

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCIL-
MAN JOHN THOMAIDES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of San Marcos City Councilman John Thomaidēs, of my Congressional District.

In 2003 John Thomaidēs was elected to San Marcos City Council. Mr. Thomaidēs was chosen to represent the Council on the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors. He has been active in city affairs since he came to San Marcos ten years ago. John has served on the City's Drainage Advisory Board, the Citizen Review Commission, and as chair to the Transportation Advisory Board.

After arriving in San Marcos John opened Alpha Pure Water Company, and has quickly become a leader in business and community organizations. In January 2003 the Area Chamber of Commerce awarded him "Small Business Person of the Quarter" and in October 2003 he was honored again with "Small Business Person of the Year."

John Thomaidēs has consistently worked to improve the quality of life for his constituents, and is a 2003 graduate of the Leadership Academy of Public Service. He has served as president of the San Marcos Tennis Association, and as Ambassador for the Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, John Thomaidēs serves as an example of what discipline, courage, and dedication can accomplish, and I am proud to have had this opportunity to thank him.

A TRIBUTE TO ADELE ANDRADE-
STADLER, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE
YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, the Honorable Adele Andrade-Stadler. For many years, Adele has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Adele instantly recognize her enthusiasm and commitment to education and children.

A native of Southern California, Adele was raised in Monterey Park. She attended Alham-

bra public schools, graduated from East Los Angeles College and attended California State University, Los Angeles. While attending college she worked part time for the Los Angeles Unified School District as a bi-lingual instructional aide. She also studied early childhood development at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena.

Adele was the Director of the Foothill Developmental School, a non-profit pre-school that provided special services for disabled and non-disabled children in Monrovia, California. During the 1990s, she developed and implemented a curriculum for the Union Bank Child Care Center, one of the first centers in the San Gabriel Valley area to provide on-site childcare to its employees. In 1999, Adele became a Field Representative for then State Senator HILDA SOLIS, continuing on as a Field Representative and Caseworker, then District Director for Congresswoman SOLIS. In that capacity, Adele advocated for children, families, women, immigrants, senior citizens, veterans, and other constituents that needed federal assistance.

Ms. Andrade-Stadler's volunteer record in education is truly impressive. She has been in the Alhambra Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for nearly ten years, serving as PTA Council President. She has volunteered in the Alhambra Unified School District, at the Methodist Cooperative Preschool, and has been a long-time Sierra Club member and volunteer. Adele was a key organizer for the Alhambra School Bond Measures A and AA and led and coordinated the School Traffic Safety Plan at Fremont Elementary School. Currently, she is an advisor to the School Site Title I Council and Chair of the Traffic Commission for the City of Alhambra. In 2004, Adele was elected to the Alhambra Unified School Board.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Adele Andrade-Stadler. The entire community joins me in thanking Adele for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JACK
HOLMES THOMAS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, Jack Holmes Thomas Sr. passed away after a short battle with acute leukemia at age 80. Jack was a man of God who served his family, community and country honorably and with distinction and I take this opportunity to remember his life.

Born on January 10, 1925 in Natchez, Mississippi, Jack was the husband of Helen Putt Thomas and the father of two sons: Jack H. Thomas Jr. and Robert Bryan Thomas. He

had five grandchildren: Chris, Mallory, Chase, Tiffany and Heather.

Jack was part of "the greatest generation" and served in the US Marine Corps in World War II where he earned the Purple Heart. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1951 with a bachelor of science in agricultural education and served the US Department of Agriculture for thirty-three years before retiring.

Jack was a past president of the Mississippi Federation of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, an active life member of the Elk Lodge, a past president of the Starkville Shriners Club, and a strong Mississippi State University supporter and avid Bulldog fan.

Jack was a faithful member and deacon of First Baptist Church of Starkville and taught Sunday school and discipleship training while in Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Thomas has long been a blessing to his family and friends, but one that was felt beyond those people in the community at large. We mourn his passing, but we celebrate his life.

DEEPENING OUR RELATIONS WITH
KAZAKHSTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the current situation in our world prompts the United States to seek and deepen relations with countries who share our principles and values, one such country is the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In the course of its development, Kazakhstan has achieved tremendous results despite some ups and downs. In fact, the people of Kazakhstan have gained long awaited freedom thirteen years ago and have chosen the right path consistently moving towards their ultimate goal of building a democratic and civil society with a strong market economy. The recent state of the nation address by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan is strong proof of that.

I have read this document and must note that it is indeed a milestone for the country. It provides an outstanding description of the state and perspectives of the development of Kazakhstan's society. It is a comprehensive address which I kindly ask, Mr. Speaker, to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for those of my colleagues who follow the development of this young and promising country. Let me mention a few highlights.

It is amazing how this country, which for many years existed under a totalitarian regime without any idea of market reforms has managed to achieve tremendous results in a very short period. Average income has grown almost fivefold during the last ten years, monthly salaries have increased by about 6 times, the minimum wage has gone up 25 times, average monthly pensions have increased by 4.6

• 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.

times, and personal and average per capita bank deposits by 35 and 37 times. Compared to 2003, state expenditures on guaranteed free health care have risen 1.7 times. The most impressive part of the message is the massive social component of the Kazakh leader's program aimed at significant improvement of wellbeing of all levels of society, especially the poor, elderly, disabled and children.

The President's annual address also reflects the desire of a young nation to become a bulwark of democracy in a vitally important region. Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Kazakhstan has become a leader in promoting political and democratic transformations in the post Soviet states. Most importantly, Kazakhstan is not going to stop half way to this goal, but is eager to deepen this process based on Western standards of democracy. I support President Nazarbayev's initiative to create a National Program of Political Reforms in which the key player will be the people. I strongly believe that the evolution of Kazakh society inevitably will lead to a triumph of democracy. It is dictated by the will and aspirations of the people. I also agree with President Nazarbayev when he said that today "Kazakhstan is regarded in the world as a regional power possessing a strong economy and a solid position in the international community".

I congratulate the people and the Government of Kazakhstan for their achievements and am sincerely happy for them.

I am very glad that the United States has been instrumental in aiding the development of Kazakhstan. Our bilateral relations have gained the status of a strategic partnership. I am absolutely convinced successful cooperation between the U.S. and Kazakhstan is the cornerstone of stability in a crucial region and it is in the interest of both our countries and the world as a whole.

Today, it is vital for America to demonstrate its gratitude to the people of Kazakhstan who stood side by side with us after 9/11 and is today living up to its commitment in helping to build a free Iraq. I urge my colleagues and the administration to render them assistance and support their endeavors to be among the truly democratic countries of the world.

CONGRATULATING MRS. MARIETTA MURRAY URQUHART ON RECEIPT OF THE MOBILE CITY COUNCIL OF BETA SIGMA PI INTERNATIONAL SORORITY'S 2004 "FIRST LADY OF THE YEAR" AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mrs. Marietta Murray Urquhart on the occasion of her being honored by the Mobile City Council of Beta Sigma Pi International Sorority with the organization's 2004 "First Lady of the Year" Award.

Beta Sigma Pi International Sorority was founded in 1931 for the purpose of providing women with opportunities for community service and as an outlet for cultural and social ac-

tivities. Seven local chapters of the organization are currently active in Mobile, and since 1945 one woman has been selected each year for the "First Lady of the Year" Award. This honor is bestowed to an individual based on her contributions to the business, cultural, and civic life of the community.

Mrs. Urquhart has been a distinguished and active member of the Mobile, Alabama, community for over two decades. In 1982, she and her husband, Bill, chose to make Mobile their home upon Bill's completion of medical school and his residency. Almost immediately, she took a strong role in the life of her city, with special emphasis on issues involving children and education.

Over the next 22 years, she became extremely involved in several local organizations. She has served as president of the board of directors of Leadership Mobile and as a member of the board of Volunteer Mobile. Additionally, she was selected to serve as president for the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Women of the Church. Her strong interest in the development and growth of the Mobile community also led to her service on the board of directors for the Providence Hospital Foundation, the Providence Foundation Flower Show, and for the Maritime Museum and the Mobile Tricentennial Commission.

Mrs. Urquhart has also devoted a tremendous amount of time and effort to expanding opportunities for children in the Mobile community. She has served on the Mobile Advisory Board for the Department of Human Resources, and has been actively involved with the Salvation Army. As president for the Junior League of Mobile, she was committed to establishing wide-ranging community goals for children and worked extensively with the Mobile County School System, the United Way, and the Greater Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. Finally, she served with distinction on the UMS-Wright Preparatory School Board of Trustees and was the first woman ever selected to chair that organization.

Finally, Mrs. Urquhart has served on the boards of the Medical Alliance of Mobile County, Mobile 2000, and the Alabama State Commission for Volunteer and National Service. Most recently, she was nominated to serve as a member of The University of Alabama Board of Trustees.

The nomination submitted by the Medical Society of Mobile County for this award included the following passage: "Our Nominee lives by the philosophy: 'Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. Words speak boldly of intentions. Actions speak louder than words. It is making time when there is none. It is coming through time after time, year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of, the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism.'" Over the years, I have seen Marietta put this philosophy into action time and again and make one significant and meaningful contribution after another for her community. Our city and our state are richer because of her work, and I am proud and honored to call her my friend.

Mr. Speaker, there are few individuals more dedicated or more committed to helping their communities than Marietta Murray Urquhart, and I would like to offer my congratulations on both the "First Lady of the Year" Award and for her many personal and professional achievements. I know her husband, Bill, and

her many family and friends join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts on behalf of Mobile and the state of Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN RAY COTA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, my congressional district in Riverside, California is extremely fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated group of community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give of their time and talents to ensure the well-being of our city and county. These individuals work tirelessly to develop voluntary community action to improve the community's economy, its education, its environment and its overall quality of life. One individual, who is a member of this group, is Captain Ray Cota.

On the 19th of March, Ray will be honored with the Ira. D. "Cal" Calvert Distinguished Service Award by the Corona-Norco Family YMCA. The award is given in memory of my father, "Cal" Calvert, and his enumerable philanthropic gifts to the community and his efforts to encourage others to serve their community in a similar fashion. The award recognizes Ray for his exceptional devotion to developing community volunteerism.

Ray has been a police officer with the Corona Police Department for over 25 years. Throughout his career, he has been involved in the community and specifically with youth service organizations. He has served as President of the Circle City Kiwanis, helped organize an annual golf tournament that raises money for at-risk youth, and participated in the Corona High Parent Teacher Student Association. Additionally, Ray has served with the Corona Police Activities League, which provides sports and recreational activities to neighborhood youth and seeks to reach out to other deserving youth in the community.

Ray and his wife Rebecca have been married for 21 years. They have a 13 year old son, Raymond, who attends Corona Fundamental Intermediate School.

Ray's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. Ray has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call Ray a fellow community member, American and friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF COACH FRANK TOLBERT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coach Frank Tolbert of Auburn High School in Auburn, Alabama. Coach Tolbert is a man of great accomplishment—a highly respected mentor for our youth who was recently inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame after leading the boys' basketball team to victory at the Class 6-A State Championship.

Since 1969 Coach Tolbert has been coaching boys' basketball in the Auburn City Schools, and has achieved an outstanding record of 535 wins including area and state championships.

Because of his record of accomplishment, Coach Tolbert was honored recently on two separate occasions. On March 15 the Auburn City Council commemorated Coach Tolbert and his team at the local council meeting. In addition the citizens of Auburn recently observed March 16, 2005, as "Coach Frank Tolbert Day" in recognition of his unique accomplishments.

I am proud to acknowledge Coach Tolbert in the House today and congratulate him on this remarkable and memorable occasion.

BLACK AND YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW YORK CITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today we come before this chamber to be heard on an issue of national consequence and one that is particularly relevant to Black Americans. While we are being told that the economy is showing signs of recovery, that point of view is not reflected in what I, and many of my colleagues in the House, see in our districts. In fact, conditions appear to be consistently bad as more people face extended periods of joblessness—and Blacks remain at a disadvantage to whites in the labor market.

Black Americans have continued to endure chronic unemployment relative to whites in the nation. The Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Situation Summary for February reveals that while the Nation's unemployment rate is 5.4 percent, Black unemployment is 10.9 percent.

The BLS data confirms what has become a long-term trend of Black Americans exclusion from the labor market. The disparity is all the more glaring given that white unemployment was only 4.6 percent last month. Unemployment for Black women hovered at 9.1 percent and for teenagers, age 16 to 19, unemployment was 31.5 percent; a numbing statistic considering economic conditions in our community.

Though the economy gained 262,000 jobs last month it was of little benefit to Blacks seeking work, considering much of the gains were in the construction trades—an area from which Blacks have historically been excluded, retail—where mergers and acquisitions between major retail companies signal another round of downsizing, and in areas such as temporary employment services and food services—where wages may not be sufficient for self sustenance.

What these numbers tell us is that we have arrived at a place somewhere beyond crisis for Black Americans and their relation to the world of work. It is a chilling reminder of the systemic failure of the economy to fairly apportion opportunity and shed any vestiges of racially discriminatory practices. It is why we convene today to discuss this national imperative and urge our President to take immediate action to make jobs and income security a national priority.

A good wage job is the foundation for the economic security of all Americans, and particularly so for people of color who have historically been denied opportunity in our country. Rhetoric about "family values" is disingenuous if large segments of our Nation are not given the chance to earn a good wage and provide for their children, spouses, and increasingly parents, whose retirement income is not sufficient to sustain independent living.

This is quite evident in my city—New York City—the Nation's largest metropolis and home to the panorama of racial and ethnic groups that represent the emerging face of America. In this great city, and in many others across the country, the economic devastation has hit close to home. Last year one of our city's leading nonpartisan, not-for-profit social policy and advocacy organizations—the Community Service Society or "CSS"—issued a landmark report on the crisis of Black male unemployment.

For those of you not familiar with the Community Service Society, it is an organization that has a 160-year history of working to alleviate conditions of poverty affecting low-income New Yorkers. CSS' roots in working to raise living conditions for city residents can be traced back to the settlement house movement in New York City and its role in founding the Columbia University School of Social Work. It is an organization that has played an invaluable role historically in the life of our city and continues to be a voice of conscience today.

The study revealed some 50 percent of Black men in New York City were removed from the labor market. Fifty percent! By any standards it should be unacceptable for half of any group to be without work. Now to be fair, the latest CSS report indicates some improvement in jobholding for Black men but they have steadily lost ground relative to other groups in the city. It is a tragedy that should evoke shame and outrage in the 21st century.

CSS also issued a report that revealed the degree to which young people in our city, age 16 to 24, are not in school and out of work—tagged "disconnected" for the manner in which they are excluded from civic life. In total, the report calculated that there are 170,000 disconnected young people in our communities—a population that surpasses our state capital of Albany and many mid-size American cities.

We know there are a number of factors fueling this crisis. Many of our public schools serving the population of young people the CSS report identified as disconnected are not equipped to prepare them for the realities of today's work world. And while we all advocate for higher standards, improved test scores absent any connection to a good wage job is a hollow victory. Many of us, including myself, understand the importance of retooling vocational and technical education so students who do not see college as an immediate option will have the opportunity to earn a living.

Likewise, we are aware of traditional barriers that have obstructed Black Americans from economic opportunity. In the spirit of bipartisanship I recently accepted an invitation by the mayor of our city, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a Republican, to serve on a city commission that will identify ways to eliminate barriers to employment in the construction trades for minorities, veterans and women. Joining me on that commission is the CEO of the Community Service Society, David Jones.

It is an important first step in taking an industry-by-industry, sector-by-sector audit of impediments that are driving these dramatic disparities in employment. And the onus for change is not wholly on the private sector. The public sector must do a better job in ensuring equity in employment. For instance, the Fire Department of New York, a great and storied agency by most measures, has failed to be forward thinking in its hiring practices. In its most recent probationary class, minorities are only 14 percent of the new recruits. White males comprise 92 percent of the department. It is for that reason that the Justice Department has launched an investigation into the FDNY's hiring and promotion practices. So we know that government must also take corrective action.

Now, against this backdrop we have a White House that is moving in the opposite direction of widening opportunity. In fact, President Bush's budget proposal has several elements that will only widen the gap I have described. The President proposes to cut the Workforce Investment Act by \$61.5 million, end the program to reintegrate young offenders in communities, and reduces federal student loans by \$10.7 billion over 10 years. Our president has also proposed eliminating the Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, a cut that means an estimated loss of \$65 million to New York State.

And New Yorkers most affected by these proposed cuts are clear on their priorities. In a survey of low-income New Yorkers commissioned by the Community Service Society, and tied to their labor market research, respondents expressed support for job training and education, and the upgrading of vocational and technical education.

It is a significant snapshot of the opinions of the city's working poor—the first of its kind in the nation that I know of that seeks to ferret out the views of the economically disadvantaged.

None of this is good news for New Yorkers or most residents of our nation's large urban centers. And most certainly for Black Americans in general, and Black men specifically. Combined with the risk that the President's misguided Social Security proposal poses for Black seniors, President Bush's budget has placed us on the cusp of an economic disaster of cataclysmic proportion in the Black community.

We are not alone in New York City facing this crisis. Many American cities, big and small, are experiencing the same problems to varying degrees. We cannot sit by idly and see families devastated and communities destroyed while economic opportunity passes us by. That is why I have asked several of my colleagues in the House to join me on this Special Order to educate the American public and sensitize the White House to the economic imperative facing our constituents.

HONORING MR. RANDY TEAGUE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Randy Teague of Mabank, Texas for his longtime support of agriculture in and around Henderson County of

Texas. From 2000 to 2004, Mr. Teague served on the Henderson County Beef Committee, serving as its chairman in 2004. He has been an organizer of the Henderson County Livestock Show since 2000, and is a member of the Henderson County Show Board.

A father to three children, John Carter, Clara Jane, and Cash, Mr. Teague married his wife, Amy Morris, in January of 1999. Along with his agricultural activities, Mr. Teague is the Chairman of the Nominating Committee at the First Baptist Church in Mabank. He is also a supporter of the Kaufman County Women's and Children shelter, the Gold Card Luncheon Program for Mabank High School, the Special Olympics, and the Make a Wish Foundation.

As a father, a husband, a devout churchgoer, and a community leader, Mr. Randy Teague has embodied the values of family, faith, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As his representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor him today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

SALUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL
ANDREW LOTWIN ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Lotwin on his retirement after 20 years of distinguished service in the United States Army. I had the good fortune to have Lt. Col. Lotwin serve as a Military Fellow in my office for a year, and the further good fortune of developing a lasting friendship with him and his wonderful family. I can say without reservation that Lt. Col. Lotwin truly exemplifies what it means to wear the uniform of our great nation. His patriotism, intelligence and integrity and service are an example to all.

Lt. Col. Lotwin began what would become a distinguished military career more than twenty years ago when he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point. During his military career he also received master's degrees from the University of California at Los Angeles and Webster University, and studied national security at Georgetown University. He also served as a faculty member at the United States Military Academy and at other prestigious military schools and conferences.

Throughout his career, Lt. Col. Lotwin specialized in intelligence issues, military procurement and relations with Congress. He served as a program manager in the Joint Program office for the Predator UAV. He formed a joint government-industry team to support a fielding plan for the JSTARS program. And as the U.S. Army representative to the NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance Steering Committee, Lt. Col. Lotwin saved the U.S. Government millions of dollars by establishing the JSTARS Common Ground Station as the baseline architecture for this NATO initiative.

Early in his career, Lt. Col. Lotwin served as a special agent in the Pentagon's Counterintelligence Detachment. He returned to the field of intelligence in recent years in his capacity as Special Assistant to the Assistant

Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. Lt. Col. Lotwin represented the Department of Defense in the areas of Intelligence, Space, Special Access Programs, and Information Technology critical to the Global War on Terrorism. Lt. Col. Lotwin displayed his trademark skills of leadership, management, professionalism and discretion. They served him well on Capitol Hill, where he became a vital link between Congress and the Pentagon and helped facilitate a better understanding of complicated matters vital to our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I got to know Lt. Col. Lotwin best during the year he served as my Military Fellow. He was an invaluable and truly wonderful presence in my office. He's the kind of guy who instantly earns your friendship with his humor and your respect with his intelligence. He brought not just a career-long knowledge of the Army and our Armed Forces, but his interest and aptitude in a wide array of other issues made him a valuable member of my team. His insight and advice helped me represent and serve the people of the Tenth Congressional District in California.

Andrew and his wife Holly are blessed with three wonderful children—Amanda, Dana, and Noah. I really believe that military families are one of our country's most precious military resources, and this is certainly the case with the Lotwins. Holly's devotion to Andrew, their family and our country are evident. Like Andrew, she is a great American hero.

As Andrew Lotwin begins what is sure to be a remarkable second career, I wish him and his family all the best. America has been blessed to have him in our Armed Forces, and I applaud him for his continued service to our country.

HONORING JERRY KALOV

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on February 28 we lost a great American when Jerry Kalov passed away after a long battle against leukemia.

Jerry Kalov was a great American because he lived the rags to riches story. He grew up poor in Chicago and worked in several stores and rose to lead major companies including International Jensen and Harman International.

But Jerry's "riches" were not his degrees or his money. Jerry had no college degree and he died without a fortune. Jerry was one of America's richest men because of the huge number of lives he affected, including mine.

Jerry's passion was helping people become leaders. He took so many under his wing and he mentored us without judging us but always making us better.

For me, he took a successful businessman and taught me about humility, diplomacy and patience. He continued to mentor me even after I entered Congress and helped keep me grounded in what is a rare and heady atmosphere.

For Consumer Electronics Association president Gary Shapiro he took a brash lawyer and instilled business savvy and people skills. Jerry taught him that if you care about your

employees, results will follow. He mentored Gary and several volunteer CEA chairmen and helped transform a sleepy small association into a top 20 economic and political powerhouse.

Among the CEA leaders he mentored was Kathy Gornik. Kathy owns a small Kentucky loudspeaker company. Jerry convinced her that she could lead a major national association and with Jerry's help, Kathy tripled the association's membership and created a special focus on smaller entrepreneurial companies.

Jerry mentored several others including JEDEC president John Kelly, NARDA president Elly Valas and Casio president John McDonald.

We have lost a friend, an influencer of people and a model for sharing through mentoring. Jerry reminds me that a man's worth is measured by the people he affected. Jerry helped shape many of us and we will miss him.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representatives REHBERG, HERSETH, and OSBORNE to introduce the National Drought Preparedness Act. The companion to our bill is will also be introduced in the other body by Senators PETE DOMENICI and MAX BAUCUS in the near future.

In 1998, Congress passed legislation creating the National Drought Policy Commission. The Commission was tasked with the responsibility to examine current U.S. policy on drought. To summarize the Commission's fifty-page report in a few short words, "The U.S. does not have a policy on drought."

I wish I had just made a joke. The fact that we don't have a drought policy, however, is a joke—and not a good one at that.

Drought is not just an agriculture issue, nor is it only a water management issue. When droughts occur, forest fires erupt, small businesses close, crop yields decrease, and in many instances, people die.

In my home state of Florida, we are always taking steps to mitigate the affects of hurricanes and floods—regardless of what season it is. In the Midwest, similar efforts are made to plan for tornadoes, and in the West, the same could be said for wildfire prevention and earthquakes.

It is time for America to move away from the costly, ad-hoc, and response-oriented approach to drought, and toward a more proactive approach that focuses on preparation and planning. Coordination between federal, state, and local governments, in addition to watershed groups, farmers and ranchers, and resource dependent businesses, is the only way we will successfully curb the effects of drought before we find ourselves in one. The bill we are introducing today provides a new focus on an otherwise often ignored natural disaster.

Our bill accomplishes four major goals.

First, the bill begins to move the country away from the costly, ad-hoc, and response-oriented approach to drought, and toward a more pro-active approach focused on preparation and planning. The new national policy will

provide the tools and focus for Federal, State, tribal and local governments to address the diverse impacts and costs caused by drought.

Second, the bill will improve the delivery of Federal drought programs. To ensure improved program delivery, integration and leadership, the National Drought Preparedness Act establishes the National Drought Council under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Council will provide the coordinating and integrating function for the more than 80 federal drought programs currently in existence.

Third, the bill establishes new tools for drought preparedness planning. Building on current water policy, the Drought Council will assist states, local governments, tribes, and other entities in the development and implementation of drought preparedness plans. The bill does not mandate state and local planning, but is intended to facilitate the development and implementation of drought plans through the establishment of a Drought Assistance Fund. Importantly, the bill also preserves state authority over water allocation.

Fourth, the bill improves our forecasting and monitoring abilities. Under our legislation, the Drought Council will facilitate the development of the National Integrated Drought Information System in order to improve the characterization of current drought conditions and the forecasting of future droughts, as well as provide a better basis to trigger federal drought assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of a coordinated and comprehensive National Drought Council will provide efficient and time sensitive coordination between federal agencies in preparing for and responding to droughts, as well as assisting Congress in identifying our immediate and long term needs in providing drought relief.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues and moving this bill forward. Americans are hurting throughout this country today because of water shortages and prolonged droughts. Congress must act immediately, and time is of the essence.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge the House leadership to bring this bill to the floor for its swift consideration.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, the \$81 billion that the president is requesting for the war in Iraq is his 3rd request for emergency spending—and still there is no exit strategy and no plan for success in Iraq. This is a war that was sold to the American people and Members of Congress under false pretenses,

and the American people cannot continue to fund indefinitely this administration's gross incompetence, particularly without any real oversight tied to it. The administration is rapidly bankrupting this country for this war, while starving our most important priorities here at home, such as homeland security, social security and education. The administration has raised the debt ceiling three times to a record \$7.6 trillion, grown the largest budget deficit in our history, \$412 billion last year, and expanded a record trade deficit of \$619 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I support and honor the troops. My father is a veteran of World War II and my brother is a veteran of the Vietnam War. The National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division is made up of brave New Yorkers—I am deeply concerned for their safety. Which is why I was shocked and appalled when some photos straight from the 42nd I.D. in Tikrit were given to me recently.

Despite the billions already allocated for Iraq, these photos show humvees with metal sheets slapped on to their sides like makeshift armor; with empty oxygen canisters being used to anchor the soldiers' weapons; with junkyard quality doors. You can view these pictures for yourself on my website.

I want to know, why hasn't every cent we have appropriated gone to properly equip the troops until they are all safe and secure? Mr. Speaker, the lack of equipment for our troops is the most awful example of misspending of the money we have already allocated, but it is not the only one.

And then there are billions of dollars that we either can't find or that were spent unwisely. The Coalition Provisional Authority completely lost \$9 billion in Iraq. And now we have reports that the administration actually assisted Haliburton in concealing at least more than \$100 million in overcharges out of its \$7 billion in no-bid contracts.

We must have stronger oversight. The administration should be able to tell the American taxpayer what is going on with its money in Iraq. There should be open and honest accounting. But even though previous spending bills set out specific requirements for reporting how the money is being spent and for an estimate of future costs, we have yet to receive either. How do mismanagement, poor decisions and no-bid contracts help our troops?

Certainly, there are parts of this supplemental spending bill that I strongly support. The \$650 million for tsunami relief and reconstruction is very important, and my amendment that was accepted will designate \$3 million specifically for the UNFPA's efforts to aid maternal health in the tsunami-stricken areas. I also support the provisions to aid the peace in the Sudan, as well as development assistance for the West Bank and Gaza.

Still, it is extremely troubling that we cannot get an honest accounting of the billions we are spending on this war. I'm deeply disappointed that the Republican House voted down an earlier amendment that would have ensured proper accounting of the money we spend. This administration needs to implement oversight and accountability, but it fails to do so. Before I can vote for another enormous expenditure of the American taxpayers' money for this war, I must be convinced that this administration will keep tabs on the money and make sure it benefits our troops. Doing so is good for the war effort, and it's good for the troops.

We cannot continue to hemorrhage the hard-earned money of American taxpayers

when the troops need it, and we need it here at home. There is no end in sight to the loss of lives on all sides, and this administration still has no answers.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF DR. FRANK SPLITT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the work of Dr. Frank Splitt, a McCormick Faculty Fellow at Northwestern University. As a member of The Drake Group, Dr. Splitt has worked to bring attention to the need for reform in college athletics. I would like to submit this article, "Why Congress Should Review Policies that Facilitate the Growth and Corruption of Big-Time College Sports" for the review of my colleagues. I hope that during this session of Congress we can begin to work to improve the system for the sake of our athletes, teachers, fans, and entire educational system.

"Why Congress Should Review Policies that Facilitate the Growth and Corruption of Big-Time College Sports" by Dr. Frank Splitt

Despite many wakeup calls and warnings over the years, the situation with big-time college sports is much worse than many could ever have imagined. Two questions loom large: What's going on? And, where are the people who are willing to speak the truth about the academic corruption spawned by the college-sports entertainment colossus and to do something about it? To find the answer to the first question, one need only look at the usual suspect—money. Big money, together with greed, avid sports fans, an apathetic public, and governmental policies make college sports a lucrative and growing tax-free business enterprise. Key enablers for the continuing growth of this business are higher education professionals in a state of denial over the unflattering reality of academic corruption, a relatively ineffectual NCAA, and facilitating government policies involving privacy law and the subsidy of athletic departments and favorable tax treatment of related projects.

The Drake Group (TDG), a grass-roots faculty organization, provides a partial answer to the second question. It works on the premise that college sports aren't themselves evil, but rather, it's the related academic corruption that should be exposed and eliminated. TDG has sponsored the publication of two papers on college-sports reform, "Reclaiming Academic Primacy in Higher Education," and a sequel, "The Faculty-Driven Movement to Reform Big-Time College Sports," see www.ece.northwestern.edu/EXTERNAL/Splitt/. The first paper served as another wakeup call to university presidents, trustees, administrators and faculties. The sequel focused on a TDG initiative to help restore academic integrity by working to change the Family Educational Rights and Privacy of 1974 (FERPA)—also known as the Buckley Amendment.

As an unintended consequence of the Buckley Amendment, evidence of academic corruption and shenanigans in big-time college sports are hidden from real public scrutiny and the NCAA and schools (via waivers) can exploit and control their athletes while only releasing news favorable to themselves.

In their Wisconsin Law Review article, "Cleaning Up Buckley: How The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Shields Academic Corruption In College Athletics," Matthew Salzwedel and Jon Ericson make a compelling case for simple changes that would permit an appropriate level of disclosure. It is my view that those changes would lead to exposure of institutional misbehavior via publication of information about the academic courses that athletes take, as well as their choice of professors and academic majors. Over time, that disclosure would work to ensure that college athletes are getting a legitimate college education.

Changes to the Buckley Amendment require governmental intervention. TDG made a formal request for a review of the amendment to LeRoy S. Rooker, Director of the U.S. Department of Education Family Policy Compliance Office. In his response, Director Rooker stated that TDG's concerns were largely those that can only be addressed by Congress. Follow up with the chairs of the appropriate Congressional Committees has been initiated by TDG.

It should be clear that, no matter how bad college sports related scandals may become, how appropriate any one of a number of reform measures may be, or, how intense the urging of the Knight Commission, there is little likelihood that these kinds of measures would be adopted on a voluntary basis. The reason is simple: Universal adoption would likely prove to be successful in curbing the rampant excesses of the college sports and level the playing field, but put at risk the big, tax-free money flow into the NCAA cartel. Substantive reform measures all seem to make sense to the reform minded, but not to those that are to be reformed—setting the stage for endless debate. Nothing of consequence happens.

The NCAA's proposed reforms in the wake of the University of Colorado-Boulder recruiting scandal came under critical review at a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on May 18, 2004. That hearing, titled "Supporting Our Intercollegiate Student-Athletes: Proposed NCAA Reforms" was called to examine the NCAA response to the recruiting practices and policies of intercollegiate athletics. The Subcommittee expressed concern that some of the NCAA's new proposals don't go far enough and mentioned a possible motivational tool for Congress to get what it wants: the tax-exempt status of NCAA programs. Those remarks spawn hope that the NCAA and its members will be forced to pay serious attention to reform and enforcement as well as tell the truth about their financial operations.

With a public now fatigued with terrorist related threats and numbed by grievous wrongdoing, scandals, and cover ups in their financial and political worlds, the challenge for Congress is to take on the tasks of working for disclosure via "cleaning up Buckley"—penetrating the closed society of higher education and its "See no evil, Speak no evil, Hear no evil," modus operandi—and calling for an IRS audit of the NCAA cartel. When buttressed by compelling arguments for reform and intensive scrutiny by the media, these efforts can surmount the formidable barriers that have thus far shielded intercollegiate athletics from serious reform.

IN MEMORY OF HON. GLENN BOX

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HENSARLING and I rise to honor the memory of the late Honorable Glenn Box. Glenn served his fellow citizens with distinction on the Dallas City Council from 1989 to 1995. We are greatly saddened by his passing, as Dallas lost one of its strongest advocates to cancer.

Glenn passed away from a rare form of cancer, mesothelioma, on February 17, 2005 at Baylor University Medical Center. We mourn the loss of such a great civic leader for the people of Dallas. At the age of thirty, Glenn had already been elected to the Dallas City Council, and would serve as the chairman of the Public Safety Committee from 1991 to 1995. Upon his retirement from public service, Glenn joined the Coca-Cola Company and most recently served as a regional vice-president for Coke sales throughout eleven Midwestern states.

Glenn was born and raised in Dallas, graduating from W.T. White High School and then attended Southern Methodist University for his undergraduate degree. After earning his law degree from the University of Texas at Austin, he returned to Dallas to join the law firm of Jackson & Walker.

In addition to his loving wife and mother, Glenn is survived by his two sons and his brother and sister. We join the Box family in honoring the memory of Glenn's life and his tireless service to improving the lives of the citizens of Dallas.

CODIFICATION OF TITLE 46 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE "SHIPPING"

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to complete the codification of title 46, United States Code, "Shipping", as positive law. This bill is an updated version of H.R. 4319 which was introduced in the 108th Congress.

This bill has been prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives in accordance with 2 U.S.C. 285b(1). That Office received comments on the predecessor bill and made appropriate changes which are reflected in this bill.

Questions about this bill should be addressed to Richard B. Simpson, Senior Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-304 Ford House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. The telephone number is 202-226-9059. Additional information can be found on the Law Revision Counsel website at <http://uscod.house.gov/cod/t46>.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCILMAN JOHN A. DIAZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of San Marcos City Councilman John A. Diaz, of my Congressional District.

John Diaz is lifelong resident of San Marcos and has been an active participant in the community throughout his lifetime. He is a proud graduate of San Marcos High School, and also attended the Austin School of Fine Arts. He is an inspiring businessman, and is the self-employed owner of Sign-Arts.

Mr. Diaz works constantly to ensure the people of San Marcos, Texas get the services they need from the local government. John is a board member of the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce and San Marcos Hispanic Chamber Board of Directors.

John has served on the City Planning and Zoning Commission, the Central Texas Higher Education Authority, and the San Marcos School Board. He has been a constant fixture of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Throughout his years with the organization he has served as President, State Secretary, and District Director.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman John A. Diaz understands the concerns of the citizens, small businesses and everything else that is the great city of San Marcos. It is because of this connection with the populace and his long standing record of public service that I am proud to let the people know of the commitment of John Diaz to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO ALICE LAN-HUA HWANG 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Alice Lan-Hua Hwang. For many years, Alice has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Alice instantly recognize her dedication and commitment to education.

Raised in a diplomatic family, Alice lived in Asia and Latin America before coming to the United States in 1967 when her father was assigned to the Los Angeles Chinese Consulate. Her parents, who were educators, instilled in Alice the spirit of altruism and the importance of education. Alice received her education under 5 different educational systems on 3 continents.

Alice moved to South Pasadena, California in 1983. In 1989, Alice was elected to the South Pasadena Board of Education and was the first Asian American woman to be elected to that body. She served on the board for 8 years, serving as President for one term, until her retirement in 1997.

Together with her late husband, Dr. Karl J. Hwang, and former South Pasadena City Councilman Paul Zee, Alice co-founded the South Pasadena Chinese American Club. The club has been successful in fostering understanding between the Chinese American community and other ethnic groups, raises funds to provide grants to South Pasadena teachers, and awards college scholarships.

After her husband's untimely death, Alice returned to school and earned a multiple subjects and bi-lingual teaching credential in 1993. Currently an ESL teacher in the Adult Division of the Alhambra School District, she is also a member of the California Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages and a presenter at their annual state conference in 2003.

Alice has served as a board member of the Young Men's Christian Association, the South Pasadena Educational Foundation and the South Pasadena Chinese American Club, and on the committee to protect the South Pasadena Public Library system. She is also a volunteer for the Pacific Asia Museum and serves as an interpreter for parents in the local schools. In 1993 she received the Outstanding Woman of the Year Award from the Kiwanis Club and an award from the Los Angeles County Commission on the Status of Women in 1996.

In addition to her service to the community, Alice sings in her church choir, is a classical pianist and guitarist and a former member of the Arroyo Singers. She is the proud mother of Victor and Michael.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Alice Lan-Hua Hwang. The entire community joins me in thanking Alice for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
MERTIS LOUISE FLOYD SCOTT

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Mertis Louise Floyd Scott, Deputy Chief Nurse of the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Veterans Administration Medical Center in Jackson Mississippi, passed away unexpectedly after a very short illness on October 15, 2004 at the young age of 48. She dedicated her life to the care of others and I take this opportunity to remember that life that so blessed us.

Mertis exemplified the meaning of nursing and received numerous professional awards during her twenty-six years of service at the VA Medical Center. In May of 1989, Mertis was named recipient of the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing, presented to her by Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Edward J. Deriwinski in Washington, DC.

She also received a citation from President George H.W. Bush.

Mertis held high the values of leadership and exhibited a continual quest for knowledge. She had a commitment to service through any challenge with a positive attitude.

Mr. Speaker, Mertis always remembered her faith and commitment to serve God and man. She defined her humanity by her service to patients and health providers alike. Her colleagues defined her life with these words: loving, caring, nurturing, generosity, patience, angelic personality. She was an inspiration to the lives she touched both personally and professionally. We mourn her passing, but we remember and celebrate her life.

A TRIBUTE TO PAMELA M. JUNIOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Pamela Mary Johnson-Junior who has committed herself to strengthening her community through her work on the Community Planning Board.

Pamela was born in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn and still resides there today. Pamela and her twin brother are the last of 10 children born to Booker T. Johnson and Ina L. Johnson.

At age 16, Pamela graduated a year early from high school and attended Long Island University. Later, she transferred to John Jay College of Criminal Justice and majored in Criminal Justice Administration and Planning.

Pamela learned at a very early age the importance of community involvement and as a teenager, she became actively involved in her Block Association. Soon thereafter, she was elected President of the Teenage Association of the 500 Decatur Street Block Association. However, her interests in politics extended beyond the local level. When Jesse Jackson ran for the Presidency of the United States, she took a two month leave of absence from her position as a Legal Assistant at one of Wall Street's top law firms, where she had been employed for over 16 years, to volunteer her services at Jesse Jackson's Bedford Stuyvesant based campaign headquarters. Nearly twenty years later, Pam continues to maintain a 50+ hour work week at the firm.

In the 1990's, Pamela became actively involved in Bedford-Stuyvesant community affairs and began attending monthly community meetings at Community Board No. 3 and at the 81st Precinct. This opportunity provided her with first-hand experience and knowledge of the needs of the community. In 1996, she was appointed to Community Planning Board No. 3 by then Borough President Howard Golden. In 2000, she was elected to the position of 2nd Vice President of the Board and in 2001 she was elected to the position of 1st Vice President of the Board, which she has held for several years.

During her tenure as Economic Development Chairperson of the Board, Pamela has spearheaded the 197a Plan for Bedford-Stuyvesant, collaborating with health professionals, churches, tenant associations, community activists, block associations, and Pratt Institute. She also solicited and helped raise

over \$250,000 to fund the 197a Plan. Pamela has forged relationships between the Community Planning Board and various New York City agencies in an effort to build the commercial corridors in Bedford-Stuyvesant and has worked closely with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and elected officials in the development of the Fulton F.I.R.S.T. Initiative. Finally, she has held weekly meetings during the summer months to ensure that community residents were informed of new and upcoming developments.

Mr. Speaker, Pamela Mary Johnson-Junior has been a leader in her community through her efforts to improve our educational system and serve those in need. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF QUIN
HILLYER OF THE MOBILE REGISTER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a recent contribution of Mr. Quin Hillyer, editorial writer for the Mobile Register.

As many in this chamber are aware, former Alabama Attorney General and current 11th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William Pryor has faced numerous difficulties with his nomination to a full-time position on that court by the President. As I speak today, it is my understanding that Judge Pryor's nomination to a lifetime appointment will again come up for consideration within the next few months.

During introductory remarks I delivered at the original confirmation hearing for then-Attorney General Pryor, I stated that he has earned the political respect of many, including his political foes. He has consistently sided with constitutional precedent in making his decisions, and throughout his career he has received very high ratings for his legal ability and very high ethical standards. Judge Pryor has received the backing and strong support for a lifetime appointment to the 11th Circuit from men and women from all across Alabama's political spectrum.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful Judge Pryor will receive a favorable and impartial decision on the matter of a permanent appointment to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, and I would encourage those involved in that process to take a fair and unbiased look at his record. To that end, Mr. Hillyer has written what I feel is a very impassioned and well-reasoned argument for why Judge Pryor should receive this appointment. This article appeared in the Wall Street Journal on March 3, 2005, and I ask my colleagues to carefully consider the comments he makes here.

CROSS COUNTRY: PRYOR IMPRESSIONS
(By Quin Hillyer, Mobile Register)

If judicial nominations represent the spear-point of all of the partisan battles in Washington, former Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor is the poison on the spear. Judge Pryor, whose renomination to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals could get a Senate hearing as early as March 9, has become a folk hero to conservatives nationwide while

drawing fierce denunciations from liberal editorial pages. Come to Alabama, though, and the cognoscenti from all shades of the political spectrum find the controversy badly misguided.

Here, the Republican Pryor—at age 42, now serving a mere temporary appointment to the 11th Circuit—is the darling not just of right-leaning editorial boards. He enjoys near-universal support even from newspapers that endorsed Al Gore and John Kerry, from elected officials both Democrat and Republican, black and white—and even from the Democrat who Mr. Pryor defeated for attorney general.

The liberal Anniston Star, for instance, in the same editorial that urges filibusters against most of President Bush's nominees, writes that “Pryor, who possesses a brilliant legal mind, cannot be so easily dismissed. . . . Pryor has been proven capable of setting aside his ideology when it matters most. . . . [He] helped shut down [Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore's Ten Commandments] side-show and, in the process, displayed personal courage. That alone ought to convince Democrats currently blocking a vote on Pryor to give him a chance.”

Why do Alabamians so strongly back Judge Pryor? Because they've seen him in action defending Democratic lawmakers against Republican lawsuits, defying the Republican governor (Fob James) who appointed him, and spending countless hours establishing a youth mentorship program through the attorney general's office. They know him, up close, as a man of integrity and compassion.

National critics have gone to prodigious lengths to muddy that home-state record. Unfairly so. Consider that critics have accused Judge Pryor of being insensitive to women because he successfully argued against one small portion of the Violence Against Women Act. But Judge Pryor's constitutional point was virtually incontrovertible, namely that rape doesn't qualify as “interstate commerce.” His goal was to keep authority for prosecuting rapes in state courts, where (in Alabama at least) the juries are likely to be harder on rapists than elsewhere. Meanwhile, he has been praised throughout Alabama by groups that aid victims of domestic violence. Mobile's Penelope House women's shelter even named him to its Law Enforcement Hall of Fame.

The story is similar on every issue on which he has been criticized. Somebody served Sen. Dianne Feinstein poorly, for example, when providing her a quote from Judge Pryor that made it sound like he advocated the Christianization of government. But the quote came from a speech to his alma mater—McGill-Toolen Catholic High School, in Mobile—the point of which was not that the government should be Christian but that Catholics have a duty to be good citizens. (As it turned out, he was citing St. Thomas Aquinas, hardly a great threat to the American order.)

Critics have also accused him of race-based opposition to one portion of the Voting Rights Act. Why, then, is Judge Pryor supported by Alabama's lone black, Democratic congressman, and by its two most prominent black, Democratic legislators, and by its black Democratic National Committeeman? And on the case in question, Judge Pryor was backed by Georgia's black, Democratic AG, Thurbert Baker, who also endorsed Bill Pryor's judicial nomination.

Obviously, there is a disconnect between the interest-group and liberal-media assumption that Southern conservatives, especially Alabama ones, likely have racist tendencies, and the obvious reality of Judge Pryor's genuinely warm relationships with so many of Alabama's black leaders. Part of the ex-

planation lies in the fact that Alabama has indeed come a long way since Bull Connor. Also important is that Judge Pryor's native Mobile, especially its old-line Catholic sector in which he grew up, handled civil rights with far more aplomb than Bull Connor's Birmingham—and with virtually no violence. Early on, then-Mayor Joseph Langan peacefully integrated the city's bus lines. And Bill Pryor's own high school, where his father was band director, integrated comfortably in the '60s, well before he matriculated.

Judge Pryor would say, correctly, that his jurisprudence aims at helping neither victims nor powerful interests, but merely at following precedent and the Constitution. In his closing arguments against the judicial vigilantism of Alabama's then-Chief Justice Roy Moore, he said: “In our system, a judge must follow the final decision of other judges, even when he is convinced they're wrong. . . . The answer this court must provide to every judge in Alabama is that no judge is above the law.”

That's why, against his own personal predilections, he refused, as attorney general, to enforce part of a new state law against partial birth abortions: because that section contradicted clear U.S. Supreme Court precedent. That's why, against his own predilections, he enforced the very portion of the Voting Rights Act that he and his Georgia Democratic counterpart opposed. And that's why the leader of Alabama's top black, Democratic organization endorsed him as a judge who “will uphold the law without fear or favor,” while former Democratic AG Bill Baxley said Judge Pryor always acts “without race, gender, age, political power, wealth, community standing, or any other competing interest affecting his judgment.”

Yes, we in Alabama proudly support Bill Pryor. His career—as public intellectual, successful prosecutor, cultural-bridge-builder and man of conscience even at his own political peril—represents many of the traits the national media has always said Alabama lacks. Until he came along, our most famous exemplar of such character was the fictional Atticus Finch. Now that we can offer a real-life Atticus, we're more than a little angry that the Washington elites want to reject him.

TRIBUTE TO TOM KENNEY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, my congressional district in Riverside, California is extremely fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated group of community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give of their time and talents to ensure the well-being of our city and county. These individuals work tirelessly to develop voluntary community action to improve the community's economy, its education, its environment and its overall quality of life. One individual, who is a member of this group, is Tom Kenney.

On the 19th of March, Tom will be honored with the Ira D. “Cal” Calvert Distinguished Service Award by the Corona-Norco Family YMCA. The award is given in memory of my father, “Cal” Calvert, and his enumerable philanthropic gifts to the community and his efforts to encourage others to serve their community in a similar fashion. The award recognizes Tom for his exceptional devotion to developing community volunteerism.

Tom was born in Pennsylvania, but moved to California during his service with the Navy. He met and married Barbara Keith, a school teacher in the Corona-Norco Unified School District, attended Riverside Community College and graduated from the University California, Riverside. After 12 years with Prudential Insurance Company, and earning an M.B.A. from University of Southern California, Tom moved to take what became a series of executive jobs. In 1995, Tom and Barb, with their sons Christopher and Patrick, took the opportunity to purchase the Key-Freeman Agency and move back to their California home. Tom has been involved in many community organizations, serving on the boards of Corona-Norco United Way, the Corona Rotary Club, the Corona Library Foundation, and the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

Tom's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. Tom has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call Tom a fellow community member, American and friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ROSS DUNN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Ross Dunn, a longtime Chambers County Commissioner who recently passed away. In January, Mr. Dunn was honored for his service to the community and to the state. He was always eager to serve mankind.

After graduating from Lanier High School, he pursued his dream of serving in the military by enlisting in the Army. Following his service to the nation, Mr. Dunn earned his degree at Alabama State University.

Throughout his life, Mr. Dunn exemplified his ability to promote change by becoming the first African American to serve in many organizations. Among his many achievements, he was the first to serve on the Chambers County Pension and Security Board, the first to serve as principal of two schools in Harris County, and the first to be elected to the Chambers County Commission. He has been listed in “Men of Achievement,” “Personalities of the South,” “Personalities of America,” and all the editions of “Who's Who Among Black Americans.”

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our community feels for his service. Our community will remember him for years to come, and I am honored to be able to recognize his achievements on this day.

JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TULSA RACE RIOTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a matter of justice. The Tulsa Race

Riots remain today a matter unresolved in our national conscience. More than 80 years after the occurrence of this horrible event, the time has come to bring closure. A March 13th article in the New York Daily News sheds light on the Tulsa Race Riots and the current effort underway to obtain justice for the victims.

Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1921 was something of an African American success story. The city's Black community, known as Greenwood, had developed into a prosperous area of shops, hotels, gaming halls and restaurants that was known throughout the Southwest. So significant was its reputation, that the famous Black leader Booker T. Washington would dub Greenwood "the Black Wall Street."

However, the Black community's prosperity was a source of resentment among many of city's white residents. Racial tension in the city was palpable. This and other factors would eventually manifest themselves, with deadly consequences.

The Tulsa Race Riots began May 31, 1921, when police arrested a black youth for allegedly assaulting a white woman, a charge later dismissed. A crowd of whites gathered outside the courthouse where the youth was being held, calling for his lynching.

According to a 2001 report commissioned by the State of Oklahoma, Black citizens from the Greenwood neighborhood armed themselves and went to the courthouse to defend the young man. After an initial period of confusion, a shot was fired and a gunfight ensued.

A white mob then marched to the Greenwood area of the city and began to destroy the 40-block neighborhood. Left unobstructed by police and Oklahoma National Guard troops, the white mob burned nearly all of Greenwood to the ground, leaving nearly 9,000 people homeless. A total of 1,256 homes were destroyed, along with "virtually every other structure, including churches, businesses, schools, even a hospital and a library.

The mob also killed many Black citizens in the process. Officially, the death count for the Riots had been put at 38 people, but the 2001 Oklahoma State report put the figure closer to 300 individuals.

In the immediate aftermath of the destruction, more than 100 Greenwood residents unsuccessfully filed lawsuits attempting to recover damages. A grand jury convened to determine the cause of the riot and actually faulted the city's African-American residents. Subsequently, the issue would seemingly disappear for nearly eighty years.

However, after the publication of the 2001 Oklahoma state report, a group of 150 Riot survivors and their descendants, represented by Harvard law professor Charles Ogletree, sued the state of Oklahoma, the city of Tulsa, the city's police department and its police chief.

Lower courts dismissed the case on the grounds that a two-year statute of limitations on the 1921 incident had long since passed. Prof. Ogletree has argued that the statute of limitations should not have started until 2001, when the state commission appointed to investigate the riots completed its report, and revealed the culpability of state and local government.

In March 2004, U.S. District Court Judge James O. Ellison ruled that the statute-of-limitations should extend to a time when the defendants could receive a fair hearing in court, but he also argued that such an opportunity was present as early as the 1960s.

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that ruling in September 2004, but argued that the case should have been brought during 1980s, when a book about the Riots was published—thus giving the plaintiffs the evidence they needed in bringing the case.

Prof. Ogletree has argued that not all the victims knew about the book, and that the government still had not acknowledged its culpability until the state commission report in 2001. Furthermore, until the state commission's report, the official stance of the State of Oklahoma was that the Black citizens of Tulsa were responsible for the Riots.

As a result of the recent decision against the plaintiffs by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, Prof. Ogletree and his legal team are now seeking to have the case brought before the United States Supreme Court. The Court received a petition brief from Prof. Ogletree and his team on March 9th, and a decision is pending.

Millions of children around our nation recite a daily pledge, an oath of allegiance to a nation which promises "justice for all." Unfortunately, our country has not always exhibited the national virtues described in that pledge. The victims of the Tulsa Race Riots have undoubtedly been denied justice, and now a legal technicality threatens to ensure that they will never obtain it. Let us not allow this to happen—for the sake of the Tulsa Race Riot victims, and for the sake of our nation.

TIME TO FIX RIOT'S WRONGS

By E.R. Shipp

[From the Daily News, Mar. 13, 2005]

To white folks back in the day, it was Niggertown. To black folks during that same time, it was The Black Wall Street. It was the Greenwood section of Tulsa, Okla. And the gap in perception is the frame of the issue that might be decided ultimately by the U.S. Supreme Court: reparations.

Reparations make sense when one can demonstrate that one has suffered a loss. That is not the case for most black folk who, when they hear politicians and college professors say "reparations," are hoping that the government will become their Lotto ticket to wealth.

If the high court agrees to take on the Tulsa case, laid out in a petition led last week by lawyers—led by Harvard's Charles Ogletree—the justices might see that Tulsa is a whole different matter.

The 1921 Tulsa race riot began when police arrested a black youth for allegedly assaulting a white woman, a charge later dismissed. A crowd of whites gathered outside the courthouse where the youth was jailed, and there was a rumor that he would be lynched.

According to the state's 2001 report, men from Greenwood armed themselves and went to the courthouse to defend the youth. A gunfight erupted, and the outnumbered blacks retreated to Greenwood. A white mob followed them and burned the neighborhood.

A "white mob ransacked Greenwood, shooting indiscriminately at African-Americans and burning almost every building in the community. Not only did the state and city fail to stop the destruction, but state and local officials participated in the violence and deputized and armed members of the white mob," states the petition, filed on behalf of the riot's survivors and their descendants.

From the get-go, Oklahomans set roadblocks to any kind of recompense for the hundreds of homeowners and businesses devastated during the riot. And then, after a state commission finally concluded in 2001—four years ago!—that more than attention

must be paid to what transpired, the courts said to these black folks: Sorry. Too late. You should have filed your claims years ago. Too bad. So sad.

So, justices of the highest court in the land, rise to the dignity of your titles and do justice in this case. Do justice by 102-year-old Otis Clarke, a Greenwood victim. Do more than pay lip service to the immorality of what transpired. Reparations in the form of money, not just penance, must be paid for this act of domestic terrorism.

The lower courts said it's too late. But the Supreme Court has the chance to do what's right, and the time for that is now.

HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINEOLA ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. On February 23, 2005, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary International has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders whose mission is to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat polio, promote cultural exchanges, and encourage community service.

I also want to provide special recognition to an important member of this outstanding organization, the Rotary Club of Mineola, Texas, for their sixty-five years of service to Wood County. Throughout its sixty-five year history, the Mineola Rotary Club has achieved great successes in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

In past years, the Mineola Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships to local students, sponsored a reading program at the local library for students trying to learn English, and planted trees throughout the county. In addition, the club is an active fundraiser for the local library, has sponsored programs to teach students Spanish, and has been active with the Meals on Wheels program that brings food to the elderly population in the area.

Through these actions, the Rotary Club of Mineola, Texas, has exemplified the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING BEVERLY HANSON

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of one of my constituents, Ms. Beverly Hanson of Oceanside.

Several months ago, Southeast Asia was devastated by a tsunami. This terrible tragedy claimed the lives of countless thousands of people and caused horrific damage to the lives of those who survived it. Ms. Hanson was deeply touched and saddened by the lives of the children affected. Seeking to make a difference in the lives of these traumatized children, she started a toy drive she called "Teddy Bears for Tsunami Children."

Ms. Hansen set up boxes with signs at local retail establishments, banks, and nonprofit organizations requesting donations of new and previously loved clean teddy bears and small, plush toys. The first shipment of 240 stuffed animals left San Diego for India, tightly packed into the suitcases and duffle bags of 62 doctors and nurses with Project Compassion. Approximately 300 more animals were sent in a package to Sri Lanka by Debbie and Mano Appapillai of Carmel Valley, California. Ms. Hanson is currently collecting 500 or more toys which will find their new homes this month. Ms. Hanson has worked very hard to publicize her project into North San Diego County. She utilized newspapers, drop off points, and television to get her message out. Her determination and effort are rare and worthy of the highest praise. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have Beverly Hanson as a constituent.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE K. LAI ON BEING NAMED 2005 GUAM SMALL BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR BY THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend Mr. George K. Lai on being named 2005 Guam Small Businessperson of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration. George Lai's hard work and perseverance embody the spirit of the American Dream, and the SBA could not have selected a more worthy recipient.

Like many of this Nation's great entrepreneurs, George came to the United States as an immigrant. Having grown up in Hong Kong with very little formal education in the English language, he worked hard to take advantage of opportunities for formal secondary education in Guam. After graduating from Guam's John F. Kennedy High School with honors, George gained admission to Texas Agriculture and Mining University, where he earned a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering in 1982. After several years of working for Dower Schlumberger, a Houston-based oil service company, he and his wife, Deborah Larsen Lai, moved back to Guam and established Quality Distributors in 1986. Quality Distributors has since become the largest food wholesaler on the island.

George has provided sound leadership for Quality Distributors, which led to its awarding as "New Contractor of the Year" by the Defense Logistics Agency in 2002. Quality Distributors was subsequently awarded "Prime Vendor of the Year" by the Defense Supplies Center of Philadelphia in 2003 in recognition

of its outstanding performance in the Pacific Region. Under George's leadership, Quality Distributors has continued to provide efficient wholesale services to local retailers and value to Federal procurement officers. Because of this sound business leadership, Quality Distributors helps foster local economic growth and new jobs.

In addition to providing business leadership, George is an active participant in local trade organizations that work to enhance the overall competitiveness of firms located in Guam. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association and for the Guam Environmental Protection Agency; as Vice President of the Chinese Merchant Association; and has maintained an active role in the Guam Chamber of Commerce and Guam Visitors Bureau. He has also supported the Guam community by serving as Treasurer and Director of Finance for the Guam Football and Soccer Association and as Chairman of the Women's National Soccer Team. George has also been generous in providing corporate sponsorships for important programs supporting public education, youth sports, and disaster relief in the Pacific Region.

George is a business leader, an inspiration for us all, and an individual deeply committed to utilizing his talents for the benefit of the entire Guam community. I congratulate George for being selected as the 2005 Guam Small Businessperson of the Year. Our island celebrates his national recognition with his wife Deborah and daughters Samantha and Breanna. George, we are all proud of you and we wish you continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I inadvertently voted "yes" on H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act. My intention was to vote "no" for the following reasons:

The President is asking for another blank check, despite the fact that its policies in Iraq have made our country and the world less safe.

The President has neither accounted for the funds spent pursuing these unsuccessful policies nor have they offered the American people a plan to stabilize the situation in Iraq and bring our troops home.

March 19, 2005, is the second anniversary of the war in Iraq and the world is a more dangerous place. To date 1,500 American troops have died in Iraq and 11,000 have been wounded.

I want to make clear that I support the courageous men and women in combat and I think it is imperative that we bring our troops home as quickly and safely as possible.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCIL MEMBER GAYLORD BOSE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of San Marcos City Councilman Gaylord Bose, of my Congressional District.

Gaylord Bose was born near Avoca, Nebraska near Cass County, and graduated in 1957 from Avoca High School. In 1958 he enrolled at the University of Nebraska, and in 1960 he began his own business.

Mr. Bose was involved in many community activities in their hometown, he served on the school board, as a member of the Weeping Water co-op Association, Secretary of the Volunteer Fire Department, president of the local sports program for young people, a 4-H club leader, church council, Sunday school teacher, and member of the Cass County 4-H Board.

In 1982 Gaylord and his family moved to Waller, Texas to work for Star of Hope Rescue Mission, a substance abuse rehabilitation program. Wanting to expand his ability to help others, he enrolled at the University of Houston and studied chemical abuse counseling program. He later earned a license as a chemical dependency counselor. In 1989 he was offered a job with the Wackenhut Corporation and became the Center Director of the Kyle facility.

After Gaylord Bose moved to San Marcos he became an active member Greater Castle Forest Neighborhood Association, and he was appointed by the San Marcos City Council to the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Gaylord Bose for his dedication and contributions in the community.

A TRIBUTE TO DEBRA A. JOHNSON, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Ms. Debra A. Johnson. For many years, Debra has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Debra instantly recognize her joy, enthusiasm and passion for helping others, especially young people.

Born in New York, Debra moved to California in 1974, while working as a Marketing Representative for Pacific Bell, now SBC. She began her nearly 30 year volunteer career in the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD)

in 1978. She has been a parent/student advocate, a youth mentor, Etiquette Institute volunteer and has served on PUSD's Youth Motivational Task Force—in fact, she has volunteered at nearly all of PUSD's elementary, middle and high schools. Additionally, Debra has volunteered for South Pasadena High School, serving as a swim/track team motivator and the historian for the Parent Teacher Student Association.

In 1992, Debra founded SMILE Productions Inc., a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting, motivating, investing, loving and educating youth. Her main goal is to help youth fulfill their dreams and to express themselves in creative ways through poetry, music, drama and dance, and to teach them basic etiquette, oral communication, job grooming, interviewing skills and self-esteem. Ms. Johnson also produces her own SMILE cable television talk show.

Debra is active in numerous organizations, including the Altadena Branch of the NAACP, Black Child Development Institute Inc. Pasadena, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, Rosemary Children's Services, HearZero Deaf Advocates, Los Angeles County Probation Department's Operation Read, NewCo Youth Pasadena, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where she teaches Sunday School.

In addition to her service to the community, Debra attends Pasadena City College, working to obtain her degree in forensic social work and public relations. She and her husband Landy reside in Altadena and together they have five children and four grandchildren.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Debra A. Johnson. The entire community joins me in thanking Debra for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

HONORING THE 50-YEAR MINISTRY
OF KERMIT MCGREGOR

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, the First Baptist Church of Starkville celebrated Dr. Kermit McGregor's 50 years in the ministry. Fifty years in service to any calling is noteworthy, but it is my particular pleasure to honor him for his decades of dedication to God.

Dr. McGregor is currently serving as the transitional pastor in Starkville, but he has been a blessing to many congregations across Mississippi. Since beginning the ministry at age 16—the same year he and his wife Phyllis were married—he has preached the Gospel in Pontotoc, Dumas, Smithdale, New Albany, Bruce, Winona, Hattiesburg, Clinton, Mendenhall and now in Starkville. Additionally, he has served as director of public relations at the Baptist Children's Village in Clinton, and as a trustee and chairman of the Board of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.

A graduate of Blue Mountain College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Wil-

liam Carey College, Dr. McGregor says he works today just as hard as he did before his "retirement" 6 years ago. But he maintains that in his calling, one never actually retires.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. McGregor has over the years encountered several major heart attacks and has even been clinically dead for a short amount of time. But he persevered and lives now following a heart transplant over 10 years ago. I believe his current health, his longevity, his sharpness of mind and his continued service to God and man comes not from his physical heart, but from his heart for God which never ceased beating in the past 50 years.

A TRIBUTE TO JOAN EASTMOND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Joan Eastmond who has dedicated her life to strengthening our educational system and improving her community.

Joan was born the youngest of 6 children into the Eastmond family and long time member of Bedford-Stuyvesant's royalty. The Eastmond family's record of community service had a profound influence on her development and ultimately, her achievements. The birth of her son, Brian, was noted by *Essence Magazine*.

She has always been committed to public service. As a teen she got involved with NAACP Youth Committee. She also participated in the School Integration Movement, led by her former minister, the late Dr. Milton Galamison (Siloam Presbyterian Church). She also had a unique role as a teacher. She struggled against the wishes of the prejudiced school system and the biases of the UFT. Her classroom at JHS 271 in the late 1960s was a model of "africentricism" and educational liberation.

A Training Coordinator of AFRAM Associates, she nurtured her decision-making role of parents on 9 different sites, public and private, located in 5 different States and the District of Columbia. She co-developed with Preston Wilcox and the late Kenneth W. Haskins, a tested and copyrighted educational model: Parent Implementation (Decision-Making) in Education. She also is the author of a major AFRAM Publication: *The HAMPTON Experiences*.

Currently employed at the Fort Greene Senior Citizens Center where she combines a variety of services for senior citizens, youth and graduate students (Lincoln University of Human Services Program), into a simulated social mission.

Joan is best known for the services she provides to the community as Joan has never forgotten where she came from. While serving "at-risk" youth at Bed-Stuy Restoration, her commitment to others became quite evident. She did not approach these youth as potential problems. Instead, she worked to convince them that they were in fact, "diamonds in the rough."

Mr. Speaker, Joan Eastmond has been a leader in her community through her efforts to improve our educational system and serve those in need. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I

urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
JOEL O. SWANSON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County, and indeed the entire State of Alabama, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Joel O. Swanson was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life. A native of Mobile, Alabama, Mr. Swanson moved at an early age to Port Arthur, Texas, with his father and mother, Captain and Mrs. Joel Arvid Swanson. In 1951, he and his family moved back to Mobile and established the advertising department for a local supermarket chain, Delchamps. Over the next four decades, he worked tirelessly to continue Delchamps' growth in the Mobile area, serving as advertising manager, corporate secretary, and executive vice president. He continued to work in the family business until his retirement in 1991.

In the midst of his intense professional schedule, Mr. Swanson always found time to serve with many community organizations and on several boards of directors. He served as president of the boards for the Mobile Mental Health Association, the Lions Club of Mobile, the Mobile Opera, and Symphony Concerts of Mobile. Additionally, he was a member of the Lions Club of Mobile and took an active role in the Museum of Mobile Board and the Friends of the Library.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout South Alabama. Mr. Swanson will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 61 years, Marilyn Morris Swanson; his children, Jan Swanson, Joel Craig Swanson, and Kirk Swanson; and one granddaughter—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING MR. LARRY TEAGUE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Larry Teague, Mayor of Mabank, Texas for his longtime support of agriculture in and around Mabank, Texas. Mr. Teague is a recipient of the Woodrow Walker Award from the Henderson County Livestock Show Association, for which he has served as a buyer for 25 years. In addition, Mr. Teague has also been a buyer for the Kaufman County Junior Livestock Show and a member and officer of the Mabank Ag Booster Club.

A father to three children, Randy, Rachelle, and Robby, Mr. Teague married his wife, Linda Carter, in June of 1972. Along with his agricultural activities, Mr. Teague is a member, deacon, and trustee at the First Baptist Church in Mabank. He is the president of

Mabank Economic Development, and a supporter of a number of charitable programs including Kids Across America, the Special Olympics, and the Make a Wish Foundation.

As a father, a husband, a devout churchgoer, and a community leader, Mr. Larry Teague has embodied the values of family, faith, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As his representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor him today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
"A GIRL'S PLACE" IN FAIR-
FIELD, CA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the March 24, 2005 dedication of "A Girl's Place," the Fairfield Facility of the Girl Scout Council of Napa-Solano.

This facility symbolizes a commitment from the community to ensuring that girls have a place to feel safe and to call their own. In June 1931, the residents of the City of Fairfield and Solano County came together to dedicate a building for the Girl Scouts of their community. Today, 75 years later, they have joined together again to reaffirm their pledge to the Girl Scouts and to dedicate a new facility. This new building replaces the old, which made way for modernization and offers the community hope and vision for the future.

"A Girl's" Place" will stand as an icon in the community, offering a safe haven for girls ages 5–17 and a place for adults who give freely of their time and love to come together to gain knowledge of our ever-changing young women.

The Girl Scouts of Napa-Solano serve 4,500 girls and 1,300 adult volunteers; nearly 1 in every 10 girls is a Girl Scout. Today Girl Scouts are reaching out into the community to provide a solid foundation for every girl, everywhere. Girls are participating in Girl Scouting in homes, schools, boys and girls clubs, juvenile halls, low-income housing complexes, emergency women's shelters, foster care programs, and churches. Girl Scouting helps girls mold their values and teaches self-confidence, leadership, teamwork and pride in her community. This collaboration inspires us all.

As the Girl Scouts' Honorary Congressional Co-Troop Leader, I am honored to recognize "A Girls' Place" as a proud addition to our community and I look forward to the generations of strong women who will spring from its steps.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF INCREASED HOMEOWNERSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAMS, FAIR LENDING LAWS, AND FAIR HOUSING LAWS IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that supports the goal of increased homeownership in the United States and recognizes the importance of homeownership programs, fair lending laws, and fair housing laws in achieving those goals.

This resolution specifically urges the President to designate April 2005 as National Fair Housing Month. It also urges the House of Representatives to recommit itself to making fair housing and homeownership a legislative priority in the 109th Congress.

We owe it to our constituents and the American people to support first-time homeownership programs, which help families who have never owned a home experience the benefits of home ownership.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution contains the importance of first-time homeownership, combating disparities in minority home ownership, and fighting the scourge of predatory lending. As the land of opportunity, we must ensure that all U.S. citizens are given a fair opportunity to achieve the American Dream, a significant component of which is homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. As Members of Congress, it is our moral responsibility to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to purchase a home, no matter their ethnicity, race, or religion. I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this promising resolution forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY AND 50TH YEAR AS RABBI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Rabbi Arthur Schneier, a tireless public servant, friend to all New Yorkers and one of our Nation's foremost spiritual leaders. On Sunday, March 20, 2005, Rabbi Schneier will celebrate his 75th birthday and 50th year as Rabbi at a dinner benefitting the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Center for International Affairs at Yeshiva University, which was established in 2004 to promote international peace and the exchange of ideas across cultural divides.

As a young man, Rabbi Schneier was a resident of Nazi-occupied Bucharest, where he experienced firsthand the depths of mankind's capacity for evil. Throughout his distinguished

career, Rabbi Schneier has turned his experience as a Holocaust survivor into an incredible drive to stamp out hatred and intolerance throughout the world. In 1965, Rabbi Schneier founded the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, which works to foster religious freedom and human rights and to end ethnic conflicts.

During the long and bloody war in the former Yugoslavia, Rabbi Schneier convened the Religious Summit on the Former Yugoslavia in Switzerland and the Conflict Resolution Conference in Vienna, Austria, mobilizing religious leaders to help end the ethnic violence plaguing leaders to help end the ethnic violence plaguing the region. Additionally, in Sarajevo, Rabbi Schneier met with top government and religious leaders to promote healing and conciliation among the Serbian Orthodox, Muslim, Catholic and Jewish communities.

Rabbi Schneier has also served our Nation in an official capacity as an Alternate U.S. Representative to the U.N. General Assembly.

Additionally, as Chairman of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, Rabbi Schneier was one of three American religious leaders appointed by President Bill Clinton to initiate a dialogue on religious freedom with Chinese President Jiang Zemin. Recently, Rabbi Schneier was a member of the U.S. delegation to the Stockholm International Forum for the Prevention of Genocide.

Rabbi Schneier's accomplishments here at home have been equally impressive. He is the Senior Rabbi of the Park East Synagogue, established in 1890 to serve the Jewish community of the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Centered in the heart of the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, the Synagogue has expanded significantly under Rabbi Schneier's leadership and is an invaluable part of New York City's spiritual and cultural life. Additionally, Rabbi Schneier, recognizing the growing desire among the American Jewish community to provide their children with a strong Jewish education, initiated and led a successful effort to establish a Jewish day school in New York. In 1977, both the Minks Cultural Center and the Park East Day School opened, furthering the Synagogue's ability to meet the Upper East Side's educational and social needs.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Rabbi Arthur Schneier and wishing him a wonderful 75th birthday celebration. Rabbi Schneier's dedication to tolerance and international peace serves as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ATASCOSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER WELDON P. CUDE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Commissioner Weldon P. Cude.

A seventh generation Atascosa resident, Mr. Cude started his career as a Texas water well driller in 1984. In 1988 he became Pleasanton's "Young Citizen of the Year," and later became the youngest person elected as an Atascosa County Commissioner.

Commissioner Weldon P. Cude is no stranger to the needs of his community. In 1996, he was elected Pleasanton's "Business Person of the Year," and has served as Director of "The County Bank," the "Atascosa County Economic Development Corporation," and the "Atascosa County Appraisal Board."

Since 1983 Mr. Cude has served as a pillar of the business community. As an independent business person, he has contributed as President of both Premium Well Drilling Incorporated and the Fat Cowboys Steakhouse. He has also served his community as Vice President for Goldwell Investments Incorporated. Employing over 150 employees, he understands the values of hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Weldon P. Cude lives in Atascosa with his wife Gayla Cude, and his five daughters: Aubry, Stephanie, Jennie, Lindsey, and Jessica.

It is a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of Commissioner Cude, his dedication to the community has helped to make Atascosa a better place to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, County Commissioner Weldon P. Cude is an exemplary public servant. I am proud to have the chance to thank him here today for all he has done for his fellow Texans.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF SERGEANT MICHAEL ESPISITO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of Sergeant Michael Espisito, U.S. Army. On March 18, 2004, SGT Espisito made the ultimate sacrifice for his Nation—he gave his life while fighting on the frontiers of freedom in the small town of Miam Do, Afghanistan.

Referring to heroes of World War II, Sir Winston Churchill once stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." I believe that Churchill's sentiments reign truer than ever when applied to today's historically small contingent of service men and women. The challenge facing us is similarly great: the defeat of terrorism. But the number bearing that burden has never been so small.

Michael Espisito not only recognized that challenge, he embraced it. He volunteered to serve, to bear that burden, and he loved it. In a letter to Michael's parents, Captain Jorge Cordeiro, Michael's Company Commander, reflected back on the first battle he fought in with Michael. Captain Cordeiro wrote, "I can recall him telling me it was the best day of his life and how proud he felt to have fought for his country."

Assigned as a Team Leader in A Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division, Sergeant Espisito took each word in his title to heart.

Team: Sergeant Espisito never cared as much about himself as he did about the men surrounding him, his brothers in arms. He put their interests first; he put their safety first; he put their success ahead of his own. But Michael Espisito's team extended beyond those

he fought with. His team was the Army, his family, his Nation and, in many ways, the people of Afghanistan. Just before Sergeant Espisito was mortally wounded in Afghanistan he successfully evacuated two women from the same building in which he was fighting. Those women were on SGT Espisito's team and they were saved because of it.

Leader: In the U.S. Army infantry there is a short slogan that is often repeated: "Follow me!" Michael Espisito didn't just say "follow me," he lived it. He led his men from the front in every combat maneuver they took part in. In so doing, he earned the trust, the respect and the confidence of all around him. As his Battalion Commander wrote of him, "He was a shining example of a soldier and non-commissioned officer to the end." SGT Espisito was leading from the front when he breached a door in an enemy compound and was mortally wounded in an exchange of fire.

Michael Espisito was a special human being. He was different. He was a hero. You get the feeling he was put on this earth to serve. He knew his mission, he understood his roll and he embraced it. And he lived his life, did his work and executed his missions with dignity, vigor and excellence. Our world is better because of his sacrifice but it is poorer because of his loss.

Churchill reminds us how much we owe to those few men and women like Michael Espisito. We owe Michael our commitment to a better world. We owe Michael our commitment to living better, more principled, more service oriented lives. And we owe Michael the memorializing of his life and his sacrifice, best completed by living the lives he would have wished for each us. Michael is gone but he will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO JAY B. CUTLER

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Jay B. Cutler—a dedicated public servant, a champion for mental health parity, a gifted attorney, and a dear friend. Mr. Cutler passed away on March 4 at the age of 74.

A native New Yorker, Mr. Cutler's accomplished career includes service as administrative assistant to former U.S. Senator Jacob Javits and minority counsel and staff director to the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee. From 1977 to 2003, he directed government relations efforts for the 35,000-member American Psychiatric Association. He will be remembered as a passionate and trusted advocate who fought to improve the quality of, and access to, America's mental health system.

All who were fortunate enough to be lobbied by Jay Cutler recognized that he was so much more than a lobbyist. Over the years, his name became synonymous with the cause of mental health parity. Because of his untiring efforts, millions of Americans received better, more compassionate care. His unwavering commitment to protecting patient confidentiality, broadening coverage for psychiatric and substance abuse treatment, and improving patients' rights will continue to serve as an inspi-

ration to those of us who fight for these causes today.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing condolences to Mr. Cutler's wife, Randy, his two daughters, Hollie S. Cutler and Perri E. Cutler, and his granddaughter, Makayla Lipsetts. We are deeply saddened by his death, and we are warmed by the memory of his remarkable life.

A TRIBUTE TO DONNA ANDERSON
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Ms. Donna Anderson. For many years, Donna has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Donna instantly recognize her joy, enthusiasm and passion for helping others.

Donna was born in Glendale and grew up in the Glendale/Burbank area along with her 11 sisters and brothers.

As a young mother of Angela and Mark, Donna volunteered as a teacher's aids at Mountain View Grade School, as an office worker at Our Lady of Lourdes Grade School, and visited patients twice weekly at Queen of Angeles Hospital in Los Angeles. She was a co-leader of her daughter's Girl Scout troop and a co-leader of her son's Cub and Boy Scout troops for many years.

Donna began working for the City of Burbank in 1986, and in 2001 was elected as Burbank's City Treasurer, a position she holds today. She returned to college during this time and received her Bachelor of Arts in Business Finance. A long-time board member of the Burbank National Management Association, she is active in the Burbank Sunrise Kiwanis Club, where she is currently Vice President-Elect, and in the Zonta Club of Burbank, where she will become President in May of 2005. In 2001 Donna received the Hixon Fellowship Award from the Burbank Sunrise Kiwanis Club for her service to the community.

Ms. Anderson actively participates in the annual Burbank Police Officers' Relay for Breast Cancer Walk and walks for the ALS Foundation of Los Angeles. Other organizations that Donna supports are the Guide Dogs of America, the Burbank Family Service Agency, Friends of the Griffith Park Observatory, and the John Burroughs High School Vocal Music Association.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Donna Anderson. The entire community joins me in thanking Donna for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES E.
"CHARLIE" WEATHERLY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, Mississippi State University named Charles E. "Charlie" Weatherly the 2005 National Alumnus of the Year. This is the highest honor that the MSU Alumni Association can bestow on a member and recognizes Charlie out of the nearly 100,000 alumni in the association.

I know of no one in the Mississippi State family more deserving for this award than Charlie Weatherly. He has devoted 43 years of his life to the university and it is my distinct pleasure to honor him for that service today.

Charlie graduated from Mississippi State College (now Mississippi State University) with a degree in industrial management in 1959. He was a star football player for the Bulldogs and active in campus activities. In 1962, he became the first full time field representative for the alumni association and served in this capacity until 1967, when he was appointed the association's executive secretary. In 1976, he was named Director of Alumni Affairs and served admirably in this position until 1986, when he became coordinator of special projects for both the Alumni Association and the MSU Foundation. Charlie was the prime fundraiser and coordinator for constructing the Eugene Butler Guest House, as well as serving as director of the first constituency based fund drive. Prior to retirement, he served as director of development for Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine and remains a member of the board of directors of the MSU Alumni Foundation, a scholarship assistance program for deserving MSU students.

Mr. Speaker, our university experiences educate and shape our lives for many years to come. They are not just sources of academic expansion but also economic engines for communities like Starkville and states like Mississippi. It is notable to give back in some capacity to an institution that provides an improved quality of life for so many. For Charlie Weatherly, this was not a one time gift or occasional favor, but a lifetime of service and commitment that continues today. I am proud that the Mississippi State University Alumni Association has so properly bestowed this honor on him.

**TWO SIKHS ACQUITTED IN AIR
INDIA CASE**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to learn that this past Wednesday, two Sikhs named Ajaib Singh Bagri and Ripudaman Singh Malik, who were accused of carrying out the 1985 Air India bombing, were acquitted. These Sikhs were found innocent because the witnesses against them were not believable.

The Indian government has maintained for 20 years that the Sikhs were responsible for the Air India disaster and has used it as an

excuse to kill Sikhs and tighten the repression against them. Now it is clear that they were not responsible.

Why did India grant a loan of \$2 million to the main financial backer of the organization that carried out the bombing? Why did Indian operatives approach Lal Singh, offering him "2 million dollars and settlement in a nice country" if he would offer false testimony against the two accused Sikhs? Why did the Consul General of India in Toronto call in a detailed description of the disaster just hours later when it took the Canadian investigators weeks to find that information? How did he know so much? Why was the Consul General later expelled?

His successor as Consul General was quoted as saying that Sikhs who support Khalistan, the independent Sikh homeland, are terrorists, but the movement for Sikh independence is led by the Council of Khalistan, which is committed to achieving an independent Khalistan by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means.

The book *Soft Target*, which is the definitive account of the Air India case, quotes a Canadian Security Investigative Service investigator as saying, "If you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved." And the acquittal of the Sikhs accused just provides further substantiation of India's guilt.

Mr. Speaker, this country must not support terrorism. We cannot support the people who bombed the Air India airliner and killed 329 innocent people, especially at a time when we are fighting terrorism around the world. It is time to cut off all our aid and trade with India and support freedom and self-determination for all the nations struggling for their independence in South Asia. That is the best way to establish peace, freedom, security, and dignity for all in that troubled region of the world.

I would like to insert the press release on the acquittal of these two Sikhs from the Council of Khalistan into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. I believe it will clearly show who is responsible for this terrible act of terrorism.

**MALIK, BAGRI ACQUITTED OF ALL CHARGES IN
AIR INDIA CASE**

**JUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE DESPITE PRESSURE
FROM INDIAN REGIME**

WASHINGTON, DC, March 16, 2005. Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri have been acquitted of all charges in the Air India bombing case, in a major rebuke to the Indian regime. Malik and Bagri were found not guilty today in the deaths of 329 people who perished when Air India Flight 182 was brought down by a bomb on June 23, 1985 in Canada's worst case of mass murder. Justice Ian Josephson delivered the verdicts this afternoon, saying he didn't believe many of the witnesses.

"Justice has been done for these Sikhs," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for independence. "Despite the effort of the Indian government to blame these Sikhs for its own acts, they have been found innocent. This is a major setback for the Hindustani regime," he said. Canadian Member of Parliament wrote in 1989 that the Canadian government had spent \$60 million on the case. "On behalf of over 600,000 Sikhs in Canada and the 25 million Sikhs worldwide, we would like to express our gratitude to Judge Josephson for doing the right thing

and not caving in to the pressure of the Indian government," Dr. Aulakh said.

Air India flight 182 was blown up off Ireland in 1985. It was on its way from Toronto to Bombay. It was supposed to be blown up at the London airport when no passengers would be aboard, but due to delays it blew up over Ireland. The book *Soft Target* by Canadian journalists Zuhair Kashmeri of the Toronto Globe and Mail and Brian McAndrew of the Toronto Star exposed India's responsibility for this bombing. In the book, Kashmeri and McAndrew quoted a Canadian Security Investigative Service (CSIS) investigator as saying, "If you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved."

The book shows that within hours after the flight was blown up, the Indian Consul General in Toronto, Surinder Malik (no relation to Ripudaman Singh Malik), called in a detailed description of the bombing and the names of those he said were involved, information that the Canadian government didn't discover until weeks later. Mr. Malik said to look on the passenger manifest for the name "L. Singh." This would turn out to be Lal Singh, who told the press that he was offered "two million dollars and settlement in a nice country" by the Indian regime to give false testimony in the case.

In his book *Betrayal: The Spy Canada Abandoned*, Member of Parliament David Kilgour wrote that Canadian-Polish double agent Ryszard Paszkowski was approached to join a plot to carry out a second bombing. The people who approached Paszkowski were connected to the Indian government.

The main backer of the group that was supposedly behind the Air India bombing had received a \$2 million loan from the State Bank of India just before the plane was attacked, according to *Soft Target*. The year after the bombing, three Indian consuls general were asked to leave the country. At the time of the bombing, the Congress Party needed the Sikhs as scapegoats to win votes on a law-and-order platform. The attack also served as justification for the government to shed more Sikh blood.

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 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 became 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.

V.P. Singh, who was the Indian Consul General in Toronto when Soft Target came out, was quoted in the June 22, 1989 issue of the Washington Times, as saying that Sikhs who support Khalistan are terrorists. The Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle to liberate Khalistan, openly repudiated militancy and has an 18-year record of working to free Khalistan by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra 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. Khalra 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 Khalra. 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.

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984.

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.

"The Indian regime stands exposed for the bloody tyranny that it is," said Dr. Aulakh. "This verdict is a major setback to their repressive drive for hegemony over all of South Asia," he said. "This is a victory not only for the Sikh Nation, but for freedom-loving people everywhere."

"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. "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."

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ATASCOSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER
FREDDIE OGDEN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Atascosa County Commissioner

Freddie Ogden for his dedicated service to the people of Texas.

Mr. Ogden was born in Poteet, TX, in 1950. He attended Poteet High School, and began his career in public service soon after, working for Atascosa County Precinct 2 as a motor grader operator. Beginning in 1975, he worked for the Atascosa County Sheriff's Office, and in 1976, he graduated from the Alamo Area Law Enforcement Academy and became Police Chief for the city of Poteet.

While continuing his career as a law enforcement officer, Freddie Ogden also married Danna Roby, moved to Charlotte, TX, and raised two sons, one of whom has continued the family tradition of law enforcement as a corrections officer. Mr. Ogden began working for the Atascosa County Sheriff's Office in 1978, and was promoted to Assistant Chief Deputy and Chief Deputy Sheriff in 1982 and 1984. He was recognized for his extraordinary service, winning Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in 1985.

Mr. Ogden was rewarded for his service with an appointment as County Commissioner of Atascosa Precinct 3, a post which he still holds. He further contributes to the public good through his work as a volunteer deputy for the Atascosa County Sheriff.

Mr. Speaker, Freddie Ogden remains a tireless public servant, and I applaud his energy, competence, and dedication.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ATHENS ROTARY
CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. On February 23, 2005, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary International has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders whose mission is to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat polio, promote cultural exchanges, and encourage community service.

I also want to provide special recognition to an important member of this outstanding organization, the Rotary Club of Athens, Texas, on the occasion of their 75th anniversary on December 1, 2004. Throughout its seventy-five year history, the Athens Rotary Club has achieved great successes in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

In past years, the Athens Rotary Club has raised money to combat Polio, provided scholarships to two seniors from each high school in Henderson County, and sponsored exchange students from around the world. In addition, the club is active with the Boy Scouts of America, the Henderson County 4H club, the YMCA, the local Food Pantry, and numerous other charitable and civic organizations in and around Athens, Texas.

Through these actions, the Rotary Club of Athens, Texas, has exemplified the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELAINE
GROTHMANN FOR HER 30 YEARS
OF SERVICE TO THE CONTRA
COSTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN
SERVICES

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career accomplishments of Elaine Grothmann for her 30 years of service to the Contra Costa County Department of Employment and Human Services.

Ms. Grothmann represents the highest standards of professionalism in her life work with the Department. She is respected and trusted by her colleagues for her sincerity, constancy, and the outstanding quality of her work. Her managers know that when Elaine takes on an assignment, the end product is going to be assured, timely, and a credit to the Department.

Over her career, Elaine's work has benefited a wide range of the Department's customers, including dependent children, refugees, foster children, and parents entering and reentering the job market after having received welfare. She has been an innovator and mainstay of programs for CalWORKs participants, creating and implementing services in child care, substance abuse, mental health, and learning disabilities that buoy employability. The training program she spearheaded for CalWORKs participants to become licensed child care providers and preschool teachers is an inspired, lasting design that continues to meet multiple, compatible needs of the participants.

Elaine's respect for those who are served by the Department shows in her work on their behalf and confers respect on the Department. Her creativity, expertise, dedication, and amiability—not to mention her affinity for good times and monthly trips to Disneyland—are going to be missed by everyone who has worked with Elaine and benefited from her good work.

I thank Elaine Grothmann for her career contributions to the Contra Costa County Department of Employment and Human Services, and I wish her a well-deserved retirement in the community she has done so much to improve.

SUPPORTING THE HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION RESOLUTION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 135, the House Democracy Assistance Commission Resolution. This Resolution forms a commission within the House of Representatives to assist emerging democracies around the world. As the standard-bearer for a modern democratic nation, it is only fitting that Congress lend its expertise to all countries attempting to follow our example.

In the previous decade, Congress formed a task force to provide equipment and technical assistance to emerging democracies in Eastern and Central Europe. The results of that task force, known as the "Frost-Solomon Task Force," can be seen in the strengthening of the democratic institutions in these countries. The recent elections in Ukraine are a perfect example of how democracy is beginning to take hold in these nations. One of the hallmarks of a truly democratic nation is the smooth transition of power from one political party to another. While democracy eventually prevailed in Ukraine, the political turmoil during its elections serves as a reminder of how new and fragile these democracies are. It is crucial that we, as a nation, continue to support all countries in their progress towards maintaining a stable democracy.

The establishment of a commission to lend assistance to these emerging democracies is an important and common-sense action Congress can take to support and foster the global spread of democracy. This commission will lend experience and expertise to nations around the world. It will further allow members and staff of parliaments of selected countries to visit the House of Representatives and its support agencies in order to gain first hand knowledge. This commission is a valuable and cost-effective diplomatic tool our nation can employ to assist in spreading the freedom of democracy around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the formation of a commission to assist emerging democracies. I urge my colleagues' support for this important legislation.

RECOGNITION OF BATON ROUGE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL AS A WINNER OF THE KENNEDY CENTER CREATIVE TICKET NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION AWARD

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued educational institution—Baton Rouge Magnet High School—a 2003–04 school year Winner of the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network Creative Ticket National School of Distinction Award. This school is an institution that combines academic excellence with tradition, achieving excellence in the arts.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has recognized five schools as recipients for the 2003–04 award. The Creative Ticket National School of Distinction Award recognizes schools that have done an outstanding job of making the arts an essential part of the education of their students.

In addition to their recognition of excellence in the Performing Arts by the Kennedy Center, Baton Rouge Magnet High School held its Blue Ribbon award ceremony on Thursday, October 23, 2003. The Blue Ribbon Schools Programs honors public and private K–12 schools which are academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. BRMHS is one of only two public high schools, and five total schools in Louisiana, and one of 248 nationally recognized as Blue Ribbon schools. It is the second time Baton Rouge Magnet High has been recognized with the honor. It is an award colleges look favorably in when reviewing students' resumes.

Thank you, Baton Rouge Magnet High School for your many years of dedication to quality education, arts programs and your outstanding representation of Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FARM LABOR ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) and their historic achievements.

For more than 35 years, FLOC has represented the guest workers who labor in our fields and farms bringing food to our tables. They are striving to achieve the American dream, a good-paying job in a safe workplace and the ability to provide for their families. Something that everyone in America can understand.

Under the leadership of FLOC's president, Baldemar Velasquez, the organization has achieved historic gains—including the first labor agreement in U.S. history to cover guest workers. Other significant achievements include increasing workers wages, improving worker housing, and protection against harmful pesticides. FLOC's actions will provide a safer working environment for its members and a better product for the consumer.

Today, FLOC will open an office in Monterrey, Mexico, it's first outside the U.S. The office will help oversee the recruitment and transportation of guest workers. All of us have heard the nightmarish stories of coyotes smuggling workers across the border only to have the workers trapped in de-facto indentured servitude or perish in the unsafe crossing. FLOC has worked to bring workers to the U.S. legally, informing them of their rights as guest workers.

Without FLOC's assistance, so many workers would fall through the cracks. Today I celebrate FLOC's accomplishments and success. Their legacy is greater than the agreements signed. Their legacy is a workforce that is paid a living wage and laboring in a safe environment. Their legacy is hope.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ATASCOSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DAVID CABALLERO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Atascosa County Commissioner David Caballero for undertaking a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Commissioner Caballero has followed in the footsteps of his father, who was once a long-serving Atascosa Constable, in seeking an elected position of leadership. After serving his first term, his tireless devotion to ensuring that Atascosa County continues to develop economically, creating more jobs for the constituents he serves, led him to pursue and win term of service as County Commissioner.

Most importantly, Commissioner Caballero has continued to hold the values of community, faith and family in the highest regard. Nothing exemplifies this more than his committed participation with the Pleasanton Little League, St. Andrews Catholic Church of Pleasanton, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church of Leming, and the Verdi Community Center.

He has spearheaded and now hosts an Annual Easter Egg Hunt that serves as an excellent opportunity to draw the entire community of families together in his precinct. Commissioner Caballero most deserves recognition for choosing to be an agent for real change, focusing on making government smarter and serving his constituency while saving his County money.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in recognition of the dedication of Atascosa County Commissioner David Caballero.

A TRIBUTE TO FLORA DUNAIAANS, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Ms. Flora Dunaiaans. For many years, Flora has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Flora instantly recognize her enthusiasm and passion for helping others, especially on behalf of the Armenian American community and the arts.

Born and raised in Pasadena, Flora Jane Calusdian married George Dunaiaans in 1958 and they had 2 daughters, Gigi and Suzie. In 1968 the Dunaiaans formed their own business, Western Medical Supply, Inc., where Flora is currently the Vice President and Secretary.

Flora is devoted to her church and community. For over 40 years, Flora has been active at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, serving as Trustee and member

of the St. Gregory Auxiliary. On the occasion of the visit of His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians to the United States in 1987, Flora and George donated to the new cathedral fund for the Diocese. In 1988 following the devastating earthquake in Armenia, the Dunaian arranged for donated emergency goods to be flown to Yerevan on Armand Hammer's private plane. She has been involved in many church-related projects throughout the Diocese, such as the Operation Karabakh Fund, Operation Winter Rescue and Operation Fuel, and continues to support various projects throughout the Diocese and the Holy See of Etchmiadzin.

Constantly finding ways to improve the social condition for children in Armenia, Flora co-founded Developmental Services for Armenia, a non-profit organization that helps schools, orphanages and short term projects. She also established and continues to support a dental clinic at the Nork Military Academy in Yerevan.

Flora and George are both founding members of the Consulate of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles. Flora is also a board member of the Armenian Assembly of America, the National Board of Team Armenia, and the Armenian Professional Society, where she and her husband have opened their home to raise funds for student scholarships for the last 25 years.

In addition to her extensive community service, Flora is a supporter of the Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art, the Pasadena Playhouse, and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Flora Dunaian. The entire community joins me in thanking Flora for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

RECOGNIZING THE 1000TH VICTORY OF COACH RON POLK

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker; on February 25, Coach Ron Polk achieved another impressive milestone at Mississippi State University. With the Bulldogs defeat of the Eastern Illinois Panthers in a 3-1 game, Coach Polk marked his 1000th win in 26 seasons at Mississippi State University.

Before a crowd of about 2,400 fans in the Polk-DeMent Stadium—which honors Coach Polk—the Bulldogs won their season opener and then celebrated this Mississippi State icon at a post game ceremony. Coach Polk, in his usual humble and humorous manner told reporters on scene, "It's just a number. All 1,000 wins means is that you haven't died yet and you've coached a long time. We have some really great players here but I haven't had time to reflect back on that success yet." Bulldog pitcher Alan Johnson said, "We didn't feel any added pressure. Coach Polk didn't mention it to us one time. However, we knew we were at 999, going for the big win. It feels good to win the first game but it also feels really good to be a part of Coach Polk's 1000th win."

Coach Polk is the all-time most winning coach in Southeastern Conference history and began the 2004 season as Number 12 among Division I's all-time coaching ranks. His record now stands at 1234-602-2 in 32 seasons as a collegiate head coach and 1000-490-2 in 26 seasons at Mississippi State. He has twice been honored as the National Coach of the Year (1973 and 1985) and was also honored by his peers as the recipient of the ABCA's Lefty Gomez Award. Coach Polk has earned his place in the American Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame (1995), the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi State University Sports Hall of Fame (1998), and the Georgia Southern University Hall of Fame (1990). He also rates as one of only three head coaches in the history of college baseball to guide three different schools to the NCAA College World Series.

Ron Polk authored "The Baseball Playbook", the Nation's leading college textbook for baseball, and is featured in a recently published book, "6 Psychological Factors for Success: America's Most Successful Coaches Reveal the Path to Competitive Excellence."

Coach Polk has also been actively involved with coaching in international baseball. He has completed seven tours as a member of the coaching staff for the U.S.A National Baseball Team, twice serving as the head coach (1991 and 1998) and five times as assistant coach. Two of his teams represented the United States in the Olympic Games. He was an assistant coach on the gold medal-winning U.S. team in the 1988 Olympics and on the bronze medal-winning U.S. team in the 1996 Olympics. Coach Polk has also skippered Mississippi State teams in international competition including a goodwill summer tour of West Germany in 1976 and in 1982 and competition at the World Amateur Tournament in the Netherlands.

And Mr. Speaker, these numbers and records and achievements do not include his 1997 victory as Honorary Coach of the Republicans in the Annual Congressional Baseball Game, which I will remind my colleagues, we won. I take this opportunity to salute and honor Coach Polk's achievements at this 1000 MSU win milestone. As this and other seasons continue, I know we will see the steady hand and experienced leadership of Coach Ron Polk. He is the lead spokesman for baseball at Mississippi State University, and beyond, the king of college baseball.

A TRIBUTE TO ANITA BURSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Anita Burson who has dedicated her life to empowering disenfranchised citizens, improving her community and strengthening her church.

The first child of a distinguished Baptist minister and church leader, Anita was born at the segregated Jubilee Hospital in Henderson, North Carolina, on the Fourth of July at the conclusion of Sunday services, to Rev. Dr. O. B. J. Burson and Katie Leak Burson, an educator and engineer. Her late parents were college sweethearts at Shaw University. Anita is a direct Native American descendant.

A child of the parsonage during the turbulent last days of de facto segregation, Anita was privileged to witness daily the planning and activities involved in the fight for desegregation. She was also privileged to meet and hear some of the great pulpites and civil rights leaders of the time, who were often guests in the family home. Anita was immersed in religious activity, as well as education and civic awareness. One of her strongest memories of the struggle for civil rights was the evening white supremacist terrorists fired bullets into the church her father pastored in Coley Springs, North Carolina, while an integrated prayer rally and training sessions for voter registration and civil demonstrations were in progress. Those bullets remain lodged in the doors of that church sanctuary today.

Anita attended public schools in North Carolina and Virginia, where she was one of the first students to integrate a Summer Enrichment Program for gifted students. Later the family moved to Brooklyn, New York where she completed high school. While still a high school student, she organized the first on-site voter registration campaign for 18-year-olds, at her high school. During her college career, she became the first Black woman to serve as an elected student officer at Finch College, and the first to earn a position on the Academic Council. Anita graduated from Finch/Marymount Manhattan College with a Bachelors Degree in Cultural Anthropology & Sociology.

In 1977, Anita was elected to Community School Board #17, and became a member of the first Black majority in New York City's Crown Heights-Flatbush district in Brooklyn. She served as an officer on that body's executive board. Later, as a political campaign professional, she worked for President Jimmy Carter. She has served as a consultant to candidates for Federal, statewide and municipal legislative offices and other positions.

The Rev. O. B. J. Burson's role as a religious and civic leader ushered Anita into a life of community awareness and commitment. Her life has always been deeply rooted in the Baptist and AME Zion denominations. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Rev. Washington Leak and great-granddaughter of Rev. Thomas J. Leak, two prominent AME Zion leaders and educators. She is a fourth generation member of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. (NBC,USA); her paternal great-grandfather and his brother were present at its original meetings. Continuing that legacy in 1992 and 1993, Anita became the first outside consultant (in 112 years) for The NBC, U.S.A., to coordinate convention activity for its annual board meeting and annual session held in New York City.

Professionally, Anita is best known for her unparalleled skill as an advisor to pastors, clergy, denominational organizations, and to individuals, groups and corporations seeking to relate better to them. With nearly 25 years of experience in all aspects of professional campaign management and not-for-profit organizational development, Anita's professional acumen has been enhanced by her life's experiences. She is noted for her creative concepts and approaches to building sustainable relationships and enhancing networks between the public and private sector and religious organizations. Anita is a frequent speaker at churches, and for special events within local

communities around the nation. She is to begin her own seminary training later this year.

Mr. Speaker, Anita Burson has been a leader in her community through her commitment to her church, civic organizations and coalition building. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

VETERANS SELF-EMPLOYMENT
ACT OF 2005

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Veterans Self-Employment Act," legislation to establish a five-year pilot program that allows our Nation's servicemembers, veterans, national guardsman, reservists, and qualified others to use part of their VA educational assistance programs to defray legitimate training costs associated with obtaining a business franchise.

Mr. Speaker, franchising is an enormous component of the United States economy. According to a study conducted by International Franchise Association Educational Foundation, nearly 760,000 franchised businesses generate jobs for more than 18 million Americans annually, comprising nearly 14 percent of the Nation's private-sector employment and accounting for \$1.53 trillion in economic output. Over 75 industries utilize the franchise model for distribution of products and services, ranging from familiar restaurants and hotels to home movers, tax preparers, personnel providers and so on. Clearly, franchising is a critical engine of America's economic growth.

When an individual acquires a franchise, the individual must first undergo various types of training, depending on the specific franchise he or she wishes to acquire. Training can include education on specialized knowledge of goods, services, policies and practices of the individual franchise system. Training may also include customer service, daily operational management, business computer systems, inventory control, costing and pricing as well as regulatory obligations.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, American military members, whether as active duty servicemembers or veterans, possess a wealth of experience and abilities. Their training in the armed forces has provided them with high-end skill sets that employers are looking for in the future workforce. Yet outside of what has been provided during their tenure with the military, statistics show that many of our young military men and women have had no formal education or training beyond their high school years.

Mr. Speaker, the "Veterans Self-Employment Act" will allow more veterans to take advantage of the opportunities in franchising by allowing servicemembers, veterans, national guardsman, reservists, and eligible dependent spouses or children to apply a portion of his or her educational benefit to defray the portion of a franchise purchase cost attributable to training. Specifically, in a one-time lump sum payment, beneficiaries will be able to use the lesser of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the remaining Montgomery GI Benefit entitlement or $\frac{1}{2}$ the franchise fee.

In addition, the bill provides the Secretary of Veterans Affairs proper authority to oversee and avoid any possible abuse of this program; submit to the Secretary a detailed description of the training program; two year operating rule for franchise businesses; and provide individual progress reports regarding successful completion of individual training, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support our Nation's veterans and thus urge floor consideration for the "Veterans Self-Employment Act."

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR.
JAMES W. LANE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. James W. Lane.

Last month, he lost his battle to a long-term illness. Dr. Lane was a Charleston urologist, former U.S. Army captain, and civic leader.

As Chief of Staff of the Charleston Memorial Hospital, he eased a hospital merger that resulted in the creation of Charleston Area Medical Center, which is the premier medical facility in the Kanawha Valley.

Dr. Lane was also a teacher of his trade. As the chairman of the Department of Urology at CAMC and a clinical professor of urology at the Charleston Division of the West Virginia University School of Medicine he trained hundreds of young doctors.

Dr. Lane was a member of several local service and community organizations including the Kanawha Medical Society, the Mid-Atlantic section of the American Urology Association, and the West Virginia Health Right, where he was named volunteer of the year in 2002.

Dr. Lane was instrumental in improving the availability of health care in West Virginia. His legacy of humility and compassion for others was attributed to how he lived every day of his life.

Dr. Lane was a pillar of the community and his memory will resonate in the minds of those fortunate enough to have known him and his countless accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
HARLANDALE INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEM-
BER GRACIE A. ACUNA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication of Harlandale Independent School District Board Member Gracie Acuna of my Congressional District.

Gracie Acuna was first elected as Board Member of District four in 1987, and currently serves as Vice President. During her time on the Board she has served in a variety of capacities including President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Gracie holds the honor of being the first Hispanic woman to serve as President of the

Board, which she held for four terms. She has assisted the Board further by serving as Chairman of the Finance Committee and Curriculum Committee.

Ms. Acuna is actively involved in organizations that affect our community. She has served as President of the Bexar County Federation of School Boards, San Antonio Federation of School Boards, San Antonio Transit Board Member, President of the Harlandale Lions Club, TASB Legislative Advisory Council, and a Life Member of State PTA.

Gracie Acuna is grateful for being elected and feels honored by the confidence the voters have demonstrated in her. She has two sons with her husband Willie, and attends San Jose Mission Church.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the dedication of Gracie A. Acuna to Harlandale Independent School District.

A TRIBUTE TO GLORIA GUERRERO
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Ms. Gloria Guerrero. For many years, Gloria has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Gloria instantly recognize her joy, enthusiasm and passion for community service.

Raised in a politically active and community-minded family, Gloria began volunteering in her youth in Monterey Park. Although she was employed full time working for Medicare/Occidental-Transamerica for 25 years, then later at the Chino Valley Independent Fire District for 13 years, she always found time for her community.

Gloria is a 51-year resident of Monterey Park and her involvement with the city of Monterey Park is extensive and impressive. She served on the city's Community Relations Commission for 7 years, serving as chair and vice chair, and on the Arts and Culture Commission for 6 years. She has served on several city committees, including the City with a Heart Committee, Cinco De Mayo Committee, Budget Task Force Committee, Harmony Month Committee and the Fourth of July Committee. In addition, she served as a Panel Judge for the city's Crystal Youth Awards event and an Essay Contest Judge for the Cherry Blossom Festival. She is a long-time member of the Los Angeles Monterey Park Optimist Club, having served as president and vice president. In addition, Gloria volunteered for the House of Ruth and Para Los Niños.

Ms. Guerrero's dedication to the Monterey Park Public Library is evident. She is currently a Library Board of Trustees Member of the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library and a board

member of the Friends of the Monterey Park Library.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Gloria Guerrero. The entire community joins me in thanking Gloria for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

COMMENDING MIKE EAVES FOR HIS WORK AND DEDICATION TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 8TH DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and praise an individual who has dedicated himself to improving North Carolina. Mike Eaves is a remarkable person in many ways, and I want to acknowledge him for his accomplishments and efforts towards promoting agriculture and rural development.

Mike grew up in Epsom, North Carolina located in Vance county. He is a proud graduate of both Louisburg College and Appalachian State University.

Mike began his work in government when he accepted a job with the Farmers Home Administration. Mike soon moved on to the Farm Service Agency in 1984 where he served as Executive Director of the Richmond County Farm Service Agency. In 2002, due to his strong knowledge of the farm programs and the people, he became the District Director, overseeing 13 county offices as well as being a liaison between the State Office and the County Office. Most recently, Mike has been selected to be the Administrative Officer of North Carolina State FSA Office, effective April 3rd, 2005.

Anyone knows that long-term success depends on future leadership. It will not surprise you to know that Mike has a strong record of leadership and achievements. He has received the Distinguished Service Award for Community Service from the North Carolina Association of County Office Employees. Mike has also received the Distinguished Service Award for Community Service for the Southeast Area and the National Distinguished Service Award for Community Service from the National Association of County Office Employees. Mike's determination to help build and create a better community and a better North Carolina is inspiring.

I am very happy for Mike and his new position in the State Office, but I will tell you that Richmond County and the 8th District of North Carolina will miss his leadership. Although I know you will be watching over us from Raleigh and keeping a close eye on Richmond County, I can't tell you how much I have appreciated your steadfast dedication towards promoting and advancing agriculture and rural communities in North Carolina. Personally, I can't thank you enough for your friendship and the kindness you have shown me since I have been in office. Your assistance has been invaluable to me and my staff.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate Mike Eaves' tireless dedication and

his desire to increase the quality of life for Richmond County, the 8th District, and North Carolina as a whole. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help create and sustain a strong agriculture community, and as a citizen of North Carolina, I join many in sincerely thanking him.

I would also like to acknowledge Mike's family that has been there backing him in his efforts and successes. Mike has a very loving family. Mike's wife, Susan, makes a mean lemon meringue pie. I am sure she is as proud as I am of his many accomplishments and his dedication to his profession.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN STUBBS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today on behalf of Congress to commend Captain Jon Stubbs of Searcy, AR, commanding officer of Charlie Company of the 39th Infantry Brigade's 3rd Battalion for his leadership in Iraq over the past year.

Managing a delicate balance between ambassador and soldier, Captain Stubbs has served his nation by bringing hope to a country encompassed by war. He led his company with the strength necessary to win the trust of those in his command and with the compassion needed to bring aid to the Iraqis he bravely protected.

From Searcy and Little Rock, Arkansas to Camp Taji and Adhamiyah, Iraq; amidst machine gun fire, roadside bombs, rocket propelled grenades, the loss of fellow soldiers and friends, Captain Stubbs served as a faultless example of what it means to be a soldier, a leader and an American.

Focused under pressure and diplomatic with the Iraqi people and the media, we could ask for no better ambassador in these most trying times than Jon Stubbs. His efforts led the 39th to reconstruct Iraqi schools, hospitals, irrigation and sewage systems, and new recreational projects for children; none of this would have been possible without Captain Stubbs' leadership.

As Jon Stubbs' wife Jane and daughter Susannah welcome him back, his community has also regained a strong leader. The son of a Methodist preacher, Jon Stubbs epitomizes his faith through his involvement in church youth programs, Sunday school and his continued participation in the education of his daughter and her fellow students. While the men and women in his company willingly follow him into battle, his community can look to him again as a friendly and optimistic voice in their lives.

On behalf of the Congress, I thank Captain Stubbs, Charlie Company and the entire 39th Infantry Brigade for their bravery, diplomacy and strength on behalf of the Iraqi people. The courage demonstrated by Charlie Company reflects considerably on their commanding officer; America's debt to Captain Stubbs' is immeasurable and will never be fully repaid.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, yesterday I voted against passage of H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan and Tsunami Assistance bill.

In March 2003, before the war began, I wrote to the President with 22 of our colleagues to ask him to specifically define our objectives and to provide an exit strategy. We asked the President a number of questions including: "Under what circumstances will our military occupation of (and financial commitment to) Iraq end? And how will we know when these circumstances are present." We and the American people never received an answer to these crucial questions. Even today, the Administration is unwilling or unable to answer. This is simply unacceptable.

Time and again, the President has requested money to fund the war in Iraq while refusing to answer our questions about this war and provide a comprehensive strategy for bringing our troops home. In our democracy, the Congress controls the purse strings. Before allocating additional funds, we must insist that the administration articulate the conditions necessary to bring our troops home, and push them to do that as soon as possible. The administration's refusal to address that is quite astounding to me and should be of great concern to all Americans who believe in principles of accountability and checks and balances.

In addition to my concerns about a lack of overall strategy and benchmarks for success in Iraq, I am very disappointed with the administration's handling of Iraq spending, in both process and substance. Emergency supplemental spending should be reserved for true emergencies, those instances in which the need for expenditures is unforeseen or unforeseeable. The vast majority of funds in this supplemental fail to meet that criterion. Both last year and this year, the Administration excluded Iraq costs from their budget requests, although most of the costs could be estimated. Shortfalls or additional needs then could have been funded through a supplemental. That is the proper way to manage taxpayer funds.

I want to make it clear that I believe that our men and women in the armed forces serving in Iraq are doing their jobs with great honor. They have my unequivocal support and respect. My vote against this spending bill should not be characterized as a rejection of them or the resources they need to carry out their duties. If this bill had been defeated yesterday, funds would have continued to flow to Iraq tomorrow and over the next few months. Voting down this bill would have allowed ample time for the President to respond to our concerns and resubmit his funding request.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CORONADO
STATE MONUMENT**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the creation of Coronado State Monument in my home state of New Mexico. At Coronado State Monument, visitors can learn about the Conquistador Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and his interaction with the indigenous people of the Rio Grande Valley. This monument was created to commemorate Coronado's entry into New Mexico but stands today as a celebration of both Spanish Colonial and Native American history and culture.

On March 7th, 1935, Commissioner of Public Lands, Frank Vesaly, signed the proclamation authorizing the creation of Coronado State Monument under the 1931 New Mexico Session Laws. Located at the ruins of ancient Kuaua Pueblo, this monument is situated on the banks of the Rio Grande adjacent the majestic Sandia Mountains, where Coronado and his troops are thought to have spent the winter of 1540. Inhabited at the time of Coronado's visit, Kuaua Pueblo was the intersection of two major pre-European trade routes. The immense archaeological value of the pueblo ruins is illustrated by the indigenous murals which are considered the best pre-contact art in North America.

Few places today simultaneously pay homage to the Spanish Colonial and Native American heritage of New Mexico like Coronado State Monument. Visitors learn the history of two diverse groups that intertwined to form the unique blend of culture that exists in New Mexico today. The monument features programs that preserve the cultural and historical treasures of both the Spanish and indigenous way-of-life in New Mexico.

Coronado's legacy in New Mexico prompted the creation of this monument. His travels documented the geography and ethnography of the Southwest and the "March of Coronado" is widely considered one of the most important North American expeditions in the sixteenth century. Coronado and the other Spanish conquistadors brought mining and forging technology to the indigenous population of New Mexico along with cattle, sheep and horses. Descendants of these legendary Spanish horses still run wild in the foothills nearby.

Mr. Speaker, Coronado Monument is open to the public throughout the year. A small museum houses both Spanish and indigenous artifacts where visitors can try on conquistador armor, grind corn on a slab, and beat on a drum. The past comes alive on the 15 excavated mural panels that represent pueblo life around the time of Coronado. A self-guided interpretive trail winds through the pueblo ruins to the replica of a ceremonial Native American kiva. An integral part of the heritage tourism industry, Coronado State Monument promotes historic preservation and cultural education through diverse lectures and events where adults and children alike learn about New Mexico, past and present.

THE U.N. EMERGENCY PEACE
SERVICE BILL INTRODUCTION**HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, most Americans have the comfort of knowing that in the event of an emergency, police, fire, and emergency services are just a phone call away. Unfortunately, in too much of the world today, there is no emergency telephone number to call in the event of a humanitarian crisis.

Today, Congressman LEACH and I are introducing a resolution to encourage the creation of an international emergency service for the world community—The United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS). The service would consist of 15,000 expertly trained and equipped professionals, ready to respond immediately in the early stages of a crisis, be it caused by violent conflict or natural disaster. The Emergency Peace Service ranks would be made up of military peacekeepers, civilian police, military, humanitarian and judicial professionals, and other emergency response and relief personnel.

The U.N. Emergency Peace Service would be a first in, first out, capability designed to supplement and fill the gaps of the current system whereby the United Nations and its member states respond to deadly emergencies.

Too often, the U.N. does not have the capacity, personnel, or resources to act quickly in an emergency. If, for example, the U.N. Security Council made the decision today to send peacekeepers to a hot-spot, it would take three to six months for troops to arrive and begin their work. That delay is a proverbial three-to-six month busy signal for people in need of immediate assistance.

In a humanitarian emergency such as genocide, delay can be a death sentence for hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. During the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, for example, over 800,000 people were massacred in six weeks. The United Nations did not have the capability to respond quickly enough and stop the killings.

At a time when Congress is paying serious attention to United Nations reform, we must not only look at the accountability and transparency of the U.N. but also to the international body's capacity to complete its mission.

The U.N. Emergency Peace Service would have a rapid-response corps of professionals on constant alert. They could respond to crises within days or weeks, rather than months, thereby saving lives around the globe.

Emergency Peace Service personnel would have standardized training and doctrine, designed specifically for rapid response. They would be schooled in how best to coordinate civilian and military responses to complex emergencies. This unit will help bring calm to an area of mayhem, confusion and tragedy.

The service would have civilian police that could help reestablish the rule of law in post-conflict war zones. Such a system was unavailable in Kosovo. In fact, by the time enough international civilian police were recruited by the U.N. for the Kosovo mission, shadowy organized crime elements had already filled the void, causing further terror and lawlessness in an already ravaged community.

Mr. Speaker, despite this administration's current focus on Iraq and terrorism, the U.S. cannot solve our security problems alone. Increasingly, being safe at home means making others feel secure in *their* homes.

Failing states quickly become failed states. They provide breeding grounds for terrorism and international crime. It is, therefore, in the United States' security interests to prevent destabilizing events from causing the collapse of states.

The creation of an Emergency Peace Service is also in our financial interest. The fact is: It is much cheaper to prevent an emergency by intervening early in its development than it is to respond after an emergency has reached its tipping point.

According to the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, the international community could have saved nearly \$130 billion of the \$200 billion it spent on managing conflicts in the 1990's by focusing on prevention rather than reconstruction.

The United Nations Emergency Peace Service would be cost-effective 'burden-sharing'. It would reduce the amount the U.N., and by extension the U.S., spends on post-conflict reconstruction.

This would *not* solve all our global problems, and it will not put a stop to genocide and other atrocities worldwide. Rather, the Emergency Peace Service would supplement the U.N.'s capacity to provide stability, peace, and relief in deadly emergencies.

Rwanda, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Bosnia and Kosovo, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and now Darfur; these are just a few of the places where the U.N. and its member states should have responded more rapidly and robustly. As a result, more people died, and more people suffer. The world can do better.

The United Nations Emergency Peace Service has the potential to save millions of lives and billions of dollars. This principle has been endorsed by organizations such as Citizens for Global Solutions and Human Rights Watch. I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with Congressman LEACH and me to support this important resolution.

FAMILIES FOR ED ADVERTISING
DECENCY ACT**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. of Tennessee, to introduce the "Families for ED Advertising Decency Act," which would require the Federal Communications Commission to revise its indecency standard and treat, as indecent, any erectile dysfunction prescription advertisement broadcast between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. on radio or television. This standard is similar to what has been applied to tobacco products and what is currently followed by hard alcohol advertisements.

Our offices have received numerous phone calls and electronic mail messages from angry parents that work hard at monitoring the television programs that their children watch. With the proliferation of ED commercials, many parents are forced to mute the television during

commercials to avoid having to explain to their children the possible side effects of a life-enhancement drug. A parent should never have to be forced to confront these issues with their children during family viewing hours.

These advertisements run frequently during all hours of the day and last year nearly \$400 million dollars was spent on advertising for the three most popular erectile dysfunction drugs: Viagra, Cialis and Levitra. While the pharmaceutical companies will tell you that they run these advertisements during television programs that appeal to the population that they are trying to target, these are the same television programs that parents like to view with their children, including the Super Bowl and college basketball games.

As you may know, the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug benefit will begin covering ED prescription drugs when it starts in 2006. This means that the cost of advertising these ED drugs is going to be passed on directly to American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind all Members of Congress that it is time for us to do our job and address the concerns of millions of American families who do not want to see these ads during family viewing hours. Corporate profits should never trump family values.

We urge all Members of Congress, from both sides of the aisle, to support the "Families for ED Advertising Decency Act" and restore decency standards to the American airwaves.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN HAMMOND, INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate the First Baptist Church in Hammond, Indiana as they celebrate the grand opening of their new auditorium. They will be celebrating this very momentous and special occasion on Sunday, March 20, 2005.

Allan Hill founded the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana in 1887. The church has since met for services in five different auditoriums. The first auditorium was built in 1888 under Pastor Hewitt, and doubled in size under Pastor Carter in 1900. The third auditorium was constructed in 1913 under Pastor Adams. In 1959, Pastor Hyles became pastor, and under his leadership, in 1964, a new auditorium was constructed seating approximately 2000. The auditorium doubled in 1975.

Throughout the years Pastor Hyles dreamed of building a new auditorium. Sadly, he passed away in 2001. However, the determination of the church proved that although Pastor Hyles was now in heaven, the Lord of the Harvest was still alive and well. Pastor Schaap took the helm in March 2001, and he immediately led First Baptist Church to the next level. With the increased attendance, once again the congregation began to outgrow the auditorium. Ground was broken for the new auditorium on November 3, 2004.

From its modest beginning, First Baptist Church has emerged as a cornerstone of the

community. Under Pastor Schaap's guidance, First Baptist continues to thrive, both in terms of spiritual growth as well as practical improvements. The proud members of the church are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he and the previous pastors have provided during the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana on the grand opening of its new auditorium. They have provided support and guidance for all those in the community, and will continue to serve their community through their selfless dedication and commitment.

HONORING MT. JULIET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary group of young women from Mt. Juliet High School in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, who are the 2004–2005 Class AAA Girls Basketball State Champions. The Lady Bears capped off their season by winning the state championship on March 12, 2005, finishing the season with a 37–1 overall record. I am proud of these outstanding young athletes for this great accomplishment.

Winning a state championship in any sport not only takes great athletic ability, but also hard work, dedication and hours of practice. I admire these girls for their commitment to their team, their school and their community.

These student-athletes should be honored not only for the feat of winning the Tennessee State Girls Basketball Championship but for being recognized nationally for their remarkable talent and skill. The Lady Bears finished the 2004–2005 season ranked 10th on the USA Today's Super 25 list, making them one of the top girls basketball teams in the entire country. It goes without saying that this is an incredible and well-deserved honor and I am proud that they have represented their hometown and Tennessee so well.

On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the following members of the Mt. Juliet High School girls basketball team: Alysha Clark, Holly Hudson, Christian Gibson, Sarah Muniz, Casey Pigue, Paige McFarlin, Miaca Bowman, Mandy McGee, Kelley Christian Van Atta, Brittany Mehring, Paige Cutright, Kristen Garton, Nicole Defevers, Hailey Holland and Coaches Chris Fryer and John Simms.

I applaud the tremendous achievements of these exceptional young players and wish them well.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HARLANDALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER TOMAS URESTI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication of Harlandale Independent School District Board Member Tomas Uresti, of my Congressional District for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Tomas Uresti is a long time Harlandale resident, and a former school employee. He has proudly served the Board of Trustees since 2002, and currently serves as Secretary of the Board. Mr. Uresti is a committed servant to the community of Harlandale, and has served as Board President, Building Committee Member, and Policy Committee Member.

Over the last 25 years he has committed his time to coaching the students of the community in softball, basketball, and baseball. He has served as a mentor at Gillette Elementary School, Kingsborough Middle School, and Harlandale High School.

Along with his many accomplishments to the people of Harlandale Independent School District, Tomas Uresti has six children and one granddaughter with his wife Rosemary, three of which are graduates of Harlandale High School.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to honor Tomas Uresti for his hard work and contributions to the community.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDY S. WONG, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, the Honorable Judy S. Wong. For many years, Judy has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Judy instantly recognize her dedication and passion for helping others, especially women and children.

Born in Taiwan, Judy moved to the United States in 1977 and to Temple City in 1986. She was an active member of the Temple City Chinese American Association for several years, serving as President for 2 terms. For several years, Ms. Wong has been a member of the Gang Advisory Committee and the Asian Community Advisory Committee for the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department, Temple City station. Also a volunteer at the Asian Pacific Family Center, she works with parenting classes.

In 2003, Judy was elected to the City Council of the City of Temple City and is the first

Chinese American member to be elected to that body.

Judy is an advocate of valuing diversity and embracing the richness of all cultures represented in our country. She organized a "Support our Kids" forum to help address common problems faced by people from different ethnic backgrounds. Utilizing her skills in the Chinese language, she volunteers her services as an interpreter to the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department, Temple City station, assisting victims of domestic violence. Judy also provides interpretation for many different schools in the San Gabriel Valley area.

In addition to her many civic duties and responsibilities, Judy is the proud mother of Anthony, who attends Arcadia High School, where she is also a volunteer.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Judy S. Wong. The entire community joins me in thanking Judy for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

**AFFIRMING THE TRUTH ABOUT
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, in public forums with the Armenian community, recently characterized what President George W. Bush has described as an "appalling tragedy of the 20th century, the massacre of as many as 1.5 million Armenians through forced exile and murder at the end of the Ottoman Empire," as Genocide.

I rise today to join with Ambassador Evans and other public officials who have affirmed the truth and recognize that reconciling with the past is an important first step in creating a better future. Recognition of the Armenian Genocide is widely acknowledged. One hundred and twenty-six Holocaust scholars publicly affirmed the incontestable fact of the Armenian Genocide during the 30th Anniversary of the Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches. And in 1981, former President Ronald Reagan stated: "Like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it—and like too many other such persecutions of too many other peoples—the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten."

In addition, a recent study released by the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) on the use of the term Armenian Genocide and the applicability of the 1948 Genocide Convention to events which occurred during the early twentieth century in Ottoman Turkey, found that "the Events, viewed collectively, can thus be said to include all of the elements of the crime of genocide as defined in the Convention, and legal scholars as well as historians, politicians, journalists and other people would be justified in continuing to so describe them."

As we approach the 90th commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, we must ensure that we do not forget the lessons of the past. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in the Preface to the Encyclopedia of Genocide, published in 1999 by the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem, writes: "It is sadly true what a cynic has said, that we learn from the history that we do not learn from history. And yet it is possible that if the world had been conscious of the genocide that was committed by the Ottoman Turks against the Armenians, the first genocide of the twentieth century, then perhaps humanity might have been more alert to the warning signs that were being given before Hitler's madness was unleashed on an unbelieving world."

Mr. Speaker, let us never forget and let us affirm the truth.

**A TRIBUTE TO JACK NICKLAUS'
ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER IN GOLF
AND LIFE**

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jack Nicklaus for his service to our Nation, the game of golf and the Masters Tournament. Few events in the world of sports compare to the beauty and grace of the Masters Tournament in Augusta, GA. There is no one that has won more Masters' titles than Jack Nicklaus. He is the owner of six coveted Green Jackets.

Early in his career, Jack Nicklaus became the role model for an untold number of individuals aspiring to play the game of golf. He has also become a role model for millions of people for his personal values, particularly his dedication to family.

Named the Golfer of the Century and Golfer of the Millennium by every major media outlet, Jack Nicklaus' record stands unparalleled at the top of the golf world. He has collected more than 100 professional victories worldwide. This includes 73 PGA Tour victories and 10 more on the Champions Tour. He has won a record 20 major championships: 6 Masters, 5 PGA Championships, 4 U.S. Open Championships, 3 British Opens, and 2 U.S. Amateur titles. In his career he has been the top money-winner 8 times, number one in scoring 8 times, and has recorded 20 holes in one. Jack Nicklaus has been a member of six Ryder Cup teams, captained two others, and this fall, he will serve for the third time as captain of the U.S. Presidents Cup team.

Many things have been said about Jack Nicklaus. At the 1962 World Series of Golf, Arnold Palmer rose to make the following statement, "Jack Nicklaus is just a youngster and a newcomer to the professional ranks. But you gentlemen saw one of the greatest out there today. He'll be a headliner for a long time and could put together the greatest career the game has ever known. He has everything."

In addition to Jack Nicklaus and his sons/family growing the game of golf by designing close to 300 courses worldwide, the Nicklaus family gathered on June 12, 2003, with sand

wedges instead of shovels, to break ground on the Nicklaus Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. The hospital officially opened last November. They have also formed the non-profit Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation. This foundation, chaired by Mrs. Barbara Nicklaus, provides charitable support for activities that advance and enhance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of childhood diseases and disorders. The Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation also supports not-for-profit programs and projects aimed at pediatric health care and health-related services, with the Nicklaus Children's Hospital located at St. Mary's Medical Center as the major focal point.

So. Mr. Speaker, the name of Jack Nicklaus will always be synonymous with the game of golf and his accomplishments, on and off the course, will live forever.

IN HONOR OF DAVID PIERCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of David Pierce, Managing Director of the Ulster Bank of Ireland and the President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, as we welcome him to Cleveland, Ohio, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2005.

For the past twenty-six years, Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon have organized the St. Patrick's Day Party and Parade, a joyous event that brings people together in the heart of Cleveland. Every year, Euclid Avenue springs to life as a sea of green and the spirited sound of drums and bagpipes are swept along our city streets. This enchanted day promises old friendships renewed, the discovery of new ones, and serves as a living bridge that extends across the blue Atlantic—from the north coast of Cleveland to the shores of the Emerald Isle.

Mr. Pierce is a leader in securing, protecting and enhancing the economic foundation of Ireland, and has established significant ties with leaders in America and around the world. In 2004, he was honored with the Leinster Society Chartered Certified Accountant of the Year Award for the Republic of Ireland. His wife, Jackie, and daughters, Rachel and Elaine are central to his life. Additionally, Mr. Pierce volunteers his time to the people and causes of Ireland. Similarly, Mr. Collins and Mr. Scanlon, distinguished attorneys, continue to preserve and promote the history and culture of their beloved Irish homeland.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Honorable David Pierce of Delgany, County Wicklow, the Republic of Ireland, for joining us in Cleveland as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Please also join me in recognition of Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon for organizing this wondrous St. Patrick's Day Party this year, as they have for the past twenty-six years. "Ni dheanfaidh smaoineamh an treabhadh duit—You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your mind"—Old Irish Proverb.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO
KAREN PETROSYAN

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish a very happy belated birthday to Karen Petrosyan, son of my good friend Vladimir Petrosyan. Karen celebrated his 19th birthday on March 14.

Karen is known for his loyalty to friends and his commitment to his family, a warm smile and good sense of humor. Karen is an excellent student currently studying in Seattle, Washington. Vladimir tells me that very early in life, Karen displayed a rigorous intellect and good judgment. When not absorbed in academics, Karen enjoys sports, particularly basketball.

For these reasons and more, I would like to extend the warmest best wishes to Karen Petrosyan for whom the future holds great promise.

A TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY
CAPTAIN DAVID ROZELLE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize U.S. Army Captain David Rozelle for his brave service to our country. Captain Rozelle, of the 3rd Armored Cavalry, was injured in June 2003 while serving in Hit, Iraq. His Humvee hit an anti-tank mine, which severely injured his right foot and leg and later had to be amputated. Captain Rozelle earned the Bronze Star with Valor and the Purple Heart for his bravery and courage through this trying ordeal.

Captain Rozelle returns to active duty in Iraq this month as the first amputee in recent history to reenter the battlefield. Captain Rozelle suffered through many months of rehabilitation and has recently released a book describing his trials called *Back in Action: An American Soldier's Story of Courage, Faith and Fortitude*.

Captain Rozelle, now 32 years old, grew up in Texas with his parents John and Judy Rozelle. Always an active athlete, he graduated from Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina, where he left the football team to participate in the Army ROTC program. His wife, Kim, and 18-month old son Forrest are currently residing in Colorado.

Captain Rozelle is a man worthy of great honor. He has overcome many challenges through his recovery from his injury and his strength and courage is shown in his willingness to return to the same battlefield where he was first injured. I hope all our colleagues will join in honoring and thanking Captain Rozelle for his valiant service to our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES
MCMANUS AND THE MCMANUS
DEMOCRATIC ASSOCIATION ON
ST. PATRICK'S DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of James McManus, a tireless public servant, legendary New Yorker and very good friend of mine. Additionally, I am pleased to offer my warmest wishes to the McManus Democratic Association for another year of outstanding service to New York City residents.

St. Patrick's Day is a time when Americans of all ethnicities gather with friends and relatives to have fun and to celebrate the Irish-American community's many contributions to our nation and culture. On this happy occasion, it is fitting to honor Jim McManus, who has never forgotten his Irish roots and who continues to be the driving force behind one of New York City's most effective public service organizations.

The McManus family has been a fixture of New York City politics for more than one hundred years. For the past three decades, Mr. McManus has been an advocate, ombudsman and friend to residents of midtown Manhattan. It is a testament to Jim McManus's leadership that the McManus Democratic Association is just as vibrant and strong an organization as when his great-uncle Thomas founded it.

Throughout his career, Mr. McManus has strived to strengthen the McManus Association's tradition as a center of service to the community. The Association's dedication to public service is perhaps best demonstrated by its efforts to welcome immigrants to New York and help them integrate into the life of the City. Mr. McManus has organized citizenship drives and helped immigrants prepare to take the test to become American citizens—so that they can take full advantage of the benefits and responsibilities of living in the United States.

The McManus Association, an active social-service organization, has also conducted registration drives that have helped thousands of New Yorkers register to vote; works with seniors who are having difficulty finding housing; helps its members locate jobs, educational opportunities and better medical care; and strives to promote the interests of working-class New Yorkers through collective action. Furthermore, the Association has made a longstanding commitment to young New Yorkers, introducing students to the political process and to government service.

I commend James McManus for his lifelong dedication to improving the well-being of New York City residents. Time and again, the McManus Association exemplifies the notion that we work best when we work together.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to James McManus and the McManus Democratic Association. To Mr. McManus and the dedicated professionals, volunteers and friends of the McManus Association, I offer my continuing admiration, respect and support.

HONORING EUGENE PARKS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a remarkable citizen, Mr. Eugene Parks of Madison, Wisconsin.

Eugene Parks was a complicated man who confronted complicated issues head on, no holds barred. He was the outspoken conscience of our community and he wasn't afraid to remind us of our shortcomings. He is remembered as a man who worked passionately against the racism and injustice he saw and felt in our community and in the world. "As a black man," he told his nephew, "you aren't going to be heard unless you say it like you mean it." Gene Parks was never afraid to say it and he always, always, meant it.

Most important, no matter how contentious his relationship with his community and its government, Gene never abandoned either. As Madison's first African-American alderman, Gene was a role model and catalyst for change by the age of 21. Decades later, as the city's first African-American candidate for mayor, he showed the same commitment to civic responsibility.

Most in our city knew Gene as a firebrand, but he was also a devoted father, a music lover, and even an actor. I still have the Playbill from a UW-Madison Theatre Department production of the musical "Finnian's Rainbow" in which I was a five year old member of the chorus and Gene Parks played a lead role.

I think Gene would have been humbled by the many heartfelt tributes and the overflow crowd at his memorial service in Madison's Memorial High School auditorium. Our city was shaken by the depth of the void left by his passing.

Of all the descriptors by which we remember Gene Parks, there is none more accurate nor more honorable than that of "citizen."

Thank you, Gene.

LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE DEBT
COLLECTION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce important legislation that will improve the way the Federal government collects delinquent non-tax debts.

This legislation would amend the Debt Collection Act to eliminate the 10-year limitation on the collection of delinquent federal debts through the Treasury Offset Program, which is maintained by the Financial Management Service at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. A request for this legislation was transmitted as part of President Bush's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget request. It is estimated that this provision would return \$6 million to the Treasury in the first year of implementation, and at least \$11 million each year thereafter.

Non-tax debt would include defaulted loans or overpayments to vendors. Under current law, the only type of non-tax debt not subject

to the 10-year limitation is defaulted student loans owed to the U.S. Department of Education. This legislation would bring all other types of debt in line with the requirements for repaying student loans.

The U.S. government should have the ability to collect each and every debt. This money belongs to the taxpayers. No one should be able to avoid responsibility simply by waiting for an arbitrary time limit to expire. In times of tightening budgets, we cannot afford to allow delinquent debtors to shift their burdens onto taxpayers.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF RETIRED SGT. MAJOR
BENITO V. GUERRERO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired Sergeant Major Benito V. Guerrero and his many years of service in our United States Army.

Mr. Guerrero was born north of New Braunfels, Texas on April 3, 1935. He began his military career very early as the Advisory President of his Junior ROTC Program at Jefferson High School in San Antonio, Texas.

Upon graduating high school, Guerrero joined the army in 1956. By 1959 Mr. Guerrero's airborne unit was deployed to Germany and became part of the 8th Infantry Division. Because Mr. Guerrero graduated in the top ten percent of his class at the 7th U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, he was selected to attend the Federal Republic of Germany Airborne School in 1962.

Throughout his many years of service Mr. Guerrero has served all over the world and has received such awards as the Purple Heart with 1st Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Award, the National Defense Medal, and the Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer Award, just to name a few.

Retired Sergeant Major Benito V. Guerrero retired from the United States Army after over 30 years of honorable service to our Country. He is the epitome of dedication and professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements and service of Retired Sergeant Major Benito V. Guerrero.

A TRIBUTE TO LOUISE WILSON
LEWIS, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE
YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Louise Wilson Lewis. For many years, Louise has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Louise instantly recognize her dedication toward helping others.

Born and raised in the Glendale area, Louise worked at Walt Disney Studios for 14 years until she cofounded Iwerks Entertainment. She was able to retire at an early age, which gave her more time to devote to her real career—helping other people.

Louise's description of herself as a "professional volunteer" is an apt one. She began her volunteer career while in elementary school as a math and reading tutor, and an assistant in the Vice Principal's office. At age 12, she started teaching Sunday School and continues to do so today. At age 16, Louise began volunteering as a candy striper at Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center. This year she is celebrating 42 years of continuous service, having served several terms as President of the hospital's Guild, on the hospital's Community Board of Directors, and is the first woman to chair the hospital's Foundation Board. In addition, she served 2 terms as President of the San Gabriel Area Council of Hospital Volunteers and 2 years on the Volunteer Board of the California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. Louise also volunteers for Las Candelas, an organization which assists emotionally disturbed children.

Devoted to her church, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Louise has volunteered in every volunteer capacity—the Altar Guild, the Thrift Shop, Girl's Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, Rose Garden, Junior Warden and Senior Warden and is currently Bishop's Warden. She is also a Lay Eucharist Minister, a Stephen Minister, and in her spare time visits shut-ins and the elderly in retirement homes and convalescent hospitals.

Louise has received several awards over the years including the First Volunteer at Glendale Memorial Hospital to serve 500 hours at age 17, Uni-Health Hospital System Volunteer of the Year in 1997, recognition from the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, and the Glendale Young Women's Christian Association Woman of Heart and Excellence in 2004.

During the last few years, Louise has managed to maintain her active volunteer work while battling cancer. Her courage and determination is an inspiration to us all. Louise and her husband Tim have been married for 32 years and reside in Glendale.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Louise Wilson Lewis. The entire community joins me in thanking Louise for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

CONGRATULATING CANISIUS COLLEGE
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Canisius College Golden Griffins Women's Basketball Team on winning the 2005 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Tournament on March 7, 2005. Their win over Marist College gives the "Griffs" its first-ever MAAC Championship and their first bid to the Division I NCAA Tournament.

The "Griffs" have had a truly remarkable season. After narrowly missing out on the MAAC Championship last season, Canisius capped their first 20-win season with a nail-biter in the MAAC Championship game. Their victory, like their entire season, was exemplified by a total-team effort. In the biggest game of her career, Becky Zak scored 12 points, three assists and two steals, and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Megan Lyte tallied 10 points and 11 rebounds, her seventh double-double of the season, and Jessie Lamparski registered 11 points, six boards, five assists and three steals. Jessica Steeves posted eight points, five rebounds and a blocked shot en route to joining Zak on the all-tournament accolades.

The accomplishment of the Canisius College Golden Griffins Women's Basketball team demonstrates the profound impact that Title IX has had on increasing opportunities in sports for women and girls. Title IX, part of the Education Amendments of 1972, required that public schools and colleges provide equal educational and athletic opportunities for girls and women. It has unquestionably been a tremendous factor in the lives of the talented members of this team.

It is important for girls and women to have every opportunity to succeed, especially when it comes to athletics. That is why I have introduced H.R. 595, the High School Athletics Accountability Act. This bill will require schools to report to the Department of Education basic data on the number of female and male students in their athletic programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Currently, high schools are not required to disclose any data on equity in sports, making it difficult for schools and parents to ensure fairness in athletics programs. Better information can help high schools and parents of schoolchildren foster fairness in athletic opportunities for girls and boys.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot be prouder of the Canisius Women's Basketball team. I especially want to applaud coach Terry Zeh. As a first year coach, he demands accountability from his players both on and off the court, and is a strong role model for the entire college community. I wish to also commend college president Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., the coaching staff and players, and the student body for this Championship season. These women continue to be role models for young girls, and their wonderful accomplishment will inspire more girls to increase participation in athletics. I will be eagerly watching the team's first round game in the NCAA tournament as they proudly represent Canisius College on the national stage.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay well deserved tribute to one of the great religious leaders of our time, Pastor Adrian Rogers of Tennessee.

In the words of Billy Graham, "We need for ministers of the Gospel to defend the Bible as the infallible Word of God . . . I believe in my heart that Adrian Rogers is such a man. I know him personally. I have walked with him and prayed with him . . . I know God's hand is upon Adrian Rogers as he proclaims the Bread of Life from his church and through radio and television . . . I praise God for his ministry."

These comments echo the sentiment of millions who've been touched and inspired by the life-changing ministry of Pastor Rogers. The high regard in which he is held translated to his three elections as President of the Southern Baptist Convention—the world's largest Protestant denomination with 16 million members. With a passion and gift for applying the gospel message to everyday life, he has also shared the "good news" as a noted author with scores of books and instructional material to his credit; as a featured speaker at a number of historic conferences and international crusades; and as the founder and broadcaster with Love Worth Finding ministries which is played on over 14,000 broadcast and cable television outlets, on nearly 2000 radio stations and in more than 150 countries worldwide.

With all that he has given to people across the nation and the world, Adrian Rogers has etched a special place in Tennessee and Mid-South history as the pastor of the renowned Bellevue Baptist Church. Founded in 1903 in a small chapel on the "outskirts of Memphis, Tennessee," Bellevue Baptist Church was in 1972 already a significant pillar in the religious community with a membership of approximately 9,000 persons. In this year, however, the entrance of Pastor Rogers and his wife, Joyce, served as a milestone in Bellevue's history. From this new beginning, the congregation grew from 9,000 to 29,000 members and expanded to a campus and multifaceted ministries that now stand as a model for houses of worship worldwide.

Through the growth and success, Pastor Rogers gives all credit to God saying that "Bellevue is what she is because of the love of Jesus. . . . Jesus is the glue that holds Bellevue together." These words are particularly significant as Adrian Rogers makes his transition from active Pastor to Pastor Emeritus of this great ministry.

For his humility and his worthy example of all that faith should represent, I would ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives would join with me in honoring a servant of God and a friend to humanity—Pastor Adrian Rogers.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of America's Blood Centers. At this moment, someone in America is in vital need of a life-saving blood transfusion. Donated blood is needed every two seconds across the nation. Today, American's will use thirty thousand units of donated blood. One out of seven hospital patients will require blood transfusions. One out of three people in this chamber will need donated blood at least once in their lifetime. Technological and scientific advancements in the medical field continue to rapidly develop, but there remains no substitution for the blood transfusion. Blood cannot be manufactured nor reproduced. This life sustaining substance can only be transfused from one person to another. Life-saving blood remains a gift from one person to the rest of society. Through blood donations we help each other to survive and overcome medical hardships. Blood donations connect and unify us as a people who care.

Today I stand to recognize America's Blood Centers, our nation's largest not-for-profit, community-based network of blood centers that keep on giving the gift of life. America's Blood Centers, founded in 1962, has grown to include seventy-two independent, community owned blood centers, which collect nearly half of the nation's blood supply. This June marks 10 years that Southwest Missouri's own Community Blood Center of the Ozarks has been providing blood to all Seventh District hospitals under the national guidance of America's Blood Centers. America's Blood Centers operate more than 600 collection sites that give the gift of blood to more than 150 million people and more than 3,300 U.S. hospitals. Not only do America's Blood Centers give blood, but they also ensure that their gift is safe and adequate by developing new tests and technologies as well as actively engaging in biomedical research in the area of transfusion medicine. Members of America's Blood Centers ardently work together to share resources and best practices, rising to meet increased national blood supply needs in times of peace, in times of war and in times of disaster. America's Blood Centers were the first to respond to the Oklahoma City bombing, Columbine shootings, and 9/11, and have since worked with the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to ensure adequate blood supply and rapid response in times of national disaster or acts of terrorism.

Additionally, America's Blood Centers continue to support U.S. military operations around the globe. Together the centers promote donor recruitment and societal awareness of blood donations as a top priority, working to guarantee that America will have the blood it needs to continue to live and thrive. I recognize and commend America's Blood Centers on transfusing life into our nation whenever and wherever needed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, during roll call vote number 74 on H.R. 1268, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "no" when I should have voted "yes." I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the record immediately following roll call vote number 74.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my colleagues WAYNE GILCHREST and NORM DICKS, legislation to reauthorize the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation was established in 1984 when President Ronald Reagan signed into law legislation introduced by then Congressman John Breaux. Since that time, the foundation has financed more than 7,200 conservation projects both here in the United States and throughout the world. By leveraging a small amount of Federal assistance each year, they have been able to successfully raise millions of private dollars which have been spent to encourage Coral Reef conservation, enact an early warning system for invasive species, support oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay, help save endangered wild tigers and assist in the conservation of habitat critical for endangered marine sea turtles.

The foundation is governed by a board of directors consisting of 25 Americans who are dedicated to conservation. These distinguished men and women serve without compensation. In addition, the foundation is prohibited from using any Federal money to pay administrative expenses and both the foundation and its grantees may not use any Federal dollars to engage in litigation or lobbying activities.

In my own State of California, the foundation has approved hundreds of conservation projects. These projects have included: California Rangeland Trust, California Saltwater Wetlands Habitat restoration, California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, Point San Luis Lighthouse improvements, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Upper Sacramento River Riparian restoration.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act is a simple, bipartisan and non-controversial bill. It will extend the existing authorization levels for an additional 5 years, clarify the requirement that Congress must be given a 30-day congressional notice requirement prior to the issuance of any conservation grant or expenditure of funds and modify the matching requirement to ensure that the foundation is not required to satisfy this provision in those cases where it does not receive any contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation can continue its worthwhile conservation efforts in the future.

Additional co-sponsors of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2005: Congressman NORMAN D. DICKS.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chairman, despite many reservations, I am supporting the bill before us today because I believe it is essential that this body unequivocally supports our troops in the field and their families here at home. By providing \$2 billion more than the President's request for equipment and munitions, this bill will help to ensure that soldiers in the field finally have the body armor, night vision equipment, and vehicle armor they should have had since military operations began in Iraq. Additionally, by significantly increasing the Military Death Gratuity and the Subsidized Life Insurance benefit, this bill will help to guarantee that the families of deceased soldiers will have adequate financial resources in their time of need.

While it is critical that this bill provides soldiers and their families with the protection and benefits they so rightfully deserve, I remain deeply concerned that it continues to leave the Administration and the Department of Defense unaccountable for the expenditures in Iraq. I am distressed by the alleged reports of waste, corruption and mismanagement of previous funds earmarked for the military operations and reconstruction in Iraq. Further, I am troubled to learn that, according to several studies, only a portion of every dollar spent on rebuilding Iraq has gone to improving the lives of Iraqis. Unfortunately, the efforts made by me and other members of Congress to insert accountability and transparency into the funding process, including the most recent bipartisan effort to establish a commission to investigate the costs of the reconstruction in Iraq, have been repeatedly rejected by the Majority in Congress.

I am similarly disappointed that this Administration insists on funding the war in Iraq using the emergency appropriations process—a process that should be reserved for true emergencies, like tsunami relief. While the Bush Administration claims that it excludes these costs from the annual budget process because it cannot anticipate future war costs,

the true reason for this exclusion is to make the already massive deficit look slightly, albeit artificially, lower. This Administration is therefore abusing the emergency appropriations process in order to help obscure and hide the extent of its fiscal recklessness from the American people. This is the same sort of fuzzy accounting that was employed by the likes of Enron and WorldCom, and yet, while those corporations were ultimately held accountable, this Administration continues not to be.

While I have significant ideological problems with this bill, I cannot in good faith turn my back on the courageous men and women who have so valiantly served to preserve the peace in Iraq. They deserve to enter the battlefield with adequate armor and equipment and are similarly entitled to an increase in benefits for them and for their families. However, I vote in favor of this bill with the sincere hope that this is the last time the Administration abuses the emergency appropriations process and comes to this body with such a request.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I voted against H.R. 1268 "The Emergency Supplemental Bill for Fiscal Year 2005." While it contained some good measures, humanitarian assistance for Darfur, funds for tsunami relief and aid to support the newly elected leadership of the Palestinian Authority, like many pieces of legislation these days, it also contained an egregious and completely non-germane addition, the REAL ID Bill. I already voted against this bill. It fails to make us safer and it does nothing to reform our immigration laws in useful ways. Instead of focusing on meaningful reform, this bill makes it much more difficult for an immigrant fleeing persecution to find asylum in our country, and essentially mandates a national identity card.

This vote was primarily about our ongoing military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. I supported the use of force in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime sheltered and supported al Qaeda terrorists who attacked our country and made plain its determination to continue. I wish we had committed sufficient troops and resources to complete our mission in Afghanistan, kill or capture Osama bin Laden, and commit to the country's reconstruction. I voted against the use of force in Iraq. I wish I had

been wrong, but all that I feared has come to pass. Weapons of mass destruction have not been found. Terrible slaughter continues and civil war may yet break out. But the ongoing violence in Iraq does not constitute a budgetary emergency and should not have been unforeseen. We were at war when the FY05 budget was proposed. Why then the pretense of a Supplemental Budget?

I honor the sacrifice of our soldiers and their families and the courage of the millions of Iraqis who risked their lives to vote in a free election. I hope that their elected leaders will deserve their trust and that they will negotiate an inclusive government and draft a constitution that respects human rights. I hope they can demonstrate a prudence and foresight that our own government has not shown. I voted for the FY05 Department of Defense appropriations bill and I hope that I will be able to vote for the FY06 Defense appropriations as well. My vote was a vote of no confidence in the President and in his conduct of foreign affairs.

REMEMBRANCE OF TILLIE K. FOWLER

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, along with my fellow Members of Congress, it is my honor to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague, Tillie Fowler. I extend my very deepest sympathy to Tillie's husband, Buck, to her daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth, and to Tillie's family on the great personal loss of their loved one. It was my privilege to call Tillie Fowler my colleague in Congress and know her as a friend.

Tillie always had her priorities in order. I always recall her first concern in all matters was for Buck, her husband, and her daughters. Tillie as I knew her also had a great love of our country. She ran for office to make her community, our State of Florida and our nation a better place for all. And she never stopped or hesitated in that effort.

Because of the public service of Tillie Fowler, many lives in the Jacksonville area and across our great land have been changed. Tillie and I were elected to Congress together in 1992. With Tillie's leadership the Congress was reformed, people who only had welfare as a choice had their lives changed and our nation's military found a new, strong advocate at their side. Many lives have been affected by the efforts and determination of Tillie Fowler.

It was my honor to serve with her for eight years and share borders of our Congressional Districts over the years. It was my honor to have her at my side during congressional redistricting in 2002, when I inherited a large portion of her old district and faced a formidable reelection challenge. Her support and

friendship will always have a fond place in my heart and memories.

So, like many, I have lost a great friend. Unfortunately our nation has lost a great leader and patriot. We will all miss Tillie. But each day now without her, we can celebrate her life and better appreciate her many contributions that helped to make our country a better America for all.

HALABJA REMEMBERED

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 1988 Saddam Hussein brutally attacked Halabja, Kurdistan in Iraq. When the bombing attacks were completed, over 5,000 were dead and over 8,000 injured.

The injured people were civilians. Families died together that day, orphans were made that day, a day that the Kurdish people will never forget.

As the poison gas largely cleared by noon that day, the deadly smoke lay close to the ground, sinking into the basements of the homes where people had gone to seek shelter.

They watched as their skin burned. Some were immediately blinded. Some took shelter among the corpses of their family members. The ones who were able to run, ran, stopping only when they were overcome with pain or exhaustion.

Today, I honor those men, women, and children who lost their lives at the hands of a ruthless killer, Saddam Hussein. The Halabja massacre represents 5,000 of the 200,000 Kurdish people who died or are missing during the genocide campaigns of the Saddam Hussein regime. Hundreds of thousands of other Iraqis were also killed or are missing.

Mr. Speaker, as our Armed Forces battle to build a democratic future for the people of Iraq, we should recall the horror of Halabja, and acknowledge that the hellish tyranny that shackled all but a few Baathist thugs is part of Iraq history and not part of its future. Let's recall the suffering of all Iraqis, especially the Kurds in Halabja, and honor our Armed Forces for the better future they are building in Iraq.

VERNA KING—AN INSPIRATION TO SAN DIEGO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, Verna Lee St. Clair King, born and reared in Berwick, Louisiana, is the daughter of John Westley St. Clair and Florence Ellen Calvin St. Clair. Educated in Louisiana and Texas, she earned her A.B. degree from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas and later an M.A. from San Diego State University.

Verna grew up determined to make life better for others. She eventually became a teacher, making politics and helping others through community service her lifelong hobbies. Her

intelligence and insight led her to the political arena and the fight for equal education.

A professional educator in San Diego for thirty years, Verna has a long history of involvement with the San Diego Teachers' Association (SDTA). Through the SDTA, she represented the National Education Association and served as a member of the National Women's Caucus and Black Caucus.

Verna's unselfish nature led her to become increasingly involved in a wide array of civic activities: she was vice-chair of the 79th Assembly District Committee, served on the 44th Congressional Advisory Committee, and was a charter member of the San Diego Council of Democratic Women. In addition, she is a charter member and past president of Women Inc. She is also involved with Alpha Kappa Alpha, CTA, the YWCA, her church, and the Democratic Party. In addition, she has recently served on the Community Service Association Board as well as the San Diego Historical Site Board.

Verna's involvement in the community and politics has allowed her to interact and work with individuals such as Coretta Scott King, Andrew Young, Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter, Alan Cranston and Tom Bradley.

Verna is listed in prominent annuals and has received many awards in recognition of her professional and community service. In the past, she has been the recipient of the Democratic Committee's Golden Key Award and received a Key to the City of San Diego for her outstanding work in the field of human relations. For bridging the gap between parents and teachers, Verna was honored with an Honorary Service award by the Ninth District P.T.A. Her current honors reflect the esteem in which she is held by her fellow professionals and by those who have had the pleasure of working with her in political and community activities.

Verna's husband, Alonzo King, now deceased, shared her interests both politically and professionally. In addition, Verna and Alonzo were blessed with a close family that included five children: Joyce L. King Thomas, Verna Lee E. Bickerstaff, St. Clair King, Alonzo King, and Reginald King, the latter two of whom are deceased.

Verna has always been gracious in all of her endeavors, and her knowledge and experiences have been invaluable to professionals, friends, fellow committee members and the community.

She truly has been an inspiration to all San Diego.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE TRACY O. KING

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Texas State Representative Tracy King for his many accomplishments in business and in government.

Mr. King was born in Baytown, Texas, in 1960. After graduating from Carrizo Springs High School, he attended Southwest Texas Junior College for a year, and then transferred to Texas A&M University, where he completed his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering.

Upon his graduation, Representative King began working at the Beltone Hearing Aid Center in San Antonio. He moved up quickly, and was responsible for opening the branch office in Uvalde. In 1987, he became owner of the local Beltone Hearing Aid Center, serving 16 counties in Southwest Texas. He has been active in a number of nonprofit organizations, including the Kiwanis Club and the first Methodist Church, and he is a former president of the Texas Hearing Aid Association.

Tracy King was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1994, and is currently serving his fifth term. He is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, and is Chairman of Budget and Oversight for the House Regulation Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Tracy King is an example of what hard work and responsible service can accomplish, and I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize him here.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY CAMMARANO, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, the Honorable Mary Cammarano. For many years, Mary has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Mary instantly recognize her joy, enthusiasm and passion for helping others in her community.

A native New Yorker, Mary moved to San Gabriel in 1964 with her husband Mike. As a young mother, Mary was active in her children's activities, volunteering for 3 different Parent Teacher Associations, Little League, Girl Scouts of America, Boy Scouts of America and a foreign exchange student program. Her past involvement also included board memberships on the American Heart Association, the YMCA, the American Red Cross, and the Italian Catholic Federation, where she served as President.

Elected to the San Gabriel City Council in 1989, Mary served on the council for 16 years, serving as Mayor for 3 terms, until her retirement in 2005. She was a long-time member of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and the Independent Cities Association.

Ms. Cammarano's current volunteer service with the City of San Gabriel is extensive and impressive. A 30 year member of the San Gabriel Historical Association, where she provided her homemade lasagna for 15 years for the association's annual fundraiser; she also successfully brought the Ramona Museum to San Gabriel. For 35 years, she has been a member of the San Gabriel Coordinating Council and the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, where she's brought her homemade minestrone soup for

the last 10 years. Additionally, she is active in the San Gabriel Kiwanis Club, serves on the San Gabriel Valley Medical Center Foundation Board, is President of the San Gabriel Valley Music Theatre, and assists at the La Casa Community Center's annual fundraiser, the San Gabriel Mission's Annual Fiesta and the Mission's St. Joseph's Day Festival.

Mary has received several awards over the years including the Woman of the Year from the 49th Assembly District, Woman of the Year from the City of San Gabriel, San Gabriel Business and Professional Women's Woman of Achievement, and a National Lifetime Membership in the Parent Teacher Association, as well as many others.

Mary and her husband Mike have been married for 47 years, have 5 children, and 11 grandchildren.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mary Cammarano. The entire community joins me in thanking Mary for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

IN HONOR OF JFK HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to honor the boy's basketball team, at John F. Kennedy High School in Kingsbridge, NY. These fine young men, whom critics called the underdogs, won the PSAL tournament in New York, defeating Lincoln High School at Madison Square Garden 62-57.

It has not been an easy season for the Knights, which makes their victory all the sweeter. Midway through the season, Coach Johnny Mathis nearly had to quit the team. In the past year, Coach Mathis, who has led the team for 18 years, lost three toes to diabetes and underwent three circulatory bypass surgeries on his legs. Yet, this dedicated coach only missed two games all season. He always believed in his team. Mathis called the team's win "very special" and said he always believed we were good enough and that the team worked pretty hard and in the team's minds they came in to win the game.

It takes an extraordinary team to beat a three-time champion like Lincoln, but the Kennedy Knights are such a team and did just that. The final game was close—and with the score tied and 5 minutes left, MVP Emilijano Kinaj sank a three-pointer and the Knights were on their way. They worked hard as a team and the results are obvious.

I congratulate the players and Coach John Mathis for their 28-4 season record and for winning the championship.

BOOST THE ECONOMY—COMPENSATE REAL VICTIMS; SUPPORT ASBESTOS LITIGATION REFORM

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, for almost two decades, Congress has unsuccessfully grappled with the challenge of assuring fair and timely compensation to workers who have become sick after being exposed to asbestos fibers. The pioneering work done by litigation reform advocates like Rep. HENRY HYDE laid the foundation for ongoing negotiations in the other body that may finally result in legislation that assures compensation to sick plaintiffs and allows defendant companies to move beyond the uncertainty of decades-long mass tort litigation.

In his State of the Union address, President Bush told us, "Justice is distorted, and our economy is held back, by irresponsible class actions and frivolous asbestos claims and I urge Congress to pass legal reforms this year." It is time for the House to enter the debate.

Many of you have heard how asbestos litigation reform has hurt workers and our economy. Over 8,000 defendants must spend time and money responding to asbestos lawsuits. Since the mid-1980's, 730,000 asbestos claims have been filed—and over 100,000 asbestos suits were filed in 2003 alone. Defendants point to examples of clever attorneys "working the system" to benefit certain plaintiffs, escalating the cost of litigation beyond reliable measure. For example, in 1998, a Fayette, Mississippi, jury awarded \$2 million each to five plaintiffs who had been exposed to asbestos fibers but had little or no symptoms of illness. In 2003, the Supreme Court has upheld a \$5.8 million award to plaintiffs with lung x-rays showing evidence of asbestos exposure, who successfully argued that they deserved compensation for living with fear of contracting an asbestos-related disease—or "asbestophobia," as some call it. The uncertain cost of asbestos litigation has driven at least 74 companies into bankruptcy. Employees of these bankrupt firms have watched the value of their 401(k) accounts drop by 25 percent. As many as 60,000 workers have lost their jobs.

This focus on numbers can make us forget that asbestos litigation reform is about people:

Mary Lou Keener watched her father die painfully from mesothelioma, a cancer he contracted from asbestos exposure while he served in the Navy during World War 11. He filed legal claims years before he died, yet his widow has received almost nothing.

Workers who are sick from years of exposure to asbestos while working for Johns Manville Corporation might be told that approved compensation for their mesothelioma is \$700,000; however, since the bankruptcy trustee pays only five cents on the dollar, their claim is worth \$35,000.

David Coleman, exposed to asbestos as an infant when he inhaled fibers embedded in his father's work clothes, died of mesothelioma in 2002, at the age of 19. His family's lawsuit sits on the court docket in Cuyahoga County, along with another 34,000 claims.

Children who grew up in the asbestos mining town of Libby, Montana, breathing in asbestos fibers stirred up by the street traffic as they road buses to school, now, as adults, are experiencing asbestosis symptoms. Under the current system, they have no hope of compensation.

Ron Huber, who worked 35 years in a steel mill, joined an asbestos suit in 1995 although he had no symptoms of asbestos related illness. His attorney accepted a small settlement which, according to Huber, was wholly applied to legal costs. By 2002, he was truly experiencing symptoms of asbestos-related disease. He is suing the only person not released by settlement of the 1995 case—the attorney who recruited him for that suit.

Drew Anders, who spent 15 years working for a company that was forced to declare bankruptcy in reaction to growing asbestos litigation, watched his \$50,000 retirement account fall to \$1,500.

A small business owner in Louisiana who never manufactured anything containing asbestos once used a asbestos-threaded nut in a piece of machinery. Although there is no evidence that this nut causes asbestos related disease, this man's company pays \$75,000 to \$100,000 a year in asbestos-related claims.

A research company that released one of the first studies establishing the health risks of asbestos—a report that saved lives and improved working conditions—is named in over 60,000 cases every year. The principals of this firm, which never used or manufactured asbestos products, spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in settlements.

Today, I am introducing the FAIR Act of 2005. This bill is based on bipartisan asbestos trust fund negotiations carried out during the last months of the 108th Congress. It puts patients ahead of plaintiffs and would dramatically reduce the cost of asbestos litigation. I call on us to work together and pass a bill that helps victims and companies affected by asbestos litigation, while benefiting the economy and boosting the stock market.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "CLEAN SMOKESTACKS ACT OF 2005"

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am again joining with Representative BOEHLERT in introducing the "Clean Smokestacks Act of 2005." This important legislation will finally clean up the Nation's dirty, antiquated power plants.

When I originally introduced the "Clean Smokestacks Act" with Representative BOEHLERT in the 106th Congress, we had a modest beginning. We had a total of 15 cosponsors and little attention.

But in the 107th and 108th Congresses, the bill's supporters grew to over 100 House members. During that time, Senator JEFFORDS successfully reported the companion legislation, the "Clean Power Act" from Committee. And even the Bush Administration, at least in rhetoric, recognizes that we urgently need to clean up these power plants.

Electricity generation is our Nation's single largest source of air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions. Nationally, power plants

are responsible for about 39 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, 67 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions, 22 percent of nitrogen oxides emissions, and 41 percent of mercury emissions.

These four pollutants are the major cause of some of the most serious environmental problems the Nation faces, including acid rain, smog, respiratory illness, mercury contamination, and global warming. If we are going to improve air quality and reduce global warming, we must curb the emissions from these power plants.

Earlier this week, EPA took a first half-step towards reducing emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emissions from some of these old plants, but EPA's regulation would still allow huge quantities of pollution from these plants and leave many plants operating without any modern pollution controls. On mercury, EPA's regulation would allow most old power plants to avoid ever installing pollution controls to reduce mercury emissions. And EPA has done nothing to address increasing carbon dioxide emissions from these plants.

When the original Clean Air Act was enacted in 1970, the electric utility industry argued that stringent controls should not be imposed on the oldest, dirtiest plants since they would soon be replaced by new state-of-the-art facilities. Although Congress acceded to these arguments and shielded old power plants from the law's requirements, many of these facilities—which were already old in 1970—are still in use. There are many power plants from the 1950's that are still in operation and have never had to meet the environmental requirements that a new facility would.

As a result, a single plant in the Midwest can emit as much NO_x pollution as the entire state of Massachusetts.

The Clean Smokestacks Act says it is time to clean up these aging plants. The Act sets strong emissions reduction requirements for all four of the key pollutants from power plants, and it finally sets a deadline for old plants to install modern pollution controls. The Act allows for emissions trading to increase flexibility and reduce costs, where trading won't cause environmental harm. And the Clean Smokestacks Act promotes cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, which help reduce pollution and save consumers money.

This approach just makes sense. Because these power plants are so old and so dirty, cleaning them up provides tremendous benefits at reasonable costs. This is one of the cheapest ways to get significant air quality improvements. And it finally provides a level playing field for new and old plants.

At the same time, this approach gives industry the benefit of increasing regulatory certainty by targeting all four pollutants at once. Industry can make better investments if it knows what all of the emissions requirements will be over the next decade or so.

Finally, the Clean Smokestacks Act recognizes that we need clean air, not regulatory loopholes for irresponsible energy companies, so it leaves the Clean Air Act in place.

Since we first introduced this bill, the President has unveiled a competing proposal, which has been introduced as S. 131 in the Senate. The Administration claims that S. 131 targets the same goal of cleaning up power plants. It's important to recognize, however, that the Clean Smokestacks Act and S. 131

are not similar proposals with different levels of stringency. Rather, they have fundamentally different purposes and effects.

The Administration's proposal aims to help the energy industry escape tough enforcement of the Clean Air Act. It does this by rewriting significant portions of the Clean Air Act to weaken or delete key environmental protections that are cleaning up the air.

For example, S. 131 would give power plants an extra 10 years to avoid reducing toxic mercury emissions. S. 131 would also allow people to breathe unsafe air for years longer, limit the rights of states to protect themselves against out-of-state pollution, and weaken protections for national parks, among other changes to the Clean Air Act. Not surprisingly, industry is spending millions to urge Congress to adopt S. 131, while advocates for public health and the environment, such as the American Lung Association, almost universally oppose the bill.

Moreover, unlike the Clean Smokestacks Act, S. 131 does not guarantee that all outdated power plants will ever install modern air pollution controls. And because S. 131 does not address carbon dioxide emissions, it cannot promise to give industry certainty regarding future federal or state emissions reduction requirements.

So let there be no mistake—the Clean Smokestacks Act in the House, and the Clean Power Act in the Senate, are the proposals to strengthen the Clean Air Act by finally closing the loophole for old dirty power plants and addressing all four pollutants they emit.

In conclusion, let me commend Rep. BOEHLERT and all of the supporters of this legislation. I am pleased to be part of this bipartisan, bicameral approach to strengthening the Clean Air Act and protecting our environment.

HONORING THE TONAWANDA NEWS

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Tonawanda News, based in North Tonawanda, New York, on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary. Over the past 125 years, the Tonawanda News has become the written record for the Tonawandas, a trusted source of information and a cornerstone of the community that it serves.

The Tonawanda Daily News was founded on April 1, 1880, by Dr. George S. Hobbie, when the newspaper's first edition rolled off the presses with just four pages of newsprint. It was the Tonawandas' first and only daily newspaper dedicated to reporting news in the cities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. Even in its humble beginnings, Dr. Hobbie knew the importance of building the newspaper's reputation and credibility among readers, and saw that it promptly appeared at noon each day. The Tonawanda News went on to be run by the first female publisher in New York state, Mrs. Ruby Hewitt, who played an important role in the growth and prosperity of the paper.

Over the last 125 years, the paper's circulation and reputation have grown tremendously; and all the while, the Tonawanda News and

its staff have strived continually to provide the residents of the Twin Cities with accurate and timely news and information. Today, the Tonawanda News is known as one of the most reliable and accurate newspapers in Western New York. The journalistic standards that Dr. Hobbie, Mrs. Hewitt, and others instilled in the paper's staff over the years have not been forgotten; the paper remains committed to the values upon which it was founded, and the rich tradition that it has built.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the publishers, editors, and staff of the Tonawanda News, past and present, for all their hard work. I hope and expect that our "Home-town Newspaper" will be around for another 125 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Tonawanda News.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this statement for the record and regret that I was unavoidably detained on Thursday, March 17, 2005 during Rollcall Vote Nos. 82 and 83 on H. Con. Res. 95, as well as Rollcall Vote No. 84 on H. Con. Res. 32. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Vote No. 82, an amendment offered by Congressman OBEY to H. Con. Res. 95, "no" on Rollcall Vote No. 83; an amendment offered by Congressman HENSARLING to H. Con. Res. 95, and "aye" on Rollcall Vote No. 84 on H. Con. Res. 32, expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic.

INTRODUCING THE "SMALL BUSINESS EXPENSING PERMANENCY ACT OF 2005"

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago Congress, working together with President Bush, enacted into law the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003. Among other provisions, the law strengthened and expanded the expensing provisions afforded to small businesses under Section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, the law encouraged small businesses to make new capital investments, thus spurring our economy and creating jobs. I believe Congress should make this provision permanent and today I am introducing the "Small Business Expensing Permanency Act of 2005" to do just that.

Specifically, the Jobs and Growth Act increased from \$25,000 to \$100,000 the amount of new investment a business can expense—or deduct from income—in a given year. The law also increased—from \$200,000 to \$400,000—the amount of total investment a business can make in a year and still qualify for expensing under Section 179. Unfortunately, under current law, these provisions are set to expire after 2007.

My legislation will repeal the 2007 sunset. If the higher expensing limits are good for our nation's small businesses over the next two years, they should be good for small businesses indefinitely.

Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, representing more than half of all jobs and economic output. We should not take small business vitality for granted, however. Rather, our tax laws should support small businesses in their role as the engines of innovation, growth, and job creation.

Mr. Speaker, in difficult economic times, we must do all we can to encourage new investment and job creation by creating certainty and predictability for America's small business owners. The "Small Business Expensing Permanency Act of 2005" will help accomplish this worthy goal. I applaud the Administration for its consistent leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this much needed legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MRS.
BOY JIN WONG

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Mrs. Boy Jin Wong who passed away on Saturday, March 12, 2005. A resident of West Covina for nearly 50 years, Mrs. Wong was a businesswoman, breast cancer survivor, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and wife.

Mrs. Wong and her husband, Bing Tew Wong, opened the Great Wall restaurant in the 1950s just as West Covina was growing from less than 5,000 residents to more than 50,000 residents. Her son, Council Member Ben Wong, said "despite her limited English language skills, countless Great Wall customers will remember being warmly greeted by her and her enduring smile." When the Great Wall closed its doors in 2001, then Executive Director of the West Covina Chamber of Commerce, Fred Burkhardt, stated "the Great Wall is an institution of West Covina that is going to be severely missed."

Mrs. Wong is remembered as a generous person and someone who treated everybody as if they were honored guests. Mrs. Wong and her husband donated money for scholarships and to build a school in their home village in China. She was an active member of the community, participating and contributing to numerous local organizations and charities.

It is with pleasure that I honor the life of Mrs. Boy Jin Wong. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and community.

COMMENDING THOSE WHO FIGHT
BLINDNESS IN AMERICA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the wonderful work of The Foundation Fighting Blindness, The National Eye Institute and Prevent Blindness America, and I

want to commend all patients affected by vision impairment and blindness for their perseverance and courage.

I want to express my admiration for Betti and Carlos Lidsky, who are the National Trustees of The Foundation Fighting Blindness, and whose lovely family has been affected by a degenerative eye disease. They are great examples of perseverance and commitment to the cause of fighting blindness and are outstanding national leaders.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I join my colleagues in the constant effort to help individuals who suffer from vision loss.

My home state of Florida has the highest proportion of senior citizens in the United States, and it ranks fifth regarding the number of people at highest risk of developing blinding eye disease.

Vision impairment is a very significant health problem in our nation, despite being a preventable condition in half of the cases. It has been estimated that the cases of vision impairment and blindness can double by the year 2030 if there is no intervention.

We, as a society, have a profound responsibility to intervene and to take action in order to enrich the lives of those currently suffering vision impairment and to prevent others from developing visual problems in the future.

We must continue to raise public awareness about the dimension of this problem, and to encourage prevention. In addition, we need to improve access to quality vision care, treatment, and rehabilitation services. We need to support continued education, research, and advocacy efforts.

We have had tremendous breakthroughs in research leading to improvements in the treatment of certain visual conditions, which improve the quality of life for many visually impaired patients. More research can be done, and we will enjoy more success. The National Eye Institute has been committed to promoting research since its creation in 1968, and we are grateful to its scientists for their achievements in the advancement of research for new treatments and cures.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending those who work tirelessly to fight blindness in America.

INTRODUCING THE CONSUMER ASSURANCE OF RADIOLOGIC EXCELLENCE BILL

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence Bill.

I ask for your support in moving this legislation forward. The CARE bill is an important piece of patient-care legislation. It will improve the quality of radiologic procedures performed throughout the United States as well as assist in reducing the cost incurred by the Federal government for these procedures.

The CARE bill in the 108th Congress had 111 bi-partisan House cosponsors and no known opposition. Passage of this bill will finally provide American patients with national standards to ensure that their radiologic proce-

dures are performed by personnel who are trained, qualified and competent.

I am proud to sponsor this legislation because the safety and quality of radiologic procedures is an issue that affects all of us. Every year, more than 300 million x-rays, CT scans, MRIs and other medical imaging exams are performed in the United States, and seven out of 10 people undergo some type of radiologic procedure. So much depends upon the quality and accuracy of those examinations. After all, if an x-ray is poor, there is a chance that injuries could go undetected or diseases could go undiagnosed.

Most of us take it for granted that the person performing our radiologic procedures is a competent professional. But the fact is, poorly trained individuals examine and treat thousands of patients in this country every day.

The CARE bill will help correct that problem. You see, one of the best ways to assure quality radiologic procedures is to require a basic level of education and skill for the people responsible for performing these procedures.

The CARE bill would provide this level of assurance by amending a previous law, known as the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981. Twenty-two years ago, this bill established minimum standards for the education, certification and licensure of radiologic technologists. However, when the bill was enacted, compliance by the states was made voluntary rather than mandatory. As a result, radiographers in 13 states and the District of Columbia are unregulated. Even in states that license radiologic technologists, laws vary so widely that there is no guarantee that personnel are adequately educated to use the equipment with which they have been entrusted.

Under the CARE bill, personnel performing radiologic procedures in every state would be required to meet minimum educational and credentialing standards. Each state would then be responsible for regulating radiologic technologists according to those standards.

The current lack of a national standard for operators of medical imaging and radiation therapy equipment poses a hazard to American patients and jeopardizes quality health care. Accurate diagnosis can be provided only when personnel are properly educated in anatomy, technique, equipment operation and radiation safety.

In states where no regulation exists, anyone is permitted to perform medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures, sometimes after just a few weeks of on-the-job training. But performing a CT scan or taking an x-ray involves much more than just pushing a button. The person responsible for performing the exam uses highly technical equipment that emits radiation.

The CARE bill will help ensure that quality radiation therapy treatments are delivered and that quality diagnostic information is presented for interpretation, which will lead to accurate diagnosis, treatment and cure. Poor quality exams can lead to additional testing, delays in treatment, and unnecessary anxiety for the patient. In the end, the public's health is at stake. An underexposed chest x-ray cannot reveal pneumonia, and an inaccurate radiation therapy treatment cannot stop the spread of cancer.

This legislation will also reduce health care costs by lowering the number of medical imaging examinations that must be repeated due to

improper positioning or poor technique. Repeated imaging examinations cost the U.S. health care system millions of dollars annually in needless medical bills.

Millions of Americans every year depend upon medical imaging exams to diagnose disease and detect injury, and thousands more rely on radiation therapy to treat and cure their cancers. But remember, any radiologic procedure is only as effective as the person performing it. No matter how expensive or sophisticated the equipment, an imaging exam will not reveal a broken bone or a diseased organ if the person who is using that equipment does not know the basics of radiographic positioning, exposure and technique.

By regulating the personnel responsible for performing those procedures, the CARE bill will mean improved care for patients—higher quality images, improved accuracy, and less exposure to radiation.

I urge all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this legislation and enact it in a timely manner so American patients will receive the best care possible, provided by the best caregivers possible.

URGING ADDITION OF HEZBOLLAH TO EUROPEAN UNION'S TERRORIST ORGANIZATION LIST

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. SAXTON and Mr. ENGEL for joining with me in introducing this critically important resolution, urging the EU to add Hezbollah to its terrorist list. For 23 years, Hezbollah has led a global campaign of terror aided by Syria and Iran that has targeted American, Israeli, European, South American, Asian and Arab citizens alike. Dubbed the "A-team of terror" by former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, the global security threat posed by Hezbollah nears—if not surpasses—that of Al Qaeda.

Since its inception in 1982, Hezbollah has carried out the bombings of the American Embassy in Lebanon, the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the U.S. and French Marine bases in Beirut, among others. Hezbollah still has a formidable presence in Lebanon, as demonstrated by last week's rally organized by Hezbollah in Beirut, where half a million people gathered to express their support for Syria, while chanting "death to America; death to Israel" and waving pictures of Syrian President Bashar Assad. This position openly defies international demands, as well as that of an American and French-initiated U.N. Security Council Resolution, which calls for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon and the disarmament of Hezbollah.

In past years, Hezbollah has increasingly supported groups designated by the EU as terrorist organizations, including the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Moreover, EU Member States such as France and Germany have taken recent legal action against Hezbollah, including the German deportation of a Hezbollah agent and the

French banning of Hezbollah television, Al Manar. The EU has also included several officials affiliated with Hezbollah on its terrorist list, thereby precluding the transfer of funds to these individuals from EU Member States. Finally, the European Parliament voted overwhelmingly last Thursday for a resolution urging the EU Council to "take all necessary steps to curtail Hezbollah" due to "clear evidence of terrorist activity."

It defies logic that the EU would take such action and, at the same time, omit Hezbollah from its terrorist list.

In fact, an EU representative recently affirmed that Palestinian officials are increasingly concerned about the enhanced presence of Hezbollah in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinians fear that Hezbollah will undermine a negotiated ceasefire and target Abu Mazen, who has faced severe criticism from Hezbollah, in addition to assassination threats. A Palestinian official recently cited an intercepted email and bank transaction indicating that Hezbollah has increased its payments to Palestinian terrorists from \$20,000 to \$100,000 per attack. If the EU was to add Hezbollah to its terrorist list, such transactions may be impeded by an EU financial block.

In past years, EU Member states have sought to distinguish between the political and military wings of Hezbollah. However, Hezbollah officials themselves do not believe this distinction can be made—proving the futility of such claims. This was reiterated by Mohammad Raad, one of Hezbollah's representatives in the Lebanese Parliament, who stated that "Hezbollah is a military resistance party, and it is our task to fight the occupation of our land . . . There is no separation between politics and resistance."

Hezbollah does not discriminate in its targeting of innocent civilians, and the EU should not discriminate in its classification of terror. As such, the European Union must join the ranks of America, Canada, Israel and Australia in taking firm action against Hezbollah and adding them to its terrorist list. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN MEMORY OF LOWELL C. "BUTCH" SPIRES, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Monday, March 14, 2005, a great Statesman, friend and father passed away quietly. Known as "Butch" to those who loved him, was Lowell Colquitt Spires, Jr. of Cayce. Outside of his many accomplishments, one of the great assets he had was his family and friends. He lived his life with honor, dignity and character. Opinionated and forthright in his speech, Butch's love for his community and fellow man spoke louder than anything else. He worked for the betterment of his community and the impact it would accomplish for future generations. Butch set a mark in which his friends and family will always be honored for and grateful. Though his life was too short for those of us whom are left, his strength and love will always be a constant in our lives. The list of accomplishments in no way reveal the impact he has had on many people. He used

to say, "The utmost a man can do is to give without hesitation. The character of our life is defined by how we love and live, not by what we personally obtain."

Born in Columbia on May 12, 1941, Butch was a son of the late Lowell C. and Margaret Estelle Love Spires, Sr. A lifelong resident, he was a member of Kitti Wake Baptist Church. Married to Gail Julian Spires since August 26, 1960, Butch was employed as president with WestBank Consultants, LLC, and was Special Projects Coordinator for the Town of Lexington. He was tireless in his accomplishments over the years. He served on the Lexington County Council from 1977–1995, as chairman in 1979, 1991 and 1993. He was one of Lexington County's representatives to CMCOG 1977–1983, 1993–present. Butch was vice-chairman of Central Midlands Council of Governments in 1978–79 and 1993–94, and chairman in 1979–80 and 1994–95. He served ten terms on the CMCOG Executive Committee, which included the Transportation Planning Subcommittee. This committee facilitated formation of the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority from 1999–2002, of which he was chairman from 2002–present. On this committee, Butch spearheaded funding and construction in the Central Midlands Region of 27 years of highway improvements in seven years through SCDOT's Bonding Program.

Butch was instrumental in securing funding to ensure continued development of Riverbanks Zoo, the economic development of the Midlands and Lexington County for over thirty years, and the development of the Columbia Convention Center. He originated CMCOG Wetlands Mitigation Bank, currently under development.

A charter member of Central Carolina Economic Development Alliance, Butch was also past president of the South Carolina Association of Regional Councils, past chairman of Lexington County Recreation of Aging Commission, and past president of the S.C. Association of Counties. He was currently a board member of the River Alliance since 1994, of which he originated the concept of 3-Rivers Greenway, member of West Metro and Greater Columbia Chambers of Commerce, served on the boards of Lexington Medical Center and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

His honors include: Recipient of Order of Palmetto, first recipient of the CMCOG Regional Leadership Award in 2005, Transportation Association of SC Outstanding Achievement Award in 2003 for his support and advocacy of public transportation, named SC Ambassador for Economic Development by Governor Carroll Campbell in 1994, President's Cup for Distinguished Service in 1986, Woodrow Wilson Award in 1986, and recipient of the District Lay Award for SC Recreation and Parks Society in 1980.

Surviving, besides his wife are, daughter and son-in-law, Mindy Spires-Miller and Chuck Miller of Mt. Pleasant; sons and daughters-in-law, Lowell C. "Corky" and Cindy Spires, III of West Columbia, Randall "Randy" and Corrine Spires of Greenwood Village, CO; brothers, Nash Lagrand Spires of Birmingham, AL, Zane Erwin Spires of West Columbia; grandchildren, Brittany Spires Farley (Christopher I.), Meagan Noel Spires, Ian Juliano Spires, Katherine Rose Fallon Spires, Garrett Lowell Lacy, and Addy Marie Brooks Lacy.

RELEASE CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONER REGIS IGLESIAS RAMIREZ

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the two-year anniversary of the brutal crackdown on political opposition by the Cuban regime. In partial commemoration of this ignoble milestone, my dear friend and colleague ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and I have launched an "adopt a political prisoner" initiative to help focus the spotlight of international attention on those suffering in Cuban jails because of their inextinguishable faith in the power of democratic liberty.

I rise today to inform my colleagues that I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Cuban political prisoner Regis Iglesias Ramirez.

Mr. Speaker, as an outspoken advocate of human rights in Cuba, Mr. Iglesias is a member of the Coordinating Board for the Christian Liberation Movement. He is also a principal organizer of the Varela Project, a grassroots, civic movement that petitions the Cuban government to allow its citizens to exercise their fundamental human rights. To date, this project has collected and presented over 25,000 signatures to the proper Cuban authorities. Because of his admirable efforts and political activism, Mr. Iglesias was arrested on March 20, 2003, during a wave of repression which was directed against the peaceful Cuban opposition. After weeks of interrogations and psychological torture, he was sentenced to 18 years in prison for the alleged crime of "acts against the independence or territorial integrity of the state"—a common charge that dictatorial states have levied against democracy and human rights advocates for far too long.

Mr. Iglesias was born in Havana on September 18, 1969. He loves to read classical literature and admires leaders of peaceful yet forceful advocacy such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. He is an educated, hard-working man who lives with passion—a passion to live in a democracy where basic civil and political liberties are respected. It is because of his uncompromising commitment to fight for these democratic freedoms that Castro's regime stripped him of his liberty.

Mr. Speaker, the abuses against Regis Iglesias Ramirez are horrendous. He has been repeatedly imprisoned for promoting the very ideals that we hold self-evident, and for calling out to his neighbors and fellow citizens to join him in a cry for freedom from a cruel, totalitarian regime. As Members of Congress, we must take the lead to ensure that these atrocities are stopped. I call upon the Cuban government to release Mr. Iglesias and to end human rights abuse. Let freedom's influence be felt not only in the halls of Capitol Hill, but also in the prison cells of Havana.

FREEDOM FOR ANTUNEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about Jorge Luis Garcia

Perez, often known Antunez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

My distinguished friend and colleague, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, had a great idea for Members of Congress to "adopt" a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba. Today, I "adopt" an extraordinary leader of unlimited courage, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez (Antunez).

Antunez has been locked in the totalitarian gulag since 1990. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 6 years in prison for "oral enemy propaganda." In May 1993, he was tried in a second sham trial, and sentenced to an additional 15 years to be served from that moment. In total, Antunez has been sentenced to 18 years in Castro's grotesque, inhuman gulag.

Despite being enslaved in the tyrant's gulag, Antunez has bravely carried out nonviolent activism in Cuban jails, writing reports on prison conditions and carrying out numerous protests and hunger strikes to demand more humane treatment for prisoners. He has never wavered in his commitment to human rights and democracy for the Cuban people. Antunez has never given in to the beatings, the punishment cells and the instruments of torture inflicted on him by the Castro regime. Antunez always rises up and calls out, demanding human rights and freedom for the people and the nation of Cuba.

After 15 years in the gulag, Antunez is still feared and relentlessly attacked by the dictatorship. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004, "on July 6, family members of political prisoner Jorge Luis Garcia Perez, reported being beaten along with Garcia during a prison visit. Authorities handcuffed and beat Garcia and later punched his sister and kicked his girlfriend's 9 year old son after the visitors protested the harsh treatment."

No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences to him and his family, Antunez will not waiver in his conviction that Cuba should be and will be free. He is a symbol of dignity and heroic resistance to tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, this courageous man has been in Castro's gulag since 1990, for failing to keep silent about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. My Colleagues, Antunez is the face of the real Cuba. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Jorge Luis Garcia Perez and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU ZOGLIN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor a distinguished American and community leader, Mary Lou Zoglin who passed away last week.

Mary Lou Zoglin was committed to serving her community whether it was with non-profits or through community service. She was the executive director of Healthy Ventures, a consortium of schools and other agencies dedicated to the well-being of children. She later served on the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and the Foothill-De Anza Community College Board. In the early 1990s,

Mary Lou turned her public service to the City of Mountain View where she joined the city's Planning Commission. In 1996, she was elected to the Mountain View city Council where she served for 8 years, and one term as Mayor.

During her tenure with the City Council, Mary Lou Zoglin focused her public service on ensuring that the community has a continuum of human services from the time children are in preschool to high school and then into adulthood. She worked tirelessly to see that all members of the community are served by the city, not just those who are the most vocal or economically advantaged. She was instrumental in the construction of San Antonio Place, an affordable housing project in Mountain View which broke ground last year. She also fought for the creation of child-care centers, for improvements to city parks and for resources for youth, including after school programs.

Beyond her dedication to public service, Mrs. Zoglin was committed to her family and an avid student of foreign languages and cultures. She earned her college degree from Radcliffe College where she studied Romance languages and later won a Fulbright scholarship to study in Brussels, Belgium. Upon her return, she met her husband in the early 1950s while they were both in New York. They moved to Los Altos in 1956 where they began their family. Her children, John, Katie and Bill, were raised in this close-knit community and she recently became a proud grandmother of twin grandchildren.

Despite her 5-year battle with cancer and her small frame, Mary Lou Zoglin was frequently described as a "powerhouse" and a "dynamo." She found true joy in working with people in the community and making their dreams a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this good and great woman for her lifetime of remarkable achievements and in extending to her family our deepest sympathy. Our community and our country have lost a true friend and an extraordinary leader.

CPL. CHARLES W. LINDBERG AND THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF IWO JIMA

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima and pay tribute to a fellow Minnesotan and true America hero, Cpl. Charles W. Lindberg. In a manner that is so characteristic of our veterans, Cpl. Lindberg put his life in harm's way so that future generations may live in a world free of the oppressive forces of tyranny. On the morning of the fifth day of this historic battle, six courageous young Marines—Jim Michels, Hank Hansen, Louis Charlo, Boots Thomas, Harold Schrier, and Charles Lindberg—were able to climb atop the slopes of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, in the thick of intense enemy fire and destroy a Japanese outpost, marking the first plot of native Japanese soil captured by the Americans during World War II. It was here that these five brave soldiers planted the first

American flag on Iwo Jima. Later, this scene was recreated by the rising of a second American flag on Iwo Jima, forever to be remembered in our nation's history by Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize winning photograph and the famous statue in Arlington National Cemetery. Unfortunately, Cpl. Lindberg is the sole remaining survivor of this fearless group of initial Marines. However, as is the case with so many of our veterans, Cpl. Lindberg's dedication to our country did not end after the completion of his military service. Through his involvement in efforts to improve our country and the lives of soldiers, Cpl. Lindberg has and continues to be devoted to veterans, veterans' organizations, and his community. With much admiration, I salute this American patriot for his valiant spirit and actions on and off the battlefield.

HONORING THE NATIONAL BETA CLUB FOR ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the National Beta Club as it completes its celebration of its 75th anniversary. The organization was formed by the late Dr. John West Harris in 1934 in Spartanburg County, SC and is still headquartered there in the Fourth District of South Carolina.

Over the years, the National Beta Club has provided the catalyst for teenagers of good character to develop leadership skills and channel their energy into productive service to others. By maintaining its high standards and worthy goals and acting through its outstanding local chapters across the country, the organization has had a positive impact on the success and accomplishments of our great nation for the past seven decades.

The National Beta Club's celebration of its seventy-first anniversary is an occasion highly deserving of recognition. Therefore, please join me in honoring this organization and its efforts to lay the foundation for learning and leading early in the lives of the young people whose lives it impacts.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to passage of this bill.

There are large amounts of funding in this bill that I support for pressing commitments and to meet urgent national and international needs. For example, I absolutely support getting our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere all that they need and deserve in order to protect themselves and carry out their very difficult and dangerous missions. I was among the first to speak out and support legislation in 2003, when it became apparent that Secretary Rumsfeld and his advisors had seriously underestimated the types of body armor, up-armored Humvees and other equipment that would be needed by our forces in Iraq. I have voted for the additional funding in prior measures to correct for these miscalculations, as a matter of the utmost urgency, and I will continue to do so.

Similarly, I support the additional funding in this bill for enhancing nuclear nonproliferation efforts to help prevent weapons of mass destruction from getting into the wrong hands. I also support the additional funds for tsunami relief. There is also another down payment in this bill toward improving homeland security efforts in the Coast Guard, FBI, and other front-line agencies, but we need to be doing much more in this regard.

However, on balance I must oppose this legislation.

I've talked to many executive branch officials, civilian and military, and the simple reality is that they cannot plan in a coherent fashion when they are forced to deal with the uncertainty over how much money they will get and when they will get it. This bill denies them the ability to plan and the result is that our servicemen and women in the field are put in greater jeopardy. This is not a bill to support our troops.

By way of illustration, I serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. A substantial portion of the annual intelligence budget is now funded through supplemental and/or so-called "emergency" appropriations. Both civilian and military intelligence officials have told me and my colleagues on the committee that this process wreaks havoc with their ability to plan and execute their assigned responsibilities. There is simply no excuse for this state of affairs.

We have soldiers in the field, and we know that we'll be continuing military operations against al Qaeda and its surrogates for the foreseeable future. We know that as long as we're in Iraq at our current force level, we'll be spending about \$7 billion a month for the effort. That's not unforeseen. We should not be funding these operations through emergency supplemental appropriations. It certainly appears that the only reason the Bush Administration continues to try to fund current operations through supplementals is to avoid any kind of substantive review of its budgetary and procurement policies. The entire Haliburton episode is a prime example of how dysfunctional this process has become, and it's also why we must force the administration to provide us with honest budgets and honest estimates on what current and future operations are likely to cost. In fact, the leadership here turned down a bipartisan amendment that would simply have formed a commission to look at the awarding and carrying out of Government contracts to conduct military and reconstruction activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It has become painfully apparent that the path toward a free, democratic and fully reconstructed Iraq will be long and treacherous. If and when this bill is enacted, the cost for the war in Iraq and the ongoing military occupation of that country will exceed \$220 billion. In fact, the true costs of this effort are underestimated and masked, as evidenced by the fact that they are not accounted for in the new Fiscal Year 2006 budget that President Bush submitted to Congress last month. Some projections suggest that the cost will top \$300 billion before the end of this year. And as far as taking care of the wounds of war—physical and psychological—of our latest generation of veterans, neither this supplemental nor the administration's FY06 VA budget request come remotely close to meeting the expected need . . . undoubtedly one of the many reasons that most of the military services are falling short of their recruiting targets this year.

Rather than continue the status quo on an open-ended, costly basis and to vote ever-increasing amounts in "emergency spending," Congress must demand much greater transparency in the management and spending for ongoing U.S. military operations in Iraq. Even more important, we need a thorough policy review that will help bring internal stability and security throughout Iraq and create the conditions under which the long-suffering people of Iraq can regain full control of their own affairs and make rapid progress in rebuilding their war-torn nation in a new era of peace, security, and democratic self-government. This supplemental request does not achieve that, and I urge my colleagues to work with me to craft one that does.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 67 pertaining to H. Res. 101, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I was absent at a previously scheduled commitment and missed the recorded votes on Roll Call Number 82, the Obey Amendment to H. Con. Res. 95; Roll Call Number 83, the Hensarling Amendment to H. Con. Res. 95; and Roll Call Number 84, on H. Con. Res. 32, expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic.

Had I been present, I would have voted "No" on Roll Call Number 82; "No" on Roll Call Number 83; and "Yes" on Roll Call Number 84.

PROTECTION OF INCAPACITATED
PERSONS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Madame Speaker, today, I rise before this House as a sad Floridian.

Along with millions of Americans, I am hoping and praying for the best for Terri Schiavo and her family.

Fifteen years ago, Terri and her family had so many things in life to look forward to. Never in their wildest dreams would they be able to foresee the tragic events that would raise a conflict so heated that the federal government would reach into their lives and alter their future.

As Terri's family works through their differences in court, one of the few things that could make this terrible situation worse is for Congress to turn this family's case into a political football.

But today, that is exactly what Congress is doing and it is exactly what the Florida Legislature is doing as well.

There are already laws in place dealing with both the guardianship rights granted to spouses under marriage and the terrible end-of-life choices that so many families must make. Since the beginning of our nation, our federal and state constitutions have provided the judicial branch the authority to determine if these laws are being fairly applied.

If the laws governing end-of-life cases needs to be improved, the Florida Legislature and Governor should have an open, honest debate about the issue and how any problems can be fixed for all families who struggle with these tough choices.

The U.S. House Republican Leadership only made the situation worse by refusing to hold hearings and bringing this bill to the floor before my colleagues have even learned who Terri Schiavo, her husband and her family are, let alone the impact of the bill on other families.

In what only can be described as a stunning abuse of power, with little debate and zero respect for families, Congress is about to set a precedent that could strip every spouse of the right to make end-of-life decisions for his or her spouse.

So today, I have to ask my colleagues, "Do YOU think Congress is better suited to make an end-of-life decision for your spouse?"

I've spoken to a lot of my fellow Floridians about this tragic situation, but I don't think any of them have a Living Will in place that states "I want the politicians in Washington or Tallahassee to make decisions for me."

With every fiber of my being, I oppose this legislation. Congress' job is to fix problems with the law for all Americans. If Congress intervenes in this family matter, where will they stop?

Sadly, regardless of what we do today, no one wins. A husband may lose his wife and parents may lose their daughter. My heart and prayers go out to Terri and her family.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the continued reluctance by the Bush Administration to openly deal with the government of Turkey's continued policy of denial of the Armenian Genocide. In the words of scholars and writers, genocide denial is the last stage of genocide, what Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel has called a "double killing." The perpetrators first plan and commit the crime, then refuse to acknowledge responsibility. Finally, their political successors deny this crime against humanity. The present-day Turkish government must stop this shameful policy of denial.

The award-winning writer and Harvard Professor Samantha Power in her recent book on genocide recounted how the United States and the world's other powers have too often been bystanders to Genocide, most recently in Rwanda and as you hear these words, once again in Sudan. Power argued that "The Armenian Genocide of 1915 set the stage for a gruesome 20th century." The international community's failure to properly condemn the attempted annihilation of the Armenians led Hitler to famously declare "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

The Turkish government spends millions of dollars annually to lobby other governments to advance its revisionist cause, claiming that the subject is "sensitive" and that acknowledgment would undermine relations with Turkey. To compound this assault on the truth, Turkish leaders and media accuse U.S. and Israel of genocide, respectively in Iraq and Palestine. These policies are abhorrent and must be confronted.

Mr. Speaker, while President Bush has issued annual statements on April 24, the day of remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, he has refrained from using the proper word. Moreover, as the leadership of the House confirmed last year, the Administration remains opposed to a congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide due to Turkish objections. This approach sends absolutely the wrong signal to Turkey and to the rest of the world. As we promote relations based upon shared values, the United States must never forget the essential value of facing history directly.

IN HONOR OF MR. CLINT
EASTWOOD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Mr. Clint Eastwood, on his recent Oscar awards. His film, Million Dollar Baby, was nominated in six categories, and won four: himself as Best Director, the film as Best Picture, Hilary Swank as Best Actress, and Morgan Freeman as Best Supporting Actor. Any one award would be a testament to Clint's art and the talents of his team, but four awards is an amazing achievement!

This year Clint celebrates a 50-year career in show business. We all know and have enjoyed his work over the years. Each movie seems to build on the last, and they keep getting better.

This year's awards are not his first Oscars. In 1992, Unforgiven took Best Director and Best Picture, and he was nominated for Best Actor in a Leading Role. Here in the 17th District, Clint's most famous role may be his term as Mayor of Carmel, and tourists still come to town hoping for a glimpse of "The Mayor."

Mr. Speaker, today I applaud Clint Eastwood not only for his most recent accomplishments, but also for his life-long dedication to his art. This Nation is richer for his creations. I wish him and his wife Dina all the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER
ANDREA BISIGNANI

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer (FSO) Andrea Bisignani.

FS2 Andrea Bisignani, a Food Service Specialist on the Coast Guard Cutter James Rankin, is being honored as the 2005 Baltimore Area Coast Guard Person of the Year.

FS2 Bisignani has consistently demonstrated a high level of performance throughout this past year in her job as a Food Service Specialist. Her untiring efforts and steadfast commitment to her shipmates on the CGC James Rankin has made her a prime candidate for this honor. Those that nominated her for this award cited her leadership and high level of performance as a key factor in the CGC James Rankin being selected for the Dining Faculty of the Year (Afloat-Small category), and also resulted in her selection as Food Service Specialist of the Year.

FS2 Bisignani's accomplishments this year have gone above and beyond the criteria for election of these prestigious honors in the food service rating alone. Her professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm have had a significant and positive impact on the degree of mission success and high state of morale that exists on board the CGC James Rankin.

FS2 Bisignani has risen to the demands and challenges of the working environment aboard the CGC James Rankin, and has not only excelled tremendously in the food service area, but has also lived up to the high standards, which are expected of every crewmember on board. She has thrived in her demanding role as FSO and has been able to accomplish a great deal because of that.

FS2 Bisignani has volunteered much of her time and energy to the members of the CGC James Rankin. She assists and encourages every member in maintaining a healthy lifestyle; is 100 percent customer focused and concerned for the well-being of all crew members; and has taken on more responsibilities than required in order to ensure everything runs well on the ship. FS2 Bisignani has gone above and beyond in her responsibilities to ensure the members on board the CGC James Rankin are happy and healthy, and her dedication is evident to all that have the privilege to work with her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking FS2 Andrea Bisignani for her service and honoring her for being named the 2005 Baltimore Area Coast Guard Person of the Year.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RETIRED MASTER SERGEANT JOHN IRVIN ROWLAND

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Retired Master Sergeant John Irvin Rowland of Montross, Va., who died on March 6th at the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke at the age of 87. John's daughter, Michelle served on my staff and Michelle often spoke of her father and his commitment to his country.

Sgt. Rowland was born September 1, 1917 in Fayette, Alabama and spent most of his childhood in Westbrook, Texas. After graduating from Westbrook High School in 1934, he worked the oil fields of Western Texas for Standard Oil.

John Rowland enlisted in the Army in 1940 and served with the 36th ID, 142nd Infantry, Antitank Company (the T-Patchers) until June 1945. In World War II, he fought with allied forces in the Italian/Southern France campaigns and was awarded his first Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for injuries he received while fighting in France. While in Germany, his unit liberated German concentration camps Dachau, Hurlach and Landsberg, and captured Nazi Luftwaffe Commander and war criminal, Hermann Goering. At the end of the war, he returned to Texas and continued working for Standard Oil.

But when his country needed him again, John re-enlisted in the Army and earned his second Bronze Star fighting in Korea. Following his training at the Intelligence School at Fort Hollabird in 1951, he served as a special agent in the Army Intelligence Corps in both Okinawa and then Berlin. He was one of the first Americans to observe East German activity as they began construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961. In Berlin, he met Ingrid Anna Zilenski and the two were married on December 30, 1962 and shortly thereafter retired from the Army and returned to Monahans, Texas.

After his discharge, he attended electrician training at the National Technical School in Los Angeles. In 1964, John took a job with the Social Security Administration in San Francisco and then for the Department of Defense in Philadelphia. He would eventually retire in 1984 from the DoD Logistics Agency where he inspected security systems for DoD contractors.

In all of his 40 years of service to our country, Sgt. John Rowland exemplified the virtues of honor, dignity, and leadership. He is being buried today at Arlington National Cemetery and I join the Rowland family in mourning Sgt. Rowland's passing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on March 14, 2005, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea," on rollcall votes 66, 67 and 68.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF JUDI KANTER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Ms. LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the women of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I am proud to pay tribute to our friend Judi Kanter on her retirement from EMILY's List. It is a pleasure and an honor to recognize Judi Kanter for fifteen years of outstanding work with EMILY's List, where she has been a leader in changing the face of politics today. She has truly made a difference in our lives and in the political life of our nation. Judi's work will have a lasting impact on the face of power in California.

Judi Kanter's tenure with EMILY's List began in the Bay Area and Northern California where she concentrated on expanding EMILY's List's presence and membership base. Over the years, however, her influence and reach grew exponentially. From San Diego to the Central Valley, from Los Angeles to Sacramento, Judi has become a key ally of pro-choice Democratic women.

The fruits of Judi's hard work are most evident with the development of the EMILY's List Majority Council, a powerful network of committed and generous activists. Through the Majority Council Judi has devoted her immense talents to supporting women candidates, helping them organize strong campaigns, and mobilizing women voters to elect progressive women.

The clearest example of Judi's effectiveness is the changing face of our Congressional delegation. When Judi began at EMILY's List in 1989 there were only seventeen women in the U.S. Congress. Today, the California Democratic Congressional Delegation alone includes two female Senators and eighteen women Members of Congress. There are a total of eighty-three women in Congress. And we know that Judi is as proud as we are that California's Democratic women in Congress represent the richness of California's diversity in background and political persuasion.

Outside the political arena, Judi has been an equally strong advocate for women. She serves on the board of the Family Violence Prevention Fund and other nonprofit organizations that empower women in our society. She has an unmatched talent for getting people involved and inspiring them to act.

Judi Kanter is smart, tough and elegant. She is a model for the women she inspires.

For fifteen years, she has devoted herself to cultivating and investing in the next generation of pro-choice Democratic women leaders.

My colleagues NANCY PELOSI, LOIS CAPPAS, SUSAN DAVIS, ANNA ESHOO, JANE HARMAN, DORIS MATSUI, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, GRACE NAPOLITANO, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, LORETTA SANCHEZ, HILDA SOLIS, ELLEN TAUSCHER, MAXINE WATERS, DIANE WATSON and LYNN WOOLSEY join me in thanking Judi for her support, encouragement and friendship over so many years. We are proud that she will still serve EMILY's List in an advisory capacity, and offer her our best wishes as she begins this new chapter in her life.

NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH—MARCH, 2005

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and to all of our constituents across the Nation that March, 2005, is National Eye Donor Month. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee, I have long been a champion of the cause of donation and particularly the needs of our nation's eye banks. But it was a special honor to be asked this year to participate in this proclamation, for 2005 marks the centennial of the first corneal transplant performed in 1905 by Dr. Eduard Zirm.

Since Dr. Zirm performed that first corneal transplant one hundred years ago, and in partnership since 1944 with our nation's eye banks, we have made tremendous progress. Each year in the United States, more than 46,000 people, ranging in age from nine days to 107 years old, have had their sight restored through corneal transplants, and hundreds of thousands are helped through important research to find cures for other blinding diseases.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. The purpose of Eye Donor Month is to educate each and every American individual and family about giving the gift of sight and to make a terrific difference in someone's life. This month marks an opportunity to raise public awareness and to honor past donors and their families. The process to become a donor takes just a few minutes. All donors need to do is to sign a card, and, most importantly, discuss their donation wishes with their families. Our eye banks across the nation, in partnership with the Eye Bank Association of America., will continue to work to ensure that all Americans will receive the tissue they need and that this tissue will be safe and effective.

As National Eye Donor Month proceeds, I encourage my colleagues to work with their local eye banks to increase awareness of corneal transplantation and the continuous need for donors, and I encourage all Americans to sign a donor card and speak with their families about their desire to give the gift of sight.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, in December, the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress announced its intention to include an "anti-secession law" in its legislative agenda. This law would define China and Taiwan as a unified country, and unilaterally change mainland China's legal approach to status of Taiwan. This is an unwelcome and provocative action that would increase, rather than calm, tensions in the region.

In 1949, China and Taiwan were separated by civil war, each establishing its own form of government. Taiwan has never been a part of the People's Republic of China, much to the dismay of Beijing.

If the legislation passes, Beijing will be usurping all diplomatic efforts and simply declaring that its desired outcome is the only acceptable alternative to the current impasse. China has been claiming that this legislation is a reflection of its sincere desire to solve this dispute peacefully, and to maintain Taiwan's stability and prosperity. But Beijing real motivation is clear: China is laying the legal groundwork for forcible unification. And far from solving the dispute peacefully, passage of this law is tantamount to a demand. If unification is to occur, it must be through peaceful negotiation and without the threat of military action.

Understandably, the Taiwanese people are alarmed by China's action. Self-ruled Taiwan cannot be expected to accept such an affront to the legitimacy of its government and the self-determination of the Taiwanese people. Taiwan's government has said that if the anti-secession law passes, Taiwan would be

forced to respond with a law against annexation by the People's Republic of China. This is entirely reasonable, as any free people would affirm their opposition to the imperialistic claims of another power.

Our country must make its deep displeasure with an "anti-secession law" known to the world and, most specifically, to the Communist leaders on the mainland. In The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States committed to aiding Taiwan against any unilateral attempt by China to unify Taiwan with the mainland. This responsibility is not only a legal one. Taiwan is a budding democracy, and the people have participated in multi-party democratic elections since 1996. By contrast, China is a repressive regime that denies its citizens the essential freedoms of religion, political dissent and representative self-government. It is our responsibility, morally and legally, to stand with Taiwan against Communist aggression and unsound Chinese law.