a new way, not on our time but on his time. His children, through Regina, say about him:

"Dad was proud to be Catholic and to have served in the United States Marine Corps. His talents were many." After working nearly four decades in industrial production planning at Dura Corp and later, retiring from Chrysler-Jeep as a planner in the engineering division, he quickly went out to do plumbing. "The love of people and good conversation made me want to do it," he said. He always worked a hard day supporting his large family.

He most loved his family. He celebrated his 45th Wedding Anniversary not long ago with his wife, Rita, along with their family. What a strong and devoted spouse Rita has been. Jim and Christine shared their home to make that happen, just as they will for the wake today after the Christian burial. Dad was very proud of Jim's accomplishments as a Paramedic/Toledo Firefighter and the perseverance he has to move up. He found great comfort in his knowledge. He would always take a nap in the afternoon so he could stay up to welcome Ken home from a hard day's work, and talk about the Lottery. When the day came to around 3 o'clock he would look for Chris to come by and have some good conversation. For Steve, he was very thankful for the skills it took to fix his car or use his trailer. As he was fathering all these boys, he became so very proud of their hard work and perseverance on a job. Regina knows her dad is proud of her accomplishments and the love, care, and comfort she had for him in his time of need. "Dad taught me respect, compassion, diplomacy, perseverance, and the ability to know people and to have the psychology of life. Most of all, he taught me to love a human being, no matter if they were challenged or not."

Then there are the grandchildren: He loved each and every one of them—Nicole, Michael, Cassandra, Ashley, Brittany, Jacob, and Lucas. Whether John wanted to play hockey in the driveway, or bump the tree with the tire swing, or pick up sticks in the yard, or take a walk to the grapes, or even around the block. He may have just wanted a conversation with you, he loved you all. And I might add, our last conversation, just a few days ago, was about getting together with the grandchildren for dinner when he was feeling better.

And the grandchildren couldn't have come without the loving daughters-in-law and son-in-law he gained—Renee, Christine and Jeff.

Regina writes: "I was very glad to have spent the time with Dad these few months and through all his surgeries. I would not have wanted it any other way. So much value was built in the quality time we had. He recalled everyone in the present and in the past. Never was a cross word said. His words were always very kind.

Dad had the best doctors and they always took our phone calls without hesitation and went beyond to meet our needs. Dad was always open to their suggestions that would help him. He had told the doctors: "Let's do it"—"I am a patient man."

With tears in my eyes, I watched as God wrapped his arms around Dad and said to him, "My precious child, come with me. You surely were a treasure on this earth, but now I need you in Heaven." So God reached out and showed him the bright light, and said, "I will reunite you all again some day."

With tears in all of our eyes we will meet him again in heaven where he will greet each one of us with a smile and say, "It's great to see you." "Thank you for coming." "Can I get you a cup of tea, or perhaps a Coop e'Kava and cookie."

POEM

Because you went first and I remain,
To walk the road alone.
I live in memories garden, Dear,
With happy days we've known.
In Spring I wait for roses red,
When faded, the lilacs blue.
In early Fall when brown leaves fall
I'll catch a glimpse of you.
Because you went first and I remain,
For battles to be fought.
Each thing you touched along the way
Is now a hallowed spot.
I hear your voice, I see your smile,
Tho' blindly I now grope.
The memory of your helping hand
Now buoys me on with hope.
Because you went first and I remain,
One thing I'll have to do:
Walk slowly down that long long path,
For soon I'll follow you,
I want to know each step you took,
So I may take the same,
For some day down that lonely road,
You'll hear me call your name.

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 20, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 2

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the greater Middle East initiative.

SD-419

JUNE 16

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the grounding of multi-engine fire-retardant air-

craft, steps the Forest Service and Department of the Interior have taken to provide alternative aerial support for initial attack and extended attack fire fighting operations in the short run, and the feasibility and desirability of designing and implementing an inspection process to allow the use of multi-engine fire-retardant aircraft in the future.

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.

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