

old girl from Arlington, Texas. His bill went on to create a "Two Strikes" law mandating life in prison after a second sex offense against a child.

Congressman FROST has a long record of leadership in Congress, bringing common sense and a practical approach to a variety of senior positions. As chairman of the House Democratic Caucus from 1999 until January 2003, and later as a Ranking Democratic Member of the House Rules Committee, MARTIN has crafted far-reaching and landmark legislation that will leave a lasting imprint on America's landscape and people.

Mr. Speaker, I also join with my fellow colleagues in recognizing the many accomplishments of CHARLIE STENHOLM who has served this body well for 25 years. His advocacy for this Nation's Agricultural community and fiscal policy has been tireless. Named "the spiritual godfather of fiscal austerity," STENHOLM has consistently fought for fiscal responsibility in the federal budget. A farmer, a third generation Texan, a father, a very proud grandfather—Congressman CHARLIE STENHOLM has effectively served the 17th Congressional district of Texas with distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, CIRO RODRIGUEZ. He has demonstrated 7 years of exemplary service in this House and an extensive record of promoting the rights and benefits of the more than 50,000 veterans in the 28th District who answered the call to serve. Congressman RODRIGUEZ worked closely with local community leaders on a range of issues to promote the interests of the many counties, cities, towns and residents within his congressional district. I am also grateful to CIRO for his work in helping me to fight for civil rights for minorities in this country.

My other colleague, NICK LAMPSON took office to represent the 9th Congressional District in 1997. This former high school science teacher, served as the Ranking Member of the Science Committee's Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, and is a strong advocate for the Johnson Space Center and the entire NASA manned space program. He also served with me on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where he fought for federal highway construction and repair funds, and the improvement of Houston and Southeast Texas airport facilities. His leadership has been invaluable to the committee. I am proud to call him my friend. I join with the House in expressing my sadness at his departure and my best wishes for success in all of his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, MAX A. SANDLIN was elected to Congress in 1996. As a Member of the Ways and Means Committee MAX's main concern for the needs of older Americans was genuine and his dedication to improve rural education was and continues to be vitally important to all Americans. His constituents will miss his dedication, and so will the Members of this House.

My other colleague from Texas, CHRIS BELL represented our State on the Financial Services Committee. CHRIS has worked tirelessly on issues of importance to Texas residents. CHRIS is a kind and caring loving being and a good legislator. He has served Texas' Twenty Fifth District with distinction.

Another House Member I find it hard to say goodbye to is JIM TURNER. He represents the good people in the 2nd District of Texas, and

he is the Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. Before, he was elected to Congress he served in the Texas Senate with me. In the Texas Senate, he was recognized as an outstanding legislator by a number of statewide organizations for his leadership in health care, criminal justice, education and on behalf of Texas children. He also served in the Texas House for 10 years. As the Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security and Terrorism Subcommittee, JIM worked hard to protect the safety and security of the American people in the war on terrorism. In addition, his work in Congress focused on promoting economic development and forestry in East Texas. He continues to work for senior citizens through his sponsorship of legislation to lower prescription drug costs.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I bid farewell to my friends and colleagues. However, I know in my heart that their dedication to the American people will not end here. I wish them the best for their future endeavors and with whatever challenges may lay ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE BOY SCOUTS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today voted with my colleagues in support of H. Res. 853, recognizing the Boy Scouts of America for the public service the organization performs for neighborhoods and communities across the United States.

Although I voted in support of this resolution, I remain concerned by the Boy Scouts continuing discrimination against gays and lesbians.

An organization that purports to teach children "principles which are conducive to good character, citizenship, and health", as indicated by this resolution, and which "teaches the core values of duty to God and country, personal honor, respect for the beliefs of others, volunteerism, and the value of service and doing a 'good turn' daily" does a disservice to children when it teaches them that it is okay to discriminate against someone based on their sexual orientation.

While we as a Congress can and should support the good deeds done by individual Boy Scouts and troops throughout the country, we should not overlook or tacitly condone the discriminatory policies and attitudes of the larger organization or its administrators.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF SGT. MORGAN WILLIAM STRADER

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service and sacrifice of Sergeant Morgan William Strader, formerly of Brownsburg, Indiana, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on November 12, 2004 while serving his country in Iraq. His father lives in my district.

Sgt. Strader loved his country. He recognized the impending danger of serving his country in Fallujah. Notwithstanding, he chose to serve. Our city, state and country have much pride for the young 23 year old.

Morgan Strader grew up in Brownsburg, Indiana where he attended school through the seventh grade. He moved to Crossville, Tennessee in the eighth grade where he was active on the high school track team and wrestling squad. Upon graduation he left to join the Marines.

Morgan served with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in Iraq from February to June of last year, and returned to Camp Pendleton, California, where he was assigned to military police duty pending his discharge in July. But Sgt Strader couldn't bear the thought of his unit returning to Iraq without him, says his father, Gary Strader, of Speedway Indiana. Instead, he asked that his enlistment be extended for another year, and returned with his unit to Iraq in July.

As his battalion prepared for the battle in Fallujah, Sgt Strader developed a skin condition that made him eligible to be sent home. But Morgan Strader "decided he wasn't coming home," his father recalls. "He said, 'Dad, the guys in my unit aren't experienced in this. I need to help them.'" He was killed in the battle of Fallujah on Friday, November 12.

Morgan Strader loved fishing with his grandpa. He had a strong faith in God and he loved serving in the Marine Corps. Sgt Strader's father describes him as "a Marine from the day he was born . . . His grandfather was in the Army during Korea. He latched onto that and loved it."

His high school English teacher Angela Bradley testifies to his keen sense of humor and strong moral values. "All Morgan ever talked about doing when he was in high school was to be a Marine and to be a minister."

Sgt Strader is survived by his grandparents Lonnie and Estelle Morgan of Hebbertsburg, Tennessee; his mother Linda Morgan of Dumfries, VA; his father Gary Strader of Speedway, Indiana; his uncle Jimmy and aunt Teresa Barnett of Westel, Tennessee; and his cousins Austin Barrett and Angel Morgan.

Morgan William Strader will be deeply missed. His strength and service to his country, friends, family, and God will be remembered always by all whom he inspired and loved.

The citizens of the Seventh District of Indiana extend our deepest gratitude for his sacrifice and dedication to public service.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2986, INCREASING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this resolution.

The Republican leadership is trying to have it both ways. When President Bush took office in 2001, he inherited a budget that was in balance and actually had a surplus. There was no need to increase the debt limit, because