

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2005 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from May 22 to June 4 of this year. During this two-week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat Members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Participants also will be hosted by a Bundestag Member during a district visit.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for two weeks in July. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Members of Congress. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two staffers in their Member's district in July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Senators and Representatives who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a résumé and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HB-28, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SENATOR JOHN CAREY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Ohio State Senator John Carey is an exceptional individual worthy of merit and recognition; and

Whereas, Senator Carey has been appointed to Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee by Senator Bill Harris; and

Whereas, Senator Carey should be commended for his excellence, professionalism, integrity, and for his ongoing efforts to work for the constituents of the 17th District in Ohio.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Senator John Carey for his appointment to the Finance Committee.

ADDRESS OF SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF NAZI DEATH CAMPS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on January 24 of this year, the United Nations General Assembly commemorated the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi death camps. January 27, 1945, was the date on which Russian troops liberated Auschwitz, the most notorious of the death camps, and the symbol of the Holocaust, in which over 6 million Jews and hundreds of thousands of other nationalities were brutally murdered during World War II.

The United Nations commemoration, which was held three days before the anniversary, began with a moment of silence for the victims. Those speaking included a number of

foreign ministers and other distinguished statesmen from many of the member states of the United Nations, as well as survivors of the Holocaust and liberators of the camps from the Allied military forces who defeated the Nazi regime.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the General Assembly's most appropriate commemoration, and I want to acknowledge and commend Secretary General Kofi Annan for the key role that he played in the convening of this meeting. He personally fought to hold this meeting, and I am certain that without his leadership it would not have taken place.

The Secretary General has a special family link to the Holocaust that my wife Annette and I share. Kofi Annan's wife Nan is the niece of Raoul Wallenberg, Swedish diplomat and humanitarian who came to Budapest, Hungary, in the summer of 1944 at the request of the United States to save the lives of Jews who were being sent to Auschwitz to be sent to the gas chambers. Wallenberg saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews, and among those are my wife Annette and me.

One comment by the Secretary General is particularly significant and meaningful for all of us, Mr. Speaker. Kofi Annan told the General Assembly, "The United Nations must never forget that it was created as a response to the evil of Nazism, or that the horror of the Holocaust helped to shape its mission."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the outstanding address of the Secretary General be placed in the Congressional Record. As the Secretary General said so well, we must keep in mind that the United Nations was founded to fight the atrocities and evils that were brought about by the Nazi German regime. It is incumbent upon us to continue the fight against brutality, abuse of human rights and the violations of dignity and humanity that marked the Holocaust, but that tragically continue to be with us.

I urge my colleagues to read and ponder Secretary General Annan's serious and thoughtful remarks.

ADDRESS OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN

The date for this session was chosen to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. But, as you know, there were many other camps, which fell one by one to the allied forces in the winter and spring of 1945.

Only gradually did the world come to know the full dimensions of the evil that those camps contained. The discovery was fresh in the minds of the delegates at San Francisco, when this Organization was founded. The United Nations must never forget that it was created as a response to the evil of Nazism, or that the horror of the Holocaust helped to shape its mission. That response is enshrined in our Charter, and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The camps, Mr. President, were not mere "concentration camps". Let us not use the euphemism of those who built them. Their purpose was not to "concentrate" a group in one place, so as to keep an eye on them. It was to exterminate an entire people.

There were other victims, too. The Roma, or Gypsies, were treated with the same utter

• 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.

disregard for their humanity as the Jews. Nearly a quarter of the one million Roma living in Europe were killed.

Poles and other Slavs, Soviet prisoners of war, and mentally or physically handicapped people were likewise massacred in cold blood. Groups as disparate as Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals, as well as political opponents and many writers and artists, were treated with appalling brutality.

To all these we owe respect, which we can show by making special efforts to protect all communities that are similarly threatened and vulnerable, now and in the future.

But the tragedy of the Jewish people was unique. Two thirds of all Europe's Jews, including one and a half million children, were murdered. An entire civilization, which had contributed far beyond its numbers to the cultural and intellectual riches of Europe and the world, was uprooted; destroyed; laid waste.

In a moment, you will have the honour of hearing from one of the survivors, my dear friend Elie Wiesel. As Elie has written, "not all victims were Jews, but all Jews were victims". It is fitting, therefore, that the first State to speak today will be the State of Israel—which rose, like the United Nations itself, from the ashes of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust came as the climax of a long, disgraceful history of anti-Semitic persecution, pogroms, institutionalized discrimination and other degradation. The purveyors of hatred were not always, and may not be in the future, only marginalized extremists.

How could such evil happen in a cultured and highly sophisticated nation-State, in the heart of a Europe whose artists and thinkers had given the world so much? Truly it has been said: "all that is needed for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing".

There were good men—and women—who did do something: Germans like Gertrude Luckner and Oskar Schindler; foreigners like Meip Geis, Chiune Sugihara, Selahattin Ülkümen, and Raoul Wallenberg. But not enough. Not nearly enough.

Such an evil must never be allowed to happen again. We must be on the watch out for any revival of anti-Semitism, and ready to act against the new forms of it that are happening today.

That obligation binds us not only to the Jewish people, but to all others that have been, or may be, threatened with a similar fate. We must be vigilant against all ideologies based on hatred and exclusion, whenever and wherever they may appear.

On occasions such as this, rhetoric comes easily. We rightly say, "never again". But action is much harder. Since the Holocaust, the world has, to its shame, failed more than once to prevent or halt genocide—for instance in Cambodia, in Rwanda, and in the former Yugoslavia.

Even today we see many horrific examples of inhumanity around the world. To decide which deserves priority, or precisely what action will be effective in protecting victims and giving them a secure future, is not simple. It is easy to say that "something must be done". To say exactly what, and when, and how, and to do it, is much more difficult.

But what we must not do is deny what is happening, or remain indifferent, as so many did when the Nazi factories of death were doing their ghastly work.

Terrible things are happening today in Darfur, Sudan. Tomorrow I expect to receive the report of the international commission of inquiry, which I established at the request of the Security Council.

That report will determine whether or not acts of genocide have occurred in Darfur. But also, and no less important, it will identify the gross violations of international humani-

tarian law and human rights which undoubtedly have occurred.

The Security Council, once it has that report in its hands, will have to decide what action to take, with a view to ensuring that the perpetrators are held accountable. It is a very solemn responsibility.

Today is a day to honour the victims of the Holocaust—to whom, alas, no reparation can ever be made, at least in this world.

It is a day to honour our founders—the allied nations whose troops fought and died to defeat Nazism. Those troops are represented here today by veteran liberators of the camps, including my dear friend and colleague, Sir Brian Urquhart.

It is a day to honour the brave people who risked, and sometimes sacrificed, their own lives to save fellow human beings. Their examples redeem our humanity, and must inspire our conduct.

It is a day to honour the survivors, who heroically thwarted the designs of their oppressors, bringing to the world and to the Jewish people a message of hope. As time passes, their numbers dwindle. It falls to us, the successor generations, to lift high the torch of remembrance, and to live our own lives by its light.

It is, above all, a day to remember not only the victims of past horrors, whom the world abandoned, but also the potential victims of present and future ones. A day to look them in the eye, and say: "you, at least, we must not fail".

COMMENDING DANIELLE M. DEJOY
FOR HER EXEMPLARY CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to enter into the record an article published in the Post Journal of Jamestown, NY, on January 22, 2005 and a brief explanation of its origin.

On January 4, 2005, I was blessed and honored by the presence of hundreds—that's correct, hundreds—of friends, family and supporters who traveled to this great capital city of Washington, DC, to attend ceremonies associated with the administration of my oath of Office as a member of the 109th Congress.

One very special attendee that day, Danielle DeJoy, an 11th grade student at Falconer High School in "South County"—the southern portion of Chautauqua County, was kind enough to commit the events of her trip to Washington to paper, and her account of that trip was published in the Post Journal on January 22, 2005. A transcript of that article is included herein.

I enter this material to serve as an example to young people throughout the nation of the importance of civic involvement in our everyday lives. Danielle's interest and participation in civic events undoubtedly was learned at the family dinner table—her father Vince is an exemplary civic leader in Jamestown, serving in many important capacities, including with the city's Rotary club and as Chair of the city's Democratic Committee—her commitment to paper of the events of this day is inspirational. It reminds us all that those of us blessed to be chosen by the people as their Representatives in "the people's house" must never forget from whence we came, and that Jessica

DeJoy and the millions like her in these United States look to us as leaders—leaders who must strive hard to inspire young people and involve them in government.

A DAY NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., Tuesday, Jan. 4, to represent Chautauqua County for the swearing-in of newly elected Congressman Brian Higgins. It was an experience that I will never forget, and it has given me a new perspective on how lucky we are to be Americans.

My Dad, Vince DeJoy, is the chairman of the Jamestown Democratic committee, and he felt that this would be an educational experience. I was so excited to see our nation's capital for the first time in person and not just seeing it on television or through pictures in the paper.

In addition to my father, Chautauqua County Election Commissioner Norm Green, Assistant Majority Leader of the Chautauqua County Legislature Ron Szot of Dunkirk and Janet Jankowski George made the trip to Washington. I had never met any of these people, but after a day of traveling by planes, trains and buses, I felt as if I have known them all of my life. We had a great day together.

We left Buffalo early Tuesday morning by plane at around 8:30. It was an overcast, gray day in Western New York, but once our plane climbed above the clouds, the sky was that pretty color blue that we long to see in January. The second leg of the journey would involve an Amtrak train from BWI Airport to Union Station in Washington, D.C. This would be another first for me. The coach that we rode on was very comfortable, clean and offered a very smooth ride. We arrived at Union Station around 10:30 a.m., and the first thing that caught me eye was the grandeur of this magnificent train station. I tried to imagine the Erie Rail Road Station in Jamestown, and how cool that it would be if it could be restored to have the same feel that Union Station offered.

Once outside the doors of Union Station, the view of the capital dome was very impressive. Of course we had to pose for pictures with the capital in the background exchanging cameras within our group. We then made the four block walk to the Cannon Office Building to the office of Congressman Higgins. As soon as we walked into his new office, we were greeted by Jonathan Weston of Panama. Jonathan found out that he was fortunate enough to be chosen as a staff member to the Congressman on Dec. 31. He was excited to see familiar faces from Chautauqua County make the trip, and promptly introduced us to the rest of Congressman Higgins staff.

There were over 150 people that squeezed into Mr. Higgins' office. There we enjoyed bagels, muffins and juice, while we watched the actual ceremony on closed circuit television. The well wishers became very quiet when the Clerk of the House announced his name to vote for the House Leader. Than a huge cheer was heard throughout the third floor of the building with other congressional offices down the hall.

We had some time to do sight-seeing before the next reception, so we walked next door to the capital. Security was very tight, but the Secret Service allowed us to get close enough for some great pictures in front of the capital.

The next reception started at 1:30 p.m. at the Rayburn Building, and we decided to go there early. That was a very wise choice because as we walked down the corridors past rooms where House Committee meetings take place, we approached the room which would host the reception and found Senator Hillary Clinton just standing alone in the

doorway. I had met Senator Clinton in 2000 at Diethrick Park while she made a campaign stop in Jamestown. She made us feel that we were long lost friends. We even had the time to discuss my college options. The Town Supervisor of Orchard Park, Toni Cudney, took our picture with the Senator, and then people quickly surrounded her.

It wasn't until nearly 3 p.m. that Congressman Higgins was able to come to his reception. While waiting, I got the opportunity to meet a sorority sister of my mother from the State University College at Geneseo, Peggy Hannon. I had never met Peggy before, but she knew that I was Bonnie's daughter right away. They lived together in the Alpha Clio Sorority House 1981.

Senator Chuck Schumer arrived in time to introduce Congressman Higgins to the now large crowd of 200 people. Intertwined with accolades for Mr. Higgins was the message that my Dad really wanted me to hear and understand. Senator Schumer spoke of the celebration of the peaceful transition of power that just took place. We as Americans may take such an event for granted, but the people of Iraq with elections next month probably don't expect a peaceful transition of power. The Ukraine also came to mind with their corrupt elections, violence and even poisoning of a candidate.

Mr. Higgins' speech thanked his supporters and his family. The funniest part of the speech was a story that he told of his son, John. He had a talk with his son at the onset of the election, preparing him for the negative things that may be said about his Dad.

John said, "Don't worry Dad, 'the tax-man' will do OK." This was a reference to television ads from his opponent. The room erupted in laughter. My Dad got a big hug from Mr. Higgins after the speech, and we posed for a picture with my Mom's friend from college, that grew up with Brian Higgins in South Buffalo.

After the reception, our group walked the parade route of the Presidential Inauguration down Pennsylvania Avenue. Workers were very busy constructing reviewing stands for the President at the White House, and setting up bleachers for the public along the route. Again, the theme of celebrating the peaceful transition of power came to mind. Seeing the White House, even from the gates still gave me a chill running up my spine.

One last reception, at Mackey's Irish Pub on L Street, a few blocks away from the White House. The speeches were over, it was now time to unwind with our new friends from Buffalo and Erie county, and to have something to eat—and celebrate the wonderful things that Congressman Higgins hopes to accomplish for Western New York, and the nation during his tenure in the House of Representatives.

My final thoughts and discussion with my Dad on the return trip to Jamestown was how I felt like I was a part of the democratic process, even though I am not old enough to vote yet. I had a wonderful time with my father and my new friends, and the memories will last for a lifetime.

HONORING GEORGE NEUKOM, JR.
OF ZEPHYRHILLS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George A. Neukom, Jr. of Zephyrhills, Florida.

George A. Neukom, Jr. is a fifth generation Floridian from Pasco County, a lifetime resident of Zephyrhills, a 1959 graduate of Stetson University and a great fifth district constituent.

I would like to recognize George for his outstanding lifetime of work in Pasco County, Florida. As recognition for his efforts, George will be honored as the recipient of the 2nd annual Lincoln Heritage Award held by the East Pasco Republican Club.

This prestigious award was established by the East Pasco Republican Club to recognize an outstanding community member for his or her commitment to the principles practiced and espoused by the first Republican, Abraham Lincoln, and for humanitarian services to his or her community and to Pasco County.

Beginning in 1921 when his grandmother opened Neukom's Drug Store in Zephyrhills, the Neukom family has been a positive influence in the community. The store included a coffee shop where the traditional game of "scratch" provided a forum for local, county, State and Federal candidates of all parties to discuss current topics. In later years, George continued this practice until the store closed.

An accomplished businessman in Pasco County, George is also the president and chairman of the board of Neukom Properties, Inc., a citrus and cattle company. He also founded the George A. Neukom, Jr. Insurance Agency and serves as a consultant to both Precise Power Corporation in Bradenton, FL and Neukom Groves.

An active member of the First Baptist Church in Zephyrhills, George was appointed to the Florida Citrus Commission by former Governor Bob Martinez and served from 1989 to 1992. He is a member of Zephyr Lodge 198 F & AM, Scottish Rite—Shrine and Rotary Club. George serves on the hospital advisory board at East Pasco Medical Center in Zephyrhills and is also on the advisory board at the Zephyrhills City Library.

George married the former Ann Brooke in 1962, and together they raised two children, Tamara and George III. They have been blessed with four loving grandchildren, Ashley and Hannah Oakley and Victoria and George Neukom IV.

Mr. Speaker, George Neukom is a model Pasco County citizen and is truly deserving of the 2nd Annual Lincoln Heritage Award.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
SENATOR RON AMSTUTZ

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Ohio State Senator Ron Amstutz is an exceptional individual worthy of merit and recognition; and

Whereas, Senator Amstutz has been appointed to lead the Senate Ways and Means Committee by Senator Bill Harris; and

Whereas, Senator Amstutz should be commended for his excellence, professionalism, integrity, and for his ongoing efforts to work for the constituents of the 22nd District in Ohio.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Senator Ron Amstutz

for his appointment to the Ways and Means Committee.

ADDRESS OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PAUL WOLFOWITZ, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF NAZI DEATH CAMPS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on January 24 of this year, the United Nations General Assembly commemorated the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi death camps. January 27, 1945, was the date on which Russian troops liberated Auschwitz, the most notorious of the death camps, and the symbol of the Holocaust, in which over 6 million Jews and hundreds of thousands of other nationalities were brutally murdered during World War II.

The United States was ably represented by Paul Wolfowitz, our Deputy Secretary of Defense who addressed the General Assembly on behalf of the United States and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the outstanding statement of Secretary Wolfowitz be placed in the Congressional Record. He addressed "the larger meaning" of the Special Session noting: "We are here to reflect on . . . how totalitarian evil claimed millions of precious lives. But just as important, the member nations attending today are affirming their rejection of such evil and making a statement of hope for a more civilized future, a hope that 'never again' will the world look the other way in the face of such evil." I urge my colleagues to read Secretary Wolfowitz' thoughtful remarks:

Thank you, Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished delegates, distinguished guests.

Thank you, Mr. President for convening this 28th Special Session and thank you to the member states that supported the request for commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps.

Thank you Mr. Secretary General for your eloquent statement today and for your encouragement of this initiative.

Thank you, Sir Brian Urquhart for your service in the war and your witness here today.

And our special gratitude goes to Elie Wiesel, not only for his inspiring words today, but for all he has taught us with his life. Elie Wiesel has taught us that "in extreme situations when human lives and dignity are at stake, neutrality is a sin. It helps the killers," he says, "not the victims."

Elie Wiesel teaches us that we must speak about unspeakable deeds, so that they will be neither forgotten nor repeated. Most of all, he offers personal witness to all humanity that in the face of the most horrific oppression, there is always hope that the goodness of the human spirit will prevail.

That is the larger meaning of why we gather here today. We're here to reflect on the magnitude of the occasion how totalitarian evil claimed millions of precious lives. But just as important, the member nations attending today are affirming their rejection of such evil and making a statement of hope

for a more civilized future, a hope that "never again" will the world look the other way in the face of such evil.

For if there is one thing the world has learned, it is that peaceful nations cannot close their eyes or sit idly by in the face of genocide. It took a war, the most terrible war in history, to end the horrors that we remember today. It was a war that Winston Churchill called "The Unnecessary War" because he believed that a firm and concerted policy by the peaceful nations of the world could have stopped Hitler early on. But it was a war that became necessary to save the world from what he correctly called "the abyss of a new dark age, made more sinister . . . by the lights of a perverted science."

This truth we also know—that war, even a just and noble war, is horrible for everyone it touches. War is not something Americans seek, nor something we will ever grow to like. Throughout our history, we have waged it reluctantly, but we have pursued it as a duty when it was necessary.

Our own Civil War was one of the bloodiest the world had known up to its time. And it too was fought to end a great evil. As that war was nearing its bloody close, President Abraham Lincoln spoke to the nation hoping that the war would end soon, but saying that it would continue if necessary "until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword."

Two months after the Battle of Antietam, where the number of American dead was four times the number that fell on the beaches of Normandy, President Lincoln told members of the U.S. Congress that those who "hold the power, and bear the responsibility" could not escape the burden of history, "We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth."

Americans have fought often to liberate others from slavery and tyranny in order to protect our own freedom. Cemeteries from France to North Africa, with their rows of Christian crosses and Stars of David, attest to that truth.

When Americans have taken up arms, it was believing that, in the end, it is never just about us alone, knowing that woven into our liberty is a mantle of responsibility, knowing that the whole world benefits when people are free to realize their dreams and develop their talents.

Today, we remember the people who fell victim to tyranny because of their political views, their heritage or their religion, in places where human slaughter was perfected as an efficient and systematic industry of state. We can only imagine how different our lives would be had those millions of lost souls had the chance to live out their dreams.

Today, we also pay tribute to all the soldiers of many Allied nations who participated in the liberation of the Nazi death camps, for their courage and sacrifice and for the care they provided to the survivors.

We are proud of the role of our own American soldiers, the so-called "young old men" of 19 and 20 years of age, who fought through their own horrors at Anzio and Normandy and Bastogne and who thought that a world of evil no longer held surprises for them, but who were astonished to the deepest part of their souls when they confronted the human ruins of Nazi tyranny in the spring of 1945.

Just one week before the end of the war in Europe, the U.S. Seventh Army would reach Dachau. Lt. Colonel Walther Fellenz described what he saw as the 42nd Infantry Division neared the main gate of that concentration camp, it was "a mass of cheering, half-mad men, women and children . . . their liberators had come! The noise was beyond comprehension," he said. And "our hearts wept as we saw the tears of happiness fall from their cheeks."

Sensing the approach of victory, General Dwight Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander, was unprepared for what greeted him at the camp at Ohrdruf as he walked past thousands of corpses in shallow graves and saw the instruments of torture used by the SS, he was moved to anger and to action.

He cabled Army Chief of Staff George Marshall words which are now engraved at the entrance of the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.: "The things I saw," Eisenhower wrote, "beggared description . . . the visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty and bestiality were so overpowering." He insisted on looking into one particular room that contained piles of skeletal, naked men, killed through starvation. "I made the visit deliberately," he said, "in order to be in a position to give firsthand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations to 'propaganda.'"

Eisenhower wanted others to see this crime against humanity. So, he urged American Congressmen and journalists to go to the camps. He directed that a film record the reality and that it be shown widely to German citizens. And he ordered that as many GIs as possible see the camps. American soldiers became what one writer called "reluctant archeologists of man's most inhuman possibilities."

Jack Hallet was one of the soldiers who liberated Dachau found that it was difficult to separate the living from the dead. As he looked closer at a stack of corpses, he noticed that deep within the pile, he could see sets of eyes still blinking.

Dan Evers was in the 286th Combat Engineer Battalion at Dachau: "The gas chamber door was closed," he recalled, "but the ovens were still open. There was a sign in German overhead which said: 'Wash your hands after work.'"

Another soldier wrote to his parents, asking them to keep his letter, because "it is my personal memorandum of something I personally want to remember but would like to forget."

From Ebensee, Captain Timothy Brennan of the Third Cavalry wrote to his wife and child: "You cannot imagine that such things exist in a civilized world."

From Mauthausen in Austria, Sergeant Fred Friendly wrote to his mother: "I want you to never forget or let our disbelieving friends forget, that your flesh and blood saw this . . . Your son saw this with his own eyes and in doing so aged 10 years."

Beyond the shock and horror, American and Russian and other Allied soldiers who liberated the camps were also witnesses to hope. Tomorrow, you will have the opportunity to hear an American GI tell one such story. Tomorrow Lt. John Withers, of the all African-American Quartermaster Truck Company 3512, will speak about how he and his soldiers changed the lives of two young boys forever who were rescued from Dachau.

Yet, as proud as we are of the role our soldiers played in the liberation of the concentration camps, we know that we all arrived too late for most of the victims.

Just last week, a great Polish patriot passed away. During World War II, Jan Nowak, who was not Jewish, risked his life to leave Poland to bring news of the Nazi genocide to the West. I was privileged to meet Jan Nowak in his Warsaw apartment just three months ago. He recalled that after the war when he was able to see the records of his secret meetings with Western officials, there was no mention of what he had told them about Poland's Jews. Nowak put it down to "wartime inconvenience." He was telling truths that people wanted not to know.

And, despite our fervent promises never to forget, we know that there have been far too

many occasions in the six decades since the liberation of the concentration camps, when the world ignored inconvenient truths so that it would not have to act, or acted too late.

We have agreed today to set aside contemporary political issues, in order to reflect on those events of sixty years ago in a spirit of unanimity. But let us do so with a unanimous resolve to give real meaning to those words "never forget." And with a resolve that even when we may find it too difficult to act, we at least have an obligation at least to face the truth.

Last Thursday, as he began his second term in office, President George Bush expressed his belief that our nation's interests cannot be separated from the aspirations of others to be free from tyranny and oppression. "America's vital interests," he said, "and our deepest beliefs are now one. From the day of our Founding, we have proclaimed that every man and woman on this earth has rights, and dignity, and matchless value, because they bear the image of the Maker of Heaven and earth. Across the generations we have proclaimed the imperative of self-government, because no one is fit to be a master, and no one deserves to be a slave. Advancing these ideals is the mission that created our Nation. It is the honorable achievement of our fathers. Now it is the urgent requirement of our nation's security, and the calling of our time."

Americans remain committed to working with all nations of good will to alleviate the suffering of our time. And we remain hopeful that when generations to come look back on this time they will see that we in it were dedicated to fulfilling the pledge that arose from the ashes of man's inhumanity toward man—Never again.

Never again and never forget. We must keep remembering to continue to speak about unspeakable things. So we commend the United Nations for a remembrance of the Holocaust befitting its significance in human history. In doing so, perhaps we can help avoid such inhumanity and the warfare that is so often the result.

Thank you very much.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ARTHUR BENSON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great Western New Yorker; businessman, community leader, and friend, Mr. Art Benson of Springville, NY. Mr. Benson was 75 years old when he died of cancer on January 21, 2005.

Art Benson was a man who held himself to the highest standard of excellence in service to his community and generosity in his personal life. He served as President of the U.S. Route 219 Association and the Springville Chamber of Commerce. In 1977, he was awarded the title "Citizen of the Year" based on his demonstration of the difference one person can make in his community. In his private life he was committed to helping others battle alcoholism with Alcoholics Anonymous.

Art's success came from his optimism, his passion for civic involvement, and his magnetic personality. He spent his youth working as a bellhop in Buffalo's Hotel Statler, befriending famous actors and politicians that came to stay. President Truman thought so highly of Art that he appointed him his personal aide during his 1948 Presidential campaign.

In his adult life, Art had a long and successful career in the auto sales business. He purchased a Ford dealership in 1965, which he sold in 1982 to become Emerling Ford and Mercury. Following the sale of his business, he worked as a sales representative for Towne Lincoln-Mercury in Orchard Park, NY.

The success that Art's work ethic and affable nature led to in the private sector brought him even more success in the public sector. A strong believer in the economic benefits that expanding U.S. route 219 would bring to western New York, politicians and development officials nicknamed Art, "Mr. 219." He was the road's most influential advocate, making public statements on its expansion even in his final days.

His leadership did not end with route 219. As president of the Springville Chamber of Commerce, he pressed for the creation of Springville's Pre-School Learning Center for the Handicapped. He was also a driving force behind the establishment of the Town of Concord Industrial Development Agency.

As I noted earlier, perhaps some of Art's greatest contributions to his community were made in his private life. A former alcoholic, Art beat the disease 37 years ago and has been a friend and counselor to other recovering alcoholics ever since. According to his son, Michael, Art would do anything in his power to help alcoholics, even when it meant leaving home in the middle of the night to offer support.

But the aspect of Art's life which made him most proud was his family. Art was the husband of the former Marie Chute, who passed away in 2000, and is survived by his sons Michael, Arthur, Robert, and Claytus, daughters Marie Pitello, Colleen Benson, and Kathleen Benson. Arthur also leaves behind his great prides and joy—his 16 grandchildren.

Citizens of Art Benson's caliber are hard to come by. Whether it was through the gifts he was born with or his personal struggles, he consistently found ways to give to his community. Many in western New York will miss his leadership, enthusiasm, and friendship. I was proud to call Art Benson my friend and I am pleased to honor his memory today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO McMINN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, this month, the McMinn County, Tennessee Soil and Water Conservation District will celebrate its 50th anniversary. This milestone is much more than a birthday. It is a celebration of a voluntary conservation program that has involved more than 30,000 farmers, and other land users.

This program has benefited thousands of East Tennesseans by implementing flood prevention plans, creating recreation areas, and putting many other soil conservation projects in place.

I have enjoyed working with the McMinn County Social and Water Conservation District in the sixteen years I have served in the House. My father also worked closely with this program when he served in this seat from 1964 to 1988.

Mr. Speaker, let me again congratulate the McMinn County Soil and Water Conservation for fifty years of excellent service to east Tennessee. I have enclosed a written history of the program that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow members and other readers of the RECORD.

THE HISTORY OF THE McMINN COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The McMinn County Soil Conservation District was founded on December 28, 1954. The original charter members were Rex Moses, Clarence Miller, Carl D. Stager, J. G. Wilson, and J. K. Pickens.

Conservation Districts are local government subdivisions established under state law to carry out a program for the conservation, use and development of soil, water and related resources.

In 1972, The McMinn County Soil Conservation District, along with nine other sister districts, took an active part in the drive to establish the ten county Southeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development Districts. We met with other SCD Boards several times in making and submitting an application to the Secretary of Agriculture for an RC&D project. This project was approved and funded in September 1972. The Board asked for and received active support on this project from the County Council, City Governments, Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, and others interested in the resources of McMinn County.

The Sweetwater Creek Watershed District was organized in 1958 by local landowners with the help of the three sponsoring organizations—McMinn, Monroe, Loudon Soil Conservation Districts. A flood prevention plan for the Cities of Sweetwater and Philadelphia and all the low-lying land along the Sweetwater Creek from its origin in McMinn County to the outlet at the Tennessee River in Loudon County was completed in 1970.

Sweetwater Creek Watershed Program is a local project with technical and financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture. The principal problems were floodwater and sediment damage to agricultural lands, industrial, commercial and residential properties and roads. There are 37,460 acres in this watershed.

With the help of the sponsoring districts the watershed board requested funding from the three counties and the City of Sweetwater for operational and maintenance expenses in the amount of \$6,600.00 annually. Funding was provided in 1974.

Congress authorized funding for the Sweetwater Creek Watershed Project in July 1972. Without the help of the Honorable John Duncan, Sr., the project would not have been funded.

The McMinn Board of Supervisors asked the County Council to budget \$600 per year for maintenance of dams on the Sweetwater project. The council was very happy to comply with this request.

Four flood retarding structures have been completed in McMinn County, channelization for the creek in the City of Philadelphia, and 9 miles of clearing and snagging of the creek between the Cities of Sweetwater and Philadelphia. The construction on the first flood retarding structure begins in October 1975. In 1989 the fourth flood retarding structure was completed. This was the final phase of the project for federal funding. The total cost of the work was 4.6 million dollars. Benefits to the area have been substantial. The Cities of Sweetwater and Philadelphia have not been flooded since the structures were built and the channelization complete.

Every year the watershed board maintains the flood retarding structures and the channel. The retarding structures are mowed an-

nually; any trees removed from the embankment, and eroding areas are seeded. The channel is inspected and cleared of any fallen trees, logs or trash that may cause problems. Sand bars are removed from the channel.

Benefits to the area have been substantial. The Cities of Sweetwater and Philadelphia have not been flooded since the structures were built and the channelization completed. Preventing damage to the agricultural, industrial, commercial and residential properties has saved millions of dollars.

The McMinn County Soil Conservation started Tree Day in March 1972. We gave away 10,000 white pines which were donated by Bowater. The District requested the assistance of the City of Athens to distribute the trees in 19—. Later, Arbor Day and the State Forest Service absorbed Tree Day. Citizens National Bank joined the District and City in sponsoring this event, which continues today.

The County Council requested the District assist in planning and implementing a nine-acre recreation area at the County Landfill. The District supplied tuff-cote Bermuda sprigs for the ball fields and supervised planting and land grading. The District Board assisted in three seminars on landfill operations, and site selection at the request of the County Council, for visiting county officials, schools, health departments, etc.

In 1982, the Chestuee Creek Special ACP Demonstration Area was co-sponsored by the Soil Conservation District. Approximately thirty-five thousand (35,000) acres of land in the McMinn County Soil Conservation District is within this watershed. At a dedication ceremony held in April, over 500 people from East and Middle Tennessee attended to close out this project. The Board of Supervisors was very proud to have had a part in the success of the Chestuee Creek project. This project brought over \$1,250,000 in federal funds to the area. Many conservation practices were installed by local farmers, which they would not have otherwise been able to accomplish.

The District signed a Memorandum of Understanding with McMinn County in March 1983. The Memorandum spells out the responsibilities of both parties in our joint conservation efforts. The district has been able to lead the state in many areas of conservation application because of the support of our County and City officials. The commitment to the conservation effort by these groups makes the job much easier and satisfying.

The orphan strip mines continued to be a problem in the county. The District completed an inventory of these mines in 1984. Special funds were requested to reclaim these areas through a Special ACP funding for critical area treatment. We are awaiting approval of this project.

Our Conservation District was pleased to have our local nominee named as a Five Star Farmer by TVA for outstanding soil conservation accomplishment. Lowry Dougherty won the award for the excellent progress to controlling erosion on his 240-acre dairy farm.

In 1984, the Upper Oostanaula Creek Special ACP Demonstration Area was co-sponsored by the Soil Conservation District. Approximately twelve thousand acres of land in the McMinn County Soil Conservation District is within this watershed. This is the second national project that has been approved for McMinn County. The Board of Supervisors was very proud to have had a part in the success of the Oostanaula Creek Project which brought over one million dollars in federal funds to the area. Many conservation practices were installed by local farmers, which they would not have otherwise been able to accomplish.

Work was started on the Flood Hazard Study on Oostanaula Creek in October 1987. A series of public hearings were held in November and survey work has proceeded on schedule. The final plan was completed and ready for funding by September 1988.

In 1987, a group of volunteer conservationists formed an "Earth Team" to assist the McMinn Soil Conservation District with their conservation programs. The members included Hugh "Doc" Lamb, J. Neal Ensminger, Harold "Prof" Powers, Herbert "Dick" Williams, F. W. Adsit, Rex Moses, Charles Engle, E. H. Looney, Clarence Streetman, and Ginger Wheeler.

The McMinn "Earth Team" was the first recipients to receive state and national recognition for their volunteer efforts in conservation. They were cited by the National Association Conservation Districts for their exemplary volunteer efforts to attain conservation goals. They were honored at the NACD National meeting in February 1988 at Little Rock, Arkansas. The "Keep McMinn Beautiful" committee was formed as a direct result of the Earth Team.

Some of the projects carried out by the Earth Team were:

- I. Conservation Education Program
 - a. Conducted conservation school camps for city and county schools.
 - b. Presented programs to civic and garden clubs.
 - c. Contacted farmers to explain the provisions of the Farm Bill.
 - d. Developed a forest information program for area woodlot owners.
 - e. Assisted with conservation tours, meetings, etc.
- II. Water Quality Concerns
 - a. Conducted an extensive public awareness campaign on the water quality problems in McMinn County.
 - b. Developed a slide presentation on roadside litter and dumps.
 - c. Assisted the county in locating suitable landfill sites.
- III. Formed a Speakers Bureau
 - a. Sent out brochures to civic, school, and church groups on conservation speakers available for programs.
- IV. Conservation Application
 - a. Located farm boundaries on maps.
 - b. Compiled list of Highly Erodible Land (HEL).
 - c. Assist with layout of strip cropping, animal waste systems and waterways
 - d. Gather information on soil loss for SL-1 referrals.
 - e. Contact farmers concerning sodbuster-swampbuster provisions of Farm Bill.

In 1993, The Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment published a list of all streams in Tennessee, which have water pollutants. Oostanaula Creek was identified as having pollutants nitrogen and pathogen. Best Management Practices were installed and cost shared through funds received from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture with the help of the Southeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development. Water Quality practices included stream fencing to prevent livestock having direct access to the creek, stream crossing, alternative livestock watering systems, conservation buffers strips and animal waste management systems

The Farm Bills bring many programs under Conservation Compliance. To participate and receive benefits from USDA is voluntary to the farmer. The District strives to make program participation clientele friendly and manageable to the farmers as it can, while meeting conservation goals.

In 1993, 484 landowners received assistance from Field Office staff. To date, 23,546 acres of highly erodible land were identified with

20,996 acres under conservation plan, and 13,084 acres plan applied and on the ground. The ACP program had 171 referrals. There were 25 LTA's, 13 Farm Bill Status Reviews, 1 569 compliance investigation, and 7 water quality complaints were investigated.

The McMinn County Water Quality assisted the Tennessee Department of Health & Environment with investigations of citizen complaints involving water pollution from animal waste and dairy operations waste, poultry operations waste, mining runoff, and disposal of dead animals. Investigations were conducted of numerous potential groundwater pollution problems (wells and springs in the county). Through these investigations, samples were collected to be analyzed by private laboratories. The test results were then analyzed and possible solutions were recommended.

Local industry and utility districts with potential groundwater problems were assisted. The County Board of Education was assisted with assessment of periodic well water sampling requirements to comply with State Regulations. Well water samples were collected for determination of lead in drinking water from several homes in response to requests. The laboratory determination results were then analyzed and citizens advised as to further action. Also, assistance was given in determining aquatic weed problems and treatment was recommended for several farm ponds.

Consultation was provided for two established watershed districts in response to water quality assessment needs. Sites for drinking water sampling were selected and samples collected to establish the need for extension of Riceville water lines to additional areas in the county.

The Water Quality Office responded to many requests for information and questions concerning appropriate authority for assistance.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL NATHAN R. ANDERSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of Cpl. Nathan Anderson upon the death of this outstanding Marine.

Cpl. Anderson was a member of the Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7, 1st Marine Division serving his great nation in the country of Iraq. He was a loving son, brother, and friend to all who knew him. Cpl. Anderson was an active citizen in his community and did his best to make his country a better place to live.

Cpl. Anderson will be remembered for his unsurpassed sacrifice of self while protecting others. His example of strength and fortitude will be remembered by all those who knew him.

While words cannot express our grief during the loss of such a courageous Marine, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Cpl. Nathan R. Anderson.

IN HONOR OF MR. ARNOLD
FONTES

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Arnold R. Fontes, who is retiring after 34 years as the San Benito County Assessor. His continuous re-election for over three decades speaks volumes for his ability and for the trust the people of this county placed in him.

Mr. Fontes was raised in San Benito County and attended local schools. He joined the R.O.T.C. and graduated in 1955 from the University of Santa Clara with a degree in Business Administration, majoring in accounting. He served in Germany as an Army Artillery Officer, and met his wife, Helga, while stationed there.

Upon returning to the United States he was employed by McCormick Selph as their Accounting Manager, and then with Protective Papers as Plant Manager and Controller. On September 1, 1970 Mr. Fontes was appointed Assessor of San Benito County, and ran unopposed for eight consecutive terms.

Arnold Fontes played a significant role in the community during those years. His activities include 31 years with the Boy Scouts of America, serving as District Chairman and as Vice President of Special Assignments of the Monterey Bay Area Council. He was President of the California Assessors' Association in 1982 and Treasurer from 1983 to 2000. He was a member of the San Benito Chamber of Commerce for 35 years, including Director from 1972 to 1974. During his 32 years with the Hollister Rotary Club he served as President from 1979 to 1980, and received the Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Currently, Mr. Fontes serves as Treasurer for the Community Foundation for San Benito County.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Arnold Fontes's many accomplishments, and commend him for his tremendous devotion to his community. I join all of San Benito County in honoring this truly remarkable man for his lifelong achievements.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
MR. JOHN ALBERT "AL"
WICKLAND, JR.

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor an outstanding citizen and dear friend, Mr. John Albert "Al" Wickland, Jr. from Carmichael, CA, who died on Thursday, January 20, 2005. He was 84 years old.

Al was raised in Orland, CA. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied electrical engineering. When World War II began, Al left the University and began his lifelong dedication to his country and the communities he called home. Al entered the U.S. Army Air Corps and served honorably as a B-26 instructor during the war. On February

4, 1942, while on leave from his duties serving our country, Al wed Mary Elizabeth Linton in Carson City, NV. They were happily married for 58 years until Mary's death in 2000.

After the war, Al returned with Mary to Orland where they raised four children. In 1954, Al started Wickland Oil Company and a life-long career in oil distribution and marketing. Wickland Oil quickly opened a chain of gasoline and convenience stores called Regal Stations, which operated throughout California, Oregon, and Nevada. By adopting innovative strategies such as offering low-cost self-serve gasoline, Al demonstrated a unique ability to understand and cater to the needs of his consumers. With Al's leadership and vision, Wickland Oil and Regal Stations quickly grew into a regional powerhouse.

By 1980, Wickland Oil's commodities trading and oil storage business was a major operator on the international stage. Again displaying great vision, Al directed Wickland Oil into the Chinese market, making it one of the very first American firms to open trade relations with China. Under Al's leadership, Wickland Oil impressively built storage and distribution facilities in California, China, Australia, Singapore, Russia, and the Caribbean. Al was especially grateful for the contributions his two sons, John and Roy, as well as his son-in-law, Dan Hall, made to Wickland Oil. He took great pleasure in working with them on a day-to-day basis.

In addition to building a world-renowned company, Al served his community. He was a charter member and co-founder of the Orland Rotary Club, a Trustee of the YMCA, a member of the advisory board of California State University at Chico, and the co-founder of the California Independent Oil Marketers Association. Upon moving to Sacramento in 1972, Al joined the Fremont Presbyterian Church, Sacramento Rotary, the Sutter Club, and Del Paso Country Club. In addition to participating in these activities, Al especially loved spending time with his family and friends piloting his boat, the Regal Lady, along the North American coastline and elsewhere.

While Al enjoyed great success in his business and community endeavors, his passion remained his family. Al is survived by his wife of 3 years Beatrice Rogers Wickland and his four children: John A. Wickland III, Valerie E. Wickland, Roy L. Wickland and his wife, Janet E. Wickland, Laurel Wickland Hall and her husband, Daniel E. Hall. Al also had a great affection for his 11 grandchildren: Joshua D. Wickland, John A. Wickland IV, Stacia C. Wickland, Scott Lusk, Tracy Frost Lusk Scollan, Jessica Wickland Oehmen, Allison C. Wickland, Matthew J. Wickland, John L. Hall, Danielle E. Hall, and Joseph D. Hall.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with Al Wickland's family, friends, and community to commemorate his life of hard work, service to country and community, and dedication to his family. May he rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to reasons beyond my control I was unable to vote on

February 1st, or February 2nd of this year. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes.

On rollcall vote No. 14, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 15, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 16, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 17, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 18, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 19, I would have voted "yea."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JEANNE CROTTY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jeanne Crotty has served diligently as an intern for the office of Congressman BOB NEY in the United States House of Representatives; and

Whereas, Jeanne Crotty has demonstrated that she is an extremely talented individual who understands public policy, government relations and the American political system; and

Whereas, Jeanne Crotty should be commended for her excellent service, her integrity and dedication to the projects she was asked to perform.

Therefore, I join with Members of Congress and their staff in thanking Jeanne Crotty for her outstanding service as an intern in the United States House of Representatives.

COMMENDING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR HOLDING FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which commends the Palestinian people for holding free and fair elections on January 9. I know we all hope it will be the end of the violence that has devastated so many families, and the beginning of the resumption of peaceful negotiations.

The State of Israel and many, many Palestinians want this. They want peace—to safeguard their children, to encourage economic growth, to move toward the future with optimism and a sense of purpose. The United States shares this hope, and must continue to actively support these efforts. I commend President Bush for his involvement, and I hope he will remain steadfast.

But we are not naive. We have been at such hopeful moments before. As President Bush said last summer, there are a number of concrete actions the Palestinians must take before they can be viewed as legitimate partners in the path to peace.

Free elections are one step. But now newly elected Palestinian Authority Chairman

Mahmoud Abbas must do more. He must disarm Palestinian terrorist groups—not just call on them to cease attacks on Israelis. Abbas must do the hard work of dismantling the terrorist organizations. He must control and consolidate the security forces that often collaborated with terror groups. He must push for true political and economic reform, and stop the rampant corruption. And finally, he must truly engage Arab leaders in supporting true peace in the region. If he does all these things, if Abbas can demonstrate by his action that he is a serious, earnest partner in the pursuit of peace, then there is truly cause for hope.

We have waited decades for a peace that will safeguard Israel's security, and will bring about regional stability and prosperity. For those who truly seek peace, who understand that there is no choice but peace to secure the future of the Middle East, the latest developments are encouraging.

The future of the Middle East—and the ultimate security and safety of Israel—is at stake. The United States will maintain its commitment to bringing the parties back to the negotiating table, but the ultimate choice of peace is theirs to make. Chairman Abbas must not squander the opportunity to bring peace and prosperity to his people. He must show his willingness to make the tough choices, and take the risky path, that separates those who truly seek peace from those who do not.

I urge unanimous adoption of this resolution.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 36, EXPRESSING CONTINUED SUPPORT OF CONGRESS FOR EQUAL ACCESS OF MILITARY RECRUITERS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, along with Congressman GERALD SOLOMON I introduced the original amendment in 1994 which clearly stated that if universities receive Federal funding, they must also allow military recruiters on campus.

Congress was clear that if universities accept funding from the Federal Government, they must support the government at a basic level. It is a double standard for universities to be willing to accept all types of funding from the Federal Government, but are unwilling to support America's men and women training to defend the freedoms of our country.

Congress passed the Solomon-Pombo amendment with the understanding that the military plays an indispensable role in securing the freedoms protected in our society. The Federal Government is responsible for protecting our borders, our safety, and our freedoms. It is the military that ensures the freedoms of college faculty and students to voice their opinions in our open and free society.

The court ruling from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals is clearly flawed in a number of ways. It is not discriminatory for the military to maintain a "don't ask; don't tell" policy. In fact, the military's policy has been upheld by the courts in large part because Constitution explicitly states Congress' plenary power in this

area. "The Congress shall have Power . . . To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces."

There is a widely held belief at America's universities that it is somehow unfair that the American military is disproportionately made up of minorities and those from a disadvantaged socioeconomic background. However, it is the height of hypocrisy to complain that too many of the sacrifices in the military are made by people from lower income groups and at the same time bar the military from recruiting at prestigious universities.

Clearly, there is an antimilitary bias at many elite universities that has nothing to do with the military's policy of "don't ask; don't tell." Too many of the spokespeople and prominent officials in academia are relentlessly anti military and antiwar regardless of the circumstances.

The usual, tired complaints from the halls of academia ring especially hollow in the post 9/11 world. Who does the NYU Law School faculty believe will protect it from another terrorist attack on downtown New York if not the U.S. military?

The complexity of our military systems creates a demand for recruits with a diverse backgrounds and education levels including bachelor degrees and law degrees. To restrict ROTC offerings on college campuses limits the pool of applicants necessary to run vital military systems.

Conversely, men and women should have an option to prepare for military careers with the support of Federal Government. Restricting ROTC from campus limits and restricts career options.

It is a double standard for universities to be willing to accept all types of funding from the Federal Government, but are unwilling to support America's men and women training to defend the freedoms of our country.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY
SERVICE OF MARGARET KOLAR

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret (Marge) Kolar's 29 years of exemplary service with the Fish and Wildlife Service. For the past 10 years Marge has served as the project leader for the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, whose administrative offices are located in Newark, CA.

As project leader, Marge has overseen seven unique San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay area refuges. Her most recent projects include her active collaboration on the Project Management Team for the South Bay Restoration Project. In February 2005, Marge will move from her current position to serve as assistant manager for the Refuge Program in the California Nevada Regional Office.

Marge has served in a variety of programs, geographic areas, and organizational levels. She started her federal career with a 3-year stint in the Peace Corps as a teacher in Sierra Leone, West Africa. After several years in the private sector, Marge joined the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service in 1976. She joined the Office of Biological Services in Washington DC, working on the National Wetlands Inventory and other wetland issues. In 1980, she moved to the Service's Washington/ Oregon Area Office as the assistant area manager for Environment and Endangered Species, supervising three field stations. During her time in the Area Office, Marge also worked as the Habitat Protection Coordinator, including developing proposals for refuge land acquisition. Her next move was to the East Lansing, Michigan Field Office, where she was the assistant field supervisor and acting field supervisor from 1982 to 1989. Marge returned to the Washington office in 1989 to work in the Branch of Federal Activities and Habitat Conservation. Her last 3 years in this office were as Branch Chief.

I applaud Marge's extensive experience and impressive career in public service. Her contributions and leadership as Refuge Complex Manager of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge have left an indelible mark. I join her colleagues in thanking her for her dedicated service to the Refuge Complex and wish her every success in her new position within the Fish and Wildlife Service.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
ANTHONY "TONY" GENTILE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Anthony Gentile has received his honorary Bachelor of Science degree from Youngstown State University; and

Whereas, Anthony Gentile gave up his college education to serve his country during World War II as a member of the United States Army; and

Whereas, Anthony Gentile should be commended for his service to the United States and for his dedication to furthering his education.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Anthony "Tony" Gentile for his outstanding accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING ANGELA SAN
NICOLAS QUIHUIZ

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer 2nd Class Angela San Nicolas Quihuiz, a distinguished Chamorro sailor recently selected as the Military Sealift Command, MSCPAC, Shore Sailor of the Year. Throughout her career, Angela's commitment to excellence, professionalism, and exemplary performance has been consistently recognized by her superiors.

Angela is the daughter of Annie Toves San Nicolas, formerly of Agana Heights, and Michael Gonzalez Quihuiz, formerly of Phoenix, AZ. Though she and her daughter Kambrea A. Quihuiz currently reside in Chula Vista, CA, Angela still deeply values and respects her Chamorro heritage and visits Guam frequently.

Angela enlisted in the U.S. Navy in August 1998 and currently serves as the MILDET Junior Yeoman for the MSCPAC in San Diego, CA. She has been recognized for her exemplary service on numerous occasions, receiving a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars, a Navy Unit Commendation Medal, a Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, a Navy Good Conduct Medal with one bronze star, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a National Defense Service Medal, a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and a Navy Recruiting Service Ribbon. She was named the Sailor of the Quarter, First Quarter 2001 while serving aboard the USS *John C. Stennis*. Angela's dedication, determination and enthusiasm has made her an integral part of many operations. She currently serves as the Awards Yeoman, Temporary Additional Duty Travel Coordinator, Leave Clerk, and Muster Petty Officer, supporting over 140 afloat military personnel in 19 forward deployed MSCPAC ships in the Pacific.

I commend Angela for her hard work and dedication to our country and express my sincere congratulations on being chosen as the Military Sealift Command Shore Sailor of the Year. As a native daughter of Guam, Angela serves as a model of success and brings great pride to our island and our people.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
LIEUTENANT COLONEL GARY ACE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to LTG Gary Ace who will be leaving his position as Legislative Liaison officer in the Army House Liaison office on February 18, 2005. Gary has volunteered for assignment to United States Central Command with duty in Iraq and Kuwait. During his tenure, Lieutenant Colonel Ace has distinguished himself as a friend, trusted resource, and an officer who epitomizes the modern American professional soldier.

The quality of Lieutenant Colonel Ace's leadership, management, and inter-personal skills, led him to be specially selected to serve in the Secretary of the Army's Legislative Liaison office in the United States House of Representatives. In that capacity, he has been responsible for maintaining liaison with 435 Members of Congress, their personal staffs, and 20 permanent or select legislative committees. Over the past year, Gary devoted himself to getting to know more than 100 Members personally. His dedication, candor and professionalism while serving in this capacity has earned him the reputation of being a go-to person on Capitol Hill to resolve issues pertaining to the Army.

Gary's fine service to his country has seen him recognized with many awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, the Ranger Tab, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Expert Infantry Badge. Lieutenant Colonel Ace has repeatedly stood for the defense of this Nation, her citizens and their

freedom. This devotion and steadfast commitment to the defense of freedom and liberty around the world is the hallmark of a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my personal gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Ace for his service to the House of Representatives, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gary for his service to our country. The United States will be well served as Lieutenant Colonel Ace furthers his career at CENTCOM in Iraq and Kuwait.

A SALUTE TO WALTER MESS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Walter L. Mess, on the occasion of his retirement after 46 years of service with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Walter is a good man who has made invaluable contributions to our area through his dedicated public service.

I am proud to call attention today to Walter's achievements. He spent 30 years as chairman of the park authority and under his leadership the park authority has become a thriving organization. I would like to share an article from a recent edition of the Washington Post which highlights Walter's many accomplishments and contributions.

[From the Washington Post, February 3, 2005]

AREA PARKS PIONEER EARNS A REST (By Leef Smith)

He was the longest-serving public official in Northern Virginia, overseeing the area's regional park authority as chairman for 30 years.

In December, Walter L. Mess stepped down from that post at the age of 90—his hearing, not his age, the deciding factor—having devoted more than 46 years of his life to preserving land in the area.

Under his leadership, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority preserved more than 10,000 acres while operating 19 regional parks in the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, as well as in Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

Today, the authority's assets are valued at more than \$1 billion.

"His contributions have been immense," said Barry Buschow, a member of the park authority board since 1990, who represented Falls Church along with Mess. "He's taken a struggling organization from nowhere to a billion-dollar corporation."

Asked this week to name his proudest achievement, Mess did not mention the development of the 45-mile Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park trail, or the acquisition of the 5,000-acre Occoquan Reservoir shoreline.

Instead, he talked about his family.

He told a story about one of his 10 grandchildren, Christine, now a schoolteacher with two children of her own. Just a teenager at the time, she confronted a manager at Upton Hill Regional Park in Arlington and demanded to know why a plaque honoring her grandfather was not being displayed.

"That's what I'm the proudest of," said Mess, who also has 10 great-grandchildren. "That's where the pride comes from."

Mess and his wife, Jean, met in business school in 1934. They were married for 62

years and raised four children. She died in 2002.

The parks agency was a voluntary, time-consuming sideline to Mess's career as a land economist and mortgage banker.

As a child he canoed, hiked, hunted and fished with his father and uncle throughout the area, in the days when it was still undeveloped.

As a young man hard at work on a law degree in 1939, Mess signed on with a U.S. government covert operations unit and was sent to Europe, where he traveled behind German lines.

He would receive an honorary green beret more than half a century later to honor his military intelligence service.

Mess returned to the United States in 1940 and returned to school to complete his degree. He married and started a family. Two years later, he enlisted in the Quartermaster Corps and was on his way to Asia when he caught his first glimpse of the future. Stationed in San Diego for a month, he got a chance to see the area's regional system of parks, golf courses and swimming pools, available to the public at no cost.

He came home in 1946 to his wife and a 4-year-old daughter he had never met. He brought with him four Bronze Star Medals, malaria, blackwater fever and the knowledge that he was lucky to be alive.

It was time, he decided, to help his native Washington benefit from the kinds of land preservation and recreational opportunities he had seen in California.

What the area needed, he decided, was a regional park system. Others agreed, and together they embarked on a decades-long journey to make it happen.

"When you start to do something, and you don't have any money and you have to get it from the public, you have to be very patient," Mess said. "We were very patient. That was part of the game."

It was also part of their success.

It took about 10 years to persuade legislators in Richmond to grant their approval. In 1959, Mess was Falls Church's first appointee to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Board.

Since then, the park authority has spent \$120 million on land, including parcels along the Occoquan Reservoir and Potomac River and on the environmentally fragile Mason Neck.

"Our whole idea was to protect the watershed and give people access to the water," Mess said. "Back in the early days, much of that land was land that developers weren't going to use."

In 1975, Mess became the authority's second chairman. In 1999, the agency honored his 40 years of service by naming its headquarters in Fairfax Station for him.

"This whole thing I'm being given credit for I didn't do," Mess said. "The people around me did." The authority "gets credit for planning and starting it, but we couldn't have done it without everyone."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING BEV RILEY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Bev Riley has served continuously as the office manager for the Chillicothe Mayor's Office for twenty years; and

Whereas, Bev Riley provided her services as office manager through the administration of three different Chillicothe mayors; and

Whereas, Bev Riley's service to the residents of Chillicothe is greatly appreciated by all who have worked with her. She should be commended for the help that she provided to the people of Chillicothe and the surrounding area.

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in celebrating Bev Riley's twenty years of service to the Village of Chillicothe.

HONORING THE LITERARY AND CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF VIOLA HERMS DRATH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a very special occasion—to celebrate the birthday of a distinguished American who is an author, playwright, journalist and diplomatic advisor—Viola Herms Drath.

Viola left her native Germany when she married U.S. Army Colonel Francis S. Drath, another great American, then Deputy U.S. Military Governor of Bavaria, after World War II. Prior to her marriage, Viola had established herself as a young playwright in Munich. Her first play, *Farewell Isabell*, a comedy, written at the age of 18 in the aftermath of the war, which was praised by critics, signaled the beginning of a long, creative career.

As her career evolved in the United States, she became a longtime Washington correspondent for *Handelsblatt*, Germany's equivalent of the *Wall Street Journal*, and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. Viola's insightful writings have helped Americans and Germans better understand post-war foreign policy. One of her articles for the National Committee entitled "The Reemergence of the German Question" published in 1988 proposed negotiations on German unification between the two German states and the four Allied Powers. As a foreign policy advisor of the 1988 Bush Presidential campaign, she helped lay the groundwork which led to the "2+4" process towards German unification in 1990.

Her biography of former German Chancellor Willy Brandt, *Willy Brandt: Prisoner of His Past*, first published in 1975, is being reissued this June in conjunction with the Broadway premiere of Michael Frayn's play "Democracy". Dr. Henry A. Kissinger recently praised this biography by calling it "a must-read for those interested in fully appreciating an important statesman both within his own times and beyond."

We are thankful to have the talents and energies of this extremely accomplished and talented individual. We wish her and her family many more birthday celebrations and all the best on this great occasion.

TRIBUTE TO DON DEMERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to Don DeMers.

Don passed away Tuesday, February 1st after a long and courageous battle against cancer. I wish to recognize his accomplishments for the residents of Fresno County, as well as commend him on a life well lived.

In 1986, Don and I worked together to pass "Measure C" before the Fresno County voters. This groundbreaking legislation established Fresno County as one of the Nation's first "self-help" communities. The money collected through this measure allowed Fresno residents to build their own roads when our State Government could not. Through his expertise and management, Don invested the measure's proceeds to finance many severely needed rural and urban roads in Fresno County. As a result, residents and visitors to Fresno County today enjoy Route 41, SR 168 and SR 180, among others. These roads are vital to Fresno County's continued growth and expansion. Don's 18 years of service as Executive Director of Fresno County Transportation Authority realized the success we knew Measure C would bring to Fresno, and I do not believe that the height of this success could have been realized without him.

Don possessed a great spirit, sense of humor, and a keen intellect. Knowing him, it was hard not to like him. He made me laugh, and the breadth of his interests was compelling.

Of course, Don cannot claim sole responsibility for his accomplishments. The love and support of his beautiful and devoted wife, Deborah, enhanced and permitted his successes. Don is also survived by his two sons, three daughters, and eight (soon to be nine) grandchildren. Don was deeply devoted to his family, and this devotion was returned in kind.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to have known Don DeMers, and I will remember him. Don, you will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING SIR RAYMOND A.
LONG

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sir Raymond A. Long, in honor of his dedication a commitment to the well being of his community and the Jaffa Shrine. For the past 43 years, as Colonel of Units for the Shrine, Sir Long's guidance has been the source of security and stability and his impact has been widely respected.

Since the beginning, Sir Long has consistently exhibited the qualities to which he is committed, sharing with his community a moral code based upon honesty, strength of character, and the highest standard of ethics. His values go hand-in-hand with the Shrine's creed and his vision for a greater, more influential brotherhood has been adopted by the Shrine with open arms. Through the Jaffa Shrine's community outreach initiatives, countless children have benefitted from orthopaedic, burn and spinal cord care free of charge and the quality of life within the community has improved because of its effluence of optimism.

Sir Long has connected with citizens in the area in a way that few are able. Since 1938, when he first joined DeMolay, Sir Long has worked diligently to make positive changes

throughout the community so that the area would grow and prosper. Having taken the reigns as a strong leader since his youth, he has been a pillar of strength within his community, and his ceaseless dedication to the Jaffa Shrine is unparalleled. In the 43 years that Sir Long has had a significant hand in the Shrine's operations, it has become a driving force of service in the area by implementing new and improved health care technology in its hospitals, expanding the temple's infrastructure, and increasing the laughter and happiness among everyone involved.

It was during the 1980s, a period in which Sir Long held significant positions within the Shrine, that Shrines all across North America experienced the greatest expansion in their history. The hospitals treated unprecedented numbers of children in need, Temples and Shrines expanded both in physical structure and in membership, and the feeling of brotherhood spread even further. His uncompromising sense of duty to the community in which he lives has been a source of inspiration, and the impact he has had is immeasurable.

For his incomparable generosity, service to the Jaffa Shrine, and unabated commitment to excellence, Sir Raymond A. Long deserves the highest recognition. Throughout his tenure within the Shrine, Sir Long has not only enriched the lives of the other members, but of those in the surrounding communities who have undoubtedly benefitted from the charity, education and service that they have repeatedly provided. The legacy he has created is one that every American should emulate, and his contributions will not go unnoticed by the organization for which he has served nor the community in which he lives. I would like to congratulate Sir Long on his many accomplishments, and I wish him the best of luck as he continues his admirable service to the people of Blair County.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
MR. ROBERT WILSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Robert Wilson has served as the mayor of Toronto, Ohio for thirteen years; and

Whereas, Mr. Wilson oversaw projects in Toronto including the Sloan Station Square, the Veterans Victory Pavilion, Newburg Landing, and the installation of the beautification committee; and

Whereas, Mr. Wilson maintained a friendly, caring, and hardworking demeanor not only in his post as mayor, but also in his personal life. He should be commended for the leadership he provided to the people of Toronto and the surrounding area.

Therefore, I join with the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in celebrating Mr. Robert Wilson's service to the Village of Toronto, Ohio.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1000TH
STRYKER ASSEMBLED AT THE
ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the employees at the Anniston Army Depot who have reached an important milestone on behalf of our Nation's military.

On January 12, 2005, the 1000th Stryker was assembled at the Anniston Army Depot. This was a proud day for the citizens of northeast Alabama, Mr. Speaker, and was the direct result of the hard work and dedication of thousands of workers from across our community.

Assembled right here in Calhoun County, the Stryker is a transformational vehicle that will help protect our forces far into the 21st century. The troop carrier is part of a new generation of wheeled vehicles for our military, and will allow the Army to more safely and efficiently transport soldiers on the field of battle.

Not only has the Stryker proven its tactical value in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, but it has also helped better protect the lives of countless soldiers. Knowing Alabama workers helped make this advancement possible is a great honor for our community.

I salute the employees of the Anniston Army Depot for their ongoing dedication to the Stryker project, and thank them for their service to our Nation and to our men and women serving on the front lines overseas.

MILESTONE FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit this article from my predecessor Representative Bob Schaffer detailing his experiences in the recent Ukrainian elections. Thank you.

[From the Denver Post, Jan. 25, 2005]

MILESTONE FOR DEMOCRACY

(By Bob Schaffer)

A milestone in the democracy movement occurred Sunday as Ukrainians inaugurated Viktor Yushchenko, their third president since declaring independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

He succeeded outgoing President Leonid Kuchma, whose administration, with the help of Russian President Vladimir Putin, went to extraordinary lengths to steer the election outcome toward Viktor Yanukovych. This time, their attempts—legal and otherwise—were just not enough.

The inauguration of Yushchenko caps an unprecedented marathon election marked by rampant election fraud, voter intimidation, assassination attempts, the presence of Russian troops and appeals to the nation's top court. Last Thursday, the end became certain as the Supreme Court rejected Yanukovych's last desperate appeal. Yushchenko is Ukraine's former prime minister. His performance established him as a leader with pro Western leanings. His penchant for privatization, free markets and private-property rights put him in the crosshairs of Ukrainian and Russian oligarchs

whose tremendous wealth is built upon exclusive government deals and on the backs of Ukraine's working class.

These same Ukrainian commoners define the "Orange Revolution," named after Yushchenko's campaign color. I was in Ukraine as an election monitor during the start of the revolution and witnessed millions of Ukrainians pouring into Kiev's Independence Square.

The protest was sparked when the government announced fraudulent election results and tried to hand Yanukovich a false victory. Demonstrators stayed in the streets for weeks in sub-zero weather demanding a new election and an end to corruption.

Yushchenko's election is important for two reasons. First, with the help of international observers (including several Coloradans), Ukrainians conducted a legitimate election in the face of difficult odds.

Given the history of oppression in Ukraine, the election is a triumph of courage. Today's Ukrainians are the grandchildren, children and survivors of Stalin's engineered famine of 1932-33. For generations, they have seen that Ukrainians who challenge governing authorities often die untimely deaths.

The election is also a triumph for women. In 35,000 polling stations throughout Ukraine, it was the women who insisted on a transparent election. They were the brave volunteers who stood up to thugs, dressed down armed government agents and enforced the rules to protect the ballot box.

Indeed, the Patrick Henry of Ukraine is Yulia Tymoshenko, a parliamentarian who marshaled the masses in the peaceful, purposeful and well-organized Orange Revolution. Tymoshenko is emblematic of Ukrainian women. Their leadership has made the greatest difference in Ukrainian politics, business, academia and culture.

For Ukrainians, Yushchenko represents unleashed opportunity. Ukraine's massive underground economy has the potential to become one of the most powerful economies in Europe. Yushchenko understands this.

He has charted an ambitious agenda for reforming Ukraine's economic institutions with an emphasis on attracting foreign investment and improving domestic productivity. Ukraine's economy is quite strong. Last year's increase in its gross domestic product was among the highest in the world.

A country of 48 million, Ukraine has a highly educated workforce and nearly 100 percent literacy. It is the second-largest country in Europe, has abundant natural resources, contains the planet's richest soil and enjoys a geographic location conducive to trade.

In anticipation of a Yushchenko presidency, foreign investors have been busting down the doors of Kiev in search of ground-floor opportunities. Yushchenko's promise to accelerate NATO cooperation, European integration and Western economic standards is underscored by his immediate travel schedule. This week he heads to a meeting of the Council of Europe, then to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Colorado shares many common features with Ukraine which have led to partnerships in agriculture, mineral extraction, medicine, space development and education. Strengthening these partnerships in the Yushchenko era presents a solid opportunity for Coloradans to help secure democracy and freedom in Ukraine while expanding trade here at home.

RECOGNIZING MR. BRADLEY
DAVID DEBRASKA

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER
OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Bradley David DeBraska, a police officer with the Milwaukee Police Department. It gives me great pleasure to join the International Union of Police Associations in recognizing his service to the Milwaukee community.

Mr. DeBraska has honorably served the police force since 1977. He worked tirelessly as a Police Officer, and for the past twelve years has served dual roles as a Police Liaison Officer and Detective. Mr. DeBraska's service also extends to numerous Boards and Associations, helping to guide several police and community organizations. In addition, he faithfully served the residents of Wisconsin as a member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents. He has truly fulfilled his duty as a citizen of this country.

I am proud of the work that Mr. DeBraska has accomplished in his 28 years of service. Once again, I congratulate him. I wish Mr. DeBraska a healthy and happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING MARY BETH SCOW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mary Beth Scow and her contributions to excellence in public education. As a current representative of District A of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, Mrs. Scow has been an outspoken voice and is honored for her contributions. I stand today to praise her for her continued leadership and passion in improving education in southern Nevada.

Mrs. Scow, a Denver native, has been a resident of southern Nevada for the past 25 years. She graduated cum laude from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in community health education. She and her husband Steve are the proud parents of nine children, all educated in the Clark County School District. The entire family has been very involved in community sports, music and church activities.

With a vision to help prepare Clark County students for higher education and for successful future careers, Mrs. Scow has been an outspoken voice for Clark County students. Elected to the board of school trustees in 1996, Mrs. Scow has proven her leadership qualities by serving two terms as president of that body. In addition, she has served on various educational committees and zoning task forces. In her community, she leaves a legacy to the Sunset Area Council of PTA as a former president and to her local Boy Scout chapter as den leader.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand today to pay tribute to a visionary leader, committed parent and public servant. I join with the William McCool Science Center at Frank Lamping Elementary School to pay trib-

ute to Mary Beth Scow for her dedication to Clark County students and her commitment to excellence in education. I thank her for her contribution and I urge my colleagues to recognize in their own communities, the contributions of great leaders in education.

COMMENDING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR HOLDING FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in offering my congratulations to the Palestinian people on the recent election of Mahmoud Abbas as the second president of the Palestinian Authority.

After 4 long years of terror and bloodshed, the hope for peace that has spread through Israel and the Palestinian Territories in the last two-and-a-half months has been welcomed by Israelis and Palestinians. Not since the heady days following the signing of the Oslo Accords in September 1993, has there been this much optimism for better relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

I have been encouraged by the deepening contacts between Israelis and Palestinians following the death of Yasser Arafat and I am hopeful that next week's summit in Egypt between Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and President Abbas will lay the groundwork for cooperative planning as Israel prepares to pull out of Gaza and parts of the West Bank later this year. Planning and coordination between Israeli and Palestinian security forces would improve the chance for a peaceful transition to Palestinian control in Gaza.

I also hope that the election of President Abbas will finally mark a clear rejection of terrorism by the leadership of the Palestinian Authority. For too long, Yasser Arafat would say one thing to Israelis and Americans and another to his own people about the centrality of renouncing violence. President Abbas appears to understand that terrorism has brought only suffering to his people and that the only path to statehood for the Palestinian people is the path of negotiation.

Although President Abbas won the presidency by a healthy margin in last month's election, he has no real base of political support with the PA, nor does he enjoy great popular support among the Palestinian electorate. Thus, he will need to build support by demonstrating to the Palestinians that he can negotiate effectively with Israel and by securing U.S. political and economic assistance.

I know that the Israeli government understands the tenuousness of President Abbas's situation and has both sought to build confidence in him by easing up on security clampdowns in the territories and by showing restraint in not responding to a series of inflammatory statements by Abbas during the recent campaign.

President Bush's request for \$350 million in assistance to the Palestinians is an important signal that the United States also sees President Abbas as a serious partner in the search for peace between Israel and Palestinians. I share the President's vision of Israel and Palestine living side-by-side in peace and I am

glad to see that he has backed up that vision with a substantial request for U.S. assistance.

SUPPORT OF THE ASSURED FUNDING FOR VETERANS HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Congressman EVANS' legislation, the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act, and am proud to be an original cosponsor. This legislation will guarantee that veterans receive the health care they have earned and deserve.

With an increase in the number of veterans seeking care, a dramatic rise in medical costs, and years of inadequate VA health care funding, there is a clear and growing mismatch between the demand for VA services and available funds to support these services. The number of patients entering the VA health care system has increased by 134 percent since 1996, but funding for medical care has increased just 44 percent. This has resulted in unprecedented waiting times for routine and specialized medical care nationwide. In my home state of Michigan, some veterans are waiting more than 6 months for an initial doctor's appointment. This situation is untenable.

The reason for this problem is evident and so is the solution. Every year, veterans have to fight with a myriad of non-veterans' programs to receive the money necessary for their health care treatment. To end this annual budget battle, the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act would require Congress to meet our veterans' medical care needs by providing funding for VA health care based on the number of enrollees in the system and medical inflation.

This is legislation that Members on both sides of the aisle should support. In fact, a commission established by the White House, the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, issued a report in March 2003 noting the mismatch between veterans' needs and VA services, and recommending guaranteed funding to fix this problem. To date, the Administration has refused to endorse, or even to acknowledge, the Task Force's recommendation.

The current system is not serving our veterans well. The VA must have a sufficient budget to effectively manage its health care programs, to hire the appropriate number of staff, and to adequately plan for the coming year well in advance. Guaranteed veterans' health care funding would end the year-to-year uncertainty the VA and our veterans face, and would fulfill the obligation this country has to the men and women who served in uniform.

HONORING SISTER ANN MCGUINN,
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Ann McGuinn, of

Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, for her lifetime of service attending to the spiritual and health care needs of others.

Sister Ann is retiring from a long and distinguished career as a health care administrator with the St. Joseph Hospitals System of California. She served as Vice-President of sponsorship for St. Joseph's Hospital of Humboldt County from 1992 to 2005. She formerly served as the administrator for St. Joseph Hospital, in Orange from 1961 to 1972; and CEO of Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa from 1971 to 1992. Under her leadership, the Children's Hospital of Orange County was established. During her tenure at Queen of the Valley she established a dental clinic for the poor, now called Sister Anne Dental Clinic, developed specialized cancer programs and created the system's first home health care.

Throughout her long career, Sister Ann has been a tireless champion for the poor and an advocate for the vulnerable. She has been generous with her time and energy and is highly regarded by those who have had an opportunity to work with her. She has played a large role in improving the lives of thousands of people.

In Humboldt County, Sister Ann's force of compassion brought together a myriad of resources to fund homeless programs, winter shelters and improved dental health for poor children. She has been unflinchingly supportive of efforts to expand rural healthcare services, particularly for battered women and underprivileged children.

In 1992, I had the privilege of naming Sister Ann "Woman of the Year" for the 2nd Senate District of the California State Senate. She is the past recipient of the "Value in Action Award for Justice" presented by the St. Joseph Health System.

Sister Ann entered the order of St. Joseph of Orange in 1944; she received her RN from Mary's Help Hospital, now called Cedar Sinai Medical Center, in San Francisco. She was trained as an obstetrics nurse. She is the daughter of John and Mary McGuinn of San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Sister Ann McGuinn for her compassion, leadership and commitment to families and the less fortunate and for her extraordinary record of public service to the people of the State of California.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE REVEREND WARREN E. DARNELL

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of The Reverend Warren E. Darnell and to honor his 75 years of service to his community.

Eager to begin his work in this world, Rev. Darnell was born before the doctor arrived at his parents' home on February 4, 1905. From nearly that day forward, Rev. Darnell has dedicated his life to helping others. He graduated from Hanover College in 1928, and went on to study at the Union Theological Seminary, receiving his Master of Divinity Studies in 1931.

Shortly after completing his education and being ordained by the Presbyterian Church,

Rev. Darnell joined The Community Church of Little Neck as a Pastor. During his 53-plus year tenure with the Church, Rev. Darnell oversaw tremendous growth in the congregation's membership and a considerable expansion of the church facilities. Upon his retirement, Rev. Darnell was named Pastor Emeritus of The Community Church of Little Neck, and he continued his faithful service to Little Neck and the surrounding communities by performing weddings, baptisms, funerals, and supplying pulpits until the age of 95.

In addition to his church service, Rev. Darnell has received numerous awards and accolades. He helped found the Great Neck Clergy Association to fight anti-Semitism and promote brotherhood, tolerance, and understanding among the different religious traditions represented in the community. Rev. Darnell also served as the Director and Trustee of the New York State Christian Endeavor Union Summer Assemblies, as a commissioner to the General Assembly of The United Presbyterian Church, and on various committees of the New York City Presbytery.

Local and family values have always been of the utmost importance to Rev. Darnell. He and his wife, Dorothy, celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary this past September, together with their three children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I commend The Reverend Warren E. Darnell for his 75 years of dedicated service to his community. As a pastor, community leader, husband, and father, Rev. Darnell has contributed much to the great many lives he has touched. In recognition of this, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring The Reverend Warren E. Darnell as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO ART STAMPER

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor I rise today to pay tribute to one of Kentucky's finest musicians, Art Stamper.

Nationally acclaimed in Bluegrass music, Art Stamper began playing the banjo and fiddle before age 10. His first fiddle had a self-made bow and Art taught himself how to play his first song. One of 4 sons and 3 daughters of the late Martha and Hiram Stamper, Art Stamper was born in 1933 in a log house in Knott County, Kentucky. Art Stamper got his love of music from his father. Hiram Stamper was an accomplished musician, and Art quickly followed suit, becoming a professional musician by age 16. Art Stamper helped define the music we now call Bluegrass. During his career and travels around the world, he worked with Bill Monroe, the Stanley Brothers, the Osborne Brothers, the Goins Brothers, Larry Sparks, Jim & Jesse, Bill Clifton and J.D. Crowe.

Art Stamper is not only known as a master fiddler but also for his mastery as a hairdresser. He won many awards as owner of Louisville's The Way of Art. Art never stopped playing the fiddle as other musicians would come for haircuts and play while waiting their turn.

Art Stamper is the father of two sons and one daughter and husband of Kay Kawaguchi Stamper. Mr. Speaker, Art Stamper passed away on Sunday, January 23, 2005, but will always be remembered for his endless contributions to society and especially that of Bluegrass music.

COMMENDING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR HOLDING FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 56, "commending the Palestinian people for holding recent elections." This resolution is a reflection of our support for the Palestinian people and their determination to build a viable Palestinian State based on freedom and empowered democratic institutions.

I strongly support our President when he stated, "The United States stands ready to help the Palestinian people realize their aspirations." The election of President Mahmoud Abbas is an encouraging step in that direction.

The election of new Palestinian leadership and Labor's entry into the Israeli Government have changed the circumstances and expectations surrounding the Middle East peace process. The newly elected Palestinian leadership and Israel should take advantage of this opportunity and implement concrete steps to support the emergence of a viable, credible Palestinian state.

The United States has a vital national security interest in a Middle East in which two states, Israel and Palestine, will live side by side in peace and security, based on the terms of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. A stable and peaceful Palestinian state is necessary to achieve the security that Israel longs for.

The Palestinian elections represent a vital part in that process. Over 800 international observers monitored the recent elections. Among them were 80 observers led by former President Jimmy Carter, who stated that,

There is no doubt that the will of the Palestinians was adequately expressed, that Abu Mazen has the support and respect of his people, and that he is dedicated to the peaceful pursuit of a peace agreement. . . .

Palestinians from all walks of life participated in the Presidential elections, representing approximately 70 percent of eligible voters. Young and old, women and men, even those with serious physical disabilities, were determined to play their role in building a better future.

The Palestinian Central Election Commission should also be commended for its commitment to ensure free and fair elections and for facilitating a process whereby Palestinians could vote in a positive voting atmosphere. Commission representatives trained more than 16,000 electoral officials to staff the 2,800 polling sites throughout the West Bank and Gaza and conducted their operations in a professional way. Every election is a learning experience, and I support the Palestinian Central Election Commission in its request to apply

lessons learned from the recent presidential election to the parliamentary elections scheduled later this year.

The Palestinian Presidential elections of January 9, 2005, and the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled this July represent an historic opportunity for Palestinians to affirm their various political expressions and forge a government that can respond to their needs.

It is clear the Palestinians want institutions that are transparent and accountable. The United States, Israel, and the rest of the international community should do all they can to eradicate the sources of extremism that undermine moderate Palestinian leadership. Such actions will foster democratic development among the Palestinians and enable their elected institutions to produce constructive results for its people.

I am encouraged by Abbas' recent decision to ban the use of unregistered weapons by civilians. Such steps, matched by cooperation on the part of Israel, will assist President Abbas' determination to restore rule of law in the Occupied Territories.

I congratulate President Abbas and look forward to his success in achieving the national aspirations of the Palestinian people and his role in bringing peace to the Holy Land.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and its passage.

HONORING SANDRA BATES, COMMISSIONER OF THE FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sandra Bates for over 36 years of dedicated service to the Federal Government.

Sandra Bates has finished off an illustrious career in the Federal Government. She started out in 1969 as intern with the General Services Administration. She worked her way up as an agency liaison for telecommunications and automatic data processing acquisitions on the original governmentwide long distance services program, FTS, before moving on to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1979. While at NASA, she served in various telecommunications positions until 1993 when she was named chief of communications with responsibility for all NASA operational, command, and control networks worldwide.

She returned to GSA in 1996 and assumed the positions of assistant commissioner for service and delivery and deputy commissioner in the Federal Technology Service before taking over the role of commissioner of the Federal Technology Service in April 2000. As commissioner, she has, among other things, successfully guided the Federal Technology Service through the most recent edition of the governmentwide telecommunications program, FTS 2001.

Throughout her career as a civil servant, Sandra Bates has been active in the federal technology community, serving in leadership roles with a number of government and industry councils and associations. She has received numerous awards, including NASA's

Exceptional Service Medal, the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Service, the Government Information Technology Award, the Fed 100 Award, 3 separate years, the Industry Advisory Council's Outstanding Individual Government Communicator Award, and the American Council for Technology's John J. Franke Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Long Term Federal Service. She leaves behind a long list of accomplishments in her distinguished career of service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Ms. Bates on her retirement as commissioner of the Federal Technology Service. While I know that she will be greatly missed, her retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Bates and in wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

WE NEED TELECOM REFORM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the anniversary of one of the hardest fought legislative battles of the last decade and to discuss the need for improving it this year.

It was 9 years ago this week that Congress last passed comprehensive telecom reform. The biggest issues then were how best to provide competition in both local and long distance telephone service and to ensure that everyone, including those in rural areas, has access to phone service.

In the last 9 years we have seen advancements in communication technology that could not have been envisioned. Near universal access to the Internet, development and deployment of broadband technology, more wireless phones in service than wireline accounts, e-mail on the go and cable, phone, and satellite companies all vying to deliver an entire suite of video and communications services to a growing marketplace. New technologies and industries unfettered by the constraints of old rules have competed vigorously for consumers' business, transforming forever the way business and consumers get information and communicate with one another.

Unfortunately, our telecom laws have not kept pace with growing demand for choice and competition in the marketplace. Some industries continue to operate under arcane regulations that stifle ingenuity, hinder job creation, and bottle up needed economic investment. These same regulations also place the burden of meeting our shared national priorities of universal phone service and 911 emergency services squarely on the shoulders of a single industry—the local phone companies.

Our Nation's telecom laws are due for some badly needed, free-market reforms, changes that will build upon the successes of the last 9 years in terms of innovation and product delivery while also addressing the issues of social responsibility and competition. Unlike what we did in 1996, these new telecom laws must do more to anticipate advancements and create a mechanism where the playing field is level for every company that wishes to compete.

Specifically, we face some daunting challenges. The United States—despite being the

country that invented the Internet—ranks 13th in the world in broadband deployment, there are millions of jobs and billions of dollars in potential investment waiting to be unleashed by a telecom marketplace free of excessive regulations and Universal Service and 911 access must, again, be the responsibility of all the companies in the telecom marketplace.

In much the same way healthy, abundant competition for mobile phone service has enabled nearly every community in the United States to have access to a wireless phone signal, so too can vigorous competition deliver on President Bush's commitment of universal broadband service. A study by the New Millennium Research Council shows that 1.2 million jobs can be created and over \$50 billion in new investment in broadband technologies can be brought about by ubiquitous broadband deployment.

In the past, we have made it incumbent upon local phone companies to ensure that basic phone service and 911 emergency needs were met. These services are important to our rural and local safety communities and must be protected. Now, however, it is unfair to ask only a handful of companies to bear the burden of ensuring the success of the Universal Service Fund and it is dangerous to allow some companies offering phone services to opt out of providing 911 services.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility this year to revisit our Nation's outdated and arcane telecom laws. A responsibility to our constituents to ensure that telecommunications competition provides choices. A responsibility to our economy to institute a telecom policy that spurs job creation and investment. A responsibility to our communities that their broadband and 911 safety needs will be met. And, finally, a responsibility to future telecom advancements that we will allow them to flourish and compete so that the United States is, once again, the global telecommunications leader.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES FORMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of Mr. James Forman, former executive secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In tribute to Mr. Forman, I would like to submit the following excerpt from the Washington Post Article, *Civil Rights Activist James Forman Dies at 76; Key Organizer of SNCC*, written by Joe Holley on Wednesday, January 12, 2005.

James Forman, 76, who as executive secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in the early 1960s dispatched cadres of organizers, demonstrators and Freedom Riders into the most dangerous redoubts of the Deep South, died January 10 of colon cancer at Washington House, a local hospice.

At the height of the civil rights movement, Mr. Forman hammered out a role for SNCC among the so-called Big Five, the established civil rights organizations that included the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Con-

gress of Racial Equality and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. SNCC in those years was the edgier, more aggressive organization, pushing the South specifically and the nation generally toward change.

On numerous occasions, Mr. Forman himself was harassed, beaten and jailed during forays to register voters and organize protests in communities willing to use any means necessary, including terror, intimidation and murder, to resist the dismantling of the region's rigid system of segregation.

"Accumulating experiences with Southern 'law and order' were turning me into a full-fledged revolutionary," Mr. Forman wrote, recalling his experiences of 1962 and 1963. Although he moved increasingly leftward during his years at SNCC, he was edged out of the organization in the late 1960s when Stokely Carmichael, H. Rap Brown and other, younger members considered him insufficiently militant.

When Mr. Forman joined SNCC in 1961, it was a loose federation of student organizations housed in a grubby, windowless room in Atlanta, across the street from the offices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on Auburn Avenue. As an Air Force veteran who was about a decade older than most of those involved with SNCC, he had the drive and experience, as well as the administrative abilities, to give focus to the organization, universally pronounced "Snick." Appointed executive secretary within a week of his arrival, he set about paying old bills, radically expanding the staff and planning logistics for direct action efforts and voter-registration drives in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and elsewhere.

"He imbued the organization with a camaraderie and collegiality that I've never seen in any organization before or since," said Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP and SNCC's communications director during Mr. Forman's tenure.

"Jim performed an organizational miracle in holding together a loose band of non-violent revolutionaries who simply wanted to act together to eliminate racial discrimination and terror," said Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), who was a member of SNCC. "As a result, SNCC had an equal place at the table with all the major civil rights organizations of the 1960s."

James Forman was born in Chicago on Oct. 4, 1928, and spent his early years living with his grandmother on a farm in Marshall County, Miss. When he was 6, his parents took him back to Chicago, although he often spent summers in Mississippi. Until he was a teenager, he used the surname of his stepfather, John Rufus, a gas station manager, unaware that his real father was a Chicago cabdriver named Jackson Forman.

He graduated with honors from Chicago's Englewood High School in 1947 and served with the Air Force in Okinawa during the Korean War. After his discharge in 1952, he enrolled at the University of Southern California.

Early in his second semester, in 1953, he was falsely arrested, beaten and held for three days by Los Angeles police. The experience prompted a breakdown that briefly put him in a psychiatric hospital. Afterward, he returned to Chicago and enrolled at Roosevelt University.

He graduated in three years, planning to be a writer or journalist. While doing graduate work at Boston University, he wrangled press credentials from the Chicago Defender and took the train to Little Rock, where, in the fall of 1957, court-ordered school integration was being resisted. From there, he filed a few stories and looked for opportunities to organize mass protests in the South.

After working briefly as a substitute elementary school teacher in Chicago, he found

that opportunity in Fayette County, Tenn., a few miles from his childhood home. Seven hundred families of sharecroppers had been evicted from their homes for registering to vote. Joining a program sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality, he helped publicize the farmers' plight, distributed food and registered voters.

In the summer of 1961, he was jailed with SNCC-organized Freedom Riders who were protesting segregated facilities in Monroe, N.C. After his sentence was suspended, he went to work full time for SNCC.

One of Mr. Forman's early challenges was to referee an internal dispute between SNCC activists who believed in direct action—sit-ins, demonstrations and other forms of confrontation—and those who believed voter registration was the most effective path to political empowerment. Mr. Forman maintained there really was no distinction.

"The brutal Southern sheriffs," he wrote a few years later, "didn't care what kind of 'outside agitator' you were: you were black and making trouble and that was enough for them."

He also wrestled, as did most SNCC members, with the meaning and utility of non-violence. Unlike his friend and SNCC cohort John Lewis, who considered nonviolence a way of life, Mr. Forman considered it a tactic, nothing more. There were times, he believed, when self-defense—fighting back—was absolutely necessary.

Mr. Forman also was often at odds with Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. In 1961, for example, Mr. Forman objected to King's involvement in the Albany Movement, a boycott, sit-in and voter registration drive SNCC initiated in Georgia.

"A strong people's movement was in progress, the people were feeling their own strength grow," he wrote some years later. "I knew how much harm could be done by interjecting the Messiah complex—people would feel that only a particular individual could save them and would not move on their own to fight racism and exploitation."

King came to Albany, spoke and left. SNCC's work in the area continued for the next couple of years.

In the summer of 1964, Mr. Forman's SNCC brought almost a thousand young volunteers, black and white, to register voters, set up "freedom schools," establish community centers and build the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Among those volunteers were Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, the three young men murdered along a muddy road near Philadelphia, Miss., in June 1964. (According to Julian Bond, Mr. Forman was probably not aware in the last days of his life that Edgar Ray Killen, a preacher and sawmill operator, had been recently charged with the murders.)

Later that summer, Mr. Forman journeyed to Atlantic City, where he worked to persuade Democratic Party officials to recognize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at the Democratic National Convention. Despite his efforts and despite the powerful testimony of Fannie Lou Hamer, who told of being fired by her boss and beaten unconscious by the police for her work in support of MFDP, the upstart party failed to supplant the state's party regulars.

"Atlantic City was a powerful lesson, not only for the black people from Mississippi but for all of SNCC and many other people as well," Mr. Forman wrote. "No longer was there any hope, among those who still had it, that the federal government would change the situation in the Deep South."

Despite Mr. Forman's growing militancy, SNCC dumped him and Lewis in 1966, replacing them with Carmichael and Ruby Doris Smith Robinson.

Mr. Forman, who always had been interested in African liberation movements, went to Africa in 1967. In 1969, he helped organize the Black Economic Development Conference in Detroit, where a "Black Manifesto" was adopted. He also founded a nonprofit organization called the Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee.

On a Sunday morning in May 1969, Mr. Forman interrupted services at New York City's Riverside Church to demand \$500 million in reparations from white churches to make up for injustices African Americans had suffered over the centuries. Although Riverside's preaching minister, the Rev. Ernest T. Campbell, termed the demands "exorbitant and fanciful," he was in sympathy with the impulse, if not the tactic. Later, the church agreed to donate a fixed percentage of its annual income to anti-poverty efforts.

In the 1970s, Mr. Forman was in graduate school at Cornell University and received a master's degree in African and African American studies in 1980. In 1982, he received a PhD from the Union of Experimental Colleges and Universities.

A writer and pamphleteer, Mr. Forman moved to Washington in 1981 and started a newspaper called the Washington Times, which lasted a short while. He also founded the Black American News Service. He was the author of "Sammy Younge Jr.: The First Black College Student to Die in the Black Liberation Movement" (1969), "The Making of Black Revolutionaries" (1972 and 1997) and "Self Determination: An Examination of the Question and Its Application to the African American People" (1984).

His marriages to Mary Forman, Mildred Thompson and Constanca Ramilly ended in divorce.

Survivors include two sons, Chaka Esmond Fanon Forman of Venice Beach, Calif, and James Robert Lumumba Forman Jr. of the District; and one granddaughter.

In July, despite being weak from his long struggle with cancer, Mr. Forman took a train from Washington to Boston during the Democratic National Convention. He took part in a "Boston Tea Party," in which members of the D.C. delegation tossed bags of tea into Boston Harbor to protest lack of statehood and no vote in Congress.

"It was said that on his deathbed, Frederick Douglass's last words were, 'Organize! Organize!' That's what Forman did every day of his life," Bond said. "That's what today's civil rights movement has forgotten how to do."

I take great pride in commending Mr. James Forman for his work to curb racial segregation and win social justice in this country.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF COMMERCIAL SPACE FLIGHT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to enhance the safety of commercial space flight by ensuring that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has the authority it needs to protect the safety of passengers of the emerging commercial space industry.

Mr. Speaker, I support commercial space exploration and the commercial space industry, but not at the expense of totally ignoring

safety. The Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004, P.L. 108-492, prohibits the Secretary of Transportation from issuing safety design and operating regulations or even minimal safety requirements for individual licenses for the next eight years unless there is a potentially catastrophic incident.

The current statutory language amounts to, in essence, the codification of what has come to be known in aviation safety parlance as the "Tombstone Mentality." For years, both I and many of my colleagues on the Aviation Subcommittee have criticized the FAA for waiting until after a disaster to take safety actions, and have urged more proactive safety oversight.

Supporters of the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act argued that safety regulation would discourage experimentation and innovation. However, the Act went well beyond these objectives and essentially tied FAA's hands by totally banning any safety requirements, except in post-accident circumstances where lives have already been lost. Under the Act, the FAA would be prevented from requiring even the simplest, least expensive enhancements to protect safety of passengers on these space flights.

Mr. Speaker, my bill would amend the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act to give the FAA the authority and flexibility to establish minimum safety regulations. My bill would not preclude innovation and, contrary to the claims of supporters of the Act, my bill would not require FAA to impose the same degree of regulation on the developing space travel industry that is imposed on the mature air transportation industry. Specifically, although my bill would require that FAA include, in each license it issues, minimum standards to protect the health and safety of crews and space flight participants, it would further require that, in imposing these standards, FAA must take into account the "inherently risky nature of human space flight." My bill would give the FAA the flexibility to create a regulatory structure governing the design or operation of a launch vehicle to protect the health and safety of crews and space flight participants as is necessary, without having to wait for a catastrophic failure to occur.

Mr. Speaker, safety regulation need not be incompatible with developing new technology. For example, although FAA has closely regulated aircraft manufacturing since the 1920's, this regulation has not prevented major technological progress, including the development of jet aircraft in the 1950's and all-composite general aviation aircraft in recent years.

We can and should protect the safety of passengers on space flights in this new and emerging industry, without placing unreasonable limitations on industry development. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to pass this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, last week I missed two important votes relating to elections in the troubled Middle East. H. Res. 56 commends the Palestinian people for the free

election held on January 9, 2005, and H. Res. 60 relates to the election held in Iraq on January 30, 2005. I rise today to say that I would have voted "yes" on both H. Res. 56 and H. Res. 60.

On Sunday, January 30, millions of Iraqis voted in a free election for the first time in their lives. Many walked great distances and nearly all risked their lives to exercise this new right. Though I opposed the war, the election that took place in Iraq is something to be celebrated. In addition to commending the people of Iraq, I would like to commend our men and women in the armed services. Without their hard work and bravery in developing and executing a complex security plan, this most successful election would not have been possible.

Now that the people of Iraq have had a free election, we need to put our efforts into helping them find ways to defeat the insurgency, involve all religious and ethnic persuasions in the political process and ensure that the rights of minorities are protected as they continue to draft a Constitution.

In addition, it is important that the United States look toward developing an exit strategy. In reality, this should have been done before we initiated military operations. We need to continue to train and equip Iraqi security forces. In order to properly do this, we need to have an accurate assessment of the capabilities of those forces now.

The free election in Iraq was an achievement that cannot be understated. That said, we have a vested interest in a secure and democratic Iraq and while the election was an important milestone, we need to look ahead to a time when our work over there is done and our troops can come home.

Now, turning to the recent elections in the Palestinian Territories. I would like to commend Dr. Mahmoud Abbas on his election as the second President of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people for making their voices heard. The elections on January 9 were conducted under difficult circumstances, including ongoing violence and a limited ability for candidates to campaign. Despite these challenges, an amazing 70 percent of registered voters turned out, according to Dr. Hana Nasir, head of the Palestinian Central Election Commission. The Palestinian people, political organizations, and presidential candidates all deserve praise for this significant step forward. Moreover, although voters in East Jerusalem experienced difficulties, elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Israel facilitated the election process. For this Israel also deserves commendation.

International observers—including some of our colleagues here—state that the elections were free and fair. Allow me to share a few key observations of the International Observer Delegation organized by the National Democratic Institute and the Carter Center.

The election was contested vigorously and administered fairly. Election day was orderly and generally peaceful.

The process, organized in just 60 days in accordance with the Palestinian Basic Law and under difficult circumstances of the ongoing conflict and occupation, represents a step forward for Palestinian democracy.

Seven presidential candidates competed in the election, presenting Palestinians with a choice among distinct points of view. . . . This is a tribute to the seriousness of the political competitors and to the Palestinian people's desire to respect political pluralism.

Following the death of Yasser Arafat, many predicted that the Palestinian Authority would crumble into complete chaos. In fact, Palestinian institutions proved more resilient, and the Palestinian people showed greater determination for peace and self-determination than many expected. Consequently, the transition of power from President Arafat to President Abbas stands as a model for the region to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, the Palestinian elections of January 9 were clearly a proud day for Palestinians and a very positive step forward in the effort to broaden the reach peaceful, civil interaction. It is a clear mandate for President Abbas to pursue his agenda of peaceful negotiations with Israel in order to establish a viable, sovereign, and independent Palestinian state. It is now incumbent on the United States and Israel to support President Abbas in his effort to consolidate power, to generate political and economic benefits for the Palestinian people, and to engage seriously in the negotiation of a peace settlement. The recipe for a final agreement has been apparent to most of us for some time. Now all the ingredients appear to be assembled. Those interested in creating peace have no reason or excuse not to move forward.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS TAVERN

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize the Texas Tavern restaurant in Roanoke, Virginia on its 75th anniversary. Texas Tavern opened for business on February 13, 1930. It's known as "Roanoke's Millionaires Club" and for seating "1,000 people—10 at a time." From breakfast to hot dogs, hamburgers, and chile, Texas Tavern's menu is as much an institution as the eatery itself.

The founder of the Texas Tavern was Nick Bullington, an advance man for the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, who also hoped to open a small, short order restaurant in one of the cities he visited on the circus route around the United States. Bullington recognized that the railroad was making Roanoke a major city. He located a vacant lot on Church Avenue in downtown Roanoke for the restaurant. Construction began and a short five months later, the Texas Tavern was open for business.

Texas Tavern has been a family operation from day one. Nick Bullington's son, James G. Bullington, became owner and operator of the restaurant when his father passed away in 1942. In 1966, James N. Bullington became a night manager for his father and in 1983, he purchased the business and property on which the restaurant sits, ensuring that the Texas Tavern would remain in the small, white-washed brick building it's always called home. Matt Bullington—Nick Bullington's great grandson—worked at the restaurant throughout college in the mid-1990s and then took over for his dad, serving today as the man at the helm of one of Roanoke's favorite gathering places.

To visit Texas Tavern is to visit a slice of Americana. The Cheesy Western and chile

are the signature dishes that have kept diners—famous and otherwise—coming back for 75 years. Glen Miller, Debbie Reynolds, and even former Sixth District Congressman Caldwell Butler are on the roster of Texas Tavern aficionados, and so are Gerald Williams and Bill Ammons—two of the original customers who still eat there today. Estimates are that nine and a half million hot dogs and 1,100 tons of pinto beans have been served to those who've sat at the small counter—rubbing elbows with friends and foes alike but never leaving the restaurant unsatisfied.

The Texas Tavern has operated in the best spirit of American enterprise in Roanoke—the Star City of Virginia—for three-quarters of a century. I offer my congratulations to the Bullington family for helping show us that the American dream remains alive and well all these years later.

REMEMBERING CHANEY,
GOODMAN, AND SCHWERNER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the State of Mississippi's pursuit for justice as it has brought forth an indictment of noted Klansman Edgar Ray Killen for the murders of James E. Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner. As the State of Mississippi has been collecting evidence and investigating this case, I would like to submit the following excerpt from Olen Burrage's *The Mississippi Murder of Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney* by Seth Cagin and Phillip Dray.

The owner of a local trucking company, Olen Burrage, was having a cattle pond dug on his property, five miles southwest of town on Highway 21. Burrage had hired Herman Tucker, one of his part-time drivers and the owner/operator of two Caterpillar dozers, to build the pond and the large dam that would restrain it. The Neshoba Klansman arranged for Billy Wayne Posey to arrive at midnight on the lane of the Burrage property with the bodies of Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney. Once the bodies were placed in the center of the dam, fifteen or twenty feet down, Tucker would reveal it with one of the bulldozers. When the pond filled with rainwater, the place where the bodies were stashed would simply become an innocuous part of the Neshoba landscape—a Klansman version of a Choctaw burial mound.

"So you wanted to come to Mississippi?" one of the murderers is reputed to have told the victims later that night. "Well, now we're gonna let you stay here. We're not even gonna run you out. We're gonna let you stay here with us." (p. 55)

Killen, as organizer of the Neshoba and Lauderdale County klaverns of the White Knights of Mississippi and point man for the conspiracy, was eager to return to Philadelphia as soon as he had collected enough men for the operation. There were "arrangements" to be made, he explained to the men at Akin's. Quickly he sketched for them the plan he had devised in collusion with Neshoba County deputy sheriff Cecil Price and Billy Wayne Posey, and possibly—to infer from the events that would transpire—Hop Barnett and Olen Burrage. Deputy Price would release Goatee and the other two civil rights workers as soon as it got dark. Once

the civil rights workers were turned loose and were alone out on the highway, they would be stopped by a Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol car and turned over to the Klan. (p. 336)

Billy Wayne Posey was among those who attempted the Bonanza alibi, but in fact Posey had been far too busy that day to watch television. His role in the conspiracy was to arrange for the disposal of the victims' bodies, a grisly task easily as complex as setting them up to be done away with in the first place. After Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney were arrested late on the afternoon of June 21, Posey met with Olen Burrage, who owned a trucking firm and several pieces of farm property west of Philadelphia, and Herman Tucker, a bulldozer operator who occasionally worked for Burrage. This meeting took place either at Burrage's garage, southwest of Philadelphia, or at the Phillips 66 station.

Posey's arrangement with Burrage to use a dam being built on Burrage's property as a burial site for the three civil rights workers' was probably not the result of brainstorming by the conspirators. In all likelihood, Burrage's dam site had been previously scouted out by the Neshoba klavern for its potential as a secret grave, perhaps as early as mid-May, when Mickey Schwerner's incursions into Longdale were becoming known to the Klansmen. Mississippi FBI agent John Proctor claims to have learned from an informant that Burrage once told a roomful of Neshoba Klansmen discussing the impending invasion of civil rights workers, "Hell, I've got a dam that'll hold a hundred of them." Although the Meridian Klansmen had been instructed to leave Mickey Schwerner alone, the leaders of the Neshoba klavern had apparently been given Sam Bowers's approval to "eliminate" him if they caught him in Neshoba County. They may well have expected to have further opportunities to nab Schwerner on one of his visits to Longdale, and it is possible many elements of the conspiracy—the release from jail, the highway chase, and the secret burial—were loosely in place before June 21.

The previous summer, Burrage had consulted an agent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service about joining a program under which landowners could obtain government funding for pond dams that met certain conservation requirements. Burrage's proposed dam met the program's specifications, but the approval of the funding was contingent upon periodic inspections of the construction site by agents from the Department of Agriculture. In May 1964, when Burrage finalized arrangements with Herman Tucker and authorized him to begin work on the dam, Burrage chose—for reason he never explained—to do so without participating in the government program. (pp. 340-342)

With the civil rights workers' bodies in the hole, Posey signaled Tucker to start moving. The tractor ran fifteen minutes as Tucker bladed off the top of the dam so it would look as though it had not been disturbed.

The eight Klansmen got into Barnette's car and the civil rights workers' station wagon for the short ride down highway 21 to Burrage's trucking garage. There the men replaced the license plates on Barnette's car, which had been removed earlier in Meridian, and Jordan was given all the gloves the men had worn and told to dispose of them. Tucker took a glass gallon jug and filled it with gasoline from one of Burrage's pumps, to use in setting fire to the station wagon. (p. 361)

Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner will be remembered in the State of Mississippi's history as extraordinary individuals doing whatever it took to end racial segregation and win social

justice not only in the State of Mississippi but across this country. The story of Olen Burrage is one of many in Mississippi's plagued past. The State's insistence on justice signals a new day not only for the State of Mississippi, but also for the families of Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner.

**BOSTON GLOBE SERIES ON FIRE
FIGHTER STAFFING ISSUES**

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am inserting in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, excerpts from an excellent series on fire safety by Bill Dedman that ran in the Boston Globe on January 30 and 31, 2005. The series investigates the overwhelming problem of shrinking resources in local fire departments and the resulting threats to public and fire fighter safety. I urge my colleagues to read the entire series on line at: <http://www.boston.com/news/specials/fires/>.

Mr. Dedman conducted what may be the most thorough analysis of the many threats to public safety resulting from understaffed fire houses, tight municipal budgets and ever growing responsibilities. Just this month my staff met with mayors of towns and communities in my congressional district in Massachusetts who are concerned that the fire fighter staffing problems are reaching crisis levels. Since September 2001, Massachusetts has lost 800 paid fire fighters by layoffs and attrition. We have too few fire fighters who are too thinly spread. And the work has essentially doubled.

According to the National Fire Protection Administration, it is critical for fire fighters to arrive at a fire within 6 minutes. But that is not happening. The Globe series revealed that nationwide only 35 percent of fire departments were able to reach 90 percent of building fires in that time. Why? As the chiefs say, "more work, fewer people."

I would like to share the following excerpts from the Globe with my colleagues:

... Lisa Collum was breast-feeding her baby, and her 3-year-old was getting ready for a playdate, when the fire started in the apartment downstairs . . . The firehouse a few blocks away was empty. Only three fire-fighters were on duty to cover all 33 square miles of this seaside town, and they were busy with two ambulance calls on this January evening in 2001. One firefighter drove back for the fire engine, then hurried into the chaos at the Collums' home . . . It was standing room only at the funeral . . .

... Once a day on average in this country, someone dies when firefighters arrive too late, an investigation of fire response times by the Globe has found. America's fire departments are giving fires a longer head-start, arriving later each year, especially in the suburbs around Boston, Atlanta and other cities, where growth is brisk but fire staffing has been cut . . .

... In Massachusetts, people waited 10 minutes or more for firefighters to arrive at 214 building fires in 2002, the last year for which data is available. Since 1990, there have been 2,786 such fires, including blazes at jails, mental hospitals, apartment buildings, shopping malls and private homes.

... The fire department budgets are not growing to keep up, but shrinking. As a

share of all municipal budgets across the country, fire spending has slipped, from 6.1 percent in fiscal 1987 to 5.7 percent in fiscal 2003, the Globe calculated from the US Census Bureau's survey of governments . . .

Small-town departments are increasingly undertaking aggressive interior assaults on fires. Some of these smaller fire departments do not have the training, equipment, and backup personnel to safely accomplish these dangerous tactics," warned a 1998 report by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health . . . After the Worcester fire that killed six firefighters in 1999, federal investigators warned of the need to have a rested crew standing by with safety equipment. But fire chiefs in the Boston suburbs say such a team is usually assembled only after the fire is nearly out.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to visit the web and read this series more closely. We owe it to the public and to our brave fire fighters whose lives are on the line every day.

**EXPRESSING THE NEED FOR AC-
COUNTABILITY IN IRAQ AND
COMMEMORATING SGT SHER-
WOOD BAKER**

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives an op-ed piece written by the brother of one of my constituents who was killed in Iraq. SGT Sherwood Baker of Plymouth, Pennsylvania, served as a member of the Second Battalion, 103rd Armor of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Sergeant Baker was only 30 years old when he died in a warehouse explosion in Baghdad on April 26, 2004, where he was searching for weapons of mass destruction. Sergeant Baker made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country, searching for weapons our government now concedes cannot be found and most likely did not exist.

Dante Zappala writes with the pain of one who has lost a loved one; more than 1,400 other families are grieving for the loss of their loved ones who died in the service of our country. Dante's heartfelt plea for accountability should resonate among all Americans, especially those of us in Congress who authorized President Bush to lead our Nation into war.

The Bush Administration convinced me that Iraq posed an "imminent threat" to the national security of the United States. I now believe that it was never a threat. Until I have a full understanding of what caused us to be so wrong, I doubt that this Administration can convince me again that they are right in their decisions based on their analysis of intelligence.

Dante is right: We are all accountable. Now that the contentious election of 2004 is behind us and President Bush has been inaugurated to a second term, I hope that we can acknowledge the mistakes we made that led us to war, learn from those mistakes, and avoid making them in the future. Our Nation's security depends on it.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must play a stronger role in holding this Administration accountable

for the innocent lives that have been sacrificed.

I submit the following for entry into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

WHY MY BROTHER DIED

(By Dante Zappala)

This week, the White House announced, with little fanfare, that the two-year search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq had finally ended, and it acknowledged that no such weapons existed there at the time of the U.S. invasion in 2003.

For many, this may be a story of only passing interest. But for me and my family, it resonates with profound depth.

My brother was Sgt. Sherwood Baker. He was a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard deployed a year ago with his unit out of Wilkes-Barre. He said goodbye to his wife and his 9-year-old son, boarded a bus and went to Ft. Dix, N.J., to be hastily retrained. His seven years of Guard training as a forward observer was practically worthless because he would not face combat. All he needed to do was learn how to not die.

He received a crash course in convoy security, including practice in running over cardboard cutouts of children. We bought him a GPS unit and walkie-talkies because he wasn't supplied with them. In Iraq, Sherwood was assigned to the Iraq Survey Group and joined the search for weapons of mass destruction.

David Kay, who led the group until January 2004, had already stated that they did not exist. Former United Nations weapons inspector Hans Blix had expressed serious doubts about their presence during prewar inspections. In fact, a cadre of former U.N. inspectors and U.S. generals had been saying for years that Iraq posed no threat to our country. On April 26, 2004, the Iraq Survey Group, at the behest of the stubborn administration sitting safely in office buildings in Washington, was still on its fruitless but dangerous search. My brother stood atop his Humvee, securing the perimeter in front of a suspect building in Baghdad. But as soldiers entered the building, it exploded; the official cause is still not known. Sherwood was struck by debris in the back of his head and neck, and he was killed.

Since that day, my family and I have lived with the grief of losing a loved one. We have struggled to explain his death to his son. We have gazed at the shards of life scattered at our feet, in wonder of its fragility, in perpetual catharsis with God.

I have moved from frustration to disappointment to anger. And now I have arrived at a place not of understanding but of hope—blind hope that this will change.

The Iraq Survey Group's final report, which was filed in October but revealed only on Wednesday, confirmed what we knew all along. And as my mother cried in the kitchen, the nation barely blinked.

I am left now with a single word seared into my consciousness: accountability. The chance to hold our administration's feet to that flame has passed. But what of our citizenry? We are the ones who truly failed. We shut down our ability to think critically, to listen, to converse and to act. We are to blame.

Even with every prewar assumption having been proved false, today more than 130,000 U.S. soldiers are trying to stay alive in a foreign desert with no clear mission at hand.

At home, the sidelines are overcrowded with patriots. These Americans cower from the fight they instigated in Iraq. In a time of war and record budget deficits, many are loath to even pay their taxes. In the end, however, it is not their family members who are at risk, and they do not sit up at night pleading with fate to spare them.

Change is vital. We must remind ourselves that the war with Iraq was not a mistake but rather a flagrant abuse of power by our leaders—and a case of shameful negligence by the rest of us for letting it happen. The consequence is more than a quagmire. The consequence is the death of our national treasure—our soldiers.

We are all accountable. We all share the responsibility of what has been destroyed in our name. Let us begin to right the wrongs we have done to our country by accepting that responsibility.

TRIBUTE TO OSSIE DAVIS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a distinguished actor, director, producer, screenwriter, playwright and historian. Ossie Davis was an incredible man whose life's work, both on and off screen, promoted the advancement of civil rights and humanitarian causes.

Mr. Davis' most important role may well have been as husband. He and his wife, also a prominent actor, Ruby Dee, celebrated 50 years of marriage together in 1998. Both were among those selected to receive Kennedy Center Honors in 2004.

The pair met during Davis' Broadway debut in the play *Jeb Turner*. Both promoted the cause of blacks in the entertainment industry and are well known for their portrayals of characters faced with racial injustice.

My thoughts and prayers are with Ms. Dee, for her loss is truly a loss for us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC MEN AND WOMEN OF THE 415TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the heroic men and women of the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserve who have recently returned home after serving their country in Iraq. The sacrifices that these heroes made to protect and secure our country will never be forgotten and we are forever in their debt.

The 415th Civil Affairs Battalion is based out of Kalamazoo, Michigan with soldiers coming from throughout the Midwest. Over the last 7 years this battalion has been deployed five times, and is considered to be one of the most deployed battalions in the active or reserve of the Army. During their time in Iraq these selfless individuals rebuilt schools, worked with the creation of water treatment plants and Iraqi hospitals.

I would also like to extend my deepest sympathy for the loss of two of their comrades, SPC Nichole Frye and CPT Paul Cassidy. They will always remain in our memories and their families will be in our thoughts and prayers.

With our forces fighting overseas today, we are vividly reminded of the debt of gratitude

we owe our men and women in uniform who serve our country. The 415th Civil Affairs Battalion is a glowing example of the greatness of our forces and on behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan; I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation for their service.

VETERANS BENEFITS CUTS AND BUDGET PROPOSAL

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, is nothing sacred in this Administration's budget? At a time when our greatest generation is relying more and more on the VA to provide health services and our newest veterans are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, the White House is proposing to slash their benefits and force them to pay ever increasing premiums. What happened to keeping promises to our nation's veterans?

With the constantly rising cost of health care, the proposed funding falls well short of what is needed for our veterans. These veterans paid their service to our Nation and they earned a lifetime of health care coverage—we promised it to them. Now, as the President wants to spend trillions of dollars to privatize Social Security, he also wants to break that promise and make veterans pay for their healthcare again!

The absurdity of this would be laughable if it weren't such a serious and disturbing proposal.

Thomas P. Cadmus, the National Commander of the American Legion sees and understands the absurdity of this as well. He said, and I quote:

"It is incomprehensible that our veterans will pay for the shortfall in VA health-care funding from their own pockets as tax dollars flow out the back door of America."

And these tax dollars aren't just flowing out the back door of America in additional foreign aid funding, they are also flowing out the front door in the form of tax cuts for the wealthiest one percent of our Nation.

We have the money to keep our promise to our veterans and I urge the White House to reevaluate the budget and make the changes needed to reinforce the promise to our veterans.

I am also enclosing a press release from The American Legion which I submit for the RECORD to accompany my remarks.

LEGION LEADER SAYS PROPOSED BUDGET REACHES DEEP INTO VETERANS' POCKETS

WASHINGTON, February 7, 2005.—The leader of the nation's largest military veterans organization reacted strongly to the effects that President Bush's budget plan will have on veterans. He called it a smoke screen to raise revenue at the expense of veterans.

"This is not acceptable," said Thomas P. Cadmus, national commander of the 2.7 million-member American Legion. "It's nothing more than a health care tax designed to increase revenue at the expense of veterans who served their country."

Cadmus was referring to the portion of the proposed budget that would double the co-payment charge to many veterans for prescription drugs and would require some to pay a new fee of \$250 a year to use their own their own health care system.

"Is the goal of these legislative initiatives to drive those veterans paying for their health care away from the system designed to serve veterans?" Cadmus asked. "The President is asking Congress to make 'health care poaching' legal in the world's largest health care delivery system."

"When the President first came to Washington, among his first official acts was to triple the prescription co-payment from \$2 to \$7," Cadmus said. "Once again, the President wants to double the co-payment and fortunately, Congress has wisely rejected that proposal. Making veterans pay for timely access to quality health care is wrong."

This is the third year in a row the President has attempted to establish an enrollment fee for those veterans making co-payments and third-party reimbursements to the VA.

"Many of these veterans are Medicare-eligible and already paying the federal government for their part A and B coverage, so why should they have to pay an additional enrollment fee? VA can't even bill Medicare," Cadmus said. "Other veterans with private health insurance make co-payments and then VA is reimbursed for services. Again, why should they be forced to pay an additional \$250 to go to VA medical facilities?"

"During my visits to VA hospitals, I have not run into Bill Gates, Donald Trump, or Ross Perot seeking care. I see mostly veterans—many on small fixed incomes—trying to make ends meet and exercising their very best health care option." Cadmus observed.

"Veterans' health care is an ongoing expense of war," he added. "You don't thank veterans for serving their country and then tell them, 'By the way, better not get wounded or you'll have to pay extra for your health care.' This is offensive to every veteran in America. That is why this government must move VA health care out from under the umbrella of discretionary spending to mandatory spending," Cadmus stressed.

The American Legion has requested a \$3.5 billion increase in health care spending in FY 2006. The President is proposing \$9.5 billion in foreign aid, about \$2.1 billion more than the current level.

"As young Americans in uniform battle terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as 119 other countries, it is incomprehensible that our veterans will pay for the shortfall in VA health care funding from their own pockets as tax dollars flow out the back door of America," Cadmus said.

"We reminded the President of our position on veterans' health care needs during his campaign and I personally testified on the issue on Capitol Hill last September," Cadmus added. "Our budget request is very realistic when you consider the Secretary has slammed the door in the face of hundreds of thousands of veterans eligible, but currently forbidden from seeking quality care from VA."

"The current appropriations process is broken and is not adequately funding VA medical care," Cadmus said. "President George W. Bush's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans on May 26, 2003, identified the mismatch between demand and funding as a major obstacle in meeting the nation's commitment to veterans. The American Legion and nine other veterans' organizations believe the answer lies in changing VA health care funding from discretionary to mandatory appropriation."

"No active-duty service member in harm's way should ever have to question the nation's commitment to veterans. This is the wrong message at the wrong time to the wrong constituency.

OPPOSITION TO AN ANTI-SECESSION LAW PROPOSED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to an Anti-Secession Law that is being proposed by the People's Republic of China. While some positive developments in cross-strait relations between China and Taiwan have occurred recently, the consideration of an Anti-Secession Law by Beijing threatens to disrupt the status-quo. Recently, an agreement was reached by both governments to allow historic non-stop charter flights between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan during February's Lunar New Year holiday. And the arrival on February 1 of a delegation from China to pay their respects to the late negotiator Koo Chen-fu, former Chairman of the Straits Exchange Foundation, has been a welcome development as well. Unfortunately, China's National People's Congress Standing Committee is considering a bill that is expected to set up a legal framework to provide for the incorporation of Taiwan by China. This legislation, however, could be interpreted to legally require Beijing to move unilaterally against Taiwan in the event Beijing construed any acts or statements by Taipei as a move toward independence.

I have deep reservations about an Anti-Secession Law. Beijing until now has considered Taiwan to be a part of China but has refrained from attempting to legally extend its sovereignty over it. While this position leaves some flexibility for negotiations on unification, I fear that the enactment of this new measure will restrict the debate. In addition, there would also be great uncertainty among the thousands of Taiwanese who work on the mainland. Would Taiwanese businessmen in China run the risk of being jailed for actions interpreted as being supportive of Taiwanese authorities? Reactions from Taiwan to the proposed law have been universally negative among all of Taiwan's political parties and leaders. At a time when the differences between Beijing and Taipei can best be resolved through dialogue, the enactment of this legislation would make the resumption of these negotiations more difficult and inevitably increase tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

Both the People's Republic of China and Taiwan have a vital interest in maintaining peace in the region. My hope is that China will not enact an Anti-Secession Law or take any step, for that matter, which might prompt a confrontation in the Taiwan Strait.

PROMOTING HEART HEALTH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, heart disease is the leading cause of death for all Americans—more than 70 million Americans, one in four, suffers from heart disease, stroke or another cardiovascular disease. For women, heart disease is responsible for more deaths than the

next seven causes of death combined, including all forms of cancer. And shockingly, only 8 percent of women think that heart disease is a major personal concern.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help get the message out, to call attention to heart health and to encourage men and women to learn about the signs and causes of cardiovascular disease. This past Friday, the American Heart Association sponsored "Go Red for Women" day to raise awareness and help women take back control of their personal health. Women in particular must educate themselves to know the risk factors they can control: diabetes, blood pressure, tobacco use, cholesterol, exercise and obesity. One in ten American women aged 45 to 64 and one in four American women aged 64 or older has some form of heart disease. Those numbers are way too high.

As the family gatekeeper, women do more than just improve their own health—they can put children and families on the path to a lifetime of good heart health. Childhood obesity and diabetes are pandemic in the U.S.—it's a trend we must stop by making sure our families are eating healthy and getting physical activity. These simple but important steps will mean a great deal to the future health of our families and our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me in encouraging all Americans to contact the American Heart Association to find out the information that can save their lives.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN MAYHAK

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Helen Mayhak who regrettably passed away recently at the age of 91. A dedicated and selfless woman, Helen's charity and work throughout the community made Southwest Michigan an even greater place to live and grow.

For the last 40 years Helen served the Hartford community as township clerk, making her one of Michigan's longest-tenured officials. A lifelong resident of Berrien County, Helen was an active member in her community. Whether she was serving hot lunches to students in our public schools, working with the Boy Scouts of America, or assisting in our local hospitals, Helen did her part to improve the lives of everyone she encountered. As a member of the Van Buren Republican Party, she was honored as the Van Buren Republican of the Year.

Helen will be remembered for her commitment to the betterment of the lives of those she served. We will certainly miss her enthusiasm and passion that she brought to her work each and every day.

On behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan, our prayers and sincere regards go out to Helen's family and friends—she will certainly be deeply missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I received Unanimous Consent for an excused absence for February 1, 2005 and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons, I witnessed the birth of my first grandchild Lauren Elissa Hewlett and I ask Unanimous Consent to include this personal explanation in the RECORD.

On February 1, 2005, I was unable to be present for Rollcall votes #14 and #15, and on February 2, 2005, I was unable to be present for Rollcall votes #16, #17, #18, and #19.

On Rollcall vote #14, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 23 "Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #15, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 120, "To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30777 Rancho California Road at Temecula, California, as the Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #16, agreeing to the Resolution H. Con. Res. 36, "Expressing the continued support of Congress for equal access of military recruiters to institutions of higher education," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #17, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 56, "Commending the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005, and for other purposes," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #18, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 57, "Expressing the strong concern of the House of Representatives that the European Union may end its embargo against the Peoples Republic of China," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #19, agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 60, "Relating to the free election in Iraq held on January 30, 2005," I would have voted "Yea."

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget is a blueprint of his priorities. A way of showing what direction he wants to move the country. Based on the last four years, it is no surprise that the President's budget is more of the same: continued tax cuts for the wealthy paid for by slashing programs that Americans depend on.

While the President has urged a return to fiscal discipline, he has been more of a culprit than a savior. This year's budget continues to move in the wrong direction, and the FY 2006 deficit will likely be the largest in history. The President's projected deficit is not even a credible accounting, as the budget completely omits the President's own plans for tax cuts, Social Security privatization, and fighting the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. These programs

alone will cost trillions of dollars over the next decade.

The President says spending cuts are necessary to keep the deficit from increasing even more. This is only half accurate. Without the tax cuts enacted since 2001, our nation's fiscal health would be much rosier, and the President would not be asking the neediest and most vulnerable Americans to sacrifice.

With control of the White House and both Houses of Congress, this blueprint shows America the real Republican agenda. They want to cut Medicaid by \$60 billion over ten years and put more of the burden on states and the 45 million Americans who do not have health insurance. They want to eliminate 48 education programs that provide assistance with vocational education, education technology, and civic education. And they want us to fall \$12 billion further behind in our commitments under No Child Left Behind, handing an unfunded mandate to states and short-changing our teachers and students.

While the Department of Homeland Security receives an overall increase in funding, the President proposes cutting FIRE grants by 30 percent and first responder funding by 10 percent, in addition to a 42 percent cut for the hugely successful COPS program. How does this budget make us safer?

Perhaps most egregiously during this time of war, the President wants to impose new fees and increase copayments for veterans' health care, adding an undue burden to those who have served their country so honorably.

I urge my colleagues to join me in returning fiscal responsibility to the budgetary process and creating a realistic blueprint that meets the needs of the American people, not just the President's wealthiest supporters.

HONORING JOE F. COLVIN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Joe F. Colvin, who is retiring as president and chief executive officer of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). Over his long and distinguished career, Mr. Colvin has played a key role in ensuring that America will continue to enjoy the benefits of nuclear energy.

Mr. Colvin began his career more than 40 years ago as a submarine officer in the U.S. Navy. After leaving the Navy, he held many different leadership positions in the nuclear energy industry.

Over the past nine years as head of NEI, Mr. Colvin has led the industry through a period of extraordinary change. When he began, the future of nuclear energy was by no means certain as many expected that most of America's reactors would close.

Recent events have proven dramatically different. Today, our country's 103 reactors are essential to the stability of our electricity supply and our clean air. Instead of closing, reactors are renewing their licenses and extending their operation. Now, several companies have begun to explore possibilities for licensing new nuclear power plants in the United States. This transformation is a testament to Mr. Colvin's vision and diligence.

Mr. Colvin has testified numerous times before the Committee on Energy and Commerce and other congressional committees, and has represented his industry well. In doing so, he has guided important policy initiatives, advanced numerous regulatory and legislative issues and cultivated a favorable investor climate for the industry that NEI represents.

Mr. Colvin's dedication and commitment to the industry he served will be missed, as will his enthusiasm and good nature. He will be missed also by his many friends in Congress. Hence, I extend to him best wishes for his retirement, and on behalf of the House of Representatives, thank him for his contributions.

DR. H.D. "DAVE" LUCK, A MAN OF HONOR

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. H.D. "Dave" Luck, a statesman, a leader, a veteran, and a true gentleman who passed away on January 3, 2005 in Arkansas at the age of 79. Dr. Luck was a man who, in deed and action, distinguished himself as someone who set forth to make Arkansas a better place to live as a champion for civil rights and higher education.

Born in 1925 in New York City, Dr. Luck graduated from Bates College in Maine in 1945, and earned his M.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland. After doing post graduate work in medical education at the United States Naval School of Aviation Medicine in Florida, and at University Hospital in Little Rock, Dr. Luck eventually settled in Arkadelphia where he founded the Arkadelphia Medical Clinic in 1979.

Dr. Luck began a life of public service in Arkadelphia, where he served as President of General Industries Corporation from 1962 until 1968, the Arkadelphia Chamber of Commerce, and the Arkadelphia Kiwanis Club. He was awarded the Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Award in 1963.

Dr. Luck continued an inspiring career of public service on the state as Chair of the Democratic Party. In 1964, he chaired the Committee for Voter Registration. Dr. Luck's passion was Civil Rights; he chaired the coalition that successfully created a constitutional amendment which abolished the poll tax and set up a system of permanent voter registration. In 1965, President Johnson appointed him to the White House Conference on Civil Rights. Like many reformers before him, Dr. Luck was driven by a cause that was met with adversity. He met each challenge and cause with fervor that mystifies and inspires us to public service.

In addition to Civil Rights, Dr. Luck was committed to improving Arkansas higher education. He served as Trustee of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia from 1970 until 1982. He was appointed to the Arkansas State Board of Higher Education by Governor Bill Clinton, serving from 1988 until 1994.

His service went far beyond civilian life; Dr. Luck served in the U.S. Navy V-12 program during World War II. He also served as a

Naval Medical Officer during the Korean War from 1950 to 1953.

Arkansas will be forever grateful that such a visionary leader came along, at the time he did, to lead us into a new era. I hope that you are as inspired as I have been by Dr. Luck's relentless determination to fight for such important causes. While Dr. Luck is no longer with us, his legacy lives on by the way he improved the quality of life for all Arkansans.

INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, now that Congress has passed landmark legislation that will help reform our intelligence community, I believe we must now take a closer look at streamlining congressional oversight of that community. Therefore, I am pleased to share with my colleagues a recent opinion piece, which explores some of the reform options available to us.

The op-ed, entitled "Joint Intelligence Committee Overdue" was published on Dec. 3, 2004, in the News-Leader—Florida's oldest weekly newspaper. It was authored by Mr. Thomas Smeeton, who is the former U.S. House Minority Staff Director of the Iran/Contra Committee and Minority Counsel of the U.S. House Intelligence Committee. Mr. Smeeton also served as a CIA officer. I hope my colleagues will find the op-ed interesting and beneficial:

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE OVERDUE

The collapse of Congressional efforts to reform the intelligence community dominated the news just before Thanksgiving. The proposed legislation embodied many of the major recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for fixing the executive branch's intelligence problems. Largely overlooked in this reform debate is Congress' failure, so far, to do enough to address its own problems. Yet the 9/11 panel noted that "of all of our recommendations, strengthening Congressional oversight may be the most difficult and important." The commission also pointed out that, "Congressional oversight for intelligence and counterterrorism is now dysfunctional."

The main reason this critically important congressional responsibility is malfunctioning is because it is spread amongst too many committees. That is why the 9/11 Commission urged Congress to replace the current fragmented oversight arrangement with either a House-Senate joint committee or single panels in each congressional body with exclusive oversight and legislative power.

Consolidation along these lines would drastically reduce the time high level intelligence community officials spend on Capitol Hill repeating over and over again the same briefings and testimonies to the various committees now exercising jurisdiction over intelligence activities. Redundant congressional demands are becoming so time consuming that it is increasingly difficult for these senior officials to discharge their primary duties of attending to the many security issues confronting this nation.

The need to reform Congress' oversight of the intelligence community has been recognized by some members of Congress for

years. Henry Hyde, currently chairman of the International Relations Committee in the House of Representatives, proposed legislation to create a Joint Intelligence Committee in 1984. He spelled out what he had in mind in numerous forums, including op-ed pieces that appeared in major newspapers. Nearly 17 years ago, Hyde's idea was the top recommendation of the Republican members of the Iran/Contra Committee. Among those endorsing the Hyde initiative were Dick Cheney, Mike DeWine and Orrin Hatch, who served with Hyde on the Iran-Contra Joint Committee. All of these political figures remain major players in Washington.

The reluctance of Congress to get its own house in order is politically understandable. A Joint Intelligence Committee would require a number of committees and their powerful chairmen to sacrifice their jurisdictions over intelligence matters. But given what is at stake, it is time to subordinate such parochial concerns to the national interest.

To really be effective, a Joint Intelligence Committee must have both oversight and legislative authority. Otherwise, those committees with an interest in intelligence issues will try to recapture their lost purviews. Historically, those committees have been Armed Services, Judiciary, Appropriations and Foreign/International Relations. To mollify these traditional bailiwicks, membership on the joint committee should include representatives from each of these committees. The panel must be small to ensure secrecy and promote individual responsibility and accountability. To encourage bipartisanship, neither political party should have more than a one-vote edge. The committee staff should be composed of apolitical professionals.

In summary, the time has come to think outside of the box and adopt radical congressional reforms to meet national security challenges in the post 9/11 world. The 9/11 Commission put it best when it warned that "the other reforms we have suggested—for a national counter-terrorism center and national intelligence director—will not work if congressional oversight does not change too. Unity of effort in executive management can be lost if it is fractured by congressional oversight."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "OMNIBUS NONPROLIFERATION AND ANTI-NUCLEAR TERRORISM ACT OF 2005"

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, early on the morning of October 11, 2001, as lower Manhattan still lay smoldering, President Bush was told by George Tenet, the Director of Central Intelligence, that a CIA agent was reporting that al Qaeda terrorists armed with a stolen Russian nuclear weapon were loose in New York City.

The threat was not made public for fear it would cause mass panic, but senior U.S. Government officials were evacuated, including Vice President CHENEY, to a series of undisclosed locations away from the capital. Nuclear Emergency Search Teams were dispatched to New York to look for the weapon, reportedly a 10 kiloton warhead that could have killed at least 100,000 people if it were detonated in Manhattan.

Thankfully, the CIA report turned out to be untrue, but the danger we face from nuclear terrorism is all too real. Osama bin Laden has termed the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction "a religious duty," while his press spokesman has announced that al Qaeda aspires to kill 4 million Americans, including 1 million children.

President Bush has deemed a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States the number one national security threat facing this country. In a valedictory interview with the Associated Press, Attorney General John Ashcroft also singled out the danger to America posed by terrorists armed with nuclear weapons.

We agree with the President and the Attorney General, and we share the conviction of almost every expert in and out of government who has looked at this problem: If we do not act now to secure existing nuclear material and weapons, as well as the expertise needed to build them, a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States is only a matter of time.

We have consulted with a range of experts to produce a comprehensive set of policies that we believe will be effective in enabling the United States to prevent what Graham Allison of Harvard University has termed "the ultimate preventable catastrophe."

Today, my colleague, Mr. SHAYS and I, are introducing the "Omnibus Nonproliferation and Anti-Nuclear Terrorism Act of 2005" which lays out a comprehensive plan to overhaul our nonproliferation program.

As with America's intelligence programs, nonproliferation and disarmament programs are spread across the United States government. Thus, the centerpiece of our proposal, is the creation of an Office of Nonproliferation Programs within the Executive Office of the President to coordinate and oversee America's efforts to prevent terrorists from gaining access to nuclear weapons and to manage the effort to secure existing nuclear material in the former Soviet Union and other places.

We need to modernize the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, created by Senator RICHARD LUGAR and Former Senator Sam Nunn, by giving more flexibility to the President to carry out nonproliferation projects outside the former Soviet Union and by reducing red tape.

The most vulnerable nuclear sites around the world must be secure. Our bill enhances the Global Threat Reduction Initiative announced last year by former Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham.

We also propose a number of multilateral and bilateral efforts to secure nuclear material. In order to prevent another A.Q. Kahn "nuclear supermarket," we urge the President to expand and strengthen his Proliferation Security Initiative to interdict the shipment of nuclear material. We also recommend that the President work with the international community to develop and implement standards to improve the security of nuclear weapons and materials and to explore ways to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We must address the vulnerability to theft of the Russian tactical nuclear arsenal, and our legislation authorizes the Department of Energy to assist Russia in conducting a comprehensive inventory of its tactical weapons.

The President's authority to fund non-defense research by Russian WMD scientists must be expanded so these scientists would not be tempted to sell their secrets to North Korea, Iran or al Qaeda.

As the nation grappled with the attacks of September 11, we repeatedly asked ourselves how we could have failed to foresee the danger posed by al Qaeda and taken steps to prevent 9/11. We know about the danger of nuclear terrorism; we have been warned repeatedly. We are in a race with terrorists who are actively seeking nuclear weapons. The choice is ours. We can continue doing what we are doing now and risk an almost inevitable nuclear attack or we can take action to prevent it. When one considers the consequences, the choice is really no choice at all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OSSIE DAVIS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great life and legacy of Ossie Davis, a leader, innovator, and inspiration to us all.

Ossie Davis was the older of five children born in the small town of Cogdell Georgia in 1917, but mainly grew up in nearby Waycross and Valdosta Georgia. In 1935 he left home, hitchhiking to Washington DC, where he entered Howard University as a student of Drama. At the time he had plans of becoming a playwright and expressing his artistic ability on stage. In 1939 his career as an actor began with the Rose McClendon Players in Harlem where he developed for 3 years and gained his first professional acting debut in 1941 performing in "Joy Exceeding Glory". During World War II, Mr. Davis spent close to 4 years serving his country as a surgical technician in an Army hospital in Liberia, tending to wounded troops and the people of the country.

After the war in 1946 and back in New York, Mr. Davis debuted on Broadway in "Jeb" a fitting story about a soldier returning home from the war. His co-star in this love story was a well known actress Ruby Dee. In December of 1948, the couple jumped on a bus to New Jersey and got married on a day off from rehearsal. Since meeting on the 1946 Broadway production, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee have stood out as a collaborative beacon of light leading generations of African Americans to follow in their footsteps in the field of fine arts and at the same time standing in the foreground of social consciousness.

The era of the Cold War brought with it feelings of uncertainty concerning political ideas and racial issues. During this period of social upheaval, Mr. Davis and others as Black performers found themselves under a watchful eye with McCarthyism on the rise. While the Cold War was in full swing, Mr. Davis stood by, most notably, Paul Robeson, a fellow actor and singer who was a well known communist sympathizer. Mr. Davis stood by his side like a true friend when others severed ties to Robeson, and along with his wife Ruby Dee, they resisted the ever growing threat of McCarthyism. Davis was remembered to have said, "We young ones in the theater, trying to fathom even as we followed, were pulled this way and that by the swirling currents of these new dimensions of the struggle."

Mr. Davis was also a leading activist in the Civil Rights era of the 1960's. He stood side by side with Martin Luther King Jr. in the movement for freedom, equality and unity within our Nation for all. As close friends of the Reverend Dr. King, Ossie and Ruby Dee served as Masters of ceremonies for the historic 1963 March on Washington. As a strong advocate of the African American identity, Mr. Davis stood by the stimulating words, moving persona, and in his words, "The manifestation of Black manhood" that was Malcolm X. He full heartedly felt Malcolm's message of determination, self Love, and Knowledge of self.

When Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King passed away Mr. Davis eulogized them both at their funerals. Many believed Mr. Davis would lose his career as an actor for delivering an eulogy for Brother Malcolm X, an enormously controversial figure in American History. The courage of Mr. Davis to brave the fire for his allegiance to Brother Malcolm X displays his sensitivity to issues affecting the hearts and minds of the African Americans, and the strong foundation of his heritage that was rooted in his soul.

His efforts as a Civil Rights leader, activist and vanguard as an actor in Black Hollywood

are a testament to his views on equality and freedom. Mr. Davis was also a firm believer of self love and righteousness within the Black community. His choice of acting roles and his written works reflect these ideas in a clear and unmistakable manner. Mr. Davis used his charisma and sheer talent on and off camera to explore and unfold the complex issues which affect our society and are most often swept under the rug. As a socially conscious actor, he could not sit back while such complex issuers go unnoticed, making himself a part of such classical projects as *Do the Right Thing*, *Jungle Fever*, *Malcolm X* and most recently *She Hate Me*, all projects of writer, actor, director Spike Lee.

Before his untimely death, Ossie Davis began to give back to the community in a number of different fashions. He did not simply throw money at a problem, but took a more nurturing hand on approach to his philanthropy efforts. In 2004 Mr. Davis returned home to his Alma Mater, The Mecca-Howard University where he became a visiting professor in the John H. Johnson School of Communications. Additionally, he served as the orator for How-

ard's 2004 Charter Day where he also received a special citation of achievement.

In his community service Mr. Davis was also an advocate for issues affecting young Black males. In 2004 Mr. Davis and his wife Ruby Dee were the luncheon speakers and kicked off the State of the African American Male (SAAM) Conference which I hosted. Mr. Davis stated that it was his personal mission to reverse the trends affecting our young black males, such as drug addiction, high drop out rates and criminal issues.

Ossie Davis will forever live in our hearts and minds through his countless efforts to the community, his effortless talents on and off camera, and as a loving father and husband. He will also be recognized on the world stage as a pioneer of the Civil Rights movement, fighting for justice, equality and what he knew was right during a time of social uncertainty. Ossie Davis knew as a person not afraid to think outside the box that the issues facing this country were bigger than you or I and no one person could lead this country to the promised land. He felt a collective effort of change was needed and is quoted as saying. "It's not the man, it's the plan."