

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

21ST ANNUAL POW/MIA CEREMONY AT THE MERCER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the sacrifices made by Mercer County's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as the families who mourn them.

Tonight, January 27th, 2005 will commemorate the 21st annual POW/MIA ceremony at the Mercer County Courthouse. This date was chosen to commemorate the signing of the Paris Peace Accords on January 27, 1973, which effectively marked the end of the Vietnam Conflict and commenced the withdrawal of American troops.

Since World War I there have been over 125,000 soldiers Missing in Action, including 2,005 soldiers who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Conflict. Our Nation will continue its commitment and concern to remembering and resolving as fully possible the fate of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for during military operations in Southeast Asia. I believe ceremonies such as the POW/MIA vigil in Mercer County, Pennsylvania is one way of ensuring that America never forgets our heroes.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 2005 Mercer County POW/MIA vigil and honoring the sacrifices of all of America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, Chinese military buildup along Taiwan's coast continues, and China has announced plans to enact an anti-secession (or anti-separation) law aimed specifically at Taiwan.

China's proposed anti-secession law assumes the unification of China and Taiwan and proposes that those opposed to the unification are subject to punishment. It further assumes that Chinese leaders have the right to invade Taiwan if they suspect the engagement of Taiwanese leaders in separatist activities.

Mr. Speaker, the dismayed and freedom loving people of Taiwan have reacted to the proposed law with disappointment. In a recent public opinion poll 70 percent of Taiwanese people oppose China's institution of the "anti-secession" law.

I share the sentiments of the people of Taiwan and stand with them in the zeal for freedom and liberty.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO OIL PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CARTELS ("NOPEC") ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC)" Act of 2005, legislation that subjects a group of competing oil producers, like the OPEC nations, to U.S. antitrust law when they act together to restrict supply or set prices. I am joined by Representatives LOFGREN and MCINTYRE.

For the past year, American consumers have paid exorbitant prices at the pump, as gas prices have hit their highest levels since the first Gulf War. For the past several months, oil prices have remained stubbornly high, sitting above \$48 at the end of last week. Since last January, oil prices have climbed more than 15 percent, driving gasoline prices in the United States to record levels while producing budget surpluses in nations like Saudi Arabia.

The group of 11 nations comprising OPEC are a classic definition of a cartel, and they hold all the cards when it comes to oil and gas prices. OPEC accounts for more than a third of global oil production, and OPEC's oil exports represent about 55 percent of the oil traded internationally. Its net oil export revenues should reach nearly \$345 billion this year, and its influence on the oil market is dominant, especially when it decides to reduce or increase its levels of production.

The OPEC nations have for years conspired to drive up prices of imported crude oil, gouging American consumers. Their price-fixing and supply-limiting conspiracy is a clear violation of U.S. antitrust laws, yet we have no recourse for action against these nations. The international oil cartel continues to avoid accountability, shielding itself behind the veil of sovereign immunity by claiming that its actions are "governmental activity"—which is protected under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act ("FSIA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1602 et seq.—rather than "commercial activity."

This legislation, the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act" ("NOPEC"), is simple and effective.

It exempts OPEC and other nations from the provisions of FSIA to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products.

It makes clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

It authorizes lawsuits in U.S. federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

We do not have to stand by and watch OPEC dictate the price of our gas without any recourse; we can do something to combat this conspiracy among oil-rich nations. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

BILL INTRODUCTION: NORTHERN RIO GRANDE NATIONAL HERITAGE DESIGNATION ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area in the State of New Mexico. In the 107th session of Congress, an identical version of this bill was placed on the suspension calendar by the Chairman of the Resources committee and passed the full House by voice vote. New Mexico's two senators have introduced a companion bill in the Senate this Congress. I ask today that this bill receive swift passage through the House so New Mexicans call take additional steps to preserve and learn from our rich history.

The establishment of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area is a citizen-driven effort to protect the remaining significant resources representative of the Spanish and Pueblo colonial era in north-central New Mexico. The bill identifies the northern New Mexico counties of Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos as a National Heritage Area—an elite designation from Congress reserved for areas regarded as a significant resource.

Northern New Mexico boasts many sites of historic and cultural significance. Our state is a blend of pueblo and Hispanic cultures, making it a very unique and special place in our country. This legislation would identify many of the sites that tell northern New Mexico's story, help preserve them and, in the process, allow them to be more thoroughly enjoyed by New Mexicans and visitors to our state. Preservation would directly lead to economic development of this area through enhanced tourism.

The legislation creates a non-profit corporation governed by a 15- to 25-member board of trustees charged with developing a management plan for the heritage area. The board will be comprised of representatives from the state, affected counties, tribes, cities and others. The corporation's plan would include recommendations for identifying, conserving and preserving cultural, historical and natural resources within the heritage area, along with strategies to promote tourism of the region's natural and cultural assets.

The city of Española, the city of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, Rio Arriba County, Taos County, La Jicarita Enterprise Community, the Chimayo Cultural Preservation Association, and the Eight Northern Pueblos support the Northern Rio Grande Heritage Area. I urge my

• 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.

colleagues to join with me and with these communities and organizations in support of this legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANA
DODSON

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Colorado student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Ana Dodson of Evergreen has just been named one of the top youth volunteers by the 2005 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers.

Ms. Dodson is being recognized for creating an organization called "Peruvian Hearts," a non-profit organization to aid abused and abandoned girls living in Peruvian orphanages. This organization has over the past year collected donations totaling near \$10,000. This money was used to purchase such commodities as school supplies, vitamins, books, toiletries, clothing, medicine, quilts, backpacks, and toys.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards was created by Prudential Financial in Partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 8 years, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with more than 170,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Ms. Dodson should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I applaud Ms. Dodson for her contribution and public service, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world. She is deserving of our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that the spirit of America's youth holds tremendous promise for America's future.

CONGRATULATING KENNETH
McGLUMPHY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kenneth McGlumphy on his retirement after 31 years of service to the Social Security Administration.

Mr. McGlumphy started as a clerk and worked his way up to the position of District Manager of the Butler Field Office. Kenneth has a long standing relationship with my office, and has always been pleasant and courteous.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recog-

nizing Kenneth McGlumphy. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as Kenneth who truly embody the spirit of public service and make the communities they live in special.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF HELEN AGUIRRE-
FERRE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible achievements of Ms. Helen Aguirre-Ferre.

An accomplished journalist in print and television, Helen is currently the Opinion Page Editor of *Diario Las Americas* and moderator of the weekly public affairs program *Issues for WPBT Channel 2*.

In addition, I am proud to acknowledge the wonderful distinction Helen earned by being elected as the first female President of the District Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College.

Helen's enthusiastic ability to balance the responsibilities and obligations of these challenging positions is a commendable feat and serves as a testament to the diligence and determination she exerts as she continues to succeed in her professional endeavors.

She truly lends an impressive example of purpose and fortitude to the communities of South Florida.

I invite my colleagues today to join in the much-deserved recognition of Ms. Aguirre-Ferre and wish her much continued success in the future.

Congratulations, Helen!

INTRODUCTION OF THE DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE CONNECTIONS CAM-
PAIGN ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Domestic Violence Connections Campaign Act of 2005," legislation that ensures that the National Domestic Violence Hotline continues to provide the essential services it has been providing since it was created in 1996. I am joined by Representative HART.

The Hotline was created by the Violence Against Women Act and answered its first call on February 21, 1996. By August 2003 it answered its one millionth call, an increase of approximately 133 percent. This is due in large part to public awareness of domestic violence and public promotion of the Hotline. Today, on average the Hotline receives almost 16,000 calls a month.

The Hotline is primarily funded by federal dollars that come from annual federal spending bills. However, as the Hotline's call volume continues to increase exponentially, funding has failed to keep pace. To keep up, the Hotline needs new equipment, new connection

capability, and new data protection technology. Because its system is so outdated, over 26,000 calls last year went unanswered due to long hold times or busy signals.

The Connection Campaign is a combination of public and private efforts to bring the Hotline up to speed. It teams up private telecommunication and technology companies with the federal government to solve the Hotline's crisis and guarantee that the Hotline can answer every call. Under the Connection Campaign, companies like Microsoft, Sony, BellSouth, Verizon Wireless, IBM, Dell and others, may donate hardware and software such as cell phones, home computers, mapping software, flat-screened monitors, and telephone airtime to the Hotline.

On the public side of the partnership, Senator BIDEN will soon join Representative HART and me in introducing legislation to bridge the digital divide. Our bill, the Domestic Violence Connections Campaign Act of 2005, which will also appear in the 2005 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, has three components:

It mandates that federal appropriations to the Hotline include technology training for Hotline advocates so that every new telephone, computer, and database will be used to its full-est capacity.

It provides a new research grant program to be used to review and analyze data generated by the Hotline. Administered by the Attorney General, the grant program will study trends, gaps in service and geographical areas of need. The findings of this research will be reported to Congress within three years of its enactment.

It provides a grant program for the Hotline to increase public awareness about the Hotline's services and domestic violence generally.

The Connections Campaign and this legislation are important next steps in our fight to defeat domestic violence and assist victims. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
CLARIFY ISSUES OF CRIMINAL
JURISDICTION WITHIN THE EX-
TERIOR BOUNDARIES OF PUEBLO
LANDS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation on behalf of myself and cosponsors HEATHER WILSON and STEVAN PEARCE that will help clarify issues of criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of Pueblo lands by amending the Indian Pueblo Lands Act of 1924.

This legislation addresses confusion over criminal jurisdiction on Pueblo lands in New Mexico arising out of the holding in *United States v. Jose Gutierrez*, an unreported decision of a federal district court judge in the District of New Mexico that overturned prior precedent regarding the jurisdictional status of the lands within the exterior boundaries of Pueblo grants.

The Gutierrez decision created uncertainty and the potential for a void in criminal jurisdiction on Pueblo lands. Because of the risk to

public safety and law enforcement arising out of this uncertainty, it is important to clarify the scope of criminal jurisdiction on Pueblo lands. This amendment to the Pueblo Lands Act makes clear that the Pueblos have jurisdiction, as an act of the Pueblos' inherent power as an Indian tribe, over any offense by a member of the Pueblo or of another federally recognized Indian tribe, or by any other Indian-owned entity committed anywhere within the exterior boundaries of any grant to a Pueblo from a prior sovereign, as confirmed by Congress or the Court of Private Land Claims. The legislation also makes clear that the United States has jurisdiction over any offense within these grants described in chapter 53 of title 18, United States Code, committed by or against a member of any federally recognized Indian tribe or any Indian-owned entity, or that involves any Indian property or interest. Finally, the legislation makes clear that the State of New Mexico shall have jurisdiction over any offense within these grants committed by a person who is not a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, which offense is not subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Nothing in this legislative clarification is intended to diminish the scope of Pueblo civil jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of Pueblo grants, which is defined by Federal and Tribal laws and court decisions. This legislation also does not in any way diminish the exterior boundaries of these grants.

The All Indian Pueblo Council of the nineteen Pueblo Governors has agreed to the language included in this legislation. The Governors recognize the urgency of this matter and have come to Congress asking that we do everything in our power to avoid the unfathomable situation of creating places in New Mexico where someone could literally get away with murder. We here in Congress must also recognize the urgency of this situation and take action to address it.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and the New Mexico delegation to pass this legislation.

CONDEMNING PROPOSED PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ANTI-SE- CESSION LAW

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the recent "anti-secession law" proposed by the "legislature" of the People's Republic of China.

I believe it is clear to even the most casual observer that this move by China's rubber-stamp National People's Congress is little more than a thinly veiled attempt by Beijing to create a "legal framework" for starting a war with Taiwan.

Should China's unelected parliament enact this law, it will represent a clear-cut, belligerent and dangerous step toward a military attack of a peaceful and democratic ally of the United States. Moreover, it underscores once again that the government in Beijing is not sincere about resolving its differences with Taiwan in a peaceful or rational manner.

America's position is clear: Any change in the status quo between the People's Republic

of China and Taiwan must have the assent of the people of Taiwan. As such, resolving the differences between these two nations can only be achieved through honest and direct state-to-state negotiations without preconditions. They cannot be resolved by intimidation, indignant bluster or threats of military force from Beijing.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that Taiwan and China are not united. They are not "one country" as the communists in Beijing are so fond of asserting. If they were there would be no talk of "unification." China must accept that it does not have jurisdiction over Taiwan, and abandon this kind of counter-productive saber rattling. The simple fact is this: Regardless of whether the puppet legislature in Beijing enacts this "law" or not, Taiwan will remain free, independent and outside of the control of communist China. Those, Mr. Speaker, are the facts.

Nonetheless, world reaction to this P.R.C. "trial balloon" will be significant and watched with great interest by the autocrats in Beijing. Hard liners in Beijing will observe how civilized and modern nations respond to the explicit threat that the "anti-secession law" represents. In short, they are feeling out the free world to determine its commitment to the safety and security of Taiwan—and its more than twenty million citizens.

I hope the family of free nations will condemn the "anti-secession law" with a unified voice, making it clear to China that any resolution of cross-strait tensions must be peaceful and above all acceptable to the people of Taiwan.

RECOGNIZING WIMODAUSIS CLUB OF NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Wimodausis Club of New Castle, Pennsylvania for their selflessness and generous philanthropy towards the people of the 4th District.

Founded in 1905, the Wimodausis Club of New Castle was formed for the purpose of "creating an organized center for woman's work, thought, and action advancing her interests, promoting civic improvement and providing a place of meeting for its members. . . ." Since 1958 the Wimodausis Club of New Castle has donated over \$124,000 to various services in their community. These donations have aided the Girl and Boy Scouts of America, the Salvation Army, and a number of other organizations that work to better our community.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Wimodausis Club of New Castle. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of organizations like the Wimodausis Club that personify civic pride and make the communities that they live in truly special.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION OF TIBOR AND SHEILA HOLLO

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the amazing achievements and munificence of Tibor and Sheila Hollo. These two individuals have assumed a remarkable leadership role in the South Florida community and I thank them for their countless contributions and admirable generosity.

Raised in a small town in France, Tibor Hollo and his parents were victims of the concentration camps, and though he and his father survived, his mother did not.

Symbolic of his perseverant nature, Mr. Hollo went on to earn his architectural engineering degree in Paris and moved to the United States where he embraced the "American Dream" and is now one of the most prominent business leaders in South Florida.

Transforming Miami's midtown district into one of South Florida's dynamic epicenters of business and entertainment, Mr. Hollo is the proud developer of several key complexes in my Congressional district. The Venetian/Omni, Bay Parc Plaza, The Club at Brickell Bay and Opera Tower and the Grand are just a few of his developments.

As the first recipient of the City of Miami Visionary Award, Mr. Hollo was recognized by his colleagues and the City of Miami for his outstanding foresight and determination to fulfill such visions.

Mrs. Hollo shares her husband's regard for philanthropic efforts and serves on the Board of the Foundation and Board of Trustees of the Mount Sinai Medical Center. She proudly presided over the Mount Sinai Medical Center Founders, Women's Cancer League of Miami Beach, Sunflower Society and the Temple Emanuel's PTA.

This inspirational couple provides a wonderful example of diligence and generosity. I commend their efforts and I am grateful to have them as part of our South Florida community.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the Students at University School of Nova Southeastern University mobilized one of the first school-based tsunami relief campaigns in South Florida upon returning to school in January. Like others throughout the world, these students were struck by the enormity of what has been described as the worst natural disaster in modern human history.

In a single unified effort, students at the K-12 college preparatory school collected \$26,220.74 in their 1-day fundraising drive. They called the event "jeans day" and contributed \$5 to trade their uniforms for jeans on the designated day—Friday, Jan. 7. In addition to the \$5 donations, some students brought in money they'd saved, others prodded their parents to contribute, and one elementary school

student brought in her entire piggy bank. The Lower School, University School's elementary school, contributed \$12,375.74.

The money collected will support UNICEF's South Asia Tsunami Relief Efforts.

University School is the only independent college preparatory school in South Florida that is part of a major university. The school offers programs of studies designed to prepare students for college and for effective citizenship beyond the college years. The academic environment is marked by high expectation, as students master skills, acquire new knowledge, improve their ability to think critically, and develop a sense of civic responsibility.

CONGRATULATING FRANK J.
LIKAR

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Frank J. Likar of Pittsburgh on his retirement after 34 years of service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District. A luncheon will be held in his honor on Friday, January 21, 2005, in Pittsburgh.

Frank has been the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management in the Pittsburgh District since June 2003. Prior to this, Frank held several supervisory and management positions throughout the Pittsburgh District in engineering, construction, operations and project management. Frank began his federal career in the District in 1971 after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps and in 1976 he was one of four selected for the District Executive Development Program.

A graduate from the University of Pittsburgh in 1971, Frank is a registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania, and a member of the Chi Epsilon national civil engineering honors fraternity.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Frank J. Likar. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of citizens like Frank Likar who personify civic pride and make the communities that they live in truly special.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD NICHOLAS
O'NEIL

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on November 28, 2004, the people of Danville, Illinois lost a beloved community member in Harold Nicholas O'Neil. Harold came to Danville at the age of 17 to attend high school where he was the captain of the track team and played football. He was also a sergeant in World War II as well as an engineer on the C&E Railroad and L&N Railroad for 41 years. Harold founded O'Neil Brothers Construction along with his brother William O'Neil in 1946.

While his involvement in the bridge and road building business spanned nearly six decades Harold O'Neil will be remembered for more than his role as a trucking businessman. Harold was a lifetime member of the Danville Elks as well as the American Legion. He was a churchgoing man and a supporter and sponsor of youth athletics.

In addition, Harold played a vital role in donating the River Bend Preserve to the Campaign Forest Preserve. In his 86 years, Harold O'Neil accomplished many great things.

With his passing, Harold leaves three daughters and a community behind, but his contributions to the Danville area will be remembered for many years to come.

LEGISLATION TO CREATE A COMMISSION FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE CIVIL WAR

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation that is not only important for Louisiana, but for the Nation as well. The ripple effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction remain as our country continues to wrestle with its legacy of race relations and Federal, State and civil rights. In order to properly commemorate this event, I believe it is imperative to create a Sesquicentennial, or 150th, Commission for the Commemoration of the Civil War.

I am grateful the House of Representatives agrees that the 150th anniversary of the Civil War should receive attention. In the 108th Congress the House of Representatives adopted by unanimous vote the exact legislation I offer today.

In 1996, Congress designated the United States Civil War Center, USCWC, at Louisiana State University, LSU, and the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College as future co-facilitators of the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War to be held between 2011 and 2015. Legislation establishing the Sesquicentennial Commission was to be passed in the 107th Congress. Today I again offer this aforementioned legislation.

The American Civil War, 1861–1865, was one of the most violent times in the history of the United States, touching not only every State and territory, but claiming more than 600,000 lives, bringing freedom to over 4 million slaves and destroying property valued at \$5 billion. In 1993, the USCWC was created to promote the study of the American Civil War from the perspectives of all professions, occupations, and academic disciplines in order to facilitate a deeper, more thorough understanding of one of the most important events in our nation's history. This mission is fulfilled through a variety of projects, including an official web site featuring over 9000 links to Civil War-related sites, the Michael Shaara Award for Civil War Fiction, Civil War Book Review, the Michael Lehman Williamson Collection of Civil War Books for Young People, the David Madden Collection of Civil War Fiction, and the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War.

The commission will include members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives,

directors of the Library of Congress and National Archives, and academics in history, anthropology, sociology, political science, art history and law. Mr. Speaker, I fully support the objectives and services the USCWC provides and hope they are fully utilized by its inclusion in the commission. I believe the USCWC will strengthen the commission, and aid to its goal of providing the direction and resources needed for the proper Sesquicentennial Commemorations of the Civil War throughout this Nation.

INTRODUCING THE SECURING
TRANSPORTATION ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR TOMORROW ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the "Securing Transportation Energy Efficiency for Tomorrow Act" (the STREET Act). This bill recognizes the close connection between transportation policy and energy policy. In many respects, transportation policy is energy policy. Our transportation energy needs are increasing, but we have not done enough to be able to meet these needs with new technologies and alternative fuels. As a result, our dependence on foreign oil continues unabated.

Today, the transportation sector consumes a greater share of petroleum (67 percent) than it did in 1973 (50 percent). Each year for the past decade, energy use in the transportation sector has increased by a rate of 1.6 percent. It is time, indeed it is long overdue, for the Federal Government to lead in the development and promotion of energy efficient technologies and alternative and renewable fuels.

As the Nation's largest energy consumer, the Federal Government is in a unique position to promote energy conservation and efficiency, particularly in the transportation sector and in the operation of Federal buildings. The STREET Act ensures that the Government does just that by promoting greater energy efficiency and further developing the use of alternative and renewable fuels on our highways, railroads, airplanes, ships, and in our Federal buildings.

For example, the bill provides for the use of photovoltaic solar energy systems (photovoltaics) in our Federal buildings. Photovoltaics reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and offer distinct advantages over diesel generators and primary batteries. Photovoltaics are highly efficient and have no moving parts, so the need for maintenance is virtually non-existent. Over 25 Federal buildings throughout the country, from Boston, Massachusetts, to San Francisco, California, already use photovoltaics to great effect. This bill seeks to fulfill the promise of President Clinton's Million Solar Roofs Initiative of 1997 of having photovoltaic solar energy systems installed in 20,000 of our Federal buildings by 2010.

The bill also provides for the development and deployment of new technologies to create cleaner, more fuel-efficient engines for use in all modes of transportation including on rail, in water, and in the air. The bill authorizes the Department of Transportation to enter into

public-private partnerships with universities and industry leaders to promote the development of cleaner, more fuel-efficient engines for our Nation's railroads, ships, and airplanes. These clean engines would help reduce ozone-forming emissions and would be especially significant in areas of nonattainment. Research on many of these projects has already begun, and this bill ensures that the Federal Government remains committed to the development and deployment of these promising new technologies.

To promote the use of cleaner energy on our Nation's highways, the bill establishes a grant program by which the Department of Transportation can make up to ten grants for the development and demonstration of fuel cell-powered buses. Heavy-duty vehicles, which include buses, account for only 6 percent of the total vehicle population, but generate 60 percent of nitrogen oxide emissions and over 80 percent of all particulate matter emissions. Fuel cell buses would reduce pollution on our roads through the use of a clean, environmentally-friendly energy source and would help reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

In addition, the bill provides a \$75 transportation fringe benefit to employees who commute to work by bicycling, carpooling, or car-sharing. Currently, employees who drive to work can receive a \$200 per month parking benefit and employees who use transit can receive up to \$105 per month. This bill represents a first step in extending those benefits to citizens who choose to promote energy conservation while commuting to and from their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to make a real and lasting commitment to the development of these new technologies and the use of alternative and renewable fuel that can help make this Nation more self-sufficient in meeting our energy needs. We have the means available; the place to begin is with the Federal government and with this bill.

A detailed summary of the bill's provisions is attached.

SECURING TRANSPORTATION ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR TOMORROW ACT OF 2005 (THE STREET ACT)

The Securing Transportation Energy Efficiency for Tomorrow Act (the STREET Act) recognizes the connection between energy policy and transportation policy and the importance of utilizing new technologies and alternative fuels to meet our transportation energy needs. The STREET Act promotes the Federal Government's leadership in the development and utilization of alternative and renewable fuels in the transportation sector and in the operation of Federal buildings. Our Nation's energy needs are increasing. Energy use in the transportation sector alone has increased by a rate of 1.6 percent each year for the past decade. The vast majority of that energy (approximately 97 percent) comes from traditional fuels. Today, the transportation sector consumes a greater share of petroleum (67 percent) than it did in 1973 (50 percent).

As the Nation's largest energy consumer, the Federal Government is in a unique position to promote energy efficiency and the use of alternative and renewable fuels. The STREET Act promotes greater energy efficiency in our transportation sector and our Federal buildings and furthers the development and use of alternative and renewable fuels in our highways, our railroads, our airplanes, our ships, and in our Federal buildings.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Photovoltaic Solar Energy Systems for Public Buildings. Amends the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to authorize the Administrator of the General Services Administration to establish a photovoltaic energy commercialization program for the procurement and installation of photovoltaic solar energy systems for electric production in new and existing public buildings. The purposes of this section include a reduction in fossil fuel consumption and attainment of the goal of installing 20,000 solar energy systems in federal public buildings set forth in the Federal Government's Million Solar Roof Initiative of 1997. The bill authorizes approximately \$300 million over 5 years for this program. This section also authorizes \$14 million for the Administrator of the General Services Administration to install photovoltaics in accordance with the Sun Wall Design Project on the headquarters building of the Department of Energy.

Capitol Complex Energy Efficiency. Authorizes the Architect of the Capitol to conduct a study to evaluate the energy infrastructure of the Capitol complex to determine ways to increase energy efficiency including the use of photovoltaic solar energy systems, district heating, and other unconventional and renewable energy resources. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary for this study.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Highway Fuel Conservation. Establishes a grant program through which the Secretary of Transportation may provide grants to States and local governments for projects designed to make operational improvements to reduce fuel consumption on Federal-aid highways and roads, including data collection and analysis for improved traffic signal timing, implementation of improved and coordinated traffic signals, and planning and implementation of freeway management systems. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary to carry out this program.

Fuel Cell Bus Technology. Amends Section 5308, Title 49 of the United States Code to allow the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to up to 10 recipients for the research and development of fuel cell bus technology. Preference is given to grant applicants who have an existing fuel cell bus technology program and have made investments in hydrogen fuel cell infrastructure. The bill authorizes \$300 million over 5 years for this grant program.

Conserve by Bicycling. Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program that would provide funding for up to 10 geographically dispersed projects to encourage the use of bicycles in place of motor vehicles. The bill authorizes \$10 million for this program.

Energy Impacts. Requires that environmental impact statements prepared for Federal-aid highway and transit projects quantify and consider energy impacts as an environmental consequence of the project. Currently, Federal Highway Administration guidelines state that energy impacts should be considered as one of 25 environmental consequences in an EIS. However, the guidelines state that "except for large scale projects, a detailed energy analysis . . . is not needed." As a consequence, the energy impact of smaller-scale projects is often not quantified and not thoroughly considered. This section remedies that by requiring that all Federal-aid highway and transit projects quantify and consider energy impacts.

Extension of Transportation Fringe Benefits. Amends section 132(f) of the Internal Revenue Code to include as a transportation fringe benefit that is excludable from an em-

ployee's gross income, a \$75 commuting allowance for employees who commute to work by bicycling, carpooling or car-sharing.

Railroad Efficiency. Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation, in conjunction with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to establish a public-private research partnership to develop and demonstrate locomotive technologies that increase fuel economy, reduce emissions, and lower costs. The bill authorizes \$105 million over 3 years for this program.

AVIATION

Clean Airport Bus Pilot Program. Directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot award program for the acquisition of buses powered by alternative fuels and low-sulfur diesel fuel at public airports through airport bus replacement and fleet expansion grants. Grants are to be used to purchase buses powered by alternative fuels and low-sulfur diesel fuel to be used as part of the airport fleet for a minimum of 5 years and, to the extent possible, grants are to be awarded to ensure a broad geographic distribution with no State receiving more than 10 percent of the available grant funding. The bill authorizes \$200 million over 5 years for this grant program.

Clean Aircraft Engines. Authorizes the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a public-private research partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, research universities, and members of the aero-propulsion industry to develop a clean ground demonstrator engine utilizing technologies developed by NASA and to focus on the development and certification of environmentally friendly manufacturing technologies, materials, and overhaul and repair. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the establishment of this public-private partnership.

WATER RESOURCES

Marine Efficiency. Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to establish a public-private research partnership with the Federal Government, vessel operators, ports, terminal operators, shipyards, and equipment suppliers to develop and demonstrate technologies that increase fuel economy, reduce emissions, and lower costs of marine transportation and increase the efficiency of intermodal transfers. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the establishment of this public-private partnership.

Improving Hydropower Capabilities. Directs the Secretary of the Army to study the potential for reduced fossil fuel consumption through an increase in U.S. hydropower capabilities at dams owned or operated by the Corps of Engineers.

Encouragement of Prohibitions on Great Lakes Off-Shore Drilling. Contains a finding by Congress that environmental dangers associated with off-shore drilling in the Great Lakes for oil and gas outweigh the potential benefits of such drilling and encourages the Great Lake states to continue to prohibit off-shore drilling for oil and gas where such prohibitions already exist and to enact a prohibition of such drilling where one does not yet exist.

WISHING A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish the membership of the Organization of Chinese Americans a healthy and happy New Year for the year 4703, the year of the Rooster.

The New Year is a time for reflection and thanksgiving for the joys of life and loved ones and I am thankful for the richness that this organization brings to my region. Chinese Americans have made great contributions to Western Pennsylvania and to our nation as a whole and I am very honored for this opportunity to wish them the best year yet in 4703.

I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing the members of the Organization of Chinese Americans a very happy and prosperous New Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, because US Airways canceled my flight into Washington, DC on February 8, 2005, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote no. 20, on agreeing to H. Res. 46; for rollcall vote no. 21, on agreeing to H.R. 315, the John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse Designation Act; and, for rollcall vote no. 22, on agreeing to H.R. 548, the Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse Designation Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote no. 20, "yes" on rollcall vote no. 21, and "yes" on rollcall vote no. 22.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the House Chamber for votes on February 8, 2005, as I was attending the memorial services of a constituent, Corporal Harry Swain, IV of Millville, New Jersey, who died as the result of hostile action in Iraq. If I were present for votes on this day, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall #20, "yea" on Rollcall #21, and "yea" on Rollcall #22.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 243, FOUNDED IN LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the present and past mem-

bers, leaders, and sponsors of Boy Scout Troop 243, founded in Lafayette, California, on the 50th Anniversary of the Troop.

Boy Scouting touches us all at some point in our lives—as troop members, parent volunteers, civic supporters, or simply as residents of our communities where we see the achievements of local Boy Scouts as upstanding models for our youth.

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a platoon of parents to serve a Boy Scout troop. Nationally, there are close to one million Boy Scouts served by over half a million adult volunteers—on average, more than one adult for every two Scouts.

Troop 243 has a rich history of local leadership. The founding sponsor was a committee of the Burton School, St. Mary's Orchards, and St. Mary's Estate Home Improvement Association. The first Scoutmaster, H. T. McBride, was followed in 1959 by J.J. DuFosee. In 1965, Harry Wiser served as Scoutmaster when the Lafayette Christian Church became Troop sponsor.

Troop growth took off in 1988 when John Coleman, a 1974 Troop 243 Eagle Scout, took over as Scoutmaster, initiating numerous outdoor activities including 50-mile hikes, snow skiing, summer camping, river rafting, and a 100-mile bicycle trip over Mt. Lassen.

The program of varied outdoor activities, including canoeing in Minnesota, continued under Scoutmaster Terry Campbell in 1994. Then in 1996 John Coleman returned, adding new Troop experiences, including a sailing expedition to Catalina Island.

Throughout the 50-year life of Troop 243, generations of Boy Scouts have taken on Good Deeds projects as good community members and civic representatives. Scouts and parents donate many hours cleaning up local creeks and trails. This year the Troop raised over 22,000 pounds of food for the local food bank!

Mr. Speaker, I honor the 50 years of accomplishments of members, leaders, and sponsors of Troop 243. I am very proud to represent Troop 243 in Congress and I congratulate them on their achievements.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE GRUETT

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congress, to acknowledge George Gruett, a man who has devoted his life to his country and to his community at large. Currently, he serves the Mississippi valley as the Executive Vice President of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association, a post he has held since 1980.

Mr. Gruett was born and raised in West Tennessee and while he has always been a part of the Mississippi valley, he has served his country bravely outside American borders. After completing his training with the Aviation Cadet Training, United States Army Air Corps, he flew with the 12th Air Force in the European Theatre of Operations in WWII.

After the war, Mr. Gruett obtained a degree in civil engineering and worked as a civilian employee of the Corp of Engineers. Upon his retirement in 1978 after 35 years of service,

he was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1991; awards befitting his commitment and his abilities. He retired from the Corp of Engineers to take up his position with the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association.

In addition to an impressive record of public service, Mr. Gruett remains active in his church and community. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, the Scottish Rite Shrine, American Legion and the Society of American Military Engineers.

In light of recent natural disasters, I can't help but think of our own corner of the world and how thankful I am for people like George Gruett, who have worked with such dedication to foster flood control, bank stabilization, drainage and navigation; everyone of them integral to the survival of our area both economically and physically. On behalf of the Congress, I thank George for his dedication and congratulate him for his years of skilled service to his country.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLARD D. SMALL

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Willard D. Small of Fair Bluff, North Carolina for his 48 years of service as councilman to the citizens of Fair Bluff in Columbus County. Mr. Small's tenure as councilman is the longest in North Carolina, and his work has made a tremendous difference in the town and the community.

Samuel Logan Bringle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once said some very important words that reflect the character and life of Willard Small. He said, "The final estimate of a man will show that history cares not one iota about the title he has carried or the rank he has borne, but only about the quality of his deeds and the character of his heart." Indeed, Willard has reflected this through his sacrifice and commitment.

From his service as the Fair Bluff Town Councilman to local businessman to Director for the Cape Fear Farm Credit to Trustee for both Southeastern Community College and Campbell University to member of the Columbus County Economic Development Commission to active member of the Fair Bluff Baptist Church to devoted husband, father, and friend, Willard Small has truly been a foundation on which Fair Bluff and Columbus County have continued to thrive. Service to others has been the embodiment of his life—service that sets a path for others to follow and that we all should emulate.

As we celebrate Presidents' Day this month, let each of us remember the words of a great President, Thomas Jefferson, who said, "To do our fellow man the most good, we must lead where we can, follow where we cannot, and still go with him, always watching for that favorable moment to help him another step forward!"

We thank Willard, on behalf of the citizens of Fair Bluff, Columbus County, and the State of North Carolina, for always looking for that favorable moment and for always helping his

fellow citizens. May God's strength, joy and peace be with him always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained when traveling from my district on February 8, 2005, and missed rollcall vote Nos. 20–22. Had I been present I would have voted “aye” on all three votes: Rollcall vote No. 20: H. Res. 46, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month; rollcall vote No. 21: H.R. 315, The John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse Designation Act; and rollcall vote No. 22: H.R. 548, The Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse Designation Act.

TONY HALL FEDERAL BUILDING
AND UNITED STATES COURT-
HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in support of H.R. 548, a bill to designate the Federal building and courthouse in Dayton, Ohio, as the “Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

Since his graduation from Denison University, Tony Hall has been working as a public servant, beginning a career that would affect not only the residents of the 3rd district in Ohio, but the world as well. He returned from the Peace Corps in 1968, after which he honorably served in both the Ohio statehouse and senate before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978.

In his 12 terms in the House, Mr. Hall was a devout advocate for the eradication of poverty and the improvement of human rights conditions around the world. While Mr. Hall was a trusted colleague of the House Rules Committee and tireless worker for the people of Ohio, he is best known for his unwavering commitment to alleviating the crisis of worldwide hunger. In addition to being the founder and chairman of the Congressional Hunger Caucus, Mr. Hall was nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize for his humanitarian work and dedication to hunger relief issues. He resigned from Congress in 2002 to accept a much deserved appointment as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture. As the leader of the United Nations World Food Program, Ambassador Hall has been at the forefront in confronting the extraordinary challenge of providing food and supplies to the millions devastated by the tsunami disaster in South Asia.

Tony Hall truly exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. His faith and dedication to the welfare of others provides an excellent example of how one person can positively affect

the lives of so many. I am honored to have served with him in Congress and call him a friend.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio for introducing this legislation and I call on my colleagues for their support on this resolution.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION
LEGISLATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 17, 2004, the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) announced they would include an “anti-secession” law, aimed at Taiwan, in the March 2005 agenda of the National People's Congress. China's “anti-secession legislation” indicates that China may be willing to make decisions unilaterally to change the status quo of relations between China and Taiwan. The proposed law if adopted will not foster an atmosphere favorable to cross-strait goodwill between China and Taiwan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 22, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

CELEBRATING MARY BUSTILLO
DONOHUE'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable American, a dear friend of mine, and a dedicated member of my congressional staff—Mary Bustillo Donohue, who turns 80-years-young on February 14, 2005.

Mary has dedicated her life to her family and her community. She was born in Cuba to parents who valued education and citizenship. After her family fled a repressive government in 1933, Mary grew up in New York City with a strong sense of the sacrifices her parents had made in coming to America, and with compassion and admiration for others longing to be citizens of our nation. She attended Cathedral High School, and met the love of her life, Jerry Donohue, on their first date, April 19, 1942. Jerry, who had enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was transferred to the Naval Reserve, served his country in World War II in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of war. During a brief break from Jerry's training at the School of Naval Administration at Stanford University, Mary and Jerry were married at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York

City on June 18, 1946. Mary and Jerry Donohue moved to River Edge, New Jersey in 1952 where they were blessed with eight fantastic children, and later, 17 brilliant and beautiful grandchildren. After earning her BA and MBA degrees in Education from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and working on her doctorate in Spanish Literature at New York University, Mary embarked on a 26-year teaching career, including her role as the first female administrator at Paramus Catholic Boys High School.

Mary's life of “firsts” continued. Mary and Jerry were elected by the parishioners of St. Peter the Apostle Church to serve on the first Parish Council. Mary served as Democratic Town Committeewoman for River Edge District 4 for over 30 years. She was twice elected River Edge Councilwoman, having the honor of being the first elected woman to serve River Edge in that capacity. In 1989, she was elected to the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the first Hispanic to serve as a member of the County's seven-person legislative body. Mary was then elected by the New Jersey State Democratic Committee to serve two terms as a member of the Democratic National Committee, and was elected Chairperson of the National Hispanic Caucus of the Democratic National Committee during President Clinton's tenure.

This past year, after 57 years of marriage, Mary lost the love of her life, her beloved husband, friend, and companion, Jerry. His passing has caused her much sadness. However, Mary continues to give back and touch the lives of the residents of Northern New Jersey. She serves on the New Bridge Landing Park Commission, was recently re-elected Democratic Committeewoman of District 4 in River Edge, teaches Spanish two hours a week to senior citizens at the Teaneck Senior Center, and assists with national, state, county, and municipal election campaigns. Also—and for this I am most proud and grateful— Mary serves as a caseworker in my Hackensack, New Jersey office three days a week, specializing in immigration and citizenship services, using her vast knowledge, experience, multilingual gifts and compassionate heart to assist those people who, very much like her parents, want to become citizens of our great nation and provide a better life for their children.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sincere and enduring admiration, fondness and great respect for my dear friend and colleague, Mary Bustillo Donohue and I wish her the very best as she celebrates her 80th birthday. I know her family, friends, and coworkers will join me in wishing her a wonderful year ahead, filled with joy, happiness, and good health. She is truly an inspiration and role model for us all. Happy Birthday Mary!

TONY HALL FEDERAL BUILDING
AND UNITED STATES COURT-
HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 548, the Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse

Designation Act, introduced by my good friend and colleague, DAVE HOBSON.

Tony Hall has a long and distinguished history of service to the people of Ohio, our nation, and the world. He served in the Ohio General Assembly and the Ohio Senate. Tony Hall then served 12 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives where he worked tirelessly for the interests of the residents of the third district of Ohio, the district I now have the honor to represent. Not only did he ably represent his constituents, Tony Hall was also concerned about the well-being of those who lived beyond the boundaries of his congressional district, and his work on hunger and human rights issues throughout the world have benefited the lives of many. His work for the less fortunate around the world is held in such high regard that he has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times.

Today, Tony Hall serves as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome. On a personal level, my wife and I had the honor to be Tony Hall's guest for dinner last Christmas in Rome. His hospitality and graciousness helped make this holiday very special, and is a typical example of how he treats people with openness and warmth.

We also share a unique connection: Tony Hall's father was once the mayor of Dayton, a position which I also held. As mayor, I was always conscious of the extraordinary reputation his father had earned in that office. Clearly, a sense of public duty, a commitment to high standards, and a passion for improving the lives of others was handed down from father to son.

The legislation we consider today properly honors a man whose accomplishments demonstrate how one man can make a positive difference in the lives of his countrymen and his fellow man throughout the world. I strongly urge the passage of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES DAILY WAHL
OF ST. LOUIS, MO

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today are to recognize James Daily Wahl, recipient of the Ancient Order of Hibernians' Irishman of the Year Award.

Mr. Wahl, the son of Margaret Dailey Wahl and John Wahl, is a life-long resident of St. Louis, who has always been active in his church and community. He graduated from St. Louis University and St. Louis University Law School, and currently practices law, serves as a municipal judge in the City of St. Louis.

Mr. Wahl's dedication and loyalty to his family and friends is evident in his 23-year marriage to his wife, Kathy Adelman, and in his support of his four children: Kelly, Kerry, and the twins, Kristin and Tom.

Mr. Speaker, the nearly 250 people in attendance for the presentation of his award made it evident to all that his devotion to his Irish heritage is ever present. This was best exemplified by his steadfast support of the McBride Principles Bill, which barred the State of Missouri from investing in and contracting with businesses that practice discrimination

against Irish Catholics in Northern Ireland. My congratulations are with Mr. Wahl and his family.

TRIBUTE TO THE RESPOND
CULINARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor the first graduating class of the Respond Culinary Academy, an innovative vocational program that provides youth with essential vocational skills needed for success when they return to their homes and communities. A collaborative effort between the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission, Respond, Inc., and Union Local 54, the program looks to help juveniles transition successfully back into their communities by preparing them for jobs in the restaurant industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Jeff Green, Shawn Harris, Ron Gatewood, and Raafat Hanna for their work in providing an invaluable service to their homes and communities. I would also like to honor John DiDonna, Tim Wilson, Remel Ortiz, Kevin Hicks, and Levond Clemmons, who have successfully graduated from the Respond Culinary Program. May their success in this program help them realize their full potential for rewarding and successful lives.

RECOGNITION OF NEVADA
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nevada Federal Credit Union (FCU), located in my district of Las Vegas, for its efforts to support our troops abroad by providing them outstanding financial services.

Patriotism can be demonstrated by soldiers and civilians alike. As a show of support for our troops, Nevada FCU is refunding all savings and checking related fees for new and existing members who are actively serving in a designated war zone. This benefit represents an excellent example of what we at home can do for those who put their lives on the line, and I hope that other financial institutions will follow suit.

Nevada FCU, with over 82,000 members, has a commitment to providing the best service, rates and products to its membership. From its modest beginnings in the 1950s, Nevada FCU has flourished into the largest credit union in my State with the understanding that community involvement begins at home.

I applaud Nevada FCU and its President and CEO, Brad Beal, for their ongoing commitment to their customers, this country and to those who bravely serve it.

FEBRUARY SCHOOL OF THE
MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I announce the Archer Street School of Language Arts, Mathematics and Technology in the Freeport Union Free School District as School of the Month in New York's Fourth Congressional District for February 2005. The Archer Street School's Principal is Paula R. Lein, the Assistant Principal is Kevin Bishop, and the Superintendent of Schools in the Freeport Union Free School District is Dr. Eric Eversley.

The Archer Street School is committed to teaching their young students the ins and outs of the "real world". They have developed their own community called "Archerville" in which students, in addition to their regular studies, run two-dozen mini-businesses including a post office, banking and recycling center, and even a historical society and museum. The Archer Street School affords their students all the opportunities needed to help them succeed in a world that is becoming increasingly more technological and keeping these kids in tuned with the demands of a fast paced world.

Even with the Archer Street School's commitment to the arts, math and technology, the students and faculty are committed to a strong, productive relationship with the community of not only their hometown but with the world. On February 14th, the Archer Street School will participate in an Act of Kindness day in efforts to return to what they feel is a long-lost human value—simplicistic kindness to others.

In an effort to keep within the spirit of Act of Kindness Day, the students and faculty of this wonderful school community will present a check to me that will help aid the victims of the Tsunami tragedy. The money the students raise will be donated to the organization Save the Children, because they know that any amount will be a tremendous welcome. It is because of this generous and gigantic gesture that the Archer Street School is my choice for School of the Month.

The Archer Street School of Language Arts, Mathematics, and Technology deserves all the accolades in the world and it is an immense honor for me to stand before all of you and talk about the students and faculty and admirable accomplishments. Once again, it is my esteemed pleasure to announce the Archer Street School as New York's 4th district School of the Month for February 2005.

HONORING HOSPICE OF NAPA
VALLEY, INC.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hospice of Napa Valley, Inc. as it celebrates the grand opening of its newest facility.

Hospice of Napa Valley has provided hospice services throughout the Napa Valley for

25 years. The new facility will allow hospice services and adult day services to meet current and future needs of those with chronic conditions and patients with terminal illness.

Situated on 2.4 acres in central Napa, the new facility houses programming and operations for both Hospice of Napa Valley and Adult Day Services of Napa Valley. This building establishes a permanent home to ensure that the needs of Napa Valley's terminally and chronically ill populations will be served for generations to come.

Over the past 25 years, Hospice of Napa Valley, Inc. has grown substantially in response to community needs. The new facility will allow Hospice of Napa Valley to extend their aid for terminally ill patients who seek comfort as well as quality of life. Hospice also provides support for the family members of those that are terminally ill.

Adult Day Services of Napa Valley provides comprehensive health care, rehabilitation therapies, social services and personal care for frail, elderly persons and younger functionally-impaired adults 18 years or older. Continuing care is also provided for adults with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Mr. Speaker, Hospice of Napa Valley, Inc. has significantly expanded health care services to our community with respect and dignity. It is therefore appropriate to honor Hospice of Napa Valley, Inc. on its new facility's grand opening.

RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS
TO NICK HALL

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the outstanding dedication and leadership of Leonard (Nick) Hall for his efforts in administrating federal tax law. He has served for over 30 years in the Internal Revenue Service, IRS. He also served his country in the Army and worked for a time with the United States Department of Defense. Nick is retiring after over 35 years of federal service and I want to thank him for his contributions to Illinois and our country.

Nick is a dedicated and proud member of the IRS executive staff. Nick has served as an Area Director for Small Business/Self-Employed Division, Taxpayer Education and Communications, TEC, in Chicago, IL. As the Chairman of the Small Business Committee, I work closely with TEC, which is a small business focused function of the IRS. It closely works with small business organizations and industry leaders to educate and ensure IRS products and services fit the needs of small business/self-employed taxpayers. He leads about 100 employees responsible for taxpayer education and communications programs in 13 states, including Illinois. His employees deliver federal tax information to over hundreds of state and industry organizations and millions of people. He has been a leader in reducing taxpayer burden and ensuring fair tax law administration. He was very involved in the most recent comprehensive reorganization and modernization of the IRS in nearly half a century.

In 2004, Nick received a TEC Director's award for his efforts to taxpayer burden reduc-

tion, taxpayer outreach and compliance assistance. This award was to recognize his participation at the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act hearings.

In 2000, Nick received a Commissioner's Award for his contributions as an executive team leader, serving under the Deputy Commissioner for Modernization. This award is considered the highest honor an IRS Commissioner can bestow to an employee. The Commissioner cited Nick's extensive experience in IRS operations as extremely invaluable to modernization initiatives.

Nick is a resident of Illinois after spending many years living in many or various cities in the United States. His wife, Mona, is a native of Illinois and also a 25 year employee of the IRS. They plan to continue to reside in Illinois upon Nick's retirement from the IRS on February 25, 2005.

My wife, Freda, and I wish Nick and his family a happy future, and I wish to thank him for all of his dedications, commitment, and hard work.

RECOGNIZING ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY CUB SCOUT PACK 876
IN LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Roosevelt Elementary Cub Scout Pack 876, in Livonia, Michigan, as they join Cub Scout packs across the country in celebrating 75 years of Cub Scouting.

The "Cubbing Program" was introduced by the Boy Scouts of America in 1930, but its roots go all the way back to the first days of Scouting. With the early success of the Boy Scouts for boys 12 years and older, there was popular demand for the siblings of Scouts.

In 1916, Sir Robert Baden-Powell introduced the "Wolf Cub" program for younger boys. This program soon found its way to numerous communities in America. Finally, after 20 years of Boy Scouting in America, Cub Scouting was introduced. What has followed has been nothing short of phenomenal. Boasting more than 50,000,000 members since its inception, no program in history has had the far ranging impact on American youth than Cub Scouting.

Boys who take part in the Cub Scout program take part in interesting and meaningful activities with their friends. Through these activities, boys learn sportsmanship, moral virtues, and cooperation; and, further, in so doing, the Cub Scout program also strengthens families.

Mr. Speaker, for 75 years Cub Scouting has helped boys develop character. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the Cub Scout program, and the scores of beneficent men and women who help mold these boys into men of honor, and stellar citizens of America.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JIM HORN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of CPT Jim Horn, son of Denton County Judge Mary Horn. CPT Jim Horn was recently promoted following 6 months of training at the U.S. Army's Infantry Captain Career Course in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Captain Horn's continued skill and leadership is evident in his service with the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq and Kuwait for which he received two Bronze Stars. The resolute dedication of Captain Horn and his fellow service men and women to the people of the United States and Iraq exemplifies the need for democratic leadership throughout the world. It is the work of these fine soldiers that continues to lead us to success in our overseas endeavors.

The distinguished service of Captain Horn has resulted in his appointment to the Battalion Adjutant for the 6th Ranger Training Battalion at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. It is my honor today to recognize the vital and resourceful leadership of Captain Horn and his commitment to Texas and the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN JORDAN
"BUCK" O'NEIL

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil, to whom I recently presented the Blue Valley Education Foundation's Good Neighbor Award. It was a pleasure to present Buck with this notable distinction. You see, Buck has always been one of my great heroes, and there is no question that his story of courage and perseverance has served as an inspiration to many people.

Born the grandson of slaves, Buck joined the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro League in 1938. He remained in Kansas City with the Monarchs for seventeen spectacular years, ten as a player and seven as manager. During this time he was named an all-star three times as a player, served two years with the United States Navy, and led the Monarchs to four league titles as a manager, all the while facing the harshness of separation and discrimination in a country that was still segregated. In 1962, Buck broke an important barrier, by being named the first African-American coach in the Major Leagues by the Chicago Cubs. After 33 years with the Cubs, Buck returned home in 1988 to scout for the Kansas City Royals. He currently serves as chairman of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, a continuing demonstration of his love for the game of baseball and for his commitment to the essential role that the Negro Leagues played in the integration of both American sport and American society.

During his time in Kansas City, Buck has taught the citizens of the Kansas City metropolitan region about the importance of determination and resolve in the face of hostility, in

addition to showing us the importance of family, friendship, happiness and history. Buck taught us about baseball. But more importantly, Buck taught us about life. He is a wonderful role model, and I thank him for his contributions to the Kansas City metropolitan region and to our United States of America.

THE SELF-EMPLOYED H.E.A.L.T.H.
ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Self-Employed H.E.A.L.T.H. Act, a bill that repeals Section 162(l) paragraph 4 of the Internal Revenue Code, and allows self-employed individuals to deduct the cost of health insurance in computing net earnings from self-employment for tax purposes.

Under current law, self-employed individuals do not share the same tax advantages for health insurance as other wage earners who work for large companies and government agencies. These wage earners can participate in plans that allow them to pay for their health insurance with pre-tax dollars. This legislation will provide self-employed workers the same benefits afforded to wage earners who work for large companies, which, in turn, will help them purchase health insurance. The National Federation of Independent Business has stated that allowing the self-employed to purchase health care pre-tax dollars will help to reduce the number of uninsured Americans.

There are over 16 million sole proprietorships in the United States. Self-employed workers represent 7 percent of the U.S. workforce. In the United States, employers play the leading role in making health insurance coverage available to workers, retirees, and their families. Two-thirds of Americans get their health insurance through an employer. For sole proprietors and other Americans, health care coverage poses a significant challenge.

Americans have always admired those who strike out on their own. They are the innovators and the entrepreneurs. We should encourage this activity by providing self-employed workers the opportunity to purchase health care as affordably as those who work for others.

A BILL TO RECOGNIZE THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF ARCHBISHOP PATRICK FLORES

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a House resolution recognizing the long career of public service of Archbishop Patrick Flores of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Archbishop Flores, the first Mexican American Bishop in the United States, will be retiring on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, after 34 years of service as a bishop.

Patrick Fernandez Flores, was born on July 26, 1929 to Patricio Flores and Trinidad

Fernandez de Flores in Ganado, Texas. He was the seventh of nine children. After graduating from Kirwin High School in Galveston, Texas, Patrick Flores entered the St. Mary's Seminary in La Porte, Texas. On May 26, 1956 he was ordained to the Catholic Priesthood and served the Diocese of Galveston-Houston for the next 14 years.

On Cinco de Mayo—May 5, 1970 in San Antonio, Texas, Patrick Fernandez Flores was consecrated a bishop in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. His appointment was an event of great significance in the history of South Texas and the United States. While the Mexican-American community was one of the largest Catholic communities in the United States, until that day in 1970 there had never been a Mexican-American bishop. In that regard, like other civil rights leaders of the time, Archbishop Flores broke a barrier in a major national institution—the Catholic Church, and in doing so, he helped to lay the groundwork for a more equal society. Less than a decade later, in 1979, Bishop Flores was consecrated Archbishop for his Archdiocese.

Archbishop Flores has committed his life not only to the service to his Church but to the wider community. He has been a leader on countless public policy issues that improved the lives of his parishioners and created new opportunities for many Americans to participate in the American Dream. He has long been an advocate for public housing, for the rights of immigrants, for health care for the poor, for economic development, for education, and for multi-cultural understanding.

Among his many accomplishments were the creation of the Mexican American Cultural Center, a unique program dedicated to developing Catholic leadership that is responsive to the needs of increasing diverse society, and contributing to the establishment of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, a national program that has provided over 68,000 college scholarships to economically disadvantaged Hispanics. At the heart of both these programs is the heart of the Archbishop's social vision of giving hope to the disadvantaged and constructing a society that respects diversity and truly values equality.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the House to pass this resolution in the coming weeks. Archbishop Patrick Flores has been a national leader not only for the cause of Hispanic rights but for the rights of all Americans.

COMMENDATION OF CORMAC O'CONNOR

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young student from the Third District of Kansas who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Cormac O'Connor of Prairie Village has just been named one of the top honorees in the state of Kansas by the 2005 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. This is truly an extraordinary honor, as more than 20,000 young people across the

country were considered for recognition this year.

Cormac is being recognized for implementing an intergenerational arts program that brought senior citizens and at-risk children together for classes in visual arts, movement, theater, and jazz.

In light of statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Cormac are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, the program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past eight years, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with more than 170,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Cormac should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I applaud Cormac for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. His actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

THE ERRONEOUS TAX REFUND FAIRNESS ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Erroneous Tax Refund Fairness Act, a bill to ensure the fair treatment of tax payers who return overpaid tax refunds and are penalized for it.

The deadline for filing tax returns will be here before you know it. Most Americans receive a refund, and our constituents enjoy getting back the money they earned from the IRS. However, even the IRS can make mistakes and occasionally people receive more money than they should. Those who have filed misleading information on their tax returns should be punished for their actions. But did you know that if a person is mistakenly overpaid and attempts to return the excess payment to the IRS, they must pay accrued interest on the amount of the erroneous refund?

The legislation I am introducing today would abate the interest on erroneous tax refunds if the person receiving the refund made a good-faith effort in a timely manner to return the money to the IRS. The bill also includes language that gives the Secretary of the Treasury discretion over whether or not to abate the interest. If the Secretary establishes that the

taxpayer received notice of the erroneous notice before the date of demand and did not attempt to resolve the issue with the Internal Revenue Service within 30 days, the Secretary can determine what amount of the interest, if any, will be abated.

This bill language was included in H.R. 1528 last year, which passed both the House and Senate, but was not signed into law. I hope that Congress will remedy the situation this year. We should punish those who cheat on their taxes, not those who make an effort to return money they mistakenly received.

TRIBUTE TO "JESSE" JAMES
LEIJA

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a San Antonio hometown hero.

The "sweet science," as the sport of boxing has been called, has provided an arena for epic battles that have produced larger than life prize-fight champions who have, throughout the sport's history, captivated the national attention.

Marciano, Ali, Leonard, De La Hoya—all of them are synonymous with boxing and all are well-known champions. However, for every prize-fighter who captured a title and the national spotlight, there is one whose career has not received the attention and accolades it truly deserves.

"Jesse" James Leija of San Antonio is one of those champions, and his career and commitment to succeeding deserves to be commemorated.

Best known to fans of the sport. "Jesse" James' intense talent in the ring resulted in some of the best boxing matches in recent history. And in a sport that has seen its share of controversial personas, "Jesse" James always maintained a dignity and respect for his opponent, the sport and the fans.

While many boxing careers last only a few years, "Jesse" James' recently announced that he is retiring after an astonishing seven-year career in the ring.

The sport will undoubtedly miss him.

"Jesse" James had a truly impressive career. Having faced and overcome seemingly insurmountable odds on his way to achieving great success, the story of "Jesse" James Leija is one that can inspire anyone, in or out of the ring.

Born and raised on the South Side of San Antonio, James is a proud graduate of Harlandale High School where being told he was too small to play football drove him in the direction of an even more challenging sport—boxing.

His parents, including his former pro-fighter father, would not allow him to box until he graduated from high school. So compared to most aspiring boxers, James got a late start first entering the ring at the age of 22. He quickly won his first fifteen fights and ultimately compiled an impressive 23 win and 5 loss amateur record. He won a San Antonio Golden Gloves title, won the 1988 Western Olympic Trials and competed in the 1988 Olympic Trials.

In 1994, Leija became only the third San Antonio boxer to win a world title when he de-

feated the legendary Ghana warrior and Hall of Famer, Azumah Nelson, for the WBC World Super Featherweight Championship.

"Jesse" James ultimately fought in nine world championship fights winning the IBA World Lightweight Championship, the NABF Featherweight Championship, and on two separate occasions, the NABF Lightweight Championship.

After 17 years, Leija ended his professional career of 57 matches with a record of 47 wins, including 19 by knock-out, 7 losses, 2 draws, and 1 no-contest.

All this despite having been told early on that he was too small and not strong enough to be a success in the ring.

As impressive and admirable as his career was, James' dedication to his community is even more so. He founded the "Jesse" James Leija Youth Foundation, and has long supported the Boys' and Girls' Club of San Antonio and the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Boxing Program. He has also supported numerous education programs, including a child daycare center to allow teenage mothers to complete their education.

Beyond being a great boxer, "Jesse" James Leija has been a truly great citizen, and we in San Antonio are lucky to have him.

To the people of San Antonio "Jesse" James Leija is always a winner and he will forever be their Champion.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW KEENAN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man whose life was cut tragically short. Andrew Keenan, a resident of Ness City, Kansas, a former intern in my congressional office and a law student at the University of Kansas, passed away on January 31, at the age of 26, following a protracted battle with brain cancer. I would like to express my profound sorrow at the death of Andrew Keenan and offer my deepest sympathies to his fiancée, Erica Brown, his family, and friends.

Andy was a man of exemplary character, a character demonstrated by his religious faith, his determination to succeed, and his uncommon courage in the face of hardship and illness. He was also a man of great industriousness, ambition, and amiability, qualities which made him respected and well-liked by everyone who knew him. While interning in my Washington, DC, office, he assisted my legislative director with issues involving financial services, taxation and telecommunications.

Andy was also possessed a great sense of empathy and the heart of a true humanitarian. His efforts to aid the unfortunate took many forms, including the creation of a Web site dedicated to raising money for cancer research, providing food and clothing to a young girl in the Philippines through an adoption program, and, recently, donating money to victims of the tsunami. The fact that he always felt compassion for people who were suffering, even while suffering himself, is a testament to the kind of benevolent and caring of person he was.

As University of Kansas law professor Mike Hoefflich wrote recently in the Lawrence Jour-

nal-World, "For almost two years now, Andy has fought and fought and fought. He has refused to give up. In spite of his illness, his pain, his constant treatments, he has maintained his courage and his determination." I believe that this quotation exemplifies how the enduring strength and bravery of Andrew Keenan serves as an inspiration to all of us who were touched by his life, and encourages us all to lead a more thoughtful, more courageous existence.

MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT
CRIMES REVISION ACT OF 2005

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced H.R. 664, the Military Sexual Assault Crimes Revision Act of 2005. This bill would repeal Article 120 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and replace it with an improved sexual abuse statute patterned on 18 U.S.C. §§ 2241–2247. I introduced an identical bill last year, H.R. 4709, which was offered during mark-up of the defense authorization bill.

Although the legislation was not included in the final authorizing bill last year, a provision was included requiring the Secretary of Defense to provide the House and Senate Armed Services Committee, by March 1, 2005, a proposal for changes regarding sexual offenses in the UCMJ and the rationale for the changes. The language also "strongly encourages DoD to closely align the UCMJ's language on sexual assault law with the appropriate section of the federal criminal code." I am reintroducing this legislation to send a strong message to the DoD that Congress is serious about updating the military's sexual assault statute, and that the changes are expected to incorporate the U.S. federal code.

This legislation would help prosecutors, protect victims, and promote good order and discipline in the Armed Forces. It offers a graduated array of offenses that more precisely define nonconsensual sex crimes. The proposed provisions expand the scope of sex acts that can constitute sexual abuse. They afford increased protection for victims by emphasizing acts of the perpetrator rather than the reaction of the victim during an assault. This legislation expressly provides for cases involving voluntary and involuntary intoxication of the victim, which are common fact patterns in military sexual assault cases. Finally, it criminalizes sexual extortion and other forms of coercing sex from subordinates and fellow service men and women in a way that will help commanders to maintain good order and discipline in the armed forces.

By undertaking this critical revision to the UCMJ, we will demonstrate that the Department of Defense and Congress are committed to reducing the incidence of sexual assault within the Armed Forces, and bringing justice to the victims.

COMMENDING WINTHROP UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FOR RECEIVING THIS YEAR'S DISTINGUISHED HOSPITAL AWARD FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Winthrop University Hospital, which is located in my home town of Mineola, NY, for receiving this year's Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence.

Each year HealthGrades, an independent national healthcare quality ratings company, rates the quality of our Nation's hospitals and recognizes hospitals in the top tier for their performance. The Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence is based on clinical outcomes and quality data collected by the Federal government through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Winthrop University Hospital has received this award and has ranked among the top 5 percent of all acute-care hospitals in the country for overall clinical excellence two years in a row. Both Winthrop's cardiac and stroke treatment services were specifically recognized for providing outstanding care. In addition, Winthrop received a 5-star rating for their treatment of pneumonia, was rated "Best in Area" for their Pulmonary Services and ranked among the top five percent in the Nation for their Gastrointestinal Medical Services.

As a nurse for over thirty years before being elected to Congress, I know the difference superior medical care makes for a patient in the treatment and recovery process. Having access to quality medical services can mean the difference between life and death.

I am proud that such a high quality medical facility is located in my community, and I thank Winthrop and its talented staff for their dedication and commitment to providing patients and families with such outstanding care.

COMMENDING THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION AND THE GO RED FOR WOMEN CAMPAIGN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest appreciation to the American Heart Association and its national Go Red for Women campaign and for raising public awareness of cardiovascular disease, which is the number-one killer of women in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of cardiovascular disease in the United States is truly shocking, as heart disease and stroke claim the lives of nearly 500,000 women each year. This number accounts for 43 percent of all female deaths annually, which is more than the next seven causes of death combined and nearly twice as many as all forms of cancer. In addition, nearly eight million American women are currently living with heart disease, 35 percent of those women being the age of 45 or older.

Obviously, this is an issue that deserves the attention of not only health care professionals

and policymakers, but the general public as well, and the American Heart Association should be commended for its efforts to bring the issue of cardiovascular disease to the forefront. The Go Red for Women campaign has raised public awareness and continues to provide women with the education and tools necessary to overcome this terrible disease. By empowering women to take control of their health through exercise, healthy eating, and careful monitoring of their blood pressure and cholesterol, the AHA has made it possible for them to reduce their risk of heart disease and live long, healthy lives.

Mr. Speaker, I again wish to express my deepest appreciation to the American Heart Association for its efforts to educate the people of the United States about the dangers of cardiovascular disease.

RECOGNIZING THE DENTON COUNTY NAACP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 96th Anniversary since the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) it gives me great honor to recognize the Denton County NAACP for their continued support of equality and justice in the 26th District of Texas. I also congratulate the Denton County NAACP on the election of their new officers: President, Catherine Bell; Vice President, Vanessa Sims; Secretary, Brenda Crawford; Treasurer, Carol Hinkle-Kuykendahl; Assistant Secretary, Cassandra Berry; and Assistant Treasurer, Tonya Demerson.

It is the historic fight of the NAACP for civil, political and social equality which has significantly advanced the causes of democracy and freedom, and continues to improve the status of African Americans in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this week in Congress I have voted in favor of legislation honoring the Tuskegee Airmen and supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. I can think of no better time to pay tribute to the rich history of the NAACP and to congratulate the local chapter on the installment of their new officers.

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 23, a resolution that honors the contributions of Catholic schools and supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week.

The many accomplishments of Catholic schools and their positive impact on students and communities throughout the nation is evident in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, where schools such as St. Pascal Elementary, St. Bartholomew Elementary and

Gordon Technical High School provide a quality education while instilling values that will serve their students throughout their lives. These schools provide strong academic curricula and promote significant parental involvement. They teach students the importance of academic achievement while also providing a balanced perspective on life that promotes responsibility, justice and social service.

Catholic schools also promote ethnic and racial diversity. An increasing number of children in Catholic schools in my district come from our minority communities. Students in Catholic schools achieve exceptionally high graduation rates, and an increasing number are advancing to college and giving back to the community through volunteer service.

Catholic schools foster more than scholastic excellence alone. They provide spiritual guidance to students by encouraging fundamental ideals and an appreciation for family values, community service, and faith in their own lives. This, in turn, shapes Catholic school students into leaders of tomorrow.

I want to take this opportunity to applaud the recent accomplishments of the 2005 "Heart of the School" award winners. Each year, the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools presents these awards to recognize outstanding and innovative accomplishments of individual teachers at Archdiocese of Chicago schools.

I am very proud that four of these award winners currently teach at Catholic schools in my district. Kevin Carroll of St. Patrick High School was recognized for his contribution to Arts Education, Marilyn Ann Skowron of Guerin College Preparatory was recognized for Innovation and Creativity, and both Kevin L. Booth of Notre Dame High School for Girls and Christopher E. Perez of St. Patrick High School were recognized for Leadership. I thank these outstanding educators as well as all of the dedicated Catholic school teachers in my district for their devotion to their students and for setting the standard for teaching excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 23 and encourage Catholic schools in my district and across the United States to continue contributing to the development of strong moral, intellectual and social values in America's young people. I thank the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for their sponsorship of Catholic Schools Week.

TRIBUTE TO MT. TABOR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH—CELEBRATING 104 YEARS OF FAITH AND GOOD WORKS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to my pastor Reverend Dr. George Edward McRae and my fellow congregants as together we celebrate the 104th Anniversary of Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church this Sunday, February 13, 2005.

Located in the heart of Miami's Liberty City at 1701 N.W. 66th Street, this citadel of faith

has been and continues to be a beacon of comfort and hope in our community.

Under the leadership of our beloved pastor, Rev. Dr. McRae, Mt. Tabor has taken an active and progressive role in directly addressing the temporal, as well as spiritual needs of our neighbors. I want to commend him for his tireless apostolate in ministering to those afflicted with the HIV/AIDS virus, to those who are imprisoned, to the hungry, and to all those seeking the love and solace of a Church that seeks to affirm and confirm their dignity as God's children.

As we come together in thanks and reflection on our Church's 104 years of ministry, this historic anniversary takes on a meaning much greater than the passage of time, for Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church has met the spiritual needs of thousands of people who came before us, and through the grace of God will continue to do so for another century to come. It is a magnificent legacy we will celebrate.

And so I proudly join my fellow church members in celebrating 104 years of faith and good works, of caring of one another, and reaching through good works to those least able to fend for themselves.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH AND ITS 2005 THEME—
THE NIAGARA MOVEMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2005 theme—the Niagara Movement. Fitting with this theme which honors the first African American meeting held to end racial discrimination, I would like to recognize the struggles and achievements of African Americans in the steelworker union movement who faced daunting challenges, but whose lives were forces for change.

Over the last century, African American industrial history has broken through significant barriers. However, the struggle for equal rights and protections faced numerous challenges during this time. The modern struggle for access to equal rights, protections, and work began in 1892 with the Homestead Strike, when African American workers were brought in on trains, unaware of their destination, to break the strike. This marked the advent of the northward migration of African American fieldworkers to the mills of the North.

Though African Americans would increasingly join the steel mills, they faced discrimination and limited opportunities once they arrived. This, despite the increased strength and numbers the African American community provided the labor movement, particularly during World War I when African American representation in the steel mills swelled. However, it is important to note the perseverance of these brave workers who accepted some of the most dangerous jobs and the legacy they provided for the generations after them who continued the fight for equal rights and equal opportunity.

Unfortunately, the successful CIO organizing drives of the 1930s and success of the broad-

er labor movement began to leave African Americans behind. Though African Americans had increasingly joined the mills and unions, by World War II they still faced de facto limits on the types of opportunities they could expect at the mills. Generally limited to the lower skilled positions, regardless of their actual ability, this generation began to challenge the working order and demand equal treatment, both by their own unions and by management.

These struggles culminated in the 1970s, when the mills and unions began setting hiring and promotion goals for women and minorities. Though this represented a watershed event for African American steelworkers, they have continued to forcefully advocate for their rights while working tirelessly for labor rights and the future of the steel industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the contributions these American heroes have made to the labor movement and to their communities. I am proud to honor the ideals represented by Black History Month and its 2005 theme of the Niagara Movement, by recognizing the African American steelworkers who struggled and continue to fight for equality, opportunity, and an end to racial discrimination.

IN MEMORY OF VIRGIL "SONNY"
DAFFRON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of this distinguished body to join me in remembering Virgil "Sonny" Daffron, an upstanding resident of the Fifth Congressional District of Kentucky. Sonny passed away on December 27, 2004, at the age of 79.

Ever since he was a boy growing up in Junction City, Kentucky, Sonny Daffron never met a stranger. Anyone who knew him would agree that he was one of the friendliest people who ever lived. His outgoing personality served as a source of joy and inspiration for all those he encountered. He took this friendly demeanor with him to Wayne County, Kentucky, where he lived with his family during his school years. It was there that he found the love of his life, Marcia Frances Kelsay.

Sonny and Marcia were a match made in heaven. Sonny would recount stories of how he'd walk past the Kelsay home numerous times each day hoping to catch a glimpse of his sweetheart. Although Sonny's brave service in the United States Navy took him away from Marcia from 1943 to 1946, his love for her did not falter. He promised himself that when he returned home, he would make Marcia his wife.

He kept that promise, and on April 6, 1947, Sonny and Marcia were married.

In addition to being a faithful husband, Sonny was a loving father to four children: Danny Moore, Annette Susan, Stephen Denton and David Scott. He was also "PePaw" to five granddaughters, three grandsons, two great-granddaughters and one great-grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Sonny Daffron. While he will be sorely missed, I am confident

his legacy will live on forever in the hearts and minds of his loving family and many friends.

HONORING ROBERT C. WADE, SR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable individual from my home district. Robert C. Wade, Sr., a leader in Kentucky rural electrification, retired in December from the Board of Directors at Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, bringing his distinguished 34-year tenure to a close.

Bob began his service on the Nolin Board of Directors in June 1970. Four years later he was elevated to Chairman, leading Nolin RECC through 29 years of unprecedented growth and development. Bob incorporated a rare combination of intelligent leadership, innovation, and consistent hard work to create a work ethic that has established Nolin as a model of excellence throughout the cooperative industry.

In addition to his dedicated service at Nolin, Bob was also a past chair of Speak Up For Rural Electrification, SURE, and served as a director and on the Planning and Objectives Committee of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, CFC, in Herndon, Virginia. In each endeavor, Bob demonstrated a unique and effective commitment to the cause of rural electrification.

Today, I would like to recognize Robert C. Wade, Sr., before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his contributions to his community, his state and his Nation. His many achievements in the cooperative movement and rural electrification make him an outstanding American, worthy of our collective respect and honor.

THE WAR IN DARFUR

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the killing continues in Darfur and the United Nations has become paralyzed and unable to stop it. I am submitting for the RECORD a copy of a letter sent this week to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan signed by 33 members of the House of Representatives asking him to return to Darfur and to report back to the Security Council on the conditions there.

The Security Council must take immediate, effective measures to stop the bloodshed. If the Security Council fails to act, Kofi Annan should resign out of protest. The time is now for bold action. The people of Darfur can wait no longer.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, February 7, 2005.

HON. KOFI ANNAN,
Secretary General, United Nations,
New York, NY.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL: As you are aware, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army recently

signed the much anticipated peace agreement which ended the cruel war that lasted over 20 years and claimed the lives of over two million people.

We commend you for your efforts in support of this peace agreement. However, it is vital that as the world looks toward the future of Sudan, it does not forget the tragedy which is unfolding in Darfur. Villages are still systematically burned, women continue to be raped, men are still being murdered and children continue to die from hunger and disease.

The situation in Darfur continues to deteriorate with recent attacks. We are very much concerned that if the security situation does not improve, the remaining NGOs will be forced to scale down or pull out, leaving the people of Darfur helpless.

The recently released Commission on Inquiry serves as a necessary tool in holding accountable those who have committed horrible atrocities in Darfur. But it is also essential that firm action immediately be undertaken by the United Nations to improve the situation on the ground and save lives. We urge you to return to Darfur to confirm with your own eyes that the situation has not improved. We cannot continue to status quo. A strong, meaningful resolution should be put forward and the Security Council should act immediately. Only in this manner the situation in Darfur can be changed.

We are certain that this will have an immediate impact on Darfur. We ask that you use your power and prestige to make a passionate plea to the Security Council to deal effectively on Darfur. If the Security Council fails to take meaningful action, we ask you to resign in protest. Your resignation would be an act of moral leadership which the world would greatly admire.

Great men in history have given up their posts to force change. William Wilberforce's commitment to justice and the abolition of slavery in Great Britain superseded his pursuit of political advancement and many believe his outspoken fight against slavery cost him the opportunity to be Prime Minister of England.

We can and will not allow the world to remain a bystander while this horrific tragedy unfolds. The situation in Darfur is being described as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today. Immediate action has to be taken. We are confident that anything that you can do to put an end to this situation will be admired greatly.

The powerful movie *Hotel Rwanda* was recently released. It highlights how the world failed the people of Rwanda. The lead actor, Don Cheadle, is nominated for an Oscar and the movie is nominated as best original screen play. People will be moved by this movie and people will remember our pledge of "never again."

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf, Roscoe Bartlett, Dan Burton, Wm. Lacy Clay, Elijah E. Cummings, Robert Aderholt, Mary Bono, Lois Capps, Tom Davis, Trent Franks, Michael M. Honda, Peter T. King, Michael R. McNulty, James P. Moran, Joseph R. Pitts, J. Randy Forbes, Mark R. Kennedy, James McGovern, Michael H. Michaud, John W. Olver, Rick Renzi, Lucille Roybal-Allard, John J.H. Schwarz, Christopher Shays, Rob Simmons, Mark E. Souder, James T. Walsh, Tom Osborne, James F. Sensenbrenner, Jr., John Shimkus, Christopher H. Smith, Edolphus Towns and Zach Wamp, Members of Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE WORKPLACE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill of great public importance to women in the workforce across the United States. The U.S. Justice Department estimated that from 2000 to 2002, the percentage of rapes and sexual assaults occurring at the workplace jumped from 2 percent to 10 percent of the total number of rapes and sexual assaults occurring in the United States yearly. Yet, many of these victims are told their only remedy is workers' compensation. When rape occurs on the job, employers should not be able to hide behind a system designed to compensate for job-related accidents. My bill sends a clear message: Rape is not all in a day's work.

This bill gives victims of workplace violence across the Nation a remedy outside the workers' compensation system. It does this by creating a Federal civil rights cause of action, under certain conditions, for employees who have been the victims of gender-motivated violence at work. This bill will not result in numerous and unwarranted lawsuits against small businesses. In fact, the legislation outlines very strict requirements regarding whether a case would fall under the purview of this bill. Workers' compensation is a great system—it has created an American workplace safe from industrial accidents. But the job isn't done. This bill will encourage employers to create a job environment free of violent sexual assault and rape, because it is a terribly sad day in America when rape is considered all in a day's work.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO REAFFIRM STATE AUTHORITY TO REGULATE RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT HUNTING AND FISHING

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to reaffirm the authority of each state to regulate hunting and fishing within its boundaries, and especially a state's authority to enforce laws or regulations that differ in the way they treat that state's residents and people residing elsewhere.

A similar Senate bill has been introduced by Senator REID of Nevada, who introduced a related measure in the 108th Congress. He has been the leader on this matter, and I am proud to join in the effort.

There is nothing new about a state's having different rules for resident and nonresident hunters or anglers. Colorado draws that distinction in several ways, and many other states do so as well.

And while there have been challenges to the validity of such rules, until recently the federal courts have upheld the right of the states to make such distinctions. For example, in

1987 the federal district court for Colorado, in the case of *Terk v. Ruch* (reported at 655 F. Supp. 205), rejected a challenge to Colorado's regulations that allocated to Coloradans 90% of the available permits for hunting bighorn sheep and mountain goats.

But a recent Court of Appeals decision marked a change—something that definitely is new.

In that case (*Conservation Force v. Manning*, 301 F.3d 985; 9th Cir. 2002), the federal appeals court for the 9th Circuit held that Arizona's 10 percent cap on nonresident hunting of bull elk throughout the state and of antlered deer north of the Colorado River had enough of an effect on interstate commerce that it could run afoul of what lawyers and judges call the "dormant commerce clause" of the Constitution.

Having reached that conclusion, the appeals court determined that the Arizona regulation discriminated against interstate commerce—meaning the "dormant commerce clause" did apply and that the regulation was subject to strict scrutiny, and could be upheld only if it served legitimate state purposes and the state could show that those interests could not be adequately served by reasonable non-discriminatory alternatives.

The appeals court went on to find that the regulations did further Arizona's legitimate interests in conserving its population of game and maintaining recreational opportunities for its citizens, but it remanded the case so a lower court could determine whether the state could meet the burden of showing that reasonable non-discriminatory alternatives would not be adequate.

Because of the decision's potential implications for their own laws and regulations, it was a source of concern to many states in addition to Arizona. In fact, 22 other States joined in supporting Arizona's request for the decision to be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Colorado was one of those States, and our then-Attorney General, Ken Salazar, joined in signing a brief in support of Arizona's petition for Supreme Court review.

Regrettably, the Supreme Court denied that petition. So, for now, the 9th Circuit's decision stands. Its immediate effect is on states whose federal courts are within that circuit—namely those in Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington as well those of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. But it could have an effect on the thinking of federal courts across the country.

The bill's purpose is to forestall that outcome, and so far as possible to return to the state of affairs prevailing before the 9th circuit's decision.

The bill would do two things:

First, in Section 2(a), it would declare that the policy of Congress is that it is in the public interest for each state to continue to regulate the taking of fish and wildlife within its boundaries, including by means of laws or regulations that differentiate between residents and non-residents.

And, in Section 2(b), it would provide that silence on the part of Congress is not to be construed by the courts as imposing any barrier under the commerce clause of the constitution to a state's regulation of hunting, fishing, or trapping.

These provisions are intended to speak directly to the "dormant commerce clause"

basis for the 9th Circuit's decision in *Conservation Force v. Manning*.

I am not a lawyer, but my understanding is that lawyers and judges use that term to refer to the judicially-established doctrine that the commerce clause is not only a "positive" grant of power to Congress, but also a "negative" constraint upon the States in the absence of any Congressional action—in other words, that it restricts the powers of the states to affect interstate commerce in a situation where Congress has been silent.

Section 2(a) of the bill would end the perceived silence of Congress by affirmatively stating that state regulation of fishing and hunting—including State regulation that treats residents and non-residents differently—is in the public interest. This is intended to preclude future application of the "dormant commerce clause" doctrine with regard to such regulations.

Section 2(b) would make it clear that even when Congress might have been silent about the subject, that silence is not to be construed as imposing a commerce-clause barrier to a state's regulation of hunting or fishing within its borders.

This bill is neither a federal mandate for state action nor a Congressional delegation of authority to any state. Instead, it is intended to reaffirm state authority and make clear that the "dormant commerce clause"—that is, Congressional inaction—is not to be construed as an obstacle to a state's regulating hunting or fishing, even in ways that some might claim adversely affect interstate commerce by treating residents differently from nonresidents.

It's also important to note that the bill is not intended to affect any federal law already on the books or to limit any authority of any Indian Tribe. Section 3 of the bill is intended to prevent any misunderstanding on these points.

Section 3(1) specifies that the bill will not "limit the applicability or effect of any Federal law related to the protection or management of fish or wildlife or to the regulation of commerce."

Thus, to take just a few examples for purposes of illustration, the bill will not affect implementation of the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Lacey Act, the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act, or the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act dealing with subsistence.

Section 3(2) similarly provides that the bill is not to be read as limiting the authority of the federal government to temporarily or permanently prohibit hunting or fishing on any portion of the federal lands—as has been done with various National Park System units and in some other parts of the federal lands for various reasons, including public safety as well as the protection of fish or wildlife.

And Section 3(3) explicitly provides that the bill will not alter any of the rights of any Indian Tribe.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is narrow in scope but of national importance because it addresses a matter of great concern to hunters, anglers, and wildlife managers in many states. I think it deserves broad support.

For the information of our colleagues, here is a brief outline of the bill and a letter of support from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies:

OUTLINE OF BILL

Section One provides a short title—"Reaffirmation of State Regulation of Resident

and Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Act of 2005."

Section Two has two subsections:

Subsection 2(a) states that it is the policy of Congress that it is in the public interest for each state to continue to regulate the taking of fish and wildlife for any purpose within its boundaries, including by means of laws or regulations that differentiate between residents and non-residents with respect to the availability of licenses or permits for particular species, the kind and numbers of fish or wildlife that may be taken, or the fees charged in connection with issuance of hunting or fishing licenses or permits.

Subsection 2(b) states that silence on the part of Congress is not to be construed to impose any barrier under the commerce clause of the Constitution to a state's regulation of hunting or fishing.

Section Three specifies that the bill is not to be construed as—limiting the applicability or effect of any Federal law related to the protection or management of fish or wildlife or to the regulation of commerce; limiting the authority of the federal government to prohibit hunting or fishing on any portion of the federal lands; or altering in any way any right of any Indian Tribe.

Section Four defines the term "state" as including the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES,
Washington, DC, February 9, 2005.

Hon. MARK UDALL,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN UDALL: The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, whose government members include the fifty state fish and wildlife agencies, strongly supports your bill to reaffirm state regulation of resident and non-resident hunting and fishing. This bipartisan bill is necessary to address the recent decision of the Ninth Circuit in *Conservation Force v. Manning*, 301 F.3d 985 (9th Cir. 2002), cert. denied, 537 U.S. 1112 (2003). That unprecedented decision concluded that hunting of big game in Arizona substantially affects interstate commerce such that differential treatment of residents and nonresidents must be strictly scrutinized by federal courts.

By subjecting to strict scrutiny analysis under the dormant Commerce Clause state preferences for residents in highly prized species, the Ninth Circuit decision strikes at the ability of states to maintain the level of local sacrifice and contribution necessary to produce big game.

We appreciate your interest in rectifying the problems caused by the Ninth Circuit ruling and appreciate also the effort of your staff to assure the bill is sharply drawn so that it neutralizes the effect of the court ruling, but beyond that neither enlarges nor diminishes state authority. The limitations provisions of section 3 are written to insure that no existing federal or tribal authority relating to fish and wildlife would be affected.

Both resident and nonresident hunters and anglers contribute to conservation, yet it is essential to conservation efforts in the several States that the level of hunting and fishing opportunity for residents not be eroded. The passion and unity that derives from direct involvement by residents in fish and wildlife programs is a critical asset in resource protection and management. The bill you have introduced reaffirms that the states are the appropriate stewards of fish and wildlife resources within their borders, the hallmark of the highly successful model of fish and wildlife protection and manage-

ment in the United States. Permit numbers, license fees, hunt areas and season dates are best handled through the legislative and rulemaking processes at the state level.

Thank you again for your initiative in taking this bill forward. We look forward to working with you and your staff to achieve enactment of the bill.

TERRY CRAWFORTH,
President.

IN PRAISE OF OSCAR NOMINATION FOR AUTISM DOCUMENTARY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tonight I stand up to do something which some of my colleagues might at first glance think is unusual; namely I intend to praise the Hollywood establishment, and more precisely, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. Normally when Members come to the Floor to talk about Hollywood, it is to discuss how out of touch Hollywood is with mainstream American values, but tonight I would like to commend Hollywood for doing something right. In a few short weeks are the Academy Awards, and this year there is a very special nominee in the category of documentary short subject; a concise film entitled: "Autism is a World."

This groundbreaking documentary gives viewers a front row seat into a week in the life of an extraordinary woman, Sue Rubin, as she confronts the day-to-day challenges of living with autism. The film's story chronicles Sue's journey to overcome her autism and a false childhood diagnosis of mental retardation to become a highly intelligent college junior—with an IQ of 133—and a tireless disabled rights activist. But Sue is not only the star of the film she is also the film's writer—she wrote the entire screenplay through facilitated communication, a process by which a facilitator supports the hand or arm of a communicatively impaired person while using a keyboard or typing device. Joining forces with Oscar award winning director, Gerardine Wurzburg, and Syracuse University Professor Douglas Biklen, founder of the Facilitated Communication Institute at Syracuse University, these three gifted individuals created a powerful film that tugs at the heart strings and at the same time challenges all the commonly held perceptions and stereotypes of autism.

Sue Rubin is truly an exceptional young woman. From the very beginning she never allowed herself to fall victim to her disability; and since the age of 13—when she was first able to show her true intelligence and express herself to the world through facilitated communication—she has used her experience to educate others about autism, and has been a shining example to her fellow students at Whittier College in California where she excels as a history major. She has also traveled throughout the United States to speak out publicly in support of the autism community and facilitated communication.

Medical research has not unlocked all the answers to autism and its causes, but through films like "Autism is a World," and the incredible efforts of individuals like Sue Rubin,

Douglas Biklen and Gerardine Wurzburg to reshape the way we think about autistic individuals we will hopefully come to realize that individuals afflicted with autism have so much to offer the world. I congratulate Sue Rubin and thank her for this courageous film; it is an excellent contribution to this year's Academy Awards. I wish everyone associated with this film the best of luck on Oscar night.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT ROUTIER
VAUGHAN

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Albert Routier Vaughan passed away on December 25, 2004, after a distinguished career spanning 42 years with the U.S. Secret Service and Vanderbilt University and a well-earned retirement. He was a resident of Highlands, North Carolina, at the time of his death.

Mr. Vaughan was born Albert Pouletaud in Paris, France, but became friends with a detachment of U.S. Marines in World War I. These marines were instrumental in getting him to the United States. Ted Vaughan, a sergeant in the detachment, gave young Albert instructions on how to reach the Vaughan household in Nashville. Ted Vaughan was a law enforcement officer. He helped young Albert, who became a Vaughan, with his career as a U.S. Secret Service Agent.

Mr. Vaughan served with distinction in his 32 year career with the Secret Service. He received many distinguished awards, including the prestigious Albert Gallatin award. He served ably under five presidents from Hoover to Kennedy.

After his retirement from the Secret Service, Mr. Vaughan served for 10 years as Director of Safety for Vanderbilt University in Nashville. His experience in the Secret Service proved invaluable for his position at Vanderbilt. He greatly enhanced the safety and security of the university and its environs during his tenure.

Mr. Vaughan was laid to rest on December 29, 2004, in his adopted hometown of Nashville. We are grateful that Mr. Vaughan as a young man adopted this country as his own and that those U.S. Marines were able to secure his passage. We are thankful for his long and distinguished service to our country and to Vanderbilt and for his life of service. We extend our heart-felt condolences to his family.

THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF BOB
MARLEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate one of the most enduring figures of our time. Today marks the 60th anniversary of the birth of musical icon Bob Marley. The past week has seen a global celebration of Marley's life and works, and rightly so.

Bob Marley is one of the most transcendent and iconic figures in modern music history. In

the course of his life he would become the greatest cultural Ambassador that Jamaica, and arguably the Caribbean, has ever known. He introduced Rastafarianism to the world, and established his music, Reggae, once a little known Jamaican art form, as one of the world's most recognizable musical genres.

His music gave voice to the daily struggles of not only Jamaican people, but of all people struggling with oppression and poverty. He vividly captured not only their struggles to survive, but also the deep spiritual core that collectively sustained them.

In so doing, his songs would become anthems for oppressed people around the world, and inspire millions to unite in the quest for universal justice and freedom. So powerful was his persona and message that he was able to bridge the divide between the warring political parties in Jamaica, subsequently decreasing political violence in the country. Because of his power to move people, Marley would at times be viewed as a potential political threat at home and abroad.

The story of this great life would begin very humbly. He was born in the rural Jamaican village of St. Ann's Parish in 1945. He would leave his home for the capital city of Kingston at the age of 14, in hopes of becoming a musician. There he would begin his career as local singer. He was also introduced to Rastafarianism—whose philosophy and approach to life greatly influenced him and his music—and to a reggae genre still in its infancy.

In 1963 he would form a band with Peter Tosh and Bunny Livingston that would become known as The Wailers. The Wailers would spend the next few years developing their sound, and gaining a local following. In 1966, Bob would marry Rita Anderson, a woman who would have a profound effect on his life and music. As a means of supporting his new family, he temporarily emigrated to Newark, Delaware, where he worked in a factory.

Upon his return to Jamaica, he reformed The Wailers, dedicating himself to his music. This period would see The Wailers produce a wealth of new material, eventually signing to the Island Records label. This relationship would produce the first Bob Marley album to be released outside Jamaica, *Catch a Fire*. Soon he and his band were receiving worldwide acclaim.

The Wailers would eventually disband however, and Marley would embark on a solo career. He would see his success and notoriety grow over the next few years. In 1976, his album *Rastaman Vibration*, hit the Top Ten in the United States. He had officially brought Reggae into the mainstream.

While his fame grew internationally, he was viewed as almost a mystical figure in his native Jamaica. His popularity and radical message of empowerment and unity was perceived as a threat to the established order, both in Jamaica and beyond. On December 3, 1976, he was wounded in an assassination attempt, an event that forced him to leave Jamaica for over a year.

However, violence could not temper his musical voice or soaring popularity. In 1977, he had his biggest selling record to date, *Exodus*. This period would also see him tour the world, including an independent Zimbabwe, whose struggle for freedom and racial justice was immortalized in one of his songs. Tragically, at

the height of his career, he was diagnosed with cancer—a virulent form which rapidly took his life.

Since his death in 1981, his legend has only grown. His message of freedom, unity, and justice has echoed with each passing decade. One of his biggest hits was a song entitled *One Love*, which was judged in an international poll to have been the most influential song of the 20th century. The world has not yet achieved the universal love for which he advocated, but it is, and will remain, united in its love for him.

URGING THE EUROPEAN UNION TO
MAINTAIN ITS ARMS EMBARGO
ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Status Quo in the Taiwan Straits is under threat. This has far less to do with unilateral steps being taken by Taiwan and much more to do with People's Republic of China's (PRC) decision to apparently leave its "Good Neighbor" policy by the wayside, and embark on a new campaign to promote its economic and military ambitions across the Straits and throughout the region.

For several months now, based on speeches by Jiang Zemin, it appears that China is in the process of drafting a so-called Anti-Secession Law which obligates the People's Liberation Army to use military force to annex Taiwan if Beijing believes Taiwanese rhetoric or actions are moving the Island towards independence.

The prospect of a lifting of the European Union's arms embargo against China, together with the drafting of this Anti-Secession Law, and the publication of a PRC white paper last year entitled, "China's National Defense in 2004," calling Taiwan's independence advocates the "biggest immediate threat to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," are alarming items in and of themselves, but taken as a whole they represent a disturbing trend in China's thinking about the situation in the Taiwan Straits.

Officials at the State Department and our friends in Taiwan are extremely uneasy to say the least over these signals of a change in China's posture towards Taiwan—and with good reason. Saber rattling by the PRC is nothing new, but this Anti-Secession Law represents a dangerous new dimension.

If enacted, this Anti-Secession Law will create the legal grounds for Beijing to punish anyone speaking or acting against reunification of Taiwan and China. Moreover, the law will permit, in fact it will compel, Chinese leaders to use force against Taiwan if China considers Taiwanese leaders are engaging in so-called separatist activities.

The Law clearly undermines efforts to enhance the goodwill that has grown-up across the Straits in recent years spawned by deep socio-cultural ties, and the increasing economic interdependence between Taiwan and the Mainland. If this Anti-Secession Law is enacted, the response from the Taiwanese will

be predictable; military tension will rise accordingly in the Taiwan Strait and regional peace and stability will be affected. This cannot be in the best interests of any country, especially those in the region.

Mr. Speaker, since 9/11 there has been a heightened recognition of the benefits of cooperation with Beijing on security issues in the region; ranging from eliminating the North Korean nuclear threat, to stabilizing the Taiwan Strait, and countering global terrorism. A security crisis over Taiwan is something we all must work to avert. But, China's proposed Anti-Secession Law is a bad law with serious consequences for future relations between China and Taiwan, as well as regional stability. I hope the Chinese Government will reconsider their actions and return to the "Good Neighbor" policy that has worked so effectively for so long.

TRIBUTE TO MARIE RUST

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished career

of Marie Rust as she retires from the National Park Service. Ms. Rust will be retiring after spending 31 years as caretaker of the National Park System in 13 northeast states. Early in her National Park Service Career, as Director of Personnel, she was personally charged with forming the North Atlantic Region, of which my home state of New Jersey is a member.

She has been a tireless advocate for the National Parks of New Jersey, including Edison National Historic Site, Morristown National Historical Park, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area.

In my own Congressional District, Ms. Rust was instrumental in facilitating the development of the public/private partnership between the National Park Service, the Edison Preservation Foundation, and the Friends of Edison National Historic Site. Both groups are devoted to the preservation of the Edison legacy and the Historic Site on Main Street in West Orange, as well as the Edison home in Llewellyn Park. The fund raising efforts of these groups, combined with the federal appropriations we were able to secure, have been instrumental in saving the site's historic structures and improving the condition of the artifacts the buildings contain. Her leadership

has made possible the current rehabilitation effort at the Site, which will provide accessibility to all visitors, broaden the Edison story with new exhibits and tours, and preserve the buildings for future generations of visitors.

Close to my own heart, she has been active on the International front as a founding member of the International Coalition of Historic Sites of Conscience, working to preserve historic sites that are connected to social issues. She has safeguarded the history of these places and used them to foster public dialogue, reminding us always that our past can and should shape the way we speak about the contemporary issues of our day.

I am grateful for Marie Rust's leadership in my community and for her three decade long fight for the protection of our national treasures.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to Ms. Rust for her many years of environmental stewardship and preservation, and I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing her a rewarding retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 15

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine priorities and plans for the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and to review the President's budget request for fiscal year 2006 for atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration.

SH-216

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine the United Nations management and oversight of the Oil-for-Food Program (OFF Program), focusing on the operations of the independent inspection agents retained by the United Nations and their role within the OFF Program, including the administration of the OFF Program by the U.N. Office of the Iraq Program and the findings of the U.N. Office of Internal Oversight Services.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2006 Department of Veterans Affairs budget.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the future of liquefied natural gas, focusing on the prospects for liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the United States and to discuss the safety and security issues related to LNG developments.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine CIA document disclosure under the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act.

SD-419

4 p.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Paul Woodley, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Buddie J. Penn, of Virginia,

to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and the following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601: Adm. William J. Fallon, to be Admiral.

SR-222

FEBRUARY 16

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2006 budget request for Indian programs.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual monetary policy report to Congress.

SD-106

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's budget proposals for fiscal year 2006.

SD-215

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 for foreign affairs.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the realities of safety and security regarding drug importation.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine transforming government for the 21st Century.

SD-342

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

Room to be announced

FEBRUARY 17

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To resume hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine democracy in retreat in Russia.

SD-419

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel R. Levinson, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Harold Damelin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury, and Raymond Thomas Wagner, Jr., of Missouri, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board.

SD-215

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the President's budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine National Park Service's implementation of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

SD-366

MARCH 1

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

MARCH 2

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

MARCH 3

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To resume hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SD-106

2 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.

345 CHOB

MARCH 9

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

SH-216

MARCH 10

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Blinded Veterans Association, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Jewish War Veterans.

345 CHOB

APRIL 14

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

345 CHOB

APRIL 21

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Re-

tired Enlisted Association, and the Gold Star Wives of America.

345 CHOB

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB

CANCELLATIONS

FEBRUARY 15

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2006 budget request for Indian programs.

SR-485

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain issues relative to CIA document disclosure under the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act.

SD-226

POSTPONEMENTS

FEBRUARY 11

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 for Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342