

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO MS. GABRIELLA F. KOSZORUS-VARSA

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to an extraordinary and remarkable artist, Ms. Gabriella F. Koszorus-Varσα. Ms. Koszorus-Varσα's work has been displayed internationally, from Santa Cruz, California, to Munich, Germany, including being featured prominently in the U.S. Capitol and the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and in the Carnegie Hall in New York City. She has been heralded as a master of portraits, and figure compositions as well as sculptures.

Ms. Koszorus-Varσα's depiction of the charge of the cavalry during the battle of Charleston in "Fidelissimus ad Mortem" is a magnificent painting. Highlighting the contribution of Colonel Michael Kovats de Fabricy in the Revolutionary War, this painting was displayed in my office in the Capitol for many years. Using the closing line of the letter Colonel Kovats wrote to Benjamin Franklin when he offered his expertise in fighting for our independence, "Fidelissimus ad Mortem" (most faithful unto death) symbolizes how far a foreign national would go to help us achieve the ideal of freedom. After meeting with General Washington, he was given the charge of training the American Light Cavalry. Colonel Kovats led the light cavalry; the hussars, which were a legion made up of French, German, Poles and other nationalities. Colonel Kovats died in the battle of Charleston, South Carolina, on May 11, 1779.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Koszorus-Varσα displayed her deft touch in creating this magnificent painting. Wanting to replicate the battlefield charge truthfully, she researched everything down to the most intricate detail—from the color of the uniforms to the kind of horses that would have been ridden and the formation that the hussars would use when attacking. The blue cloaks of the men flanking Colonel Kovats came from a book in the Library of the "Daughters of the American Revolution" as they paraded through Philadelphia. Colonel Kovats wears the prominent red uniform which he wore in one of his services as commander of the "Free Hussars" in the Army of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia.

Ms. Koszorus-Varσα, who memorialized the heroic deeds of Colonel Kovats, grew up in Budapest, Hungary as the daughter of the renowned art professor Elemer Fulop de Felsoeor. Following in her father's footsteps, she earned a Master's Degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest, Hungary, and began teaching at the American University in Heidelberg, Germany in 1947. Ms. Koszorus-Varσα and her husband, Colonel Ferenc Koszorus who was one of the great heroes of the Hungarian Holocaust, immigrated to the United States in 1951 with their son.

Mr. Speaker, she was commissioned to paint some of the most important moments and persons in American history. Dr. Robert Hutchings Goddard and his wife's bas-reliefs, commissioned by the Ramsey Fund at the National Air and Space Museum were made by Ms. Koszorus-Varσα. Her "Composition in Memoriam of the Late Astronauts: Virgil Grissom, Edward H. White, and Roger B. Chaffee" is currently being exhibited at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center. The Fleetwood Cover Service commissioned three First Day Cover designs from her: "O! Say, Can You See", "Civil War Centennial", and "Champion of Liberty, Lajos Kossuth". I also recall her wonderful painting of the first king of Hungary, Saint Stephen that was displayed at the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, D.C., which also houses her life-sized bust of Lajos Kossuth.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Gabriella F. Koszorus-Varσα's work is inspiring and has the enduring quality that many artists seek. She has ensured that Colonel Kovats is properly remembered, as well as the astronauts who lost their lives in our quest to go to the moon. I invite my colleagues to view all of her wonderful paintings and sculptures.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life and work of a fellow colleague, The Honorable Donald M. Payne of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District. Mr. Payne was recognized on Tuesday, February 15, 2005 as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award. It is only fitting that we honor our colleague Mr. Payne, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth.

Mr. Payne is truly a role model for the African-American community. His devotion to advancing human and civil rights on an international scale is unparalleled. While he is a proven leader in the Congress, Mr. Payne's devotion to improving the community at large began as a result of his deep roots in Newark, New Jersey.

A native of Newark. Mr. Payne attended Seton Hall University. After completing his undergraduate education, Mr. Payne pursued graduate studies at Springfield College in Massachusetts. His professional career commenced in the Newark Public Schools where Mr. Payne taught. He went on to hold an executive position with the Prudential Insurance Company following his tenure as Vice President of Urban Data Systems, Inc.

In 1988, Donald Payne achieved a milestone not only for himself, but for the entire African-American community of New Jersey. He

was elected to the serve in this great body, the first for an African-American from New Jersey. Mr. Payne has used his position as a Member of Congress to further the cause of human and civil rights throughout the world.

His efforts have enabled Mr. Payne to travel throughout the globe to represent the United States government. He was one of five Members of Congress asked to accompany President and Mrs. Clinton on their six nation tour of Africa. As a member of the Balkans Caucus he met with NATO officials in Brussels to assess the crisis in Kosovo. This mission brought Mr. Payne to the frontlines of the devastation caused by the inhumane acts committed there.

Mr. Payne's diligent efforts to restore democracy and human rights throughout the globe have led him to bring to light the recent atrocities in Sudan. In the 108th Congress, Mr. Payne successfully guided the passage of a resolution declaring genocide in Darfur, Sudan. Additionally he saw the Sudan Peace Act come to fruition. This law, a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan as well as a plan for famine relief efforts, was the result of more than 2 years work by many organizations. Anti-slavery groups, churches and community groups were among the organizations involved in working with Mr. Payne on this most important issue.

Mr. Payne has done much humanitarian work on both the international and local level. He has served on the board of directors of the National Endowment for Democracy, TransAfrica, Discovery Channel Global Education Fund, The Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark, The Newark YMCA and the Newark Day Center.

While many of his efforts focus on correcting atrocities in developing nations, the implications extend far beyond the regions involved. His goal to improve the quality of life for those who cannot defend themselves is remarkable. Donald truly exemplifies the notion of a global community and that we are all responsible for our fellow man.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to share the responsibility of representing communities in Essex County, New Jersey along with Mr. Payne. He is a true humanitarian and is more than deserving of the honor bestowed upon him today. I ask you to join with a grateful County of Essex and our colleagues in recognizing the truly outstanding achievements of the Honorable Donald M. Payne.

HONORING OAKLAND COMMUNITY HOUSING, INC.

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of Oakland Community Housing, Inc. For the past 30 years, OCHI has provided a truly invaluable service to the community by producing and managing quality affordable housing throughout the East Bay.

• 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.

OCHI came into existence in 1974, when the construction of Oakland's City Center resulted in the demolition of 12 square blocks in the downtown district. When grassroots organizations, including the Black Panther Party, the Oakland Citizens' Committee for Urban Renewal, and the Oakland Legislative Council for Seniors successfully sued the city for the replacement of the over 300 lost units, OCHI received the grant for that rebuilding project. That project was the first step in a journey which has enriched countless lives over the past 30 years.

Since the completion of that first project, Eldridge Gonaway Commons, in 1982, OCHI's construction on new projects has been continuous. In working to meet the rental and homeownership needs of low-income families, single adults, the formerly homeless, persons with substance abuse issues, mentally challenged adults, and seniors, OCHI has successfully completed over 1,000 units of affordable housing units on 18 properties. In addition to developing properties in a variety of ways to meet the diverse needs of the populations it serves, OCHI has also developed some of its properties in partnership with less experienced community housing developers as an investment in community capacity building. Indeed, when OCHI undertakes to construct or renovate a property, it not only builds a home for its future residents, but creates a new beginning that changes entire neighborhoods for the better.

OCHI recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize its incredibly important work. With quality affordable housing so scarce in the Bay Area, OCHI has provided an invaluable resource to the communities it has served. I salute OCHI for its dedication to meeting the housing needs of low-income homeowners and renters in dozens of communities over the past 30 years, and for the profound and lasting impact its tireless work has had on countless lives.

HONORING DR. CATHERINE  
WINCHESTER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Catherine Winchester for receiving the American Heart Association's Giving Heart Award. Dr. Winchester will be honored at the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Luncheon on Thursday, February 17, 2005, in Fresno, CA.

In 1995, Dr. Catherine Winchester attained her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of California-Irvine, College of Medicine. After receiving her degree she completed her internal medical residency at Stanford University Medical Center and completed a cardiology fellowship at University of California-Davis.

Dr. Winchester has tirelessly worked to raise awareness of the fact that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women in the United States. She served as keynote speaker of last year's Go Red for Women luncheon and, as the only female cardiologist in California's Central Valley, she has empowered women to

live longer and stronger lives through her efforts to help women identify risk factors for heart disease.

She is an ardent supporter of the American Heart Association's work to further medical research and advance knowledge in the areas of prevention and treatment of heart disease and stroke.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Dr. Catherine Winchester for receiving the American Heart Association's Giving Heart Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in praising Dr. Winchester's efforts and in wishing her many years of continued success.

ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL MEDALS IN  
FIRST APPEARANCE IN  
CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I salute the Essex High School Cheerleaders, from Essex Junction, Vermont, for winning third place in the National High School Cheerleading Championship on February 12 in Orlando, Florida.

The Hornet cheerleaders were competing for the first time. But they knew they had something going for them, despite their relative inexperience: They had already won the first place award at the New England Regional qualifier last fall. That victory, of course, put them on a collision course with the nation's very best cheerleading teams, all thirty-one of them. After a tough preliminary round, Essex was in fourth place, one spot out of the medals. But they bore down in the finals, and leaped into the medals with a third place, outpaced only by the three-time national champion, Sparkman High of Alabama, and a talented team from Archbishop Shaw High School in Louisiana.

These exceptional young athletes and their coaches at Essex High School have worked long and hard to achieve this national recognition. Combining grace with athleticism, they have shown the nation that with determination and the desire to excel, any door may be opened, even a door leading to a top place in national competition.

All of Essex High School, all of Essex and Essex Junction, all of Vermont, are proud of these young women and men. May this be the beginning of a proud new tradition.

CONSUMER CHECKING ACCOUNT  
FAIRNESS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Ms. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Consumer Checking Account Fairness Act. This bill solves a pressing consumer banking problem. Under the Check 21 Act that we passed last year, money will leave consumers' accounts faster, but become available at the same old pace. Current check hold times, combined with the speeding up of check processing, create real problems for consumers.

The new Check 21 law facilitates the electronic clearing of checks, which means that checks consumers write will clear sooner. However, banks are still allowed to place the same long check holds on consumers' deposits.

For example: Jane Doe gets paid on Friday, deposits her paycheck Friday evening, and writes a check at the grocery store the next day. The check to the grocery store on Saturday clears on Sunday or Monday, but because Jane's bank puts a hold on her deposit, her paycheck funds cannot be used to cover her checks until the next Wednesday—even if the paycheck has in fact already cleared. If Jane's employer uses a non-local bank to issue her paycheck, Jane's bank can make her wait till the next Monday—ten calendar days—before her pay is available to cover the checks she writes.

Even if Jane's paycheck actually clears within a day or two, her bank does not have to lift the hold. Instead, Jane's bank can: bounce her check and charge her a "non-sufficient funds", NSF fee of \$20 to \$35. The grocery store may also charge a returned check fee or clear the check but charge a \$20 to \$35 "bounce protection" fee, and possibly a per day fee as well for each day before deposited funds are available to cover the check. Bounce protection may be a service she has never requested—and it may be invoked by the bank even though Jane had made a deposit to cover the check before writing the check.

This is patently unfair to consumers. Check hold times should be shortened, so consumers can use their deposits to cover the checks they write after making a deposit.

Check 21 only required that the Federal Reserve Board study check hold times, and gave the Federal Reserve Board until March 2007 to finish that study.

The "Consumer Checking Account Fairness Act" solves this problem. The bill:

Reduces check hold times by a day for deposits up to \$7,500.

Counts Saturday as a business day toward the check hold period if the bank takes money out of consumer accounts on Saturdays.

Requires banks to process credits before debits: i.e. add deposits before deducting checks.

Prevents banks from charging bounced check fees when the deposit to cover the check has actually cleared but the hold period has not yet been completed.

Increases the "small check" amount, for which there is faster funds availability, from \$100 to \$500.

Requires banks that wish to charge for so-called "bounce protection" to get the consumer to request this feature before charging fees to the consumer for it.

Clarifies that deposits at proprietary ATMS are cleared as fast as deposits at a teller.

Requires that banks who charge a fee for a "substitute check" under Check 21 cannot insist that the consumer get a substitute check in order to have the bank put funds missing due to a processing error back into the consumer's account within ten business days.

The Consumer Checking Account Fairness Act is balanced and sensible. It preserves the ability of banks to prevent fraud. For example, it leaves in place the ability of a bank to impose a longer hold period for special circumstances, such as a new account or a recent history of bounced checks on an account.

Also, the bill does not require banks to issue "substitute checks" under the Check 21 law without any fee; instead it simply says that if the bank decides to charge for the substitute check, then the bank cannot insist that the consumer get that document in order to exercise the consumer's right to a ten business day timeframe to get back funds lost due to a check processing problem, such as a check being paid twice.

Banks benefit from faster check-processing facilitated by Check 21. They should also have to give their customers faster credit for deposits.

FIRST LIEUTENANT KEVIN R.  
DENECKE

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Michigan State Police, First Lieutenant Kevin Denecke. On January 28th, F/Lt. Denecke retired as the Commander of the Manistique State Police Post in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, closing the final chapter of his career dedicated to serving the people of the State of Michigan. F/Lt. Denecke's 25 years as a law enforcement officer and leader stand as a shining example to us all.

A native of the Detroit area, Kevin R. Denecke graduated from Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn, Michigan in 1974. He then went on to attend Northern Michigan University in Marquette where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement and security administration, graduating cum laude in 1978.

In the fall of 1979, Kevin began his career with the Michigan State Police as a graduate of the 96th Recruit School, and was assigned to the Munising Post. Over the years he has served in communities across the State of Michigan as a shift supervisor, a narcotics officer, on the Governor's security detail, and as a unit commander.

In May 1989, he was promoted to Detective Lieutenant and became the commander of the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (UPSET). During his final tenure as commander of UPSET, his multi-jurisdictional street narcotics team covered twelve counties of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

After three years leading UPSET, Mr. Denecke was promoted to First Lieutenant, and made commander of the Manistique Post. Known as "the LT" to the officers at the post, F/Lt. Denecke has earned a reputation throughout his career as a strong leader who goes out of his way to help the officers under him grow and advance professionally.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, as a former State Trooper myself, I have had the pleasure of knowing F/Lt. Denecke over the years, particularly during his time undercover and when he was on the Governor's detail. I have always enjoyed his friendship, and admired his service to the people of Michigan's First Congressional District.

Although F/Lt. Denecke's career with the Michigan State Police has ended, he will continue to serve the public as the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's Upper

Peninsula representative. In this new role, he will be helping local governments reduce their personal and liability risks while better serving their residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking First Lieutenant Kevin R. Denecke for his 25 years of service to the people of the State of Michigan and in wishing him well in his new position. His commitment to community and to justice have been a model of public service. He will be missed by the Michigan State Police and the people he so competently and bravely served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM FEENEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, on the dates of February 8–10, 2005, I was absent from session attending to personal matters following the death of a family member. I was unable to attend 12 votes held during my absence. I would like to note for the record that had I been present I would have voted as follows:

"Yea," rollcall 20, February 8, H. Res. 46, on motion to suspend the rules and agree; "yea," rollcall 21, February 8, H.R. 315, on motion to suspend the rules and pass; "yea," rollcall 22, February 8, H.R. 548, on motion to suspend the rules and pass; "yea," rollcall 23, February 9, H. Res. 71, on consideration of the resolution; "yea," rollcall 24, February 9, H. Con. Res. 6, on motion to suspend the rules and pass; "yea," rollcall 25, February 9, H. Con. Res. 26, on motion to suspend the rules and agree; "yea," rollcall 26, February 9, H. Con. Res. 30, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended; "yea," rollcall 27, February 10, H. Res. 75, on agreeing to the resolution; "nay," rollcall 28, February 10, H.R. 418, on agreeing to the amendment (NADLER); "nay," rollcall 29, February 10, H.R. 418, on agreeing to the amendment (FARR); "nay," rollcall 30, February 10, H.R. 418, on motion to recommit with instructions; "yea," rollcall 31, February 10, H.R. 418, on passage.

HONORING ANNE MARIE FERGUSON OF THE LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and dedication of Anne Marie Ferguson to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians State Board of New York State.

Anne Marie Ferguson, the LAOH New York State President, has been a dedicated member for 36 years. She is a Syracuse native who graduated from Bishop Ludden High School and then went on to graduate from Maria Regina College in Syracuse.

Her many years of dedication to the LAOH resulted in her becoming a board member some 12 years ago. This in turn led to her election as State President in July 2003 where

she serves as a respected leader of this very important organization. The Hibernians clearly recognized the talent of this special person. I must also acknowledge with pride her continuing role as both mother and grandmother to her three children and two grandchildren. They are very proud of her with good reason.

It is an honor and a privilege to recognize the dedication of Anne Marie Ferguson to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians State Board of New York State. Her service and dedication to this organization is greatly appreciated.

IN HONOR OF THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, each year America hosts thousands of foreign students from around the globe. For those of us who develop a professional or personal relationship with any of these individuals, we are truly enriched by their different perspective on the world. My staff has been fortunate enough to host a young woman from Australia, Rhiannon Riches. Driven by her insatiable desire for knowledge and experience, Rhiannon has quickly become an asset to me, my staff, and the state of Delaware. Every day, her presence reminds us of the innumerable benefits available through cross-cultural exchange.

For over 100 years, Australia and the United States have enjoyed a unique partnership that has endured world wars, economic malaise, and our current battle with terrorism. This tradition continues through the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, which provides Australian students with the opportunity to experience American democracy first-hand through internships with Congressional offices.

The Uni-Capitol Program is the pro bono effort of former long-time House and Senate staffer Eric K. Federing. During the 1990s, Mr. Federing made extensive visits to Australian universities, where he lectured on government, politics, and news media. These visits were his impetus for the successful program that Uni-Capitol is today.

Currently, there are seven universities participating from across Australia. A dozen students travel to Washington, DC annually as part of the exchange, which has received support from both the U.S. and Australian governments. In 2004, Mr. Federing's firm, KPMG LLP, recognized the significance of the program with a Chairman's Award for Excellence in Volunteerism. However, according to Mr. Federing, the enthusiastic students who embrace this incredible opportunity are the true beating heart of the program.

Mr. Speaker, I know that our experience has not been unique. The other students and congressional hosts in 2005 should be congratulated for participating in this exchange: Julian Barendse (Melbourne University) in the office of Sen. CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska; Anna Birmingham (University of Western Australia) in the office of Rep. BOB NEY of Ohio and the House Administration Committee, majority; Kirstan Fulton (University of Wollongong) in the office of Rep. SAM FARR of California;

Alethea Giles (Macquarie University) in the office of Rep. JERROLD NADLER of New York; Sana Nakata (Melbourne University) in the office of Rep. ALCEE HASTINGS of Florida; Yvonne Oberhollenzer (University of Queensland) in the office of Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California; Lauren Reed (Deakin University) in the office of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, minority; Peita Richards (Macquarie University) in the office of the House Administration Committee, minority; Anthony Skews (Melbourne University) in the office of the House Science Committee, majority; Luke Toy (University of Canberra) in the office of Sen. CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut; and, Ariella Webb (Melbourne University) in the office of the House Small Business Committee, majority.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to our Australian friends for their unbridled enthusiasm, tireless work ethic, and friendship over these past two months. The relationships we have forged here will last a lifetime, and it is my sincere hope that every congressional office partake in a similar endeavor.

HONORING FREDERICK DOUGLASS  
IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I would like to honor Frederick Douglass, a great advocate of human rights. The Caring Institute along with the National Park Service is celebrating the 187th birthday of Frederick Douglass with an event called "Honoring Frederick Douglass: A Celebration of Black History." The celebration was held at Ford's Theatre on February 14.

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery, and after eventually buying his freedom he went on to become a popular orator, author and publisher. He fought against discrimination of all types throughout his lifetime. Mr. Douglass played a great role in bringing about the abolition of slavery in America. He worked for women's rights as well, stating, "I would give women the vote, precisely as I insisted upon giving the colored man the right to vote. Right is of no sex—truth is of no color—God is the Father of us all and we are all brethren." Toward the end of his life, Mr. Douglass served as a recorder of deeds and marshal for the District of Columbia and also as an ambassador to Haiti.

I encourage my colleagues to remember this great man during this month honoring those who have played such an important part in our Nation's history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to reasons beyond my control, I was unable to vote February 8 through February 10 of this year. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes.

On rollcall vote No. 20 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 21 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 22 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 23 I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote No. 24 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 25 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 26 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 27 I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote No. 28 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 29 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 30 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 31 I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF BIKE  
COMMUTER ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressman MARK FOLEY and I are introducing legislation to extend commuter benefits to bicyclists. This important legislation includes bicycles in the definition of transportation covered by the qualified transportation fringe benefit.

Currently, employers may offer a Transportation Fringe Benefit to their employees for commuting to work. Employees who take advantage of this program may receive a tax exemption benefit totaling \$200 for participating in qualified parking plans or \$105 for transit or van-pool expenses. Employees may also opt to take cash compensation instead, which is subject to employment taxes. The Bike Commuter Act would extend these same Transportation Fringe Benefits to employees who choose to commute by bicycle, eliminating the disincentive for this alternative mode of transportation.

It's time to level the playing field for bicycle commuters. Bicycling is one of the cleanest, healthiest, most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly modes of transportation that exist today. Nearly 500,000 Americans already ride their bicycles to work on a daily basis, and 52 percent of Americans want to bike more than they do. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, bicycles are second only to cars as a preferred mode of transportation, demonstrating their significant potential for commuter use. Many Americans own one or more bicycles, but limit their use to recreational purposes. At a time when communities across the country are seeking to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, increase the safety of their neighborhoods, and decrease petroleum dependence, bicycles offer a wonderful alternative to driving for the more than 50 percent of the working population who commute five miles or less to work. In addition, since the adoption of ISTEA in 1991, Federal spending on bicycle facilities and infrastructure has increased dramatically, contributing to a significant improvement in the bicycling environment in a variety of communities.

This legislation is an important step in making the Federal Government a better partner for more livable communities. The Federal Government should further support these goals by providing transportation benefits to people who choose to commute in a healthy,

environmental, efficient and neighborhood-friendly fashion.

A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE WILSON  
HARLEY, ESQ.

**HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a woman I am proud to represent in Congress, Joyce Wilson Harley, Esq. Ms. Harley was recognized as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Award on February 15, 2005.

It is only fitting that Joyce Wilson Harley be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth, for she has a long career of dedication to public service.

Joyce's recognition today as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award is quite appropriate. As the first African American elected to the Board of Trustees for the Village of South Orange, Joyce has been a leader and a role model in the African-American community.

After completing her honors degree at the Douglass College of Rutgers University, Joyce went on to complete her Juris Doctorate at Rutgers Law School. In addition to serving as a Village Trustee in South Orange, Joyce was also elected Village President.

Prior to assuming her current position as Executive Director of the Newark Downtown District, Joyce has held numerous positions in the area of community and neighborhood development. One of her most prominent roles was during her tenure as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Multi City Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). Under her leadership, NJ LISC expanded its investment in the 14 municipalities it serves to twice its original size.

Ms. Harley's devotion to community development extends far beyond simply completing the task at hand. Her efforts were instrumental in the state of New Jersey implementing a Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit law. This law brings \$20 million in new investment in New Jersey's most distressed cities.

Beyond her post with the Newark Downtown District, Joyce also donates her time for other worthy projects. She is currently the president of the Board of Trustees of the Newark Emergency Services for Families. Ms. Harley is also a past president of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I am far from the first to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ms. Harley. In addition to receiving numerous awards for her work as the Director of Community Development for First Union and Fleet Banks, Joyce has also been recognized twice by the New Jersey State Legislature.

The New Jersey State Council on the Humanities awarded Joyce its first ever Civic Leadership award. In 2003 the Women in Support of the Million Man March awarded Joyce the coveted Community Relations award for her leadership in facilitating the receipt of financial assistance by community groups throughout the state in order to complete much needed neighborhood revitalization projects.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the extraordinary efforts of individuals such as Ms. Harley. I ask that you join our colleagues, Joyce's family and friends, the County of Essex, New Jersey and me in honoring Joyce Wilson Harley, Esq. for her history of leadership and community service.

HONORING THOMAS C. FLEMING

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of Thomas C. Fleming, an icon in the history of African-American journalism. Tom has led a distinguished career as a print journalist for more than 70 years, working during the majority of that time for the African-American newspaper he co-founded in 1944, the San Francisco Sun-Reporter. On this date, the day before his 97th birthday, Tom will be recognized in a ceremony marking not only the renaming of the library at New College of California, East Bay in his honor, but also a lifetime of truly outstanding achievement and leadership within the black community as well as the journalistic profession.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Tom spent his early childhood years there with his grandmother, who he believes was a former slave. He then spent a brief period living in Harlem during the years leading up to World War I, before finally moving to Chico, California in 1919. Upon his graduation from Chico High School in 1926, Tom worked as a bellhop for the Admiral Line, and then as a cook for Southern Pacific Railroad before entering the field of journalism in the 1930s as an unpaid writer for the Spokesman, a progressive black newspaper in San Francisco. He soon returned to Chico, however, and studied political science at Chico State University for three semesters during the height of the Great Depression. He then returned to the Bay Area, where he worked briefly for the Oakland Tribune in 1934, making him the only black journalist to work for a daily newspaper on the West Coast.

In 1944, Tom became the founding editor of a San Francisco newspaper called the Reporter, which was soon merged with a paper owned by his closest friend, legendary civil rights leader Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett. The publication that emerged, the San Francisco Sun-Reporter, is still in print, and is one of the longest-running African-American newspapers in the country. During the civil rights movement, when many African-American publications struggled to find enough advertising money to keep them in business, Tom remained devoted to the black press, and became renowned for the work he did reporting on this era. Throughout the 53 years he spent writing for the Sun-Reporter, Tom met and shared the struggles of several historic figures in the black community, such as Langston Hughes, Malcolm X, Thurgood Marshall, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He also became well-known for writing a series of eighty columns entitled "Reflections on Black History,"

and for receiving the Career Achievement Award for Print from the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Although Tom retired from writing full time for the Sun-Reporter in 1997, he still writes a column and editorials for the paper, in which he continues to be an advocate for truth, equality, and social justice. By remaining active in and dedicated to this work for over 70 years, Thomas Fleming has contributed immeasurably to Alameda County and the San Francisco Bay Area. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I salute and congratulate him for his many years of invaluable service.

HONORING MICHELLE GIANNETTA

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michelle Giannetta of Fresno, CA upon receiving the Champion of Hearts Award from the American Heart Association. Mrs. Giannetta will be presented with the Champion of Hearts Award at the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Luncheon on Thursday, February 17th, 2005 in Fresno, CA.

Michelle Giannetta is a true inspiration to us all. As an active volunteer for her local American Heart Association chapter, Michelle has offered her personal experience to help others recognize the risk of heart disease.

Young and athletic, Michelle received the shock of her life when she discovered she suffered from a rare heart condition. At the age of 28, Michelle endured a near fatal heart attack when the artery into her heart spontaneously dissected. It is the same rare heart condition that took the life of actor John Ritter.

After undergoing a grueling triple bypass operation, she remained under close watch in an intensive care unit, surviving with the aid of a balloon pump. Young and in peak physical condition, she realized that many, especially young women, need to understand the threat of heart disease.

Since then, Michelle has worked tirelessly to increase awareness of heart disease throughout her community. She serves on numerous committees of her local American Heart Association chapter and has helped to organize events, such as the Fresno Heart Walk, an offshoot of the American Heart Association's National Heart Walk, an event that occurs each year in some 600 cities and has raised more than \$406 million for research and educational programs. In addition, Michelle is a local spokeswoman for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign launched in February 2004.

In addition to her volunteer efforts, Michelle Giannetta continues to help others by serving in my Fresno congressional district office as a Staff Assistant, specializing in immigration matters.

Michelle, together with her husband Bret, have two sons, Alex and Matthew.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michelle Giannetta on the occasion of receiving the American Heart Association's Champions of Heart Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Michelle many more years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF "NO FEAR NO FUTURE" PROGRAM IN LAFAYETTE, LA

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of NO FEAR NO FUTURE: A Campaign Against Drinking and Driving. This very worthwhile program is sponsored by the Junior League of Lafayette, LA and is being presented today and tomorrow to the very distinguished students of Acadiana High School.

The purpose of this program is to promote responsible decisionmaking by high school students regarding drinking and driving. The program demonstrates how irresponsible decisions can end all dreams for both those who choose to drink and drive and those who end up being the innocent victims of those drivers. Too many families have been shattered because of irresponsibility, and it is my hope that this program can change the mindset of our young people and save lives.

I applaud the Junior League of Lafayette for taking an interest in bettering the lives of our future generations, and I applaud the students of Acadiana High School for taking it upon themselves to guarantee that their friends and classmates do not become a statistic. There are choices that every student will be faced with. My hope is that through this campaign, the bright students of Acadiana High School and of all schools throughout the 7th District, realize that drinking and driving is never an option. NO FEAR really does mean NO FUTURE.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, in mid-January China and Taiwan agreed to allow direct flights between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan during this year's Lunar New Year holidays. This agreement was considered a breakthrough in cross-strait relations and could signal the beginning of a thaw in relations. Unfortunately, we learned that in March this year Beijing will enact an anti-secession law, the intent of which is to force unification on Taiwan.

The anti-secession law assumes China's jurisdiction over Taiwan and gives China the right to invade Taiwan when and if China considers the invasion necessary. This law severely erodes Taiwanese people's goodwill for China. In recent years, Taiwanese businesses have invested as much as \$100 billion in China and have directly created the Chinese miracle of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity. Instead of reciprocating Taiwanese goodwill, China is now attempting to lay the legal groundwork for China's possible invasion of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, it is now time for us to speak up against China's proposed anti-secession law. It is an unfriendly law against the Taiwanese people as well as a provocative law

threatening to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is possible that the peace-loving Taiwanese people may seek their own legislation against China's annexation attempt. This will, in turn, inflame Chinese leaders and provoke them to enact even harsher legislation against Taiwan. Consequently tensions will rise and war in the Taiwan Strait will become a possibility.

It is still not too late for the Chinese authorities not to enact the anti-secession law against Taiwan. Taiwanese people and their leaders are all peace-loving people who do not seek to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Why must China take upon itself to unilaterally change the status quo?

Friends of Taiwan in the United States must make clear to China that the United States will not stand idly by if China uses force against Taiwan. Taiwan Relations Act assures Taiwan of our concern over any military action against Taiwan. The United States will not allow China to impose its own style of government on the unwilling Taiwan. Taiwanese people must be given their own voice of self-determination regarding their future, and their liberty mustn't be taken away from them by any adversary.

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IN MEMORY OF MUFF SINGER

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Muff Singer, my former administrative assistant and dear friend. After a long and bitter fight with ovarian cancer Muff died on January 16, 2005.

Muff was born in Chicago, February 14, 1942, and early in life she became involved with the struggle for progressive social change through the political process. While at the University of Texas in the early 1960s she participated in civil rights picket lines, protesting the racial segregation of the University dormitories and Austin movie theaters. Muff led the way for the racial integration of one of the University's honor societies. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1964 and then attended New York University for a year of graduate work in history. She joined the Peace Corps in 1965 and taught language for two years at the Iwahig Penal Colony on the Island of Palawan, Philippines. She returned to California to work in the presidential campaign of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 during which time she met her future husband Rick Tuttle.

I was introduced to Muff through Rick Tuttle, my good friend from UCLA. Muff became my campaign coordinator for my first race for the California State Assembly, performing Herculean tasks 18 hours a day, seven days a week, for more than seven months. In an unbelievably chaotic, extremely competitive and often nasty political campaign, she conducted herself with strength, determination, grace and aplomb.

For ten years, she was my Administrative Assistant, running my district office while I served in the State Assembly. I could have done no better. She led, inspired and motivated a remarkable staff and dealt with a plethora of constituent demands—always with dedication, good judgement and tenacity. With Muff at the helm, I was able to concentrate on

my legislative and political goals in Sacramento, confident in the knowledge that she was taking care of the home front, representing me with dignity, loyalty, competence and integrity. Many of my constituents lives were better because of her efforts.

A study in contrasts, Muff was slight of build and soft of voice but had a ferocity and passion for the righteous way that could bowl over those that stood in her way. Her earnest and serious demeanor belied an incredibly droll wit and joyful bemusement for life's whimsical turns. She was immune to the common political affliction of taking herself too seriously. She saw and participated in the defeat and compromises of political life on a regular basis, yet it never diminished her ardor for justice or her commitment for the less fortunate. She was thrust into the flare of public life, but remained a very private person. In a preening and boastful profession, she always maintained the modesty, humility and empathy that attracted so many of us to her in the first place.

Muff left the Assembly in 1981 to become a full time mother and begin a new career—author of children's books. She had already published her first book, the "Mystery Reader's Quiz Book", co-authored with Robert A. Wager and Aneta Corsault. Muff wrote or co-wrote more than 35 books for toddlers and preschoolers. In addition to picture books, she co-wrote with Nancy Lamb a book for older children, "The World's Greatest Toe Show," which received great reviews. She often said her favorite book was one written with her daughter Sarah called "Look Around with Little Fish."

Muff is survived by her husband, former Los Angeles City Controller Rick Tuttle, her daughter Sarah, her parents Bernard and Goldryn Singer, sister Caren and a niece and nephew.

Mr. Speaker, I asked my colleagues to join me to honoring the legacy of Muff Singer who lived an incredible, fulfilling and inspirational life.

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HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HISTORY MONTH

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the past and present achievements of African Americans as we celebrate African American History Month.

African Americans in arts, business, education, literature, music, politics, science and sports have helped shape the nation. Overcoming enormous obstacles and racial barriers, the African American community has made enormous contributions to our everyday world. Let us remember not only outstanding heroes such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Frederick Douglass, and former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, but also the extraordinary lives of ordinary people who have helped build our great nation.

This year, I want to acknowledge and thank the thousands of the African Americans serving in the Armed Services. African Americans have fought with distinction in every war since the Revolutionary War. We honor this proud history and all African Americans who risk

their lives defending freedom and democracy. We are grateful for their service.

During this month and throughout the year, I encourage those living in California's 32nd Congressional District and around the country to take the time to learn about the vast accomplishments of African Americans and honor African American history.

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REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of the Real ID Act. I would like to thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER for his leadership and determination to make America safer through reforms proposed in this legislation.

As the former chief of counter-terrorism in the U.S. Department of Justice for the Western District of Texas, I had jurisdiction over the Texas-Mexican border. I dealt firsthand, with the day-to-day threats our nation faced, and asked the question, "Why aren't we doing more to secure our borders?"

The House took an initial step toward answering this question when it passed the historic 9–11 legislation last December. Unfortunately, some key border security and immigration reform provisions were not included in that measure. Today we must change that and give our nation more security.

And today we truly have the opportunity to better our border security and political asylum laws.

In 1993 Ramzi Yousef, soon to become the world's most wanted terrorist, arrived at Kennedy airport carrying a fraudulent Iraqi passport and told the INS he was fleeing the oppressive regime of Saddam Hussein. He asked for political asylum and was given a summons to appear at a hearing. But instead, this expert bomb maker ignored that order and joined his fellow classmates from the Bin Laden academy to form the first Al Qaeda cell in the United States. On February 26, 1993 Ramzi Yousef and his fellow terrorists detonated a bomb in the World Trade Center. Remarkably, the towers remained standing. They were supposed to fall that day, one toppling over the other killing everyone inside. That day would come later.

Many of those of intent on doing our nation harm claim political asylum as their Trojan horse to gain access to our borders. Yet a majority of those given notices fail to show up at those hearings. We cannot afford or allow another Ramzi Yousef to cross our border. Our laws should not protect terrorists like Ramzi Yousef who hide behind the privileges and rights of political asylum.

This bill will make it easier to deport suspected terrorists.

But we have also seen terrorists take advantage of other holes in our laws. The nineteen hijackers on September 11, 2001 had fraudulently obtained dozens of American visas, passports and driver's licenses, documents used to open bank accounts, establish residency, and yes to fly airplanes. This border security legislation provides the safety measure, that to obtain a driver's license, one of the most commonly used forms of identification in the United States, a person must simply prove they have the legal right to remain in our nation.

For the safety and security of this nation, our families, and most of all our freedom, I urge my colleagues to support these common-sense proposals. The 9–11 commission recommended these ideas, and we owe it to the victims of that national tragedy to pass this legislation. If we fail to do so and another terrorist attack occurs on our soil then we will all be held accountable.

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INTRODUCING THE KEEPING  
FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Congressmen RAMSTAD and KENNEDY in introducing the bipartisan, bicameral "Keeping Families Together Act." This bill would help parents obtain necessary mental health treatment for their severely emotionally disturbed children without being forced to relinquish them into State custody to get that care. Senators SUSAN COLLINS (R–ME) and MARK PRYOR (D–AK) are introducing the companion legislation in the Senate.

No family should be required to relinquish legal custody of their mentally ill child to a State child welfare agency or the juvenile justice system as their only means of obtaining desperately needed mental health services. Yet as Maryland resident Diana Miller recounted to me last year, State officials gave her this exact ultimatum when she sought potentially life-saving mental health care for her daughter, Erica.

Tragically, Diana and Erica Miller are not alone in their predicament. In April 2003, the GAO reported that parents in 19 States placed over 12,700 children in State child welfare or juvenile justice agencies in 2001 to obtain mental health services for them. We know that the nationwide number is even higher because 31 States did not respond to the survey.

According to GAO, these middle class parents find themselves trapped between not having the resources to pay for private mental health care and making too much money for their children to be eligible for Medicaid. Parents are therefore forced to choose between not treating their child's severe illness and transferring custody to the State, which has the resources to provide the necessary care. Families wind up torn apart at the expense of the taxpayers.

A Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law further elaborated on the situations that cause parents and guardians to give up their seriously emotionally disturbed children to State agencies. These situations include the following:

The family has either exhausted their private health insurance benefits, or their benefits do not cover required mental health services (e.g. Residential Treatment Program).

The family lives in a State or jurisdiction in which Medicaid services do not adequately address mental health needs, and agency placement provides access or priority status for entry into needed care.

The family lives in a State or jurisdiction in which children are deprived of federally mandated mental health services through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) as a result of an exceedingly restrictive definition of serious emotional illness. That is, these schools often label these children as solely "discipline problems."

The family lives in a State or jurisdiction in which the local child welfare system erroneously interprets Federal law (Title IV–E of the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program) as requiring relinquishment of custody even for temporary out-of-home placements.

As all of these reports highlight, families are acting out of desperation to get immediately needed mental health services for their children. The juvenile justice and child welfare systems have become the mental health providers of last resort for far too many families.

Both the child welfare system and juvenile justice systems are ill-equipped to meet these children's needs. Even worse, the psychological bond between parent and child is unnecessarily disrupted. Their children feel abandoned and their parents feel guilty over turning their parental rights and decisionmaking authority to a State agency.

The stigma is real to families themselves and to those around them. Good parents don't have their children taken away. But, in fact, the need to relinquish custody in these instances doesn't have anything to do with parenting skills. It has everything to do with our system being broken and continuing to allow these children with significant mental health needs to fall through the cracks.

We have known about this problem for many years. In fact, I first introduced legislation in 1995 attempting to address this issue. Since then I have been working with my colleagues to educate the public and other members of Congress about this issue and to find a bipartisan solution.

Our legislation, the "Keeping Families Together Act" is the result of this bipartisan and bicameral process. Our bill provides new funding to States that are willing to develop systems that assure these children get the mental health services they need without pulling apart their families.

It provides \$55 million over 6 years in new family support grants to States that are willing to end the practice of child custody relinquishment and cover all these children's mental health services under Medicaid, CHIP or any other health program of their choosing. These monies can then be used to improve access to mental health and family support services that keep families together. They can also be used to create Statewide care coordination programs and to deliver mental health care and family support services for these families.

Additionally, the bill establishes a Federal interagency task force. The task force will monitor the family support grants and work with representatives of affected families to make recommendations to Congress to improve mental health services and to foster

interagency cooperation. The task force is also required to provide biannual reports to Congress on its progress in improving the delivery of mental health services to seriously ill children.

The bill also provides States with the option of moving children out of hospital-based psychiatric care and into home- and community-based care options, which will allow them to remain with their families.

The "Keeping Families Together Act" is an important first step toward eliminating child custody relinquishment. I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly enact this legislation so States can develop innovative new programs that address these children's mental health needs while keeping their families together. Once we've learned what has effectively worked at the State level to restructure these programs, we will need to return to this issue at the Federal level and enact broad legislation to end the practice of forced child custody relinquishment nationwide.

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TRIBUTE TO ADA'S GIVE KIDS A  
SMILE PROJECT

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, on Friday, February 4, the American Dental Association marshaled thousands of dentists and other volunteers across the country to provide dental services to hundreds of thousands of children who otherwise would not receive them.

The year 2005 marks the third consecutive year for the ADA's Give Kids A Smile/National Children's Dental Access Day, a project the ADA and its 152,000 member dentists are committed to continuing until the nation's most vulnerable children have access to proper dental care.

In what former Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher called a "silent epidemic," millions of American children suffer with painful, disfiguring and preventable dental disease. They cannot eat or sleep properly, cannot pay attention in school, cannot smile. They deserve better.

ADA, its corporate partners and the thousands of individuals who participate in Give Kids A Smile are determined to wake the nation up to the extent and severity of untreated dental disease among disadvantaged children. I urge every member of this House to join them in that effort. One important way we can do that is to show our support by attending one or more Give Kids A Smile events in our home districts. You may be dismayed by the conditions some of these children live with, but you'll also be inspired by the spirit, energy and generosity of your constituent volunteers.

Please contact your state or local dental association and show your support for Give Kids A Smile. Your doing so will lend momentum to the quest for long-term solutions and be a wonderful inspiration to the volunteers.

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-  
SECESSION LAW**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing my grave concern over China's proposed anti-secession law. This highly provocative law greatly increases the risk of a military confrontation across the Taiwan Strait. Specifically, it assumes China and Taiwan are now unified, and it gives China the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, China may use force to push for unification with Taiwan, a scenario we all must work to prevent. This law would have serious consequences for relations between China and Taiwan, and it would threaten stability in the region.

In my district, Idaho State University has developed a unique program, the only program of its kind in the United States, to provide a language and cultural education program for junior diplomatic officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I have spent time discussing the American political system and current events in Taiwan with the junior diplomats, and they have repeatedly expressed their country's desire to avoid confrontation with China. These students look to the United States as a model of freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, we do not need military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait now or anytime in the future. I urge the Chinese leaders to reject the anti-secession law, and I hope the international community will join us in voicing their disapproval of this provocative and dangerous law. Inaction by the United States will only serve to encourage China to escalate its political rhetoric and belligerent action against the democratic Taiwan.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTRAL  
BRANCH OF THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Central Branch of the St. Louis Public Library. I am extremely honored to commend them for being recognized as one of the 12 most beautiful and historic libraries in the world. They further hold the distinction as being only one of three U.S. libraries chosen for this honor.

The Central Library building is one of St. Louis's architectural treasures. Architect Cass Gilbert who was the architect for the Saint Louis Art Museum, the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, DC, and the Woolworth Building in New York City was selected to design the building, which opened in 1912.

The Central Branch occupies one city block and features beautiful stained glass windows, hand-stenciled ceilings and glass floors. The exterior of the building is granite with marble panels and relief carvings, decorative medallions, notable authors and inspirational inscriptions. The Periodical Room's carved ceiling is

adapted from Michelangelo's design for the ceiling of the Laurentian Library in Florence and boasts more than 800 current magazines and newspapers.

While an architectural marvel, the library also assists the community with bridging the link between all cultures and nationalities by providing special services to Bosnian, African, Hispanic, German and Asian members of the community through extensive access to books and films in their own language. The Library is also involved in community outreach efforts providing book services to day care and senior centers. It also provides the gift of reading to those who are home-bound by operating bookmobiles and sending books through the mail.

Mr. Speaker, the Central Branch of the St. Louis Public Library has been recognized for its historic beauty and architectural wonder, and its commitment to serving an ever changing landscape of cultures and nationalities; it deserves to be honored for its vital role in educating the leaders of tomorrow.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
WILLIAM D. PAYNE**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life and work of a man whose many achievements I am proud to recognize today, the Honorable William D. Payne. Assemblyman Payne was recognized as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award. It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Rutgers University, Bill began his professional career with the Essex County Welfare Board as a caseworker. His commitment to public service commenced during his tenure as a caseworker and continues today.

Bill's involvement in politics started long before his career in the New Jersey Legislature. As the chairman of the Payne Congressional Campaign Committee in 1988, Bill successfully led the effort to elect his brother, DONALD, to the United States House of Representatives. This was not only a victory for the Payne family, but one for the African American community of New Jersey as well. DONALD PAYNE was the first African-American elected to represent New Jersey in the House of Representatives.

Bill has held several positions that exemplify his devotion to his community. As executive director of One to One New Jersey, Bill oversaw a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging volunteerism and mentoring among New Jersey adults. The participants in the program worked to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged youths and their families.

His commitment to the Essex County community was evident during his tenure with the Essex County Improvement Authority and the Newark Housing Authority, the country's 8th largest public agency. Bill has also donated his time to the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, the United

Negro College Fund Corporation Committee and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Small Business Advisory Council.

Prior to his election to the New Jersey General Assembly, Bill had transitioned into the private sector, establishing William Payne and Associates. Having an extensive background in community service, international government relations and the corporate world; Assemblyman Payne's company specializes in government relations and marketing.

In 1998, William Payne reached the pinnacle moment of his career, when he was elected to represent the 29th Legislative District of New Jersey. Bill holds many positions within the legislature including Commissioner of the Amistad Commission. This commission is a result of his diligent efforts to pass The Amistad Act, a law which requires the inclusion of African-American history in the year-round curriculum for New Jersey's public schools.

The County of Essex and I are far from the first to recognize the many accomplishments of Assemblyman Payne. He has been honored by many community organizations including The Jaycees, the NAACP, The North Ward Cultural Center and the Newark Board of Education to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the extraordinary efforts of public servants like Bill Payne. I ask that you join our colleagues, Bill's family and friends, the great County of Essex, New Jersey and me in recognizing Assemblyman William D. Payne for his long history of leadership and community service.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
JO ANN DAVIDSON**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson has been selected to serve as the co-chairman of the national Republican Party; and,

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson was the first woman to serve as Speaker of the Ohio House, maintained a 20 year career in the Ohio House, and was a driving force behind the passage of a complex electricity deregulation bill in 1999; and

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson should be commended for her work during the grassroots efforts of the 2004 Ohio Republican Party campaign in the Ohio Valley region.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Jo Ann Davidson for her outstanding appointment.

## LEADER IN EDUCATION

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dr. Pete Mehas, of Fresno California. Dr. Mehas has been Fresno

County's Superintendent of Schools since 1990, and is being honored by the Kremen School of Education and Human Development.

Dr. Mehas was born and raised in Fresno, graduated from Fresno High in 1957, and earned his Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fresno. He continued his education at University of California, Los Angeles, where he received his Master's degree, and went on to University of Southern California, where he secured a Doctorate in Education.

Pete has served the public for many years as an educational advocate. He was Secretary of Education to Governor George Deukmejian, and also a member of the California State Board of Education and Board of Governors for California Community Colleges.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed—Dr. Mehas has been appointed by four presidents and three governors to major commissions, boards, and advisory committees committed to making education a priority throughout our Nation. He has appeared on national television's NBC's "Today" show and ABC's "Good Morning America," and was the only educator invited to address the National Republican Convention in Houston, Texas in 1992.

Dr. Mehas' accomplishment list is long and includes USC School of Education Distinguished Lecturer, CSU Fresno School of Social Science Distinguished Alumni Award, Honorary Life Member in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, NAACP Presidents Award, Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award, and most recently the Kremen School of Education and Human Development "Noted Alumni Recipient" for significant contributions in the field of education.

His efforts have been exhaustive, and we are continually lucky that his family, wife Demi and daughters Alethea and Andreanna have been willing to share all that Dr. Mehas has to offer—he has made an amazing impact on our community.

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### SIKH LEADER AGAIN SPEAKS OUT FOR FREEDOM FOR KHALISTAN

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, there are encouraging developments in the fight for freedom for minorities in India. It looks like the people of Nagaland are making progress in their negotiations with India to achieve autonomy. This is a potentially significant development that will begin, at long last, the unraveling of the web of Indian oppression. Can Kashmir and Khalistan be far behind?

To add to this, the fire of freedom continues to burn as brightly as ever in Punjab, Khalistan. On December 7, a Sikh leader named Simranjit Singh Mann, who is a former Member of India's Parliament and has held events right here in the Capitol and met many Members of Congress, again spoke out for independence for the Sikh homeland, Khalistan. Mr. Mann put his party, the Akali Dal, Amritsar, on record for independence. He pledged that he would lead a peaceful movement for independence, which he said was a dream of the Sikh people that "will be mate-

rialized one day." It looks like that day is getting closer.

The government of Punjab acted last year to cancel all water agreements with the other states in India, by which Punjab's water was being diverted to those other states. In so doing, they declared the sovereignty of the state of Punjab. Imagine that, Mr. Speaker. They are openly claiming their sovereignty. This is good to see.

Mr. Speaker, when India became independent, the Sikhs were supposed to get an independent state in Punjab. But the Indian leaders assured them they would have "the glow of freedom" there, so they stayed with India. Well, that "glow of freedom" has taken the lives of over 250,000 Sikhs as well as over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 89,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and tens of thousands of other minority people. It has resulted in 52,268 Sikhs being held as political prisoners under a repressive law called TADA that expired in 1995. It is time for real freedom for the Sikhs, the Nagas, the Kashmiris, and all people in the subcontinent.

The essence of democracy is self-determination. If India wants to be treated as a democracy, it must allow self-determination and all other rights to all its citizens. We should not provide any money to India until it does. In 1948, India promised to hold a plebiscite to let the people of Kashmir decide their status. It's now 56 years later and they are still waiting. Similarly, the demand for self-determination in Khalistan, in Nagaland, and elsewhere has been met with nothing but violent resistance. Is that democracy, Mr. Speaker? Is that freedom?

The Tribune, a newspaper in Chandigarh, Punjab, carried excellent coverage of Mr. Mann's remarks in its December 8 issue. I would like to place that article in the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

[From the (Chandigarh, India) Tribune, Dec. 8, 2004]

#### MANN REVERTS TO SOVEREIGN PUNJAB THEME

LUDHIANA, Dec. 7.—Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) supremo Simranjit Singh Mann yesterday reverted to the theme of sovereign Punjab, declaring that his party would launch a peaceful movement to realise this dream. He said his party had never given up the demand for a separate and sovereign Punjab as the Sikhs' was a separate nationality, foundations of which had been laid down by Guru Gobind Singh himself.

Mr. Mann, who was here to preside over a meeting of the party office-bearers at Gurdwara Akalgarh, said to ensure lasting peace in South Asia in the face of deep hostility between "Hindu civilisation (India) and Muslim civilisation (Pakistan)", it was in the interest of the people of the region to create a neutral and buffer sovereign state.

He maintained that the foundations for a separate sovereign Sikh state had been laid down by Guru Gobind Singh and Banda Singh Bahadur followed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. This dream was furthered by "Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale" and "would be materialised one day". He said since both Pakistan and India had nuclear weapons, it was necessary that some buffer state should be created so that the two countries did not come face to face with each other.

Mr. Mann refused to give the geographical outline of the "sovereign state" envisioned by him. He evaded an answer to a question whether it included the part of the state which is now with Pakistan.

Welcoming the close cooperation between the Pakistani Punjab and the Indian Punjab, Mr. Mann claimed it was he who had initiated this move by demanding way back in 1990 that the border between the two Punjab should be opened up for the people to cross over.

To a question on the demand of the Dal Khalsa that ban on cow slaughter in Punjab should go, Mr. Mann said he or his organisation had nothing to do with that organisation (Dal Khalsa). At the same time, he said, he or his party would not like to hurt the sentiments of a majority of people as "Hindus held the cow to be sacred and their sentiments should be respected".

Mr. Mann also accused Shiromani Akali Dal leader Parkash Singh Badal of having connived with Hindu organisations in demolishing the Babri mosque. He alleged that Mr. Badal had sent a special jatha, led by Mr. Avtar Singh Hit, to Ayodhya on December 6, 1992, to join the kar sevaks for demolishing the Babri mosque.

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### IN HONOR OF JOE HARRIS

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life-long service of Joe Harris. Mr. Harris, hailed as a man who always put everyone before himself, spent the last 34 years of his life serving my constituents as a fire fighter in the City of Denton, Texas. Mr. Harris not only served the people of Denton County but also his family and co-workers with the encouragement, warmth and generosity that defined his life.

The recent death of Mr. Harris came after years of fighting cancer. He had recently retired so he could spend more time with his family. During his career as a public servant, Mr. Harris took pride in each task that he was given. His contagious personality and love for those whom he saw day after day went far beyond his call of duty. A life-long citizen of my district, Mr. Harris served not only my constituents but our country in the United States Coast Guard. Mr. Harris was steadfast in his life of service, and I have no doubt that he has inspired everyone who came to know him.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to commemorate the life of Joe Harris; one of our fellow public servants. May his work be a guide and inspiration to us all.

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### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 31, I had thought that I had voted and that the machine had accepted my vote. Apparently, it did not; therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show that had my vote been accepted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 31.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
GLENNA BLACK ON HER 92ND  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Glenna Black was born on February 16, 1913 and is celebrating her 92nd birthday; and

Whereas, Glenna Black has been a positive influence on those individuals who have been fortunate to meet her; and

Whereas, Glenna Black has remained active among her community and friends; and

Whereas, Glenna Black has exemplified a life of love and dedication to all of her family and friends.

Therefore, I join with the family and friends of Glenna and the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in wishing Glenna Black a very happy 92nd birthday.

SIKHS ARRESTED FOR RAISING  
FLAG ARE DENIED BAIL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, India celebrated its Republic Day, the anniversary of the adoption of its constitution. On that day a group of Sikh activists raised the Sikh flag at a Gurdwara in the city of Amritsar in accordance with Sikh tradition. For this, complaints were issued against 35 Sikhs and 31 have been arrested.

Now eleven of them have had their bail denied, keeping them in detention. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that speaking out for Khalistan is not a crime, yet they are charged with "sedition" and "making inflammatory speeches" for raising a flag and speaking out for freedom for the Sikh homeland.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of democracy is this? The Movement Against State Repression (MASR) was already reporting that India held 52,268 political prisoners. These activists add 11 to that number.

This is just the latest illustration that exercising your freedom of speech can be a very dangerous thing in India if you are a minority. India has a pattern of repression. It has killed over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, thousands of other Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits (the aboriginal people of South Asia), Manipuris, Tamils, and others. The U.S. State Department reported in 1994 that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. One such bounty went to an officer who killed a three-year-old boy.

We must not just sit and watch while a country that proclaims itself "the world's largest democracy" tramples on the most basic of democratic freedoms, such as the freedom to speak out and to hold a peaceful demonstration. That is not the hallmark of a democracy. It is the hallmark of a police state.

The time has come to let India know that we are watching and to let them know that this is unacceptable.

There are steps that we can take to support the rights of all people in south Asia. It is time that we take these steps. They include cutting off our aid and trade with India and putting the Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Christian people of Nagaland, the Kashmiris, and all the people of South Asia who are seeking freedom. Only by exercising their right to self-determination, which is the essence of democracy, can the people there finally live in freedom, peace, and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's very informative press release on the denial of bail to these Sikh activists into the RECORD at this time.

[From Council of Khalistan]

BAIL DENIED FOR 11 SIKHS ARRESTED FOR HOISTING SIKH FLAG IN AMRITSAR—IS THIS DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM OF SPEECH?

Eleven Sikhs who were arrested for raising the Sikh flag on Republic Day, January 26, have been denied bail. Thirty-five Sikhs were charged and 31 are being held. They raised the saffron flag of Khalsa Raj at Gurdwara Shaheed Ganj in Amritsar. They have been charged with sedition and "making inflammatory speeches." Khalsa Raj Party President Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan said that they had raised the flag according to Sikh tradition.

Punjab Pradesh Congress Party President Hanspal said, "We will not allow them to raise their heads for Khalistan." Maninder Singh Bitta, President of the All-India Youth Congress, demanded that Dr. Chohan and others be deported to Pakistan, claiming they are Pakistani agents. Former Chief Minister Badal said, "We will not permit the militancy to raise its head again."

"How can India call itself democratic when it suppresses a basic right like freedom of speech?" said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for freedom. "The Punjab and Haryana High Court has already ruled in the case of the late Colonel Partap Singh that speaking in support of freedom for Khalistan is not a crime," Dr. Aulakh said. "How can these activists be arrested for something that is not a crime?"

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs and tens of thousands of other minorities are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

"The Sikh Nation is indebted to the leaders of Dal Khalsa who raised the Sikh flag, including Harcharan Singh Dhami, President, Kanwarpal Singh Bittu, General Secretary, Satnam Singh Paonta Sahib, and others," said Dr. Aulakh. "We praise Dr. Chohan for his remarks. But how can Sikhs like Badal, Hanspal, Bitta, and others call themselves Sikhs when they deny the Sikh aspirations for freedom? Clearly, they are doing the bidding of the Indian government, which controls them."

The Sikh Nation declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987 and formed the Council of Khalistan at that time to lead the struggle for independence. When India be-

came independent, Sikhs were equal partners in the transfer of power and were to receive their own state, but the weak and ignorant Sikh leaders of the time were tricked into staying with India on the promise that they would have "the glow of freedom" and no law affecting the Sikhs would pass without their consent. Sikhs ruled an independent and sovereign Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849 and were recognized by most of the countries of the world at that time. Sikhs do not accept the Indian constitution. No Sikh representative has ever signed it.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Khaira was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khaira. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs.

India is not one country; it is a polyglot thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Last year, the Punjab Legislative Assembly passed a bill cancelling the government's daylight robbery of Punjab river water. The Assembly explicitly stated the sovereignty of Punjab.

"I urge the international community to help us free Khalistan from Indian occupation," Dr. Aulakh said. "Freedom is the birthright of all people and nations," he said. "The arrest and denial of bail for these activists for raising the Sikh flag and making speeches shows that there is no freedom for Sikhs within India," he said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. A sovereign Khalistan is essential for the survival of the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation."

LEADER IN EDUCATION

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Rutherford "Bud" Gaston, Sr., of Fresno, California. Bud has received many noted awards throughout the years and most recently he is a recipient of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development "Noted Alumni Award".

Mr. Gaston was born in Georgia, but attended high school in Brakenridge, Pennsylvania where he graduated from Har Brack High School. Then Bud moved to Fresno, where he attended California State University, Fresno and received a Bachelor's degree in Education, and a Master's Degree in Education Administration.

Bud joined Fresno Unified School District in 1953 as a teacher at Columbia School. After ten years, he became Principal of Tielman and

Emerson Elementary School, and stayed with Fresno Unified until he retired in 1986.

Beyond his scholastic achievements, Mr. Gaston has also served the country well. He gave the United States Army five years of service and moved up the ranks to become Second Lieutenant before he was honorably discharged.

Bud has not only served his country, but also served his community through many affiliations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno, a Foundation Board Member for Saint Agnes Medical Center, a member of Kiwanis Club of Fresno, and a member of NAACP Black Political Council.

As a result of the tremendous efforts Bud has made within his community, he has been honored with many awards: The Black Educators' of Fresno Award, the Troy Award for Education, the Fresno Mall Dedication Plaque, Second Baptist Church Laymen's Award, Kids Day Award, Elementary Partnership Program Award, KSEE 24 Portraits of Success Award, and the Fresno District Fair Appreciate Award are just a few of such examples.

Our community has truly been blessed by the contributions Bud has made, and we are thankful for his dedication.

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SUPPORTING NATIONAL  
MENTORING MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as one of the co-chairs of the Mentoring Caucus, I rise today in support of House Resolution 46, to express the sense of Congress and the House of Representatives regarding the many benefits of mentoring.

Mentoring programs, as we are talking about them here today, link children with caring, responsible adults to provide opportunities for young people to develop strong character and new capabilities. Mentoring opportunities are a proven method, as has been pointed out, to help children who may be struggling in school or at home or just in life. We need to take advantage of mentoring opportunities to allow every child to become self-sufficient, have better self-esteem, and feel that they too can achieve the American Dream.

In my own state of Minnesota, there are over 350 mentoring programs that connect youth with positive role models. One valuable mentoring program is Big Brothers Big Sisters. In the St. Paul/Minneapolis region alone, more than 2,000 children benefit from this mentoring program. In 2005, they hope to reach 5,000 children.

Sergeant Mamie Singleton, of the St. Paul Police Department and founder of Youth Initiative Mentoring Academies, is one example of many in Minnesota who in her spare time mentors youth. Youth Initiative Mentoring Academies is a non-profit organization for at-risk youth that utilizes a mentoring model through aviation education. I cannot tell you how proud I am when I go to their graduation day and each and every one of those children receives a certificate for their aviation education and for their civic education projects. It

is a special time for the mentors as well, as they witness their generous gifts of time and hard work payoff for these children.

Mentors make a difference, for a mentor can be a friend, a listener, a coach, a tutor, or just a confidante. A mentor is simply a person who cares enough to be a good listener at times and to offer the opportunity to open new doors and new worlds by offering encouragement and support along the way.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and to look for opportunities for Members to be mentors themselves. As the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) pointed out, many of our staff are mentors. J.D. Burton, who recently left my staff, was a mentor for Horton's Kids. He tutored for 3 years, and, at times, we worked our schedule around his mentoring schedule. I have many others in my office who are also mentors, and each and every one of them says that they get more out of the opportunity of mentoring than they could ever imagine.

I would also like to thank the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), for, you see, his family comes from a mentoring background. His cousin, the Honorable Kathleen Vellenga, took time to be a mentor of mine when I was in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Mentoring—you never know where it might lead you.

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RECOGNIZING DEXTER SLAGLE  
AND DONNA CHASTEEN

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I announce the upcoming union of Dexter Slagle and Donna Chasteen, two long time residents of Morgan County, Missouri, and dedicated public servants.

Dexter has been a business owner in Versailles for 42 years and served his neighbors as City Alderman and as Morgan County Surveyor. Donna has also owned her own business for 35 years and for 12 years held the position of County Clerk. These are two individuals who have dedicated their time, money and energy to making the City of Versailles and Morgan County better places to live and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, on February 20, Dexter and Donna, along with their children, Amy and Windy and Barbara and Bert, and their grandchildren will become one family. I am sure my fellow Members of the House will join me in wishing them all the best as they start their new life together.

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A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
RUSSELL MCCALL

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:  
Whereas, Russell McCall has demonstrated ongoing commitment to education for the residents of the Muskingum Valley; and

Whereas, Russell McCall has attended 500 consecutive board meetings of the Muskingum

Valley Educational Service Center without absence; and

Whereas, Russell McCall has served as a board member since 1963, served on the New Concord-Union Local Board of Education for 4 years, was a founding member of the Mid-East Career and Technology Center's Board of Education for 19 years, and was a founding member of the Zane State College Board of Trustees for 19 years; and

Whereas, Russell McCall served in the United States Army during World War II and was awarded a bronze star; and

Whereas, Russell McCall is a lifelong member of College Drive Presbyterian Church and was active in the New Concord Grange and Muskingum County Pomona Grange.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the Muskingum Valley and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in recognizing Russell McCall for his longtime dedication to the residents and children of Coshocton, Morgan, and Musingum Counties.

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LEADER IN EDUCATION

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dr. Walter L. Buster, of Prather, California. Dr. Buster is a recipient of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development "Noted Alumni Award."

Dr. Buster received his Bachelor of Arts in English from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, then went on to attain his Master of Arts from Chapman College in Orange, California. He then moved to Montana and attended University of Montana to receive his Doctorate in Curriculum Development.

Walt moved back to California where he began his teaching career in Fullerton, then became Superintendent of Fairfax School District in 1984. In this position, Walt acted as the Chief Executive Officer for a K-8 district with 600 students in Marin County. He developed a plan for consolidation with the San Anselmo School District that was approved by the voters, and was responsible for cooperatively merging the Fairfax School District with the San Anselmo School District into the new Ross Valley School District.

He continued on as Superintendent, helping other school districts succeed, and finally came to Clovis and joined our community as Superintendent of Clovis Unified School District. After seven years with Clovis Unified, Walt became the Director of the Central Valley Education Leadership Institute at California State University, Fresno.

Walt's success has been great, and he has served on numerous committees and councils, such as the Fresno Compact Board of Directors, California State University, Fresno, Superintendents' Advisory Council, ACSA/CSLA Executive Leadership Planning Committee and Seminar Facilitator.

As gratitude for his service, Dr. Buster received the Robert Alioto Award for Instructional Leadership from the California School Leadership Academy, and the Citizen of the Year Award from the Clovis Chamber of Commerce. Most recently he is being honored by the Kremen School of Education and Human

Development. Walt has given so much to his communities, and we are grateful for his leadership.

INLAND EMPIRE REGIONAL  
WATER RECYCLING INITIATIVE

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Initiative, to authorize water recycling projects under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program. This legislation, which passed the House in the 108th Congress, is an important component of southern California's regional water management.

This Initiative includes two projects, the first of which will be constructed by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and will produce 90,000 acre feet of new water annually. The second of these projects, to be constructed by the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD), will produce an additional 5,000 acre feet of new water annually. Between these two projects, 95,000 acre feet of new water will be produced annually before the end of the decade.

With the recent passage of the CalFed authorization, it is imperative that we continue to approve measures preventing water supply shortages in the Western United States. The Inland Empire region is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. Reducing our dependence on imported water from the Colorado River and northern California will have significant regional benefits including reduced water shortages, energy savings, improved water quality, and job creation. The passage of the Inland Empire Water Recycling Initiative will continue the federal-local partnership to bring a significant amount of new water supply to the region.

IEUA produces recycled water for a variety of non-potable purposes, such as landscape irrigation, agricultural irrigation, construction, and industrial cooling. By replacing these water-intensive applications with high-quality recycled water, fresh water can be conserved or used for drinking, thereby reducing the dependence on expensive imported water. In addition, by recycling water which would otherwise be wasted and unavailable, IEUA provides that the water available goes through at least one more cycle of beneficial use before it is ultimately returned to the environment.

The Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Initiative has the support of all member agencies of IEUA, as well as the water agencies downstream in Orange County. IEUA encompasses approximately 242 square miles and serves the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana (through the Fontana Water Company), Ontario, Upland, Montclair, Rancho Cucamonga (through the Cucamonga Valley Water District), and the Monte Vista Water District.

I want to thank the House Resources Committee, and Chairman RICHARD POMBO, for moving this bill to successful passage on the House floor during the last Congress. I look forward to working closely with him again, and with the new Water and Power Subcommittee Chairman GEORGE RADANOVICH. I also want to

thank my colleagues, KEN CALVERT, GRACE NAPOLITANO, GARY MILLER, and JOE BACA for cosponsoring the Inland Empire Water Recycling Initiative. And last but certainly not least, I commend the hard work and dedication of Mr. Robert DeLoach, General Manager of the Cucamonga Valley Water District, and Mr. Rich Atwater, CEO and General Manager of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, who both work tirelessly on behalf of the Inland Empire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall votes Nos. 31–32 on February 15, 2005. These were suspension votes on H. Con. Res. 25 and H.R. 324. Due to inclement weather conditions, my travel to Washington, DC was not completed until following the conclusion of votes this evening.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted rollcall vote No. 31, Recognizing the contributions of the "Greensboro Four" to the civil rights movement "aye"; rollcall vote No. 32, the Arthur Stacey Mastrapa Post Office Building Designation Act "aye."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
ALICE CAVITT ON HER 100TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Alice Cavitt was born in Carrol County, Ohio on December 23, 1904 and is celebrating her 100th birthday; and

Whereas, Alice Cavitt, a devoted wife to her husband, William Cavitt, and mother to her children Pearl and Harold, is active in the Presbyterian Church; and

Whereas, Alice Cavitt has exemplified a love for her family and friends and must be commended for her lifelong dedication to helping others.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in wishing Alice Cavitt a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING MICHIGAN ROTARIANS  
ON 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the thousands of Michigan Rotarians as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Rotary, the world's first service club.

On February 23, 1905, The Rotary Club of Chicago was established by Paul Harris, an

attorney who wished to recapture through a professional club the same friendly, small town spirit he experienced in his youth. Finding like-minded committed individuals, over time the organization was called the Rotary, because of the club's early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

From this humble but hearty beginning, Rotary's popularity burgeoned and clubs were formed from New York to San Francisco. By 1922 the organization began to expand outside of the United States, and so it adopted the name Rotary International to evidence its member clubs on six continents.

Throughout the years the organization has been remarkable for "doing good in the world." For example in 1985, Rotarians made a commitment to immunize all of the world's children against polio. Today, contributions to the Rotary Foundation total more than \$80 million annually and support a wide range of humanitarian grants and educational programs; and Rotarians have mobilized hundreds of thousands of volunteers and have immunized more than one billion children worldwide. In point of fact, by the end of 2005 Rotary will have contributed close to \$500 million to this cause alone.

Mr. Speaker, for 100 years Rotary has striven to meet the challenges of a changing world, including such pressing issues as environmental degradation, illiteracy, world hunger, and at risk children. Let us then pause our own hectic pace and honor Rotarians for bringing hope and help to all humanity.

ENCOURAGING CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important Pacific Rim relationships is the one between China and Taiwan. I want to commend both nations for their work to find common ground.

I am so pleased that cross-strait relations have been improving in recent days. On January 15 of this year China and Taiwan agreed to direct flights during the Lunar New Year holidays and both sides agreed to continue to work toward restoring direct trade, transport and postal ties—the "three links". Moreover, the economies of China and Taiwan have grown increasingly interdependent as Taiwanese businesses have invested as much as \$100 billion in China and as many as one million Taiwanese now live and work on the mainland.

For the last several decades, U.S. policy has been to encourage amicable relations between Taiwan and China so that they may work out whatever differences they may have through peaceful means. We in the international community should make sure the peace and prosperity of the 23 million people in Taiwan is maintained.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR.  
AND MRS. BUCHSIEB

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb were united in marriage January 15, 1955, and are celebrating 50 years of marriage; and

Whereas, Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb were married January 15, 1955, at 3rd Ave. United Methodist Church in Columbus, OH; and

Whereas, Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb are the loving parents of four children and four grandchildren;

Therefore, I join with the residents of Cambridge, and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF VALLE DEL SOL, INC.

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Valle del Sol, Inc., a nonprofit, community-based organization in Phoenix, Arizona which has helped thousands of individuals each year through its extensive behavioral health and social services.

Valle del Sol was created in 1970, at a time when behavioral health services in Phoenix were nearly non-existent for Latino families. The organization was originally established to address opiate addiction in the community, and although it has expanded its services over the years, Valle del Sol has always maintained its commitment to providing bilingual and culturally relevant services for the Latino community.

As one of the largest Hispanic behavioral health and social service organizations in Maricopa County, Valle del Sol's culturally diverse, bilingual staff provides a wide range of programs and services for the entire family. These programs are designed to address the increasing social and community needs related to family and behavioral health problems, and include counseling, substance abuse treatment, adult education, advocacy, services for seniors, and an adolescent therapeutic group home. Valle del Sol's commitment to excellence in customer service, financial viability, planned growth, and community development in Arizona has positively contributed not only to Latino families, but to the entire Arizona community. I am particularly proud of Valle del Sol's achievements in becoming an \$11 million agency with nearly 200 employees.

Valle del Sol has been instrumental in providing a base of leadership for the Latino community. Many Latino leaders in Arizona, including myself, have served on Valle del Sol's Board of Directors, or have attended Valle del Sol's Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI). HLI has provided leadership training for over 18 years and is offered to community members

who are dedicated to addressing Latino issues. Under HLI training, participants gain a comprehensive understanding of issues affecting the Latino community, as well as practical leadership skills. The goal of HLI is to arm leaders with the valuable tools to effectively advocate for issues important to the Latino community.

I would like especially to acknowledge Valle del Sol's current leadership, headed by President and CEO Luz Sarmina-Gutierrez. Ms. Sarmina-Gutierrez's efforts to maintain Valle del Sol's high quality of service was duly recognized, and Valle del Sol was awarded accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for four of its programs that specialize in substance abuse and mental health. This accreditation is the highest achievement an organization can receive from CARF and is the second time a three-year accreditation was awarded to Valle del Sol. The CARF accreditation demonstrates to the public that Valle del Sol's services meet stringent standards in following with its policies, procedures and practices, including health and safety standards.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring and congratulating Valle del Sol, its leadership, and its employees upon the celebration of its 35th Anniversary. It is with great pride that I celebrate Valle del Sol's outstanding contributions to the Arizona community and its unwavering commitment to public service, and I wish them many more years of success.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I cannot in good conscience vote for the REAL ID Act, H.R. 418 because, despite the intention of the bill's sponsors to strengthen our borders, it has the opposite effect, by making homeland security and an effective war against terrorism more difficult with unnecessary provisions aimed at legitimate asylum seekers. Moreover, I am guided in my judgment about this bill by the opposition of the National Governors Association and the National Council of State Legislatures.

This bill tightens asylum laws in a way that inhibits, rather than enhances our national security. Currently individuals who participate in terrorist activity are not allowed to gain asylum status in this country. Terrorists have not been able to use the current asylum system to gain entry into the country, thus the tightening of these laws only make gaining asylum status more difficult for those legitimately seeking asylum. Provisions such as requiring applicants to prove the "central reason" for their

persecution or allowing judges to require applicants to produce corroborating evidence are unnecessary.

While national security must be our top priority, immigration policy should not create unnecessary requirements for legitimate asylum seekers who are arguably our best allies in the fight against international terrorism. The asylum provisions of this bill will not enhance our security or our standing in the world.

I also have concerns that the bill allows and directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive all laws which he or she deems necessary to complete the construction of barriers along any and all U.S. borders. Some have argued that this provision is needed to ensure the construction of a fence along three and half miles of the U.S.-Mexico border near San Diego. However, the language of the bill is not limited to the construction of a fence in this location. Instead, it instructs the Secretary to waive all laws for all U.S. borders; this includes the U.S.-Mexico border, the U.S.-Canada border, and maybe even the border between Alaska and Russia. The bill also removes any judicial review of the waiving of these laws.

This would give far too much unchecked authority to the Secretary of Homeland Security and does not provide the protection of judicial review of this authority.

There are two amendments, one offered by my colleagues Mr. NADLER and Mr. MEEKS, and the other offered by Mr. FARR, which would strike portions of the bill that do not address our national security regard the asylum system and our borders. However, in light of their failure, I am left no option but to vote against this bill.

I find the driver's license standards established in this bill to be unnecessary as well as they already exist in current law. Last fall's Intelligence bill, which I supported, included a provision which already implements the 9/11 Commission Report's recommendations to create national minimum standards for driver's licenses. This provision allowed for states to participate with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Homeland Security in a rulemaking process.

H.R. 418 repeals these provisions and replaces them with standards established without state input. The issuance of driver's licenses has always been within state jurisdiction. Even with the measures passed in the Intelligence bill, states will largely be organizing and conducting the implementation of these standards. Their participation in establishing and implementing driver's license standards is essential for these provisions to be successful. This bill simply ignores state involvement all together in these standards.

Though the bill does provide grants for the costs of implementing these standards, with the current fiscal climate, many states fear they will be left with the burden of paying a portion of these costs. Most states are faced with the same fiscal crisis that the federal government is currently experiencing. Creating an unfunded mandate for states is unfair, especially when they are excluded from the rulemaking process.

There are portions in this bill which I believe are beneficial to our national security. For instance, I am pleased the amendment offered by Mr. SESSIONS passed by a voice vote, as it will strengthen our ability to ensure the deportation of individuals who are illegally present in the United States.

Unfortunately, the egregious measures in the bill far out weigh the beneficial provisions. Thus, I must vote against this bill and hope that the Senate will remove the portions of this bill which are unnecessary and attack the balance of power in our country.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF CLARENCE AND MAYME VAIL OF HUGO, MN

**HON. MARK R. KENNEDY**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 80th wedding anniversary of Clarence and Mayme Vail of Hugo, Minnesota.

Eighty-two years ago, Clarence and Mayme met when Clarence's family moved to Hugo and he joined Mayme's eighth grade class. Clarence and Mayme were the only two from this class to continue into high school, though they both left school early a few years later. They left for a good reason: to get married. Although the couple heard people say that they were too young to be married—he was eighteen and she was just sixteen—they began their wedded lives together on February 17, 1925.

For the first few years they were married, Clarence and Mayme lived in the telephone office where Mayme's mother worked. Their first children were born in that office. Since then, Clarence and Mayme have lived in two homes, both in Hugo, and they now have six children, 39 grandchildren, 98 great-grandchildren, and 32 great-great grandchildren.

Before retiring, Clarence worked as a machine and tools salesman, and after their children were older Mayme worked at the local grocery store. Now, in their retirement, Clarence and Mayme spend their time reading, playing cards, and attending church every morning. Mayme also enjoys making quilts for local charities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Clarence and Mayme Vail on their 80th wedding anniversary as an example which we should all try to follow. Clarence and Mayme have been married for a near-record number of years, and it is likely that they hold the record for being the longest-married couple in Minnesota history. I admire the love and dedication which this couple has shared for so many years, and I wish them many more years of happiness together.

REMARKS ON THE SITUATION IN IRAQ

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we may soon know the official count from the elections in Iraq but it is already very clear we will not know the real long term impact and results for some time.

Will the election unite the Iraqi people or further divide them? Will the new government

represent the interests of all sectors of Iraqi society? Will the rights of minorities be protected? Will the new laws of the land be promulgated on a secular or religious basis?

The elections do nothing to increase the legitimacy of our so-called "preventive war." The official end for the search for weapons of mass destruction confirms what a majority of the American people have known for some time: we were misled as to the need for military action in Iraq.

There was no link between Saddam Hussein and 9/11. U.N. sanctions and inspections were, in fact, highly effective in disarming Iraq after the 1991 war.

There is no doubt that those Iraqis who did vote, and already the controversy is growing over what share of the population participated, were expressing their profound hope for an end to the violence, for an improvement in the quality of their lives, for a say in their own futures and an end to the occupation of their country.

And why not? Estimates by reputable experts such as the British medical journal, *The Lancet* are that more than 100,000 Iraqis have died as a result of the war and the on-going violence under the occupation.

The Iraqi government has reported that malnutrition among young children has doubled since the war began and that they are experiencing soaring rates of disease exacerbated by a decimated health system.

Iraq is no closer to a stable democracy today than it was two years ago. The Iraqi insurgency appears to be growing significantly faster than the security forces we have attempted to train. It is questionable if Iraqi security forces can ever achieve authority as long as our troops have the real responsibility for maintaining order.

The presence of more than 130,000 U.S. troops has, in fact, become a rallying point and an endless source of fodder for propaganda by terrorists.

At a time when American prestige and leadership is more necessary than ever, when the light of hope for a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people once again flickers to life, U.S. ability to serve as a broker for peace has been crippled by the perception of many of our actions in Iraq.

We face the massive and difficult task of rebuilding international alliances and renewing the mechanisms of international diplomacy and security. And what has been the cost to America? As of yesterday, 1,449 American troops killed, 10,740 wounded as of the end of January. Extended time of service for tens of thousands of service men and women and reservists at immense cost to families.

The diversion of tens of billions of dollars from homeland security, health, education, housing, and a host of other needs have left some of our most urgent needs here at home untended and unaddressed. The long term impact on our military has not yet been examined, but based on our experience after Vietnam there is good reason to expect that there will be a negative impact.

Mr. Speaker, in the interests of stabilizing the situation in Iraq, in the interests of peace and security in the region, in the interests of our homeland security, and in support of our troops, it is time to bring our troops home.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM BERTRAND TURNER ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, Mr. William Bertrand Turner on this, his 100th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, William Bertrand Turner was born on February 28, 1905 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and grew up a stone's throw away from the famous Pasquotank River. Mr. Turner grew up there, was educated in the public school system, and eventually graduated from Elizabeth City State University.

Mr. Turner's love for science lured him to Shaw University in the Capital city of North Carolina. He pursued his interest in Organic Chemistry during the height of the "Roaring 20's" and graduated in 1929, during the beginning stages of the Great Depression.

Mr. Speaker, after his graduation from Shaw University, William Turner set his sights North, and began a quest for his Master's Degree at the renowned Cornell University in New York. Mr. Turner received his Masters Degree in his passion, Organic Chemistry in 1936.

In 2001, Mr. Turner was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the American Chemical Society, the highest honor bestowed by that Society.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Turner has been married to Ms. Margaret Turner for 75 years. I am told that their love and admiration for one another is just as strong as the day they were married.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner currently reside in Browns Mills, New Jersey; and while all North Carolinians long for their return, we wish them a wonderful life in New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my constituent, Mr. William Bertrand Turner on his 100th birthday. I pray for many more to come.

IN HONOR OF JESSICA GOVEA THORBOURNE

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a true heroine, Jessica Govea Thorbourne, who passed away on January 23 after a 12-year battle with breast cancer. Throughout her 58 years, Jessica worked tirelessly to improve the lives of immigrant farm workers and to strengthen the labor movement in California, nationally, and in Central America. She was a courageous, effective, and visionary leader, and a wonderful person. She will be sorely missed.

Born in Porterville, California, Jessica began working in the cotton fields at the age of 4. By the age of 9 she was distributing leaflets alongside her father, Juan Govea, a respected leader of the Mexican American community of Bakersfield. He had been recruited by Fred Ross Sr. and Cesar Chavez to help organize local workers for the Community Service Organization, CSO. Her mother Margaret also became a very effective advocate of CSO. At

the age of 12, as the president of the Junior CSO, Jessica led other child farm workers in a successful petition campaign for a neighborhood park.

After graduating valedictorian from Bakersfield High School, Jessica completed one year of college. She made the sacrifice of foregoing college to begin working closely with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, UFW. It was there as a caseworker that Jessica first called attention to the adverse effects of pesticide exposure on farm workers. While most believed that the rashes, headaches and dizziness were from heat exposure, Jessica having suffered the same symptoms herself, believed it to be pesticide poisoning. Her persistence gave fuel to union boycotts and eventually gained national attention when it became the focus of the 1969 Senate hearing on migrant workers.

When she was 21, she was sent to Canada to enlist supporters in the union's fight against grape growers. Her passion and eloquent speaking ability won broad support from students, laborers, and church groups and drew millions of Canadians into the boycott. The success of the boycott gave the UFW the critical leverage it needed to win contracts with the entire California grape industry. Because of her warnings, these contracts contained clauses banning the use of dangerous pesticides. Later, Jessica served as the National Director of Organizing for the UFW and was elected to the national executive board.

Jessica spent countless hours registering voters and turning out the vote for numerous elected officials, including Jerry Brown in his successful bid for governor of California in 1974, and Robert Kennedy in his bid for the California Democratic 1968 presidential primary.

As Chair of the California Democratic Party, I worked closely with Jessica in 1982. She demonstrated extraordinary leadership, energy, and commitment as the head of a crucial state-wide voter registration and get-out-the-vote drive. In 1992, she worked with Fred Ross Jr., at Neighbor to Neighbor, training leaders of SICAFE, the coffee workers' union of El Salvador, and with workers targeted by Salvadoran death squads.

For the last two decades, she continued her work as labor educator at Rutgers and Cornell Universities. At Cornell she directed the Labor In-House Programs in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. There she trained and inspired many organizers including Chinese-speaking health care workers, who with her assistance became activists and leaders in Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union.

Despite her poor health from her battle with cancer, which she believed was caused by exposure to pesticides in the fields, she continued to be an invaluable colleague in the labor movement fighting for economic and social justice.

We thank Jessica for her leadership, her courage, and her dedication to the labor movement and to our nation. Her work will continue in the laborers she empowered and the students she inspired.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jessica's husband, Kenneth Thorbourne Jr., her mother, Margaret Govea, and her siblings. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people share their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO PROVIDE PERMANENT FUNDING FOR THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) PROGRAM

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, together with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am introducing legislation to provide permanent funding for two programs that are very important to counties and other local units of government in Colorado and many other States.

Our bill is identical to one introduced in the 108th Congress by Scott McInnis when he represented Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. He was a leader on this issue, and we are joining to work to complete this job that he began.

Under the bill, the full amounts authorized under both the payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) program and the refuge revenue sharing program would be made available to the Secretary of the Interior annually, for distribution to eligible local governments in accordance with those programs.

This would eliminate the requirement for annual appropriations for PILT and refuge revenue sharing purposes and would shield them against the kind of political shortsightedness demonstrated in the budget recently submitted by President Bush, which proposes to inflict a severe cut in the funding available for PILT.

While both programs are significant, PILT is particularly important for counties in Colorado and other states that include large expanses of federal lands. In 2004, for example, counties in Colorado received more than \$17.6 million out of a total of \$244.3 million distributed nationwide.

Congress created the PILT program in response to a recommendation of the Public Land Law Review Commission, chaired by Representative Wayne N. Aspinall, who represented what was then Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. It reflected a recognition that a system of payments based on acreage was more equitable and reliable than one tied to management decisions such as timber harvests or other uses.

Counties use their PILT payments for a wide variety of purposes, including some—such as law enforcement, fire fighting, and search and rescue—that are directly related to the federal lands within their boundaries and the people who use those lands.

For nearly two decades after the program was established, PILT funding remained level but the value of PILT payments was eroded by inflation. In 1995, Congress amended the law to raise the authorization level. However, since 1995, no budget request—from either President Clinton or President Bush—has requested more than two-thirds of the amount authorized by the PILT Act. As a result, the burden on county taxpayers has not been reduced to the extent that Congress intended when it passed the 1995 legislation.

Our bill would ensure full implementation of that legislation.

HONORING THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF WRIGHT COUNTY

**HON. MARK R. KENNEDY**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th birthday of Wright County, located in East Central Minnesota. Bordered on the north by the Mississippi River and the east by the Crow River, Wright County was founded on February 20, 1855, 3 years before Minnesota became the 32nd state. The Big Woods, as Wright County was called then, was inhabited by 504 pioneers from across Europe, as well as Native Americans from the Dakota and Winnebago Nations.

Wright County was a part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The Homestead Act of 1862 accelerated settlement of the area, and people arrived from across America and Europe. When the pioneers arrived in Wright County, they found the "Big Woods" moniker to be an apt description of the territory—a place covered with elm, basswood, sugar maple, ash and red oak. The county grew steadily, but travel was difficult because people could only clear a few acres of trees a year. The construction of the railroad had the biggest impact on the county, as farmers could get their goods to market faster and people could move with greater ease. Today, the county has a population of over 100,000 and is one of the fastest growing areas in the state of Minnesota.

Eventually, the Big Woods region came to be called Wright County in honor of Silas Wright, a former Congressman, Senator and Governor from New York State. Buffalo was established as the county seat in 1873. Most of Wright County's early residents were involved in agriculture, and appreciation for the county's vast natural resources carries on today. There are nearly 2800 acres of land devoted to the nearly 30 county parks. Residents also make use of the 298 lakes within the borders of Wright County, swimming and boating in the summer and ice fishing in the winter.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud resident of Wright County, I am pleased to honor a place so rich in Minnesota history and culture on the occasion of its 150th birthday.

TO COMMEMORATE THE ISSUANCE OF THE MARIAN ANDERSON STAMP

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's most shining and influential artists, Ms. Marian Anderson. The recent issuance of a commemorative stamp in her honor provides an opportunity to recognize her impressive achievements.

Few musicians in history can claim the number of achievements Ms. Anderson can. As an opera singer, she proved to be among the world's best. Her range and ability to communicate a song's emotion were envied. Ms. Anderson often sang in the original language of

the songs she performed, feeling that she would better connect with the native audience. By the end of her career she had performed in eight languages and traveled all over the world—living and studying for extended periods of time in Europe. Her voice graced President and Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House and the Inaugural ceremonies for Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy. After hearing her, the world renowned conductor Arturo Toscanini commented that hers “. . . is a voice one hears once in a hundred years.” How true.

During her life, Ms. Anderson witnessed and contributed to some of the greatest changes in history. She lived through two world wars, a depression, and the civil rights movement. As an African-American, female performer during a period of history in which that combination provided particular challenges, she overcame prejudice and social limitations. For example, she was the first black singer to perform on stage at the New York Metropolitan Opera House. One of her most notable concerts was on Easter morning on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Broadcast nationwide via radio, Ms. Anderson sang before a crowd of over 75,000 and millions of listeners after she was prohibited from performing at Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the Revolution.

In addition to receiving awards for her musical talent, like the Grammy Lifetime Achievement, she received numerous other honors for her commitment to peace and equality. She was appointed goodwill ambassador to Asia and a delegate to the United Nations. She received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award, the United Nations Peace Prize, the NAACP's Spigarn Medal for outstanding achievement by a black American, and the President's Medal of Freedom.

Clearly, Marian Anderson had a resonating and inspiring voice with the heart and conviction to match. Ms. Anderson's voice was a vehicle of communication, and music her universal language. Hers' represented the voice of so many others who were unable to speak out against the injustices they faced.

I am honored to celebrate the issuance of the Marian Anderson commemorative stamp today. Ms. Anderson is quite deserving of this recognition. In doing this we eternalize the courage, conviction, and talent of this remarkable woman.

#### THE PASSING OF JON DRAGAN

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I announce the loss of a true pioneer of whitewater rafting in southern West Virginia. Jon Dragan, dubbed the “Father of Whitewater Rafting,” passed away on Saturday at the young age of 62.

Jon came to Fayette County West Virginia in 1964 to explore our wonderful rivers, the New and the Gauley. By 1968 he had opened the first commercial whitewater rafting company on the New River and the rest is history.

It was my great pleasure to work with him in my early years as a Congressman to establish the New River Gorge as a National River and part of the National Park system in 1978. His efforts in the process were instrumental

and the end result has been a lasting wonder for southern West Virginia.

Throughout his career he continued to take part in exciting whitewater adventures, all while finding time to help out the community. He was a true public servant to West Virginia, and he leaves behind many people who were glad to know him, many fond memories and a great whitewater rafting industry.

Whitewater rafting is a huge part of the economy in southern West Virginia. It is one of the many wild, wonderful things that bring tourists to West Virginia and the entire industry was started by Mr. Dragan. We owe a great debt to him for all of his hard work and he will forever be remembered in Fayette County and across Southern West Virginia.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. JERRY WARTGOW

### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable individual and a personal friend. Mr. Jerry Wartgow recently announced that he will be stepping down this summer as the Superintendent of Denver Public Schools. He will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him in his tireless efforts to improve the quality of education and the lives of Denver area youth.

Jerry is a wonderful man who is truly dedicated to education reform. In his four-plus years as superintendent he relentlessly pursued reforms, a pursuit that sometimes put him at odds with the educational establishment and at loggerheads with state and municipal officials.

Mr. Wartgow's dedication to institutional reform and improving results was matched only by his compassion for the children he worked for every day. Jerry was a believer in the notion of education as a lifetime process. He believed that in order to get long term results in childhood achievement, education has to start early—and he brought that thought process to the superintendent's office.

As he told the Rocky Mountain News last week, “Economically, the best possible investment is to put money in early childhood education and kindergarten. There's no question about it. That's the best way to go about secondary school reform—to start early.”

Jerry recently also told The Rocky Mountain News that, “Successful leaders have always been able to resist the pressure to make short-term, quick-fix changes at the expense of sustainable reform.”

Mr. Speaker, without a doubt Jerry has shown himself to be one of those successful leaders.

Rocky Mountain News columnist Mike Littwin recently penned a column about Wartgow that I think did a fine job capturing the kind of man Jerry is, and I would like to submit it here for the RECORD.

When Jerry Wartgow leaves his job as DPS superintendent in June, he'll leave the job undone.

Which is, of course, the only way you can leave that job.

Wartgow will have kept the position for just over four years. In explaining why he's leaving, he notes that the typical urban superintendent lasts only 27 months.

That's not really an explanation—and he didn't offer a better one—but it is a great statistic.

In 27 months as a school superintendent, it's easy to either wear out or to wear out your welcome. Or both.

When Wartgow made his announcement at the Denver School of the Arts in a speech before school principals and staff, he got a standing ovation. That's the way you want to go—before the grumbling gets too loud.

And there is some grumbling, of course: about struggling high schools, about high dropout rates, about potential labor problems, about community schools that are not always accepted by their communities.

In his speech, Wartgow pointed to his accomplishments—one form of education reform following another; money raised, even if never enough money; a district that the governor twice named most improved—and then he told me what he really thought about how much you can accomplish on the job.

It turns out to be a lesson—get out your paper and pencil—for “education” presidents and “education” governors and “education” mayors and school board members and state legislators and congressmen and, yes, superintendents and everyone else who makes education policy.

And so, of course, Jerry Wartgow's lesson turns out to be a lesson even for Jerry Wartgow himself.

It's simply this: “Education reform” and “quick fix” don't belong in the same sentence. And politicians are, by nature of their jobs, addicted to the quicker-than-really-possible fix.

Wartgow put it this way: “We live in a society of instant gratification. People want instant answers, instant solutions, ignoring the complexities of so many of these issues.”

“You take societal problems that can't be solved by legislators and they pass them on to the schools. And then they expect the schools to solve them.”

You know the fixes. Vouchers will fix the schools. Or testing will fix the schools. Or merit pay for teachers will fix the schools. Or charter schools will fix the schools. Or getting back to basics will fix the schools. Or—and, yes, this may be an extreme case—dumping Bless Me, Ultima in the trash will fix the schools.

And that's just from one side of the educational divide.

“We've been working on reform of education since 1978,” Wartgow said. “We've spent billions of dollars. Every state legislature has had its own reforms. There are hundreds of thousands of pages of legislation.”

In his speech, this is what he asked for from the legislature: no more education legislation.

“I've lived through all the cycles,” he said. “You don't give your children soft drinks—you give them fruit juice. Look in the paper today, and there's a story about the dangers of fruit juice.”

“It's the same with education reforms. And it's further complicated because people making the decisions are on a different time frame than the students.”

“If you're a mayor for four years, or you're an urban superintendent for 27 months, or if you're on the school board, what you're trying to do is to make a statement in the time you're there. If you're a young superintendent, with a family to worry about, you've got 27 months. And if you don't show progress. . . .”

It's a story you see played time and again.

“The reform time frame,” Wartgow said, “is out of sync with the policymakers' time frame.”

In Wartgow's time frame, he will quit just after a report on secondary school reform is

completed. One reason he's leaving, he says, is that he couldn't see himself staying long enough to properly implement those reforms.

"We know that economically the best possible investment is to put the money in early childhood education and kindergarten," Wartgow was saying. "There's no question about it. That's the best way to go about secondary-school reform—to start early."

"But here's the problem: The benefit won't be seen for years. I think that's it. I think that's the issue. I don't have the answer, but I've observed the problem."

"The time frame for everything we know about how long it takes for education reform to take hold is a much longer time frame than policymakers and elected officials live in."

In the time it takes to go from kindergarten through 12th grade and, with luck, on to college, a student has lived through a couple of mayors, a couple of governors, maybe three or four superintendents, and all with a farewell speech to deliver.

When Wartgow says he doesn't have an answer for this problem, he is being modest. He does, at the very least, have a suggestion, which would fit nicely on a sampler.

"My quote," he said, "is that successful leaders have always been able to resist the pressure to make short-term, quick-fix changes at the expense of sustainable reform."

Lesson given. Lesson learned?

## REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act. For decades, immigrants arriving at Ellis Island were greeted by the Statue of Liberty, beckoning with the words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free." Today's legislation would render this motto obsolete, as the United States would turn its back on those escaping genocide; rape, or persecution around the world.

Contrary to the claims of the bill's sponsors, this legislation does little to prevent future terrorist attacks within our borders, while eroding civil liberties. Most troubling to me are the provisions making asylum nearly impossible for those who flee their countries to find a safe haven. Terrorists are already prevented from receiving asylum in the United States under current law, and none of the September 11 hijackers had even applied for asylum.

However, H.R. 418 raises the already difficult burden of proof on legitimate asylum-seekers, requiring that they provide corroborating evidence of persecution due to one's race, religion, national origin, political opinion, or social group. Can we imagine sending a refugee back to face genocide in the Sudan

because he or she does not have a letter from the government explaining that religion was the reason his or her family was murdered? This legislation presents a nearly impossible hurdle for asylum seekers.

In addition, I am disappointed in Section 102, which allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive any Federal, State, or local law to ensure construction of physical barriers to deter illegal border crossings. This overly broad provision would give unprecedented power to the Secretary to undertake large construction projects without any accountability or judicial review. Under this legislation, the Secretary could waive labor laws such as the minimum wage, public health laws like the Clean Water Act, or eminent domain laws requiring repayment for property seized, all in the name of homeland security. While I understand the need to prevent unauthorized border crossings, this provision grants far too much power without any oversight, setting a dangerous precedent for the future.

H.R. 418 also contains new national driver's license standards, which completely overhaul the bipartisan requirements unanimously recommended by the September 11th Commission and signed into law just a few months ago. These new Federal standards for issuing state drivers' licenses could result in a flurry of privacy and civil liberties concerns.

Most disturbingly, the provisions in H.R. 418 go far beyond the recommendations of the bipartisan September 11th Commission, disguising an assault on our Nation's freedoms and principles with a false claim of security. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposition to this egregious and unnecessary bill.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CHISHOLM: AN AMERICAN HEROINE

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman in American history. Shirley Chisholm, an outspoken advocate for women and minorities during her seven terms in the House of Representatives, passed on January 1st. This iconoclastic political figure has been lost and forgotten in many of today's civic classes in this country but her ideals have seen a rebirth.

Born in 1924 to parents that emigrated from the West Indies, Chisholm was raised in an American society that told African Americans to stay in their place and women to stay at home. Chisholm vehemently rejected this canon which ultimately shaped and fueled her political career—becoming both the first African American woman elected to Congress and the first black or woman to wage a serious campaign for a major party's presidential nomination in 1972.

Shirley Chisholm excelled in academics at Girls High School in Brooklyn, New York, from which she graduated in 1942. After graduation she attended Brooklyn College where she majored in sociology. It was there that she experienced blatant racism. When black students at Brooklyn College were denied admittance into social clubs, Chisholm formed alternate ones. She would go on to graduate with hon-

ors in 1946 but found herself turned away by employers time and time again. During this time many black graduates found it difficult to obtain employment commensurate to their education. It was a culmination of these events in her life that led Chisholm to vow to fight against injustices everywhere. After graduation, she would earn a masters degree in child education from Columbia University and later served as director of the largest nursery school network in New York.

In 1949, Chisholm participated in local politics, helping to form the Bedford-Stuyvesant political league. She also became active in the Brooklyn chapter of the National Urban League and in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where she debated minority rights. Chisholm's political career took off in 1964, when she won, by a landslide, her campaign for the New York State Assembly. As an assembly person (1965–1968), she sponsored legislation that instituted programs which provided college funding to disadvantaged youths, and successfully introduced a bill that secured unemployment insurance for domestics and day-care providers. In 1968 Chisholm won a seat in the House of Representatives becoming the first African American woman to be elected to Congress. She found herself one of ten women and nine African Americans in the prestigious body.

Representing an entirely inter-city constituency, Chisholm protested her relegation to the Agriculture Committee, an assignment she considered insulting. She would often criticize Congress for being too clubby and unresponsive. It was during these challenging times that Chisholm exemplified one of the most important characteristics of a pioneer—the determination to strive for more and to not accept "no" for an answer. With a character that she has described as "unbought and unbossed," Chisholm became known as a politician who refused to allow her colleagues, including the white male-dominated House of Representatives, to deter her from her goals. She remarked that, "Women in this country must become revolutionaries. We must refuse to accept the old, the traditional roles and stereotypes." She subsequently served on a number of committees, including the Education and Labor, and campaigned for a higher minimum wage and increased federal funding for disadvantaged communities. In her first term in Congress, Chisholm hired an all female staff and was an unyielding advocate of social justice, women's rights, the underprivileged and people of all races, nationalities and faith.

On January 25, 1972 Chisholm became the first African American woman to campaign for the presidency. She admitted that she stood no real chance of winning but wanted to galvanize minority communities, working class whites and young people into a sizable political force. Chisholm ran as "the candidate of the people," receiving 151 delegate votes at the Democratic National Convention that year.

During the campaign, she experienced resistance from her colleagues, including the Congressional Black Caucus for which she was a founding member, and was attacked four times on the campaign trail. Chisholm's bid for the presidency was not fruitless—her legacy and work has ushered in a generation of exceptional leaders—from presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, to former U.S. Senator Carol Mosley Braun to Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI.

Shirley Chisholm once commented, "There is little place in the political scheme of things for an independent, creative personality, for a fighter. Anyone who takes that role must pay a price." Mr. Speaker, I believe obscurity is too high a price for Mrs. Chisholm to have to pay. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for the work that she's done to advance the causes of all Americans and for that legacy our country will be eternally grateful.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION  
TO HONOR THE CHILDREN OF  
AMERICA

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today my fellow colleague from Colorado, Rep-

resentative BEAUPREZ, and I are again introducing a resolution to honor this Nation's children and express the desire to mark the first Wednesday in March as National Children's Day.

The resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives urging the President to proclaim that the first Wednesday of March each year should be named National Children's Day in honor of the future generations of our country.

The Great Sioux Nation can be used as a role model to lawmakers in America as we debate any bill here on the floor of the House of Representatives. They place a high value on the children of the tribe, as they represent the future of the tribe. When important decisions are being made, the Sioux always discussed what the impact of the decision would be, not on the current generation, or the next generation, but the seventh generation out.

The Sioux Nation placed a priority on the future of the tribe, through its children. I believe that it is important that we, as lawmakers, keep the importance of our future in mind as we make decisions everyday here in Congress.

In that spirit, I believe this legislation is fitting as it honors the importance of our Nation's children and the role that we as adults have in the upbringing of a child. Through special attention from the adults in a child's life, that child is more likely to experience success throughout their life. This resolution urges adults to set aside time throughout the day to support a child in their life or community.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and spend some time with a child in their lives.