EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FIRST BIODIESEL FACILITY IN THE 26TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the City of Denton, under the leadership of Mayor Euline Brock, for its commitment to renewable energy. The City of Denton has teamed up with Biodiesel Industries, Inc., to construct the world’s first renewable biodiesel facility. This facility opened at the City of Denton Landfill on March 29, 2005.

Biodiesel is a nontoxic, biodegradable alternative to petroleum diesel that substantially reduces air pollution. The Denton facility demonstrates a further commitment to clean energy by powering the facility by renewable biogas extracted from the adjacent City of Denton Landfill. The facility’s expected initial production capacity will be approximately three million gallons of pure biodiesel per year. The fuel will be used by the City of Denton’s entire diesel fleet and will also be sold through regional distribution channels to promote private participation.

The City of Denton’s use of a biodiesel fuel mix is expected to reduce emissions by twelve tons per year. The opening of this facility demonstrates Denton’s dedication to cleaning up the air we breathe—this is especially important in the North Texas region as we work to comply with Clean Air Act requirements. Additionally, this opening shows Denton’s commitment to reducing air pollution, foreign oil dependency and generating local economic development.

As a nation, we need to look for affordable renewable fuel sources for our future. The City of Denton has shown how partnerships between local governments and private firms can help to protect the environment in an economically feasible way. I would like to applaud the City of Denton for their leadership on this issue.

A TRIBUTE TO MADELINE GOLDE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Madeleine Golde who has dedicated her career to strengthening our health care system for hard working Americans across this country.

As the Deputy Director for Health Care Legislation and Senior Legislative Advocate for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) national office in Washington, DC, Madeleine has been a key healthcare advocate on Capitol Hill regarding federal policy. After nearly 7 years of service, Madeleine is retiring from SEIU. SEIU represents 1.8 million working people in the areas of health care, public service, building service, industrial and allied trades.

Madeleine has been instrumental in fashioning both the strategy and substantive health care policy to advance the goals of SEIU. She has made countless visits to Capitol Hill on the behalf of American workers to meet with congressional staff on important health care policy issues. She has also worked with numerous organizations that share SEIU’s goal of improving our nation’s health care system.

Most important, Madeleine has been an important partner with the City of New York in advancing several important health care issues, including fiscal relief for Federal Medicaid matching rates, bioterrorism, BioShield I and II, Ryan White Title I, Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding, smallpox vaccinations, indigent care costs for undocumented immigrants, Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission, disaster response capabilities, immunizations for children, the adult vaccine program, and Medicare.

Most recently, she worked with New York City to ensure the passage of the Smith-Bingaman amendment, which blocked Senate passage of $14 billion in budget resolution cuts to Medicaid and called for Congress to have a bipartisan commission on Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, Madeleine Golde has been a leader in advocating for a health care system that ensures all Americans have quality and affordable health care coverage. 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 RETURN OF SOLDIERS FROM IRAQ

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor several members of our Nation's military who have recently returned home after serving our country with distinction in Iraq.

Specialist Rocky Padgett, Specialist Chad Sumner, Specialist James Tyson Zigler, Specialist Bud Rath, Specialist Bradrick Graves, Specialist James Arnold, Specialist Jason Yanna, Specialist Michael Easdon, Corporal Jason W. Fitzgerald, Sergeant Christopher Callaway, and Sergeant John L. Tety all deserve our deepest appreciation and respect. In the face of tremendous danger, these men bravely answered the call of duty to fight our enemies abroad so that we would not have to fight them here at home. Because of their efforts, America is safer today than it was just 2 years ago.

On behalf of the grateful citizens of the Fifth District of Texas, it is my pleasure to welcome these heroes home. America owes these men, and all who serve beside them in the War on Terror, a tremendous debt, one that we will probably never be able to fully repay. Today, we thank them for their courage, their patriotism, their service, and their sacrifice.

As these men return to their families, friends, and the lives they left behind, I want to ensure that they do so secure in the knowledge that it is through their service that America will one day be free from the horrors of terrorism. It is because of their service, that future generations of Americans will be able to enjoy freedom, peace, prosperity, and the many other blessings that God has bestowed upon this great land, the United States of America.

Gentlemen, on behalf of a grateful Nation, welcome home.

JOHN LAFAUCHE’S VIEWS ON BASEL II

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, my predecessor as the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Financial Services, John LaFalce, made enormous contributions during his tenure in Congress to our deliberations on financial services issues, and as a private citizen, he continues to do so. I have myself benefited in a number of conversations from his knowledge and wisdom about a range of issues. One of those about which he is most concerned is the current plan for a change in international financial regulations known as Basel II. On March 11, John LaFalce published a very thoughtful, well-informed article in the American Banker, outlining his concerns about the implications of Basel II. This is a subject currently before us in the Congressional Oversight and Investigations Committee, and while not widely known, is of great importance to our financial system. Because of that, I ask that the article by John LaFalce expressing his deep reservations about Basel II be printed here.

Basel II Plan is a Crisis in the Making

In the coming decade, and U.S. bank regulators will decide whether to adopt new capital regulations that would impact the entire U.S. banking system.

Current discussions of Basel II are focusing on the minute details, rather than the more important question of whether the proposed accord makes any sense at all. In my view, Basel II is fundamentally flawed, and actually dangerous, for numerous reasons.

First, it is based on a fanciful premise that sophisticated risk-management models enable bank executives or directors to manage their capital assets in such a way that is neither too low, nor too high, but just right. I hope my former colleagues and others do not gamble the stability of our domestic and global financial system on this theory.

Recent financial crises, such as at Long-Term Capital Management, should serve as a stark reminder as to how sophisticated, are subject to unpredictable market forces and, most important, human judgments, mistakes, and even manipulation.

With every large bank in the world lining up to play the Basel II capital game, and a financial system that is increasingly interconnected, the consequences of even an inadvertent mistake could be devastating. The odds are too high that Basel II, if adopted, could trigger a systemic financial crisis.

Second, Basel II’s proponents have been too quiet about the most fundamental tenet of banking regulation—safety and soundness—and the critical role that an adequate capital cushion plays in the safe and sound operation of our banks and banking system. A Basel II regime would be reckless, unsafe, and unsound, because:

- It would allow banks to use complex risk-based models that few if any corporate executives or directors will ever comprehend. Some at the Federal Reserve appear to be so confident about these models that the Federal Reserve itself may still mistakenly believe that regulatory capital does not affect competition or the pricing and strategic decisions that banks and pre-capital regulators will lack the resources and technical skills to supervise adequately.

- It is an ominous sign that the regulators recently published a formula that would have caused banks to underestimate their capital needs for retail credits by 60 to 70%

- Banks will implement Basel II only if they know the Federal Reserve will lower capital levels, which will also be in any position to comprehend the underwriting assumptions and idiosyncracies built into the banks’ models or to react quickly enough to emerging crises.

Fourth, some in the Federal Reserve would like us to believe that adoption of Basel II is necessary and inevitable. It is neither. Despite the perceived momentum behind Basel II, the accord seems to lack support that is neither too low, nor too high, but just right. I hope my former colleagues and others do not gamble the stability of our domestic and global financial system on this theory.

The fact that the chairmen and ranking members of both the House Financial Services Committee and its financial institutions subcommittee introduced legislation Thursday that could slow down or even prevent adoption of Basel II should also send a strong signal to the regulators.

Fifth, I am not even convinced that the Federal Reserve itself fully embraces Basel II, or even adequately understands many of its implications. Some members of the Federal Reserve may still mistakenly believe that regulatory capital does not affect competition or the pricing and strategic decisions that banks and capital regulators make. This perception could help explain their preference for theoretical models rather than practical realities.

Chairman Greenspan has been largely silent in the Basel II debate, although the irony is that he prudently questions the sufficiency of the capital levels at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. But he also believes that Basel II would actually allow banks to hold less capital for the same mortgage assets than Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are required to hold, estimates of which are currently about $60 to $70 billion. I am not even convinced that Basel II banks would have to hold for mortgage assets would also be at or below the capital level that led to the savings and loan crisis.

Some at the Federal Reserve appear to be more attuned to the importance of maintaining adequate regulatory capital reserves. Timothy Geithner, the present and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, remarked recently that it was important for the nation’s largest financial institutions to “. . . retain an ample capital buffer above and above the high regulatory thresholds.”

He added that “because of the broader implications of a failure for the financial system, it is beneficial to have a supervisory framework for the largest systematically significant banking organizations.
... needs to produce a higher level of financial soundness than might be indicated by measures of economic capital or expected by shareholders and creditors of the institution.

Sixth, proponents like to argue that Basel II is necessary to create competitive equity among internationally active banks. No capital accord will ever accomplish that objective, both because of significant differences in accounting standards and the wide disparity in the quality of regulation abroad, as Jerry Hawke has stated.

Global regulatory consistency will never be achieved, particularly when foreign banks abroad are examined only sporadically and without the same thoroughness as U.S. banks. The reality is that U.S. banks have proven stronger, more profitable, and more resilient than their foreign counterparts in recent economic cycles.

Seventh, there clearly is an effort afoot, pending Basel II’s adoption, to abolish the leverage ratio as inconsistent with the principles of Basel I. Congress and U.S. regulators must not weaken our country’s important regulatory protections such as the leverage ratio and prompt corrective action regulations that enable the questionable supervisory oversight abroad.

Although some at the Federal Reserve have provided assurances that the leverage ratio will be maintained under Basel II, some have left that question open. And powerful institutional and lobbying forces have already voiced their preference for capital regulations based exclusively on risk based credit models, and have called for the elimination of the leverage ratio.

This cannot be allowed. Among other things, the leverage ratio ensures that regardless of the risk-based models used by banks, there is at least a base level of protection in the event of a crisis, rather than relying primarily on an insurance fund or taxpayer bailout.

In sum, decades as a legislator have convinced me that the most effective regulations are those that are easy to understand, can be applied objectively and consistently, are not subject to manipulation, and can be monitored effectively by supervisors, managers, and market participants. This is particularly the case when dealing with issues affecting the stability of our domestic and global financial systems.

With some reasonable updating, the existing Basel I approach can continue to meet issues affecting the stability of our domestic and global financial systems.

I thank Terry Lazar for all of his hard work. Many. He is a great friend to Long Island and the communities he serves.

Terry’s commitment to service has strengthened our community and enriched the lives of many. He is a great friend to Long Island and I thank Terry Lazar for all of his hard work.

HONORING WILLIAM “BILL” BELL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor posthumously Mr. William Bell for his service and dedication to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering and celebrating the life of William “Bill” Bell.

Mr. Bell was involved in various organizations. He was a proud member of the Ontario Motor Speedway and Riverside Speedway Booster Clubs. In addition, he was a charter member of the Madera Ranchos Kiwanis Club and helped to organize the widely-popular Flatlander’s Day Parade. Bill was a charter member of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce and is the former Owner, Editor, and Publisher of The Ranchos Independent, a newspaper dedicated to serving the Madera Ranchos community.

Bill is survived by his wife Pat, and their two children James and Jeff.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor posthumously Mr. William Bell for his service and dedication to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering and celebrating the life of William “Bill” Bell.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Chieu Le, founder and chief executive officer of Lee's Sandwiches in Orange County, California.

An immigrant and a business leader, Mr. Le was recognized by the Asian Business Association of Orange County in 2003 for his entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to the communities his company serves.

In 1981, one year after immigrating to the United States from Vietnam, Mr. Le and his family bought their first catering truck and began selling sandwiches in the community.

Twenty years later, they opened the first Lee’s Sandwich Shop in Garden Grove, California. The idea of a fast-food style restaurant serving Vietnamese sandwiches came from Mr. Le’s late son, Minh.

Today, Lee’s Sandwiches is the fastest-growing restaurant chain in the West, with 35 stores in operation or development.

Mr. Le and his family also believe in giving back to the community. In response to the tragedies of the 9–11 attacks and the Tsunami in South Asia, Lee’s Sandwiches raised nearly $200,000 in total for the victims of these disasters.

The Le family is as an example of a successful business in California that continues to give back to its community. I believe that Mr. Le and Lee’s Sandwiches will continue to expand the commitment to the communities they serve.

Tribute to Ernest W. Aschermann—85th Birthday

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ernest W. Aschermann on the occasion of his 85th birthday. Mr. Aschermann, who was born of German immigrant parents who passed through Ellis Island...
HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give remembrance to Specialist Francisco G. Martinez, from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for serving our country during Iraqi Freedom. Spec. Martinez suffered a fatal wound to the hip when his unit made contact with small arms fire from the insurgents. Spec. Martinez was assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, Korea. He was 20 years old.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Spec. Martinez’s life today. SPC Martinez grew up with a military background. His father, Francisco Thomas Martinez, served in the United States military from 1981–1991. SPC Martinez swore off the military in high school believing he had enough during his up bringing, but his father later explained to SPC Martinez how the military could help him through college and reach his dream of becoming a graphics designer.

Although SPC Martinez did not always agree with political philosophies surrounding Iraqi Freedom, he did believe that what he and his fellow soldiers were doing in Iraq was the right thing to do. SPC Martinez worked to keep in touch with his father as much as possible while stationed in Korea. Even though the e-mails became more sporadic after leaving for Iraq, SPC Martinez’s father said that his son was clear on his sense of duty, wanting for Iraq, SPC Martinez’s father said that he would like to share with his colleagues a little about their lives in this district.

October 4, 2004 marked the 65-year wedding anniversary of Fern and Warren Wolaver. Their lives together have been spent in service to their community and family. They have lived for 35 years in their present home, located in a dry lakebed, with the road leading to their home being the dry streambed. Warren was born on the bluff that overlooks their current home.

Warren’s great grandfather traveled on a covered wagon and settled on Milner Mountain, close to the current Wolaver home. His grandfather was a sheriff and a State Representative.

Big Thompson School has played a large role in the lives of Fern and Warren since they attended as children. Four generations of Wolavers have attended this school including their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They have gone to Big Thompson School for many chill suppers, Parent Teacher Organization meetings, Christmas concerts and other programs. There was only one year that Fern and Warren missed a function at the Big Thompson School and that was in 1984 when there was four feet of snow on the ground.

Fern and Warren have had some interesting careers as farmers and ranchers. Through their farm, Wolaver Cherry Company, they have grown massive amounts of cherries including one year in 1960 when they were able to harvest 100 tons of cherries. They’ve also grown wheat, barley and corn, and raised turkeys and steers.

Fern worked in the family factory, Wolaver Paking, and served as a trustee. Fern was also a congressional aide to former Colorado Senator Hank Brown for ten years, and worked for Congressman Wayne Allard for five years. She worked as the clerk at their church, Buckhorn Presbyterian, for twelve years.

In addition to farming their cherry orchard and other crops, Warren has an extensive history in public policy. He was appointed to the “100 Man Committee on Local Government” in 1963 and serving in 1976, he spent eight years on the state board of Social Services. In 1976 he served as vice chair of the Big Thompson Flood Recovery Committee, as well as serving two terms on the Big Thompson School Board. He was also a Larimer County Commissioner from 1960 to 1976.

Looking at the lives of Fern and Warren, one cannot help but be amazed at their experiences. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the Wolaver’s and to wish them the best in health and prosperity for years to come.

HON. MARYLIN N. MUSGRAVE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Warren and Fern Wolaver. They are literally a walking history book of Larimer County, Colorado, and I would like to share with my colleagues a little about their lives.

October 4, 2004 marked the 65-year wedding anniversary of Fern and Warren Wolaver. Their lives together have been spent in service to their community and family. They have lived for 35 years in their present home, located in a dry lakebed, with the road leading to their home being the dry streambed. Warren was born on the bluff that overlooks their current home.

Warren’s great grandfather traveled on a covered wagon and settled on Milner Mountain, close to the current Wolaver home. His grandfather was a sheriff and a State Representative.

Big Thompson School has played a large role in the lives of Fern and Warren since they attended as children. Four generations of Wolavers have attended this school including their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They have gone to Big Thompson School for many chill suppers, Parent Teacher Organization meetings, Christmas concerts and other programs. There was only one year that Fern and Warren missed a function at the Big Thompson School and that was in 1984 when there was four feet of snow on the ground.

Fern and Warren have had some interesting careers as farmers and ranchers. Through their farm, Wolaver Cherry Company, they have grown massive amounts of cherries including one year in 1960 when they were able to harvest 100 tons of cherries. They’ve also grown wheat, barley and corn, and raised turkeys and steers.

Fern worked in the family factory, Wolaver Paking, and served as a trustee. Fern was also a congressional aide to former Colorado Senator Hank Brown for ten years, and worked for Congressman Wayne Allard for five years. She worked as the clerk at their church, Buckhorn Presbyterian, for twelve years.

In addition to farming their cherry orchard and other crops, Warren has an extensive history in public policy. He was appointed to the “100 Man Committee on Local Government” in 1963 and serving in 1976, he spent eight years on the state board of Social Services. In 1976 he served as vice chair of the Big Thompson Flood Recovery Committee, as well as serving two terms on the Big Thompson School Board. He was also a Larimer County Commissioner from 1960 to 1976.

Looking at the lives of Fern and Warren, one cannot help but be amazed at their experiences. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the Wolaver’s and to wish them the best in health and prosperity for years to come.
Pastor,” a mentor, and a friend to all. His ready demeanor makes him readily available to pastors for counseling and friendship. He is often called upon for advice by struggling congregations and has more than once been called upon to present leadership training to churches and ordained deacons.

Rev. Wright is married to Narcissus Har- grove Wright of Henderson, North Carolina and the proud father of four children: Billy, Wendi, Nicole and Ashley. The Wrights presently make their home in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend William F. Wright, Jr. has used his position as a spiritual and community leader to improve the lives of those around him, and his 25th Pastoral Anniversary is yet another reminder of all of the good work he has accomplished. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HONORING PALMYRA MACEDON BOYS’ BASKETBALL CLASS B STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Palmyra Macedon Red Raiders, the varsity boys’ basketball team that won their first Class B State Title. The 57–47 victory was well earned after trailing to the Carle Place Frogs for the majority of the game.

Junior shooting guard Anthony Hall scored a game-high 26 points, and the Red Raiders get back into the lead in the final quarter. Coach Chip Tatro and the rest of this outstanding team deserve congratulations after their third attempt, and consequent victory, in winning the championship.

Coach Chip Tatro, Christopher Mike, Jared Boisvert, Mike Beck, Anthony Hall, Todd Piccola, Dan Goman, Tim Patchett, Jonathon Denniston, Adam Huss, Andy Weaver, Jason Clair, Sean McGinn, Chris Timbs are all equal contributors to the outstanding 2005 season. I commend the Palmyra Macedon Red Raiders for their enthusiasm and hard work in reaching their goal. Congratulations and good luck on future seasons.

HONORING THE VAN VANDALS

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the ‘Van Vandals’ basketball team who won the Texas 3A championship on March 11, 2005. In their first trip to the state finals in sixty-three years, the Vandals beat Graham High School to return home with the state championship trophy. This is an accomplishment that the young men on the team will remember for the rest of their lives. As the communications representative of the members, coaches, and supporters of the Van Vandals, it is my pleasure to recognize their outstanding accomplishment today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

SUN CHRONICLE HOLDS APPOINTMENT OF ATTLEBORO NATIVE

HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, since 1982, my congressional activities have been covered by the Sun Chronicle, which provides news for the Greater Attleboro, Mass- chusetts area. It is a newspaper which un- derstands the importance of solid and thought- ful coverage of events that happen within its area. At the same time, it pays due attention to national issues, and it has also been an im- portant advocate for fair treatment for that part of Massachusetts in which it circulates.

Its interest in all three of these elements came together on March 18 when the Sun Chronicle published a gracious and thoughtful editorial about the appointment of an Attleboro native, Joe Solmonese, to be the head of the Human Rights Campaign. The Human Rights Campaign is a fair treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, and I am among those who was very pleased that Mr. Solmonese was selected, given the combination of skill and talent that he brings to the job.

As the Sun Chronicle noted, “Attleboro is honored by the appointment of a city native to head the Human Rights Campaign” and it is also honored and fortunate to have a newspaper with the generosity of spirit to editorialize as well as it did on this subject. I ask that this editorial be printed here.

(From the Sun Chronicle, March 18, 2005)

ACTIVIST EYES TOUGH FIGHT

(From David Crary)

NEW YORK.—After 12 years advocating for abortion rights, Attleboro native Joe Solmonese might have opted for a less divi- sive field of work. Instead, he is taking over leadership of the largest national gay-rights group at a time when the same-sex marriage debate rages on.

“My challenge is to talk about why the equality we seek is not just important to our community, but should be important to ev- eryone,” Solmonese said. “I have to believe in the optimism and fair-mindedness of the American people.”

Solmonese was named last week as the new President of EMILY’s List, the political action com- mittee supporting state and federal can- didates who favor abortion rights. Since 1983, Solmonese has been a strategist for EMILY’s List, political action com- mittee supporting state and federal can- didates of Democratic women who favor abortion rights. He was its chief executive for the past 2½ years, helping break fund- raising records but also seeing candidates his group endorsed lose 2004 Senate races in Florida, South Carolina and Missouri.

Solmonese is a graduate of Boston Uni- versity with a degree in communications after growing up in Attleboro. One of his role models was the local congressman, Barney Frank, who became the first openly gay politician in 1987 when openly gay politicians were almost unheard of.

“Barney Frank is an incredibly heroic per- son, but also someone who is absolutely in touch with his constituency,” Solmonese said in a telephone interview. “He’s a man who values family more than anyone I know.”

Solmonese came out as gay in his early 20s, he recalls attending a Human Rights Campaign dinner where he was 22. Before joining EMILY’s List, he was an aide to former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and a fund-raiser for Frank.

He credits his parents, both school- teachers, with inspirations to pursue a ca- reer of political activism. Solmonese Ele- mentary School in Norton is named after his father, Joseph.

“After a decade in the reproductive rights movement, I see myself having been in the fight for a progressive America,” he said. “Groups like the HRC are very much at the forefront of that fight.

Another common denominator for the abortion-rights and gay rights movements is their determined and politically well-connected constituency who focus on those two issues have claimed credit for the Republicans’ strong showing in the 2004 election.

“The American people fear a whole range of things right now, from terrorism to their economic future,” Solmonese said. “Our op- position has been pretty crafty at capitalizing on that fear, using whatever means necessary to make political gains.”

Many conservative groups are now waging a two-pronged fight against gay marriage. They are lobbying Congress to approve a fed- eral constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman; they also hope many more states will join the 17 that already have amended their constitutions to ban gay marriage.

The Human Rights Campaign was among numerous gay-rights organizations particip- ating earlier this month in a strategy ses- sion aimed at competing effectively in upcoming state ballot campaigns regarding gay marriage.

Solmonese says he hopes Massachusetts will demonstrate to Americans nationwide that its pioneering legalization of same-sex marriage has positive, not negative, results.

“Massachusetts is still there, with loving, committed families going on with their lives and experiencing the same rights and respon- sibilities that all Americans do,” he said. “We want to shine a light on what happened in Massachusetts, and tell the American people who we truly are.”

He replaces another Massachusetts polit- ical activist, former state Sen. Cheryl Jacques, who stepped down as HRC president late last year, citing differences with its board.

Her departure coincided with speculation in the gay media, and elsewhere, about dis- cord among the HRC board and some of its major gay-rights groups. Solmonese said he has de- tected no serious rifts since his hiring was announced.

(From the Sun Chronicle, March 18, 2005)

ATTLEBORO HONORED BY ANOTHER ACTIVIST

Attleboro is honored by the appointment of a city native to head the Human Rights Campaign—the nation’s largest gay civil rights group—and just days prior to a wel- com- ing evening on the West Coast of the bans on same-sex marriage.

Joe Solmonese, 40, who is gay, brings to his new role a history of activism that began when he became student council vice presi- dent while a junior at Attleboro High School in the early 1980s.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks
April 5, 2005

HONORING THE AMERICAN AIRPOWER MUSEUM IN FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK

HON. STEVE ISRAEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale, New York, to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of American POWs at the end of World War II.

Sixty years ago this spring, over 100,000 American and Allied POWs were liberated by Soviet troops as they swept aside German forces in Eastern Europe. This liberation marked the end of forced marches, stinging cold, constant hunger and the everpresent threat of summary execution by a collapsing Nazi regime. Simultaneously, advancing Allied forces attacked Hitler’s home territory, cutting off his forces’ supplies and their wretched legacy of inhumanity.

As we observe this anniversary, I am truly proud to have the American Airpower Museum at the Republic Airport in Farmingdale in my congressional district. The museum has established a new permanent tribute to honor those who endured the POW “stalags” and to solemnly mark the liberation of the death camps built by the Third Reich for the purpose of murdering millions of European Jews.

The museum’s tribute includes a recreated watch tower and barracks, a detailed diorama of a German “stalag,” the names of those New Yorkers who were POWs during World War II and a tribute to American POWs in other conflicts. This will mark the first permanent museum tribute to American POWs in the New York region.

It is vital that we continue to remember the horrors of the Holocaust and pay tribute to both the victims and the brave soldiers who contributed to the liberation of Europe from Nazi rule. I strongly commend the leadership that the American Airpower Museum of Farmingdale has taken on this issue and urge other museums to follow suit.

RECOGNIZING FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL’S NAME TO THE GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOL GOLD LIST

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Flower Mound High School, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its recognition on the Gold List of Grammy Signature Schools.

I congratulate Flower Mound High School’s performing arts department, under the leadership of Danna Rothlisberger, Lewisville ISD director of performing arts, and Mark Rohwer, chair of the performing arts department, for their outstanding achievement. Flower Mound High School was only one of seven schools in the nation promoted to the Gold List from their original recognition as a Grammy Signature School.

Flower Mound High School received $7,000 cash reward for its performing arts department as part of their promotion. Mr. Rohwer has promised to spend a portion of the money to hiring composers to write specific pieces for the band, orchestra and choir, and to buy new equipment.

Flower Mound High School’s performing arts department is a stellar example from which Texas schools should model their performing arts departments. Their commitment to educating students through the arts is to be admired and replicated.

I am proud of the education system in Texas; especially our involved parents and teachers at Flower Mound High School who commit their lives and time to fostering growth in their students.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM “SLIM” SOMERVELL

HON. MARYLIN N. MUSGRAVE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Willis “Slim” Somervell, who has dedicated his life to God, his family, and the United States of America.

Slim has said, “You need to be true to yourself and you need to have beliefs and a value system. Without those, what are we?” These are wise words. As I learned about the life of service that Mr. Somervell has led, I am inspired by his beliefs and his values.

Service to America is one value Slim holds dear. He entered the United States Navy in 1941. In 1944, Slim was commissioned as a gunnery and navigation officer for the USS Landing Ship Medium 142.

In addition to having command of the Landing Ship Medium, he also commanded Patrol Craft 1262, which conducted air and sea rescues in the Caribbean. He was also Executive Officer of the Patrol Craft Escort 877.

Slim worked in the Fleet Weather Center in Washington, DC and conducted Navy weather research in Norfolk, Virginia. He served on the Forrestal, CVA–59. He was also the staff meteorologist for the commander of the U.S. Second Fleet, later for the Western Pacific 7th Fleet and ultimately commanded the Navy Research Facility in Norfolk, Virginia.

Devotion to family is another value that is important to Slim. While on assignment in Monterey, California, he met his wife Mary. They married in 1949 in Kerrville, Texas. They had five children, four girls and one boy. Slim and Mary are now grandparents of thirteen.

Slim will often tell you, “What more can a person ask for than children and grandchildren who turn out to be good citizens.” As you can tell, Slim is quite proud of his family.

After 30 years of faithful service to our country, Slim retired. But this did not slow him down. Slim took a job with the Bureau of Reclamation in their cloud seeding program. Later, Slim worked for the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University. Slim spent 15 years in that department as a manager, researcher and also a teacher.

In addition to service to family and service to our country, Slim also strongly believes in service to God. Slim and Mary attend Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. There, Slim serves as a lector and a communion minister.

Slim has been truly blessed with a great career and a great family. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Somervell. May God continue to bless the Somervells for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MAE CATHERINE GREENE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Mae Catherine Greene in recognition for her dedication to her community.

Mae Catherine Greene fondly known as “Cat” by family and close friends is almost a life long resident of the east New York community of which she has been an integral and staunchly loyal advocate. She was born in Chadbourn, NC in March of 1957, the ninth of ten children of a proud and independent working mother.

Mae obtained her education in the neighborhood she so greatly loves and admires. She attended P.S. 149, I.S. 292 and William H. Mitchell High School in Brooklyn, New York. Mae, who has been married for almost 27 years to her childhood sweetheart, Richard Greene, is the proud mother of six children who still live in east New York as well.
HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I salute Jeff Jacoby both for his recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the truly remarkable person.

HONORING MSGT ROBERT F. GREEN, JR.

HON. JAMES T. WALSH
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of MSGT Robert F. Green. Master Sergeant Green, a resident of Ontario, New York is retiring from the United States Air Force after years of dedicated service.

His retirement allows for reflection on what can only be considered a sterling career. He has admirably served his country without distinction regarding attributes such as honor, integrity, immigrant and housing rights. Mae has been a longtime advocate for education, and she is more than worthy of recognition for her efforts.

A mother to two children, Robert and Steven, and wife to Bergen Hall, Mrs. Hall was also very active in her community. She was an officer in the Pierce Brooks Gospel Foundation, served on the Texas Safety Council, and worked with the Crippled Children's Foundation of America. She was also engaged in politics as a member of the White Rock Women's Republican Club, the Public Affairs Luncheon Club, and working at her local precinct during elections.

As a mother, a wife, a businesswoman, and a community leader, Mrs. Anne Dora Moore Hall has exemplified the values of family, community, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As her representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

JEFF JACOBY SHOWS INTEGRITY ON TORTURE ISSUE

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the life of Mrs. Anne Dora Moore Hall, 4 passed away on March 16, 2005. Mrs. Hall was born in Cherokee County, Texas to Miles Cleveland and Magrete Edwards Moore. She lived most of her life in Dallas and had a long, successful career as an insurance executive.

Having six children in the public school system and being a concerned, loving and dedicated parent, Mae took a strong interest in the neighborhood's public school system. She was very involved and an active presence in many different capacities. She served as President and Secretary on the Community Board 19 and President of the P.T.A. at P.S. 213 and I.S. 171 as well as P.A.C. President for the Board for two day care centers, Georgia-Livon and Einstein in East NY.

Mae is not only an advocate for education, but she is also very involved in community and politically based issues and activities. She has been a long-time advocate for senior citizens, immigrant and housing rights. Mae has served as Secretary to the Tenants' Advisory Board and Property Manager at Elva McZeal Housing Development and as a Community Advisor at Beekman Houses in the Bronx, NY. She also set up a parents' rights advocacy for immigrant parents at P.S. 213, was a community liaison for Health Plus, and an advocate for the senior citizens at Elva McZeal Houses.

Mr. Speaker, Mae Catherine Greene has strengthened her community through her numerous volunteer efforts with the PTA, the Community Board, and local housing associations. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the truly remarkable person.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. ANNE DORA MOORE HALL

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the life of Mrs. Anne Dora Moore Hall, 4 passed away on March 16, 2005. Mrs. Hall was born in Cherokee County, Texas to Miles Cleveland and Magrete Edwards Moore. She lived most of her life in Dallas and had a long, successful career as an insurance executive.
seding terror suspects to be interrogated by other countries including some where respect for human rights is nonexistent and interrogation can involve beatings, electric shocks, and other torture. The CIA says it always gets an assurance in advance that a prisoner will be treated humanely. But of what value are such assurances when they come from places like Syria and Saudi Arabia?

Of course the United States must hunt down terrorists and find out what they know. Better intelligence means more lives saved, more atrocities prevented, and a more likely victory in the war against radical Islamist fascism. Those are crucial ends, and they can be achieved. But they can only be justified means that betray core American values. Interrogation techniques that flirt with torture to say nothing of those that end in shock, and other torture. The CIA says it applied to date involved men who were guilty of no danger and have no useful information. Commanders in Guantanamo acknowledge that hundreds of their prisoners pose no danger and have no useful information. How much of the hideous abuse reported to date involved men who were guilty only of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

By “extreme circumstances” he meant what is often called the “ticking-bomb” scenario: A deadly terror attack is looming, and you can prevent it only by getting the information your prisoner refuses to divulge. Torture might force him to talk, thereby saving thousands of innocent lives. May he be tortured?

Many Americans would say yes without hesitation. Some would argue that torturing a terrorist is not nearly as wrong as refusing to torture someone else who is another ticking bomb. Others would insist that monsters of Mohammed’s ilk deserve no decency.

As an indignant reader (one of many) wrote to me after last week’s column on the cruel abuse of some U.S. detainees, “The terrorists . . . would cut your heart out and stuff it into the throat they would proudly claim.” The case for razors and electroshock rests on the premise that the prisoner is a knowledgeable terrorist like Mohammed or Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. But most of the detainees in military prisons are nothing of the kind. Commanders in Guantanamo acknowledge that hundreds of their prisoners pose no danger and have no useful information. How much abuse reported to date involved men who were guilty only of being in the wrong place at the wrong time?

Third, because torture is never limited to just the guilty. The case for razors and electroshock rests on the premise that the prisoner is a knowledgeable terrorist like Mohammed or Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. But most of the detainees in military prisons are nothing of the kind. Commanders in Guantanamo acknowledge that hundreds of their prisoners pose no danger and have no useful information. How much abuse reported to date involved men who were guilty only of being in the wrong place at the wrong time?

And fourth, because torture is a dangerously slippery slope. Electric shocks and beatings are justified if they can prevent, another guilt? But what if the shocks and beating don’t produce the needed information? Is it OK to break a finger? To cut off a hand? To save 3,000 lives, can a terrorist’s eyes be gouged out? How about gouging out his son’s eyes? Or raping his daughter in his presence? If that’s what it will take to make him talk, to defuse the ticking bomb, isn’t it worth it?

No. Torture is never worth it. Some things we don’t do, not because they never work, not because they aren’t “deserved”; but because our very right to call ourselves decent human beings depends in part on our not doing them. Torture is in that category. We can win our war against the barbarians without becoming barbaric in the process.

By Jeff Jacoby (Second of two columns)

The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which the United States ratified in 1984, prohibits the torture of any person for any reason by any government at any time. The explicit text that separates us from the enemy we are trying to defeat.

The Bush administration and the military insist that any abuse of detainees is a violation of policy and that abusers are being punished. If so, why does it refuse to allow a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a formal investigation of policy and that abusers are being punished. If so, why does it refuse to allow a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuse Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who accuses...
Loch-Lon, dealt with builders and typed warranty papers. Amos was active with the Board of Realtors where he served as a legislative liaison.

Through hard work, the Allards have been quite successful in Larimer County. They have two sons, current U.S. Senator Wayne Allard and Kermit Allard, both living in Larimer County. They have four granddaughters and 6 great grandchildren.

Jean Allard has witnessed much change in Larimer County. The timeless value of hard work has truly been demonstrated by Jean. I wish the best for the Allard’s and hope that their legacy will continue for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO THE COUNCIL OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OF FLATBUSH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished organization the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush. It is an honor to represent the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to their selfless endeavors of more than a quarter century.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush, was founded twenty six years ago to assist families in need in the greater Brooklyn area. Over the course of its many years of dedication to the Brooklyn community The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has truly emerged as a premier organization committed to assisting those who have nowhere else to turn.

Under the leadership of their Executive Director, Rabbi Yechezkel Pikus, The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has established itself as Brooklyn’s central address for social services, immigration services and many forms of crucial emergency assistance.

The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has been instrumental in creating successful employment programs and developing Small Business services. Through the Leader Family Employment Center and the South Brooklyn Business Outreach Center they have empowered people with the tools to succeed in their professional endeavors. Additionally, they are renowned for providing vital outreach to the elderly and homebound with particular attention and sensitivity to Holocaust survivors. They have also developed a scholarship fund to send children from disadvantaged families to summer camp.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush. Their uncompromising commitment to Jewish ideals and ethics is an inspiration for us all.

Mr. Speaker, may our country continue to benefit from the civic actions of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush and community groups similar to them.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CAPTAIN BUTCH FLANAGAN AND HIS YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Captain Butch Flanagan of the Lewsville Fire Department, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his long career serving the public.

Captain Flanagan, who has spent the last 34 years with the Lewsville Fire Department, will retire April 5, 2005. He has been the city’s longest current employee and was named “Firefighter of the County” in 2004 by the “Heroes of Denton County.” Captain Flanagan worked his way up through the ranks and has been highly dedicated throughout his career. He once said, “I can’t ever see myself doing anything different.”

Captain Flanagan was born and raised in Lewsville, graduated from Lewislive High School, and now lives in Graham. He was one of the first full-time Lewsville firefighters and rose through the ranks to become captain. Captain Flanagan has been described as role model in the department and at home. Both his peers and superiors think of Captain Flanagan as a mentor. One Lewsville fire chief said “He’ll getcha trouble in a hurry” and “you know no one’s going to hurt” when Captain Flanagan is in charge. The Chief also said that the Lewsville Fire Department “was blessed” to have such a man serve with them.

I am proud to represent Captain Butch Flanagan and the Lewsville Fire Department. Captain Flanagan has committed his life and time to protect and serve our community at any time, anywhere.

RECOGNIZING THE GADDAR MOVEMENT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Gaddar Movement and the brave individuals who contributed to the Indian Independence Movement. An event to commemorate the memories of the Gaddar Movement will occur in Fresno, CA, on April 3, 2005. In spite of the trials and hardships, the goal of India’s independence was achieved and the Indian people now live in a sovereign nation filled with hope and opportunity.

It is important to honor the sacrifices that so many have made for the cause of freedom. Just as the early Americans were guided by the doctrine of liberty embodied in the Declaration of Independence, the members of the Gaddar movement also understood the importance of autonomy for the Indian people. Many of these immigrants endured loss of life and property, but they persevered and have made major contributions to the U.S., both socially and economically.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous efforts of those brave individuals who contributed to the Gaddar Movement. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing their courage and commitment to freedom.

IN MEMORY OF CONNIE SKIPWORTH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary American, Connie Skipworth, who died on March 17, 2005, at the age of eighty-four.

Connie was a joy to know. Lively, humorous, and filled with the spirit of life, she dedicated much of her time to making everyone feel like part of the family. Connie was born on February 18, 1921 in San Bernardino, California.

By the late 1930s, Connie was married to Skip Skipworth and returned to California, spending those first years working as a riveter for McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach during World War II.

Connie has spent much of her years participating in the life of the community. Connie and her sister, Irene, opened their first restaurant in 1945, The Old Mexico Cafe in Long Beach. Seven years later, Connie opened the Zarape Cafe in Las Vegas, later returning to The Old Mexico Cafe a year later, where she worked as a manager, saving up enough money to build The Azteca in Garden Grove in 1957.

Connie was very devoted to her family and encouraged them to reach for greatness and to realize their potential. The Azteca was a success, and the business brought in money to the family, and joy to the community. She was a great woman making everyone feel comfortable by flashing a quick smile, and by greeting everyone by their first names.

Mr. Speaker, Connie Skipworth dedicated herself to making our town a wonderful community to live in. Connie is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER ANN PARROTT ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize a highly valued citizen of my home city of Newark, New Jersey. Mother Ann Parrott celebrates her 80th Birthday on February 18, 1921 in San Bernardino, California.

By the late 1930s, Connie was married to Skip Skipworth and returned to California, spending those first years working as a riveter for McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach during World War II.

Connie has spent much of her years participating in the life of the community. Connie and her sister, Irene, opened their first restaurant in 1945, The Old Mexico Cafe in Long Beach. Seven years later, Connie opened the Zarape Cafe in Las Vegas, later returning to The Old Mexico Cafe a year later, where she worked as a manager, saving up enough money to build The Azteca in Garden Grove in 1957.

Connie was very devoted to her family and encouraged them to reach for greatness and to realize their potential. The Azteca was a success, and the business brought in money to the family, and joy to the community. She was a great woman making everyone feel comfortable by flashing a quick smile, and by greeting everyone by their first names.

Mr. Speaker, Connie Skipworth dedicated herself to making our town a wonderful community to live in. Connie is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of this truly remarkable person.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize a highly valued citizen of my home city of Newark, New Jersey. Mother Ann Parrott celebrates her 80th Birthday on May 6, 2005. She is the mother to six wonderful children and granddaughter to fourteen. She has dedicated her life, for almost five decades, to the social and spiritual improvement of her community.

Active in her church, she wears a myriad of hats ranging from Sunday school teacher to choir member. One of her most honorable contributions, however, has been the establishment of the Lightbouse Temple Community Services in Newark, New Jersey.

Founded in 1989 as an addition to the Lighthouse Temple, Community Services modestly
began as a soup kitchen where she served homemade soup and combread to the home- 
less in Newark. It now functions as one of the great providers of comprehensive care to the home-
less and less fortunate in the state of New Jersey by offering emergency shelter, 
food, clothing and job placement to many in the Newark area.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the House of Representatives would join me in 
honoring Mother Ann Parrott, who becomes 80 years young on May 6, 2005, for her tire-
less work for the Newark community. She is a paragon of true virtue through her selfless 
dedication to the betterment of others. I am proud to have her in my Congressional district 
and wish her never-ending success in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY GREG TAYLOR AND INVESTIGATOR SHANE NORIE FOR THEIR FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS OF TEXAS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Deputy Greg Taylor and Investiga-
tor Shane Norie of the Cooke County Sheriffs Office, located in the 26th Congressional 
District of Texas, for their recognition from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the United States Attorney's Office in Sherman. 
Deputy Greg Taylor and Investigator Shane Norie have been involved in numerous drug 
busts. Year after year they have been responsible for collecting information that would lead to 
keeping drugs out of our communities and schools. Now, Investigator Norie has been 
selected to go to the DEA School located in Virginia. Sheriff Mike Compton of the Cooke County Sheriffs Office says that officers like Taylor and Norie have made an impact on the war against drugs. Compton also praises the whole department's efforts to keep drugs off the streets and continuing to build and foster 
a strong relationship with the DEA. I am proud of Cooke County Sheriffs Office and leaders like Deputy Greg Taylor and Investiga-
tor Shane Norie who help keep our community safe and clean. Thanks to those who commit their lives and time to protect and serve our community at any time, any where. Through their efforts, we can all lead better 
lives.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILL MARTIN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL OF MICHIGAN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of my district who 
will be receiving special recognition soon for a lifetime of service to his community.

William C. “Bill” Martin is best known for his leadership as Director of Intercollegiate Ath-
etics for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. But his work in the Washtenaw County 
community goes far beyond his work in the field of sports.

Whether creating First Martin Corporation for real estate development, founding the 
Bank of Ann Arbor, creating a three-on-three basketball tournament to raise money for the public schools or helping rebuild Isab- 
Royale’s ranger station on Lake Superior, Bill Martin has been a community leader whose work has 
benefited thousands of his fellow citizens.

On several occasions, Bill has been asked to step in and help turn around troubled pro-
grams, including both the UM Athletic Depart-
ment and the U.S. Olympic Committee. In both cases, his hard work and leadership 
helped right the ship and get things moving forward. That metaphor is quite appropriate, 
since Bill also has had a very successful com-
petitive career in sailing and has contributed 
time and energy to the sport, both nationally and internationally.

He also has served with distinction on the board of his alma mater, Wittenberg University 
and also spent many years on the Washtenaw Land Conservancy Board, including ten years as president. He also has been a member of the advisory board for the University of Michi-
gan Center for the Education of Women. 
On May 2, 2005 the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County will present Bill with its Humanitarian Award, an honor bestowed every other year to an outstanding citizen of 
the community. Bill Martin is truly one of those deserving citizens, and I ask my colleagues to 
join me in congratulating him on this upcoming award and thanking him for his outstanding 
leadership in Michigan and around the nation.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RON KIND OF WISCONSIN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women’s History Month. In 1987, Congress 
passed a resolution designating the month of March as Women’s History Month and a time to 
honor, “American women of every race, class and ethnic background [who] have made 
historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways.”

For 2005, the theme of Women’s History Month is “Women Change America.” In cele-
bration of this month, I would like to focus on two women from Wisconsin’s history and honor 
their contributions to society.

First, I would like to recognize Cordelia Julia Grace Wales. Wisconsin resident Julia Grace Wales made her mark in Wisconsin as a peace activist, scholar, an English instructor at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a dedi-
cated Christian. In 1914, in light of WWI, Wales decided to write her famous Wisconsin 
peace plan, a plan that she believed would end WWI. Wales made a genuine contribution 
to women’s history in Wisconsin and Amer-
ica’s tradition of peace movements.

Born in Portage, Wisconsin, Margery Lati-
mer was a social movement activist and an 
accomplished Christian. In 1914, in light of WWI, Wales decided to write her famous Wisconsin 
peace plan, a plan that she believed would end WWI. Wales made a genuine contribution 
to women’s history in Wisconsin and Amer-
ica’s tradition of peace movements.

Whether in art or literature, activism or teach-
ing, others, inspired hope and possibility not only in Wisconsin, but across the United States. Whether in art or literature, activism or teach-
ing, they deserve our remembrance, not only during the month of March, but throughout the rest of the year as well.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF BRIAN J. SMITH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR. OF NEW JERSEY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to 
call to your attention the work of an out-
standing public servant, Mr. Brian Smith, newly appointed Chief of the Waterfront Police 
Commission of New York & New Jersey, who was sworn into office on Friday, March 25, 2005.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, 
the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth, for he has a long his-
tory of leadership, creativity, and commitment to 
his noble profession.

After attending Saint Francis College, lo-
cated in Brooklyn, New York, Brian joined the 
National Park Service as a U.S. Park Ranger. He 
eventually ascended to the rank of Super-
visory U.S. Park Ranger within the Law En-
forcement Division. During his tenure with the National Park Service Brian’s talents and stel-
lar reputation earned him a membership with the elite U.S. Park Ranger Special Events 
Team. Brian also attained a multitude of spe-
cial licensures ranging from a certified K–9 
handler to a RED Card Wild Fire Fighter.

In 1980, Mr. Smith decided to become an 
officer with the Port Authority of New York 
and New Jersey. Brian was assigned to oversee 
operations at the various Port Authority facili-
ties such as, the Holland Tunnel and Newark International Airport. After three years of serv-
ience, Brian felt compelled to make a career 
change and opted to leave his position with the esteemed Port Authority.

Brian decided to pursue a career with the 
U.S. Customs Service in the Tactical Enforce-
ment Division; this would prove to be an eight-
year venture. Initially, Brian entered the 
bureau as a Special Agent with the Office of 
Investigations and Internal Affairs and quickly 
flourished. He received a promotion soon after he 
began with the agency and subsequently 

only one possession that’s worth having and 
that is the capacity to feel that life is a privi-
gle and that each person in it is unique and 
will never appear again.”

The third woman I would like to honor is 
Zona Gale. Also born in Portage, Wisconsin, 
Zona Gale was a great novelist and short-
story writer who was best known for her 

novel, Miss Lulu Bett. This novel was adapted 
as a play in 1920 and was awarded the Pul-
itzer Prize for Drama in 1921. As an activist 
for women’s rights and the creation of the Wisconsin Equal Rights Law, prohibiting the discrimination against women, Gale’s beliefs and 
feminist politics were expressed in her novels and 
then plays. Zona Gale passed away in 1938 in Portage, Wisconsin, but her voice will live on 
through her novels and efforts for women’s rights in Wisconsin and around the country.

These three women, along with so many 
others, inspired hope and possibility not only in Wisconsin, but across the United States. Whether in art or literature, activism or teach-
ing, they deserve our remembrance, not only during the month of March, but throughout the rest of the year as well.
Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Over the years, Brian had countless praiseworthy as-
signments that he fulfilled but two of his most
notable duties include: Supervisor of the Dig-
nitary Protection JUMP TEAM and Internal Af-
fairs Desk Officer for the West and Southwest
Regions, respectively.
Brian was then appointed to his current po-
sition, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S.
Department of Health and Human Services,
Office of Investigations for Region II in 1999. As
Special Agent in Charge, he is responsible for
enforcing a myriad of Federal Laws and man-
gaging the Dignitary Protection efforts through-
out the States of New York, New Jersey,
Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Re-
gion II).
Mr. Smith’s spirit of service to our great na-
tion and his unwavering commitment to his fel-
low man is obvious to all those who know him.
His military service has spanned two branches
of the Armed Services, including a six year
tour of duty in the U. S. Coast Guard Reserve.
Additionally, Brian currently serves as a Major
with the New York Guard, Civil Affairs Unit.
Mr. Specht ask that you join our col-
leagues, the members of the Smith family, and
myself in recognizing Chief Brian J. Smith for
his outstanding service to the residents of
New York and New Jersey.

COMMENDING VILLAGE OF OR-
CHARD PARK MAYOR PATRICIA
A. DICKMAN FOR EXEMPLARY
SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
call your attention to Patricia A. Dickman, a
woman who after years of dedicated public
service, will retire from her position as the Vil-
lage of Orchard Park Mayor in Erie County,
New York.
Mayor Dickman’s devotion to developing a
better future for her community was evident
early, as she chose to dedicate 12 years to
the teaching profession, educating young peo-
ple.
Over the last 30 years Mayor Dickman ex-
panded her dedication from working with youth
to working with the community as a whole.
Mayor Dickman’s government service is ex-
tensive. Prior to her election to the seat of
Mayor, Ms. Dickman worked for 6 years on
the Village of Orchard Park Planning Board,
including 4 years as Chair. She also served as
a Village of Orchard Park Trustee for 6 years
and has led the Beautify Orchard Park Com-
mittee for over 24 years.
Throughout her tenure as Mayor, Ms.
Dickman has sat on several local boards and
organizations including: the Erie County Sewer
District III, the Southtown’s Sewer Agency, the
Village Officials Association and the Erie
County Governments Association.
Though her accomplishments are too num-
bered to mention here today, some of the high-
lights of her service consist of contribu-
tions to local economic development through
the “Façade” program and facilitation of infra-
structure projects including reconstruction of
Route 240/277. At the same time, through
the duration of her term, the Mayor has been suc-
cessful in maintaining the lowest tax rate in
Erie County.
It is with great pride and gratitude I stand
here today to recognize Village of Orchard
Park Mayor Patricia Dickman, a genuine pub-
lic servant and faithful community advocate,
may her life in retirement be met with the
many triumphs achieved in her years as
Mayor.

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE PAR-
ENTS OF THERESA MARIE
SCHIAVO

SPEECH OF
HON. JULIA CARSON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Sunday, March 20, 2005
Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, the Schiavo
family tragedy has touched the hearts of
Americans across the country. This is a family
that has for fifteen years intimately battled with
what for most of us are distant fears. Now mil-
ions of us, in conversations at the office with
our friends and colleagues and at the dinner
table with our families, are trying to decide
what we would do in their situation, what we
would want for ourselves and for our loved
ones. It is a conversation we need to have as
a nation. But it is a question that will remain
unsolved unless that time comes when our
families are faced with tragedy as the Schiavo
family has been.
Today we can argue what we hope we
would do in their situation, what we think we
would want for ourselves, and what we think
is right. But we do not know what it means to
be a member of the Schiavo family. We in
Congress can only pretend.
Can any of us even imagine the agony that
this family has weathered over the past fifteen
years? Can any of us here in Washington pre-
tend to have the authority to decide which
members of this family in Florida are “good”
and which are “bad”? I have listened to some
of my colleagues condemn Michael Schiavo, a
man they have never met and do not know, as
wicked. Some of my colleagues have sug-
gested that this man have never met, this
man who has suffered immeasurably through
this agonizing family tragedy, is motivated by
selfishness and cruelty. Some have suggested
he has no respect for life. Let us see these
accusations for what they are: a sick and
shameful attempt to destroy a man’s character
and to tear apart a family, all in the name of
political gain.
My colleagues, this will be a day looked
back upon with shame. It will be the day that
100 Senators and 435 Members of Congress
and one President, none of whom are mem-
bers of this family, none of whom have stood
alongside Terri Schiavo over the hardships of
the past 15 years, none of whom know her
wishes, none of whom would have lifted a fin-
ger were it not for a sick sense of political op-
portunism at the expense of the family—it will
be the day these 536 strangers decided that
the family wasn’t good enough, that it was
time for 536 strangers to decide, without any
evidence or personal connection, what was
good for a family they have never met.
This is a choice we would never wish upon
anyone, but which families must make be-
 tween themselves and God alone. May Con-
goress never again pretend to be part of such
a covenant.

TRIBUTE TO Lansdowne Christian
Church of Baltimore County

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
pay special tribute to the Lansdowne Christian
Church of Baltimore County marking its 100th
year of celebrating Memorial Day Services.
The Church, which was placed on the National
Register of Historic Places in 1977 by the U.S.
Department of Interior, is the only Church in
the United States built to honor the men of
the Grand Army of the Republic and the sacrifices
they made to preserve the Union.
On May 14, 1905, the first annual Memorial
Day service for the Grand Army was held at the
Lansdowne Christian Church. Memorial Day
Service was established in the wake of the Civil War
to remember and pay homage to all those
who had died in service to our nation. The
Service on the last Sunday in May continues
every year. This year’s service will be held on May
29, 2005, continuing a tradition for which
Church members and the community should
be very proud.
Today, we are engaged in armed conflict in
Iraq and in Afghanistan. Many of our soldiers
have made the ultimate sacrifice, and it is im-
portant that we honor their commitment to
freedom and democracy.
I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of
Representatives will join me in saluting the
Lansdowne Christian Church for making duty,
service and dedication to our nation a central
focus of church life.

RECOGNIZING Ken Slavens
OF Saint Helena, California

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker,
I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Ken
Slavens, of Saint Helena, California, for his 21
years of public service. His outstanding leader-
ship and commitment have helped to make
my hometown the incredible community that it
is today.
Born and raised in Saint Helena, Ken’s ap-
preciation, love, and devotion to protecting
and preserving this small, unique community
are obvious from his many years of dedicated
service. With an innate knowledge of his com-
munity and unyielding compassion, Ken was
elected to the office of City Council in 1994.
His energy, drive, and undeniably hard work
are only a few of the many reasons that he
was appointed as Vice Mayor in 1997. Shortly
thereafter in 1999, Ken was elected Mayor of
Saint Helena.
Mr. Speaker, during his tenure on the City
Council and as Mayor, Ken has been a strong
advocate for Saint Helena on numerous boards
throughout Napa County and Cali-
fornia. These include the Long Range Water
HON. DAVID DREIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, our position as the world’s leading economy is founded on the principle of entrepreneurship. This spirit inspires us to seek new and innovative products and services which enhance Americans’ lives by exploiting bold business ventures.

After two failed attempts to start an automobile manufacturing company, in 1903, Henry Ford and 11 business associates raised
$28,000 (nearly $600,000 in today’s dollars) to establish the Ford Motor Company, ushering in the age of modern transportation. This venture not only enhanced the free flow of products and people across the nation, but also sparked a revolutionary assembly-line production process, increasing manufacturing productivity and making possible the mass production of automobiles and consumer goods for the American people. In the process, millions of new jobs were created in other new fields, such as part manufacturers, service repair technicians, salesmen, and customer service representatives.

Venture capital also played a significant role in the boom of entrepreneurship that contributed to the unprecedented economic growth of the 1990s. According to the National Venture Capital Association (NVCA), venture capitalists raised over $250 billion between 1994 and 2000 for investment in start-up companies. This frenzied business activity helped spur initial public offerings (IPOs) over the same period worth over $84 billion, boosting the value of financial markets. One major product of this tremendous financing activity was the commercialization of the Internet, which continues to have a significant impact on the U.S. economy. The Internet allows people to connect from all over the world, enhancing the free flow of products, services and most importantly, information. This technological revolution allowed hundreds of thousands of American jobs, such as software developers, information technology technicians, salesmen and customer service representatives, many of which did not exist before.

The start-up capital raised by these entrepreneurs made innovations such as the automobile and the Internet possible and played a key role in transforming the U.S. economic and social landscape. So what’s next on the horizon? What new industry will revolutionize the U.S. economy?

If we ever intend to find out, it is imperative that we continue to encourage greater investment spending in the economy. In 2003, President Bush and the Congress took an important step forward by reducing the capital gains tax rate for individuals to 15 percent. Since then, the economy has grown at an average rate of 4.5 percent, business investment has increased by $230 billion, financial markets are up $2 trillion and over 3 million new jobs have been created. However, this rate is scheduled to expire in just four short years.

Unfortunately, the complex, confusing and temporary capital gains tax rates create a lock-in effect, a barrier which discourages investment and entrepreneurial, stifling job creation. That is why I am introducing the Investment Tax Simplification Act (ITSA) of 2005, which would help to knock down this barrier and enhance the free flow of investment capital in the economy by establishing a permanent and simplified maximum 15 percent capital gains tax for individuals and corporations. In addition, the capital gains tax would be eliminated for individuals in the 10 and 15 percent tax brackets.

Entrepreneurial small businesses, the driving force of growth in our economy, rely on access to capital to innovate and expand. According to the NVCA, there is over $70 billion in venture capital funds sitting on the sidelines waiting for investment opportunities. Establishing a simplified 15 percent capital gains tax rate for individuals and corporations will help get that capital into the economy, turn innovative ideas into reality, create new jobs for American workers and produce new goods and services for all consumers. The NVCA estimates that between 2000 and 2003, venture capital funded companies created more than 600,000 new jobs for American workers. Many of these companies are innovating in the innovative, cutting edge industries, such as bio-medical and information technologies that rely on private investing and financing.

Enacting a permanent and simplified capital gains tax for individuals and corporations would also have an appreciable impact on the Investor Class, the more than 50 percent of Americans who own assets dependent on financial markets. The ITSA would bolster the investment holdings of the Investor Class, tax cut from 28 percent to 20 percent, in increased economic activity resulted in an increase in capital gains revenues, from $54 billion in 1996 to $118 billion in 2000, a gain of nearly 120 percent. And as a result of the 2003 capital gains tax cut and other tax relief provisions, last year the Federal Treasury realized $109 billion in unanticipated revenues.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Investment Tax Simplification Act of 2005. Enhancing the free flow of capital in the economy will stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship, providing enormous benefit for the American people.

I am very proud to acknowledge the effort and achievement of Head Coach Robert Lee, Assistant Coaches Rennie Bailey, Carlin Hartman and Jason Kenimer. I also want to congratulate the players on their achievements in the 2004–05 season—Oren Green, Brian Hamilton, Chris Cameron, Dwayne Mitchell, Tiras Wade, Spencer Ford, Ross Mouton, Adam James, Derek Grey, Cletis Fobbs, Anthony Rhodman, and Alphonso Kanda.

The 2004–05 season was a great success and these young men and their coaches should be proud of their achievements. I want to thank them for bringing enthusiasm and excitement to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the Southwest Louisiana community.

Gueaux Cajuns!

HONORING JOHN M. HARPOLE FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AT LOCK-HEED MARTIN

HON. CATHY McMORRIS OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Specialist Gerrit Kobes for being awarded a Silver Star for his bravery and heroism while serving in Iraq. Kobes, a member of Washington’s Army National Guard, saved the lives of Iraqi National Guard soldiers who were attacked by enemy fire. Kobes was presented with the medal in February by Major General Peter Chiarelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Kobes, 23 years old, was a medical specialist assigned to a unit that provided security support for the 1st Cavalry Division special unit. His convoy was assigned to move Iraqi soldiers and equipment from Baghdad to Fallujah. On November 3rd, a rocket-propelled grenade hit one of the trucks carrying Iraqi National Guard Members. According to Army accounts, Kobes ran 500 meters through enemy fire to get to four wounded Iraqi soldiers. He treated the soldiers and was again exposed to insurgent fire as he loaded the soldiers onto vehicles.

Kobes is from Kettle Falls, Washington. He is married to wife, Erica, and has two sons, Tyson, 3, and P.J., 10 months.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE RAJIN’ CAJUNS

HON. HEED MARTIN OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor John M. Harpole for his 50 years of service with Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. During his tenure with Missiles and Fire Control, he has served in the areas of Database Design, Facility Operations, Information Technology, and Manufacturing. We thank John for his dedication not only to the defense industry and the company, but also to the country we serve.

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE RALLY’ CAJUNS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of an extraordinary group of gentlemen from the 7th Congressional District of Louisiana. The Men’s Basketball team of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette brought spirit and pride to my hometown with a Sunbelt Conference Tournament Championship and qualification for the 2005 NCAA Basketball Tournament.

First year head coach Robert Lee demonstrated he has the character and leadership qualities to mold these young men into not only great athletes, but into respected members of our community.
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Specialist Gerrit Kobes for fearlessly sacrificing his own safety in order to save the lives of wounded Iraqi soldiers. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Specialist Kobes for his service to our country and Iraq, and congratulate him on earning a Silver Star.

TRIBUTE TO TULARE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
HON. DEVIN NUNES OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. Nunes. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative Jim Costa, to pay tribute to Tulare County Superior Court Judge William Silveira who has faithfully served as judge for more than 25 years.

His career is distinguished by his innovative efforts to improve juvenile justice, involve parents in the rehabilitation of their delinquent children, and bring together a comprehensive approach to the disparate factors that influence this unique area of law.

Judge Silveira was instrumental in building support for the construction of a new juvenile detention center in the county, along with probation offices and a new juvenile court complex.

He has also helped create a 100-bed juvenile boot camp and one of the first juvenile drug courts in the country, which has gone on to receive national acclaim.

During his time on the bench, he has traveled the county speaking as a leader in juvenile justice and has helped other communities establish their own programs.

At home, he is widely involved in many community activities and boards apart from his work on the bench, and he remains the loving husband of Marylin with children Matthew and Amy.

Once again, Representative Costa and I encourage you to join us in applauding his hard work, compassion, and justice that stands as an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO INTRADO INC. OF LONGMONT, COLORADO
HON. BOB BEAUPREZ OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. Beauprez. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my appreciation for the services provided by the men and women of Intrado Inc., headquartered in Longmont, Colorado.

For over two decades, telecommunications providers, public safety organizations and government agencies have turned to Intrado for their communications needs. As North America’s leader in 9-1-1 infrastructure and services, Intrado has been founded with the objective of improving public safety and we continue to have a tradition of giving back to the community.

Intrado’s corporate culture is built around employee involvement in causes that are both local and national in scope. From Intrado’s core business of 9-1-1 to the widely participated employee volunteer activities, Intrado aims to make a positive contribution to society.

Intrado’s ongoing mission is to continually improve the quality of the 9-1-1 data available to first responders, e.g. police, fire and emergency medical personnel. Since the first 9-1-1 call was made, Intrado has played a key role in defining, building and maintaining the complex emergency communications infrastructure. In 2004, Intrado products, services and systems supported nearly 200 million calls to 9-1-1, and the volume continues to grow.

Intrado’s emphasis on corporate citizenship is reflected in numerous activities. For the past two years Intrado has partnered with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to assist cities and towns across the US to deploy the Intrado IntelliCast® target notification system as a tool to help win the fight against time in locating missing children. Operating like 9-1-1 in reverse, the IntelliCast system automatically delivers a telephone message about a missing child to thousands of targeted homes and businesses within minutes, helping ensure the most efficient dissemination of relevant information to safely and quickly recover missing children. Intrado waives the fees for launching missing children alerts in an effort to support a community’s need for quick action in those situations.

Intrado’s encouragement of community involvement and volunteerism has resulted in support for local food drives, assistance with armed forces care packages, and financial donations to a number of charitable efforts. In 2004 Intrado began support of the 911 For Kids program in Denver and surrounding cities. 911 For Kids provides 9-1-1 education for children in elementary schools to ensure they know how to call for help in an emergency.

Finally, Intrado is actively working to design and build the next generation emergency services network to address and support the changing communications requirements. Intrado’s extensive intellectual property in emergency communications management and fundamental 9-1-1-1 operations—combined with the world’s largest pool of experienced personnel in these areas—makes Intrado the clear leader for this task.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the fine men and women of Intrado, Inc. for working to make our communities safer and better places to live. They represent some of our country’s best, and I hope they continue to call Colorado home for years to come.

CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER HONORS INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN WILDLIFE ARTIST JOHN A. RUTHVEN FOR RECEIVING THE 2004 NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS
HON. ROB PORTMAN OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. Portman. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and Brown County, Ohio constituent, John A. Ruthven, who will be honored on April 21, 2005 by the Cincinnati Museum Center in the regional recognition for his selection by President Bush to receive the 2004 National Medal of the Arts. The National Medal of the Arts is the highest award presented to an artist or patron in the United States, and John is the first wildlife artist to receive this prestigious award. I am honored to join John and his wife, Judy, and members of their family at the White House for the medal presentation by President Bush on November 17, 2004.

One of our nation’s most talented artists, John is an author, lecturer, naturalist, and internationally acknowledged master of wildlife art. His paintings have been shown at the White House; the Hermitage Museum in Russia; the Ohio State Capitol’s Rotunda; and many other prestigious venues around the world.

John will be honored by the Museum Center for his career in art and his many connections to the Museum Center. I am told that, over the years, he has used actual specimens from the paintings of locales to the Museum Center and one of its predecessor museums, the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, as models for his original paintings. A special exhibit of selected Ruthven works at the Museum Center will open to the public on April 23, 2005—Earth Day. In the exhibit will be many of John’s prints, including the Carolina paraakeet, Henslow’s sparrow, and Passenger pigeon, will be displayed with John’s paintings of the same subjects, and the actual specimens from the Museum Center’s collection. Three days later—April 26, 2005—is the 220th anniversary of John James Audubon’s birth.

The coincidence of Audubon’s birthday is underscored by the fact that Audubon, too, had many connections to the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. He was the Museum’s first employee, hired as a taxidermist and to create exhibits. Audubon supplemented his Museum income by drawing portraits, teaching art, and even opened his own art academy. While in Cincinnati, Audubon created five paintings of local birds that were among the first contributions to his acclaimed Birds of North America.

There can be no doubt that John Ruthven is our Audubon, and a true American treasure. John has said, “I believe art is as necessary to our heritage as the birds of the sky.” Both record past and present in the effort to educate and enrich the lives of people today and in the near future. It is my desire, through my paintings, to record for later generations some of the beauty of nature that exists in my lifetime.

John’s wife, Judy, is also accomplished. She was project manager and co-chair of the Historic Georgetown Project to restore the Georgetown, Ohio courthouse square buildings. With John, she purchased the brick Brown County homestead of President Ulysses S. Grant, who grew up in picturesque Georgetown. Judy is a Grant scholar, and she spent a tremendous amount of energy to ensure that the building was historically accurate. The Ruthven’s later donated the structure, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, to the State of Ohio. In addition, Judy has supported numerous other organizations, including the Ohio Humanities Council.

In Southern Ohio, I want to thank John on receiving the National Medal of the Arts, being honored by the Museum Center, and his life as an acclaimed artist, and we wish him luck in the many projects to come.
Chapter President Dorothy Bowles, “Equally impressive is the dedicated service that Tutt has given and continues to give to Tennessee.”

Bradford was a member of the University of Tennessee Development Council from 1980 to 1983 and served on the board of Maryville College from 1974 to 1979 and from 1981 to 2003. He served on the boards of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, Knoxville Museum of Art, Thompson Cancer Survival Center, and Takehome Mental Hospital, the Tennessee Technology Foundation, the Boys Club Foundation, the Blount Hearing and Speech Foundation, and the Blount Library Foundation. He was president of the Blount County Industrial Development Board from 1970 to 1972.

Bradford has received many honors and awards. He was recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the Bristol Junior Chamber of Commerce, and he received the Sequoyah Literacy Award from the Tennessee Historical Commission. Junior Achievement named him to the East Tennessee Business Hall of Fame in 1990. In 1994, the University of Tennessee named him Volunteer of the Year.


The Follies are scheduled for 6 p.m., Saturday, June 18, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

The annual roast of newsmakers is sponsored by the East Tennessee Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and raises funds for communications scholarships at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Tusculum State Technical Community College.

This year’s skits and songs will feature Vols football coach Phillip Fulmer in “The People’s Court,” state Sen. Tim Burchett and his “shadow,” “Hysterical Preservation” highlighting Cherokee Country Club, and a legal battle royal with Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale, Sheriff Tim Hutchison, and his “shadow,” “Hysteric Preservation.”

Local TV anchors and meteorologists will add their special brand of fun to the event.

HONORING TUTT BRADFORD

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor one of the finest men I have ever known and a long-time family friend, Tutt Bradford.

Tutt served as publisher of The Daily Times in Maryville, Tennessee, from 1955 until 1985. He was a highly respected voice in Blount County and an advocate for its residents throughout those three decades and continues to contribute to the paper’s opinion pages on a regular basis.

Tutt’s peers long ago recognized him as one of East Tennessee’s greatest journalists. They rewarded him with a coveted spot on the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association Board from 1968 until 1970 and then elevated him to President of the Tennessee Press Association in 1974.

In addition to tremendous achievements in the field of journalism, Tutt can also claim many accomplishments within his community. Among other endeavors, he has served on the boards of countless charitable organizations, promoted higher education, and worked to improve the quality of life among all East Tennesseans.

Tutt’s contributions to his community have been recognized on numerous occasions. The United Way of Blount County recently named its endowment program in his honor, and he is a past recipient of the University of Tennessee Volunteer of the Year Award. The National Society of Fund-Raising Executives even named Tutt its Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year in 1991.

The complete list of Tutt’s awards could fill several pages in the RECORD, so I will not attempt to list them all. Needless to say, however, he is a man of strong character and great compassion who represents the values of Blount County remarkably well.

The East Tennessee Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists will pay tribute to Tutt Bradford as a guest of honor at this year’s Front Page Follies. The annual event provides funding for communications scholarships by inviting local elected officials, journalists, and other community leaders to roast a guest of honor.

I would like to call the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to a recent Daily Times article regarding the 2005 Front Page Follies and a true Blount County treasure, Tutt Bradford.

JOURNALISTS TO HONOR BRADFORD

[From the Daily Times, Feb. 16, 2005]

The 2005 Front Page Follies will honor Tutt Bradford as a guest of The Daily Times and a community leader who led and supported many causes in the area.

Bradford is publisher of The Daily Times from 1955 to 1985. Prior to that, he was publisher of the Bristol (Va.) Herald-Courier and from 1955 to 1985. Prior to that, he was publisher of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association Board from 1968 until 1970 and was president of the Tennessee Press Association in 1974.

Tutt Bradford, retired publisher of The Daily Times and a community leader who led and supported many causes in the area.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF FIREFIGHTER NEIL LARIBEE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong dedication of Firefighter Neil Laribee who after 52 years of service has retired from the Southington Volunteer Fire Department.

The son of a fireman, Neil Laribee first volunteered to fight fire for the town of Southington in 1952. A dedicated public servant, Neil has protected the Southington community for over fifty faithful years. Known around the Plantsville Engine Company #2 firehouse as “Deke,” he has been instrumental in shaping the Department throughout the years. Neil has been a loyal friend and source of fire and rescue information to be both new and veteran fire companies.

As Southington’s most experienced firefighters, he has held leadership positions including Company Secretary and a Company Trustee. Neil Laribee has spent his life protecting lives and serving his community and his presence in the Southington Volunteer Fire Department will be certainly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today to recognize the lifelong dedication of Firefighter Neil Laribee and thank him for his years of service to the town of Southington.

HON. DON SHERWOOD
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, my predecessor in Congress, former Representative Joseph M. McDade, who served in the House for 36 years, has informed me of the passing on February 18 of Frank Collins, a prominent attorney from Ardmore, Pennsylvania, and former Scranton native.

Mr. Collins graduated in 1948 from Scranton Preparatory School, where he was a classmate of Congressman McDade. Collins attended St. Francis College and graduated in 1952 from the University of Scranton. He later received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1955.

Collins worked for several banks during his distinguished legal career and most recently worked at the law firm of Collins, Johnson and Arden in Media, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Katharine, and seven children and six grandchildren.

Those who knew Collins best pay high tribute to his intellect, integrity and character. Congressman McDade said of Collins, “His life is a testament to the joy of intellectual pursuit and the use of the Socratic method to attain dependable decisions. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his lovely wife, Katie, and their children.”

In a moving and eloquent memorial delivered by a fellow attorney and close personal friend, Henry B. FitzPatrick, Collins was remembered for his many friendships, sense of humor, athletic achievements in basketball and golf, enduring and loving marriage, and professional and personal integrity.

“Frank Collins chose to be a lawyer,” FitzPatrick eulogized. “It doesn’t take long until that profession separates the upright from the rest. It asks questions which can only be answered by those who are serious about being honest, those who can interrogate the depth of their soul to see if there is further will to be summoned for the finding of the right answer. Frank had that quality of honesty—otherwise he would not have had the trust, as he did, of clients and fellow lawyers.”

“But, we all know that professional honesty might not accompany a person home. The fearlessly scrupulous judge or lawyer might with wife or husband be disingenuous and deceitful; few of us are honest all of the time; Frank Collins was one of that few. He was unable to pull a knife in the crack between the levels of integrity demanded of him in his personal and professional lives. For there was no crack, but only the seamless cloth of honesty.”

Those are high words of praise for a truly remarkable individual. Congressman McDade said of Collins, “He proved the quality of life among all East Tennesseans.”

Among other endeavors, he has served on the Board from 1968 until 1970 and then elevated to the Secretary and a Company Trustee. Neil Laribee has spent his life protecting lives and serving his community and his presence in the Southington Volunteer Fire Department will be certainly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today to recognize the lifelong dedication of Firefighter Neil Laribee and thank him for his years of service to the town of Southington.
IN MEMORY OF LANCE CPL.
NAZARIO SERRANO, USMC

HON. PETE SESSIONS
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Lance Cpl. Nazario Serrano, USMC who was killed by enemy action on January 30 in Anbar province, Iraq. He was killed as a result of being struck in the chest by small-arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Serrano, 20, from Irving, Texas was expected to return home from Iraq in only two weeks to meet his newly born son Landon Heath and marry his highschool sweetheart, Amanda Story. Serrano had never seen his son, but only saw pictures of his new son by e-mail. I grieve with the Serrano friends and family over their loss. He gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country and the United States Marine Corps.

Lance Cpl. Serrano was a 2003 graduate of Irving High School, which is also where his two surviving brothers, Javier and Daniel, now attend. Previously, he attended Austin Middle School in Irving, and enjoyed basketball, hunting, and riding his motorcycle. May God bless the memory of Lance Cpl. Serrano and comfort his family in this difficult time. I will be keeping his memory, and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

BASKETBALL—CATAMOUNTS—STANDOUTS ON THE COURT AND IN THE CLASSROOM

HON. BERNARD SANDERS
OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, like all of us who live in Vermont, and many millions across the nation, I was thrilled when the underdog Catamounts of the University of Vermont defeated Syracuse in the opening round of the 2005 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament. Syracuse was a national power; the nucleus of its team won the national championship two years earlier. Its players were accomplished, well-coached and a credit to college basketball.

But the University of Vermont team rose to the challenge, coming from behind in the final minutes of both regulation play and overtime. Led by the greatest basketball player to come out of Vermont, Taylor Coppenrath of West Barnet, Vermont the Catamounts showed how teamwork and a tenacious defense could elevate a team to national prominence. During the regular season Coppenrath was the second leading Division I scorer in the nation with 25.7 points per game, and for the third straight year he was the player of the year in the America East conference. He was joined on the team by T. J. Sorrentine, a sharp-shooting point guard (fifth in the nation with 3.6 three-point field goals per game) whose passion and precision shooting define the Catamounts. He too had-arms fire America East player of the year and has three first-team selections to his credit. The international contingent made up of Germain Mopa Niija of Cameroon, whose career scoring high of 20 points on 9 of 10 shooting was the mainstay of the Catamount offense against Syracuse; Martin Klimes of the Czech Republic, whose smothering defense held All-American Hakim Warrick in check; and Canadian David H Hein, who selflessly threw himself into the Cats’ tight defense and patient and exceptionally effective passing game.

It was talent and tenacity. All five Vermont starters played at least 40 minutes, and Klimes and Coppenrath never had a rest on the bench at all. The Catamounts stuck with a game plan devised by Coach Tom Brennan and Associate Head Coach Jesse Agel, which called for ball control, constant passing and careful work against Syracuse’s famed 2-3 zone until a shot opened up. No one should be surprised that they showed poise and intelligence on the hardwood. The UVM basketball team had a 3.09 grade point average (GPA) for the fall semester. The starting five has a cumulative GPA, including all the courses the players have taken in their time at UVM, above 3.0. This is an exceptionally high and rare statistic for basketball teams that play at the highest level, some of which graduate less than half their teams members. Martin Klimes, majoring in business, has a 3.82 GPA, one of the highest averages in his entire college. Germain Mopa Niija, a computer science and information systems major, has a GPA of 3.21. Sociology major T.J. Sorrentine averages 2.75, while David Hein has a stellar 3.57 GPA in business. Wooden Award finalist Taylor Coppenrath averaged 2.80 in secondary education and competed at the elite level in basketball, while student teaching in the math department at Colchester High School.

Their academic performance is exceptional for UVM athletes. The state university is as dedicated to graduating student athletes as it is to fielding fine teams (its men’s hockey team recently played in the ECAC Final Four, and its ski team was second in the nation at the NCAA national championships). The overall GPA for student athletes is 3.08, which is higher than the GPA for the student body as a whole.

The Catamounts captured the attention and the heart of the entire nation. To the wonderful, inspired members of that team, and their dedicated coaches, the state of Vermont sends its salutations. Perhaps no one can say it better than their retiring coach, Tom Brennan, who said these words after losing to Michigan State in the second round, “We can’t thank everyone enough on what the support has meant to us. We gave more back than what we took and what we did this weekend was as the thrill of a lifetime. It was the greatest ride that I could ever, ever have had. You know you’re in a very special place when your realities outweigh your dreams. And that’s where I am.” For all of us in Vermont, for one special night, reality did outweigh dreams. Thanks, Catamounts.

CONGRATULATING RABBI MERLE E. SINGER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT WEXLER
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I am both honored and privileged to congratulate Rabbi Merle E. Singer on the occasion of his retirement.

Rabbi Singer has been at Temple Beth El of Boca Raton for 26 years. Before that, he served at Beth Or in Philadelphia and Temple Sinai in Washington, D.C. He has a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology from the University of Cincinnati, and a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Singer was ordained as a Reform Rabbi in June 1966. Rabbi Singer is one of the warmest, most charitable and caring people I know. I have personally seen the extraordinary kindness, determination and virtue that Rabbi Singer demonstrates everyday in all aspects of his life. As those of us privileged to know him can attest, Rabbi Singer is deeply devoted to his family, congregants and community. For the past 26 years he has been a religious guide and educator to his congregation serving them in every aspect of synagogue life. Under his leadership, Temple Beth El has grown to be one of the largest Reform synagogues, where the congregation maintains an unwavering commitment to Jewish values and the importance of a Jewish identity.

Beyond the synagogue, Rabbi Singer is one of the most respected people in the community, promoting the highest form of tzedakah by bringing people of different faiths together to help those who need it most. He has started programs like Shared Care, which connects impaired seniors with members in the community—and in the process has become a true community leader. His civic involvement in everything from the United Way to the Boca Raton Community Hospital, exemplifies the principle of tikkun olam. Rabbi Singer’s legacy in South Florida already extends far beyond Temple Beth El and will endure for many years.

I wish Rabbi Singer much continued success and good health.

HONORING JANICE GRUENDEL AS SHE IS RECOGNIZED BY THE ACES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. ROSA L. DELAURIO
OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. DELAURIO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the ACES Education Foundation as they recognize the outstanding contributions of a dedicated member of our community and my good friend, Dr. Janice Gruendel. Janice has spent a lifetime working with children, focusing much of her time and effort on early childhood education.

A psychologist by training, Janice has dedicated her professional career to improving the environment in which our children learn and grow. After receiving her Ph.D. from Yale University, Janice served as Deputy Commissioner with the Connecticut Department of Children and Youth Services, the Department of Mental Retardation, and the Department of Public Health. She moved on to become the Vice President of Education and Technology at Rabbit Ears Productions, Inc. and was co-executive producer of the Emmy-nominated public broadcast documentary, “Mommy, Who’ll Take Care of Me?”, in 2005, Janice, along with Shelly Geballe, Judy Solomon, and Nancy Lustman, embarked on a very special project founding
Expressing appreciation for the life and work of Pope John Paul II

Hon. Mark E. Souder
Of Indiana
In the House of Representatives
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my profound sympathy for the passing of Pope John Paul II, a man whom I'm certain will go down in history as one of history's greatest leaders.

This Pope's remarkable life—a tremendous intellect, limitless compassion and deep spirituality—was the foundation of his commitment to teaching the inherent dignity of every human being. Shaped by his experiences under Nazi and Communist regimes, the Pope taught us that this dignity is the first principle from which all others derive, calling on us to respond to the cry of the poor and to protect the weak among us.

Pope John Paul II taught us, by his words and example, that we should have the "love of preference for the poor," that requires us to respond to the needs of the weakest among us. As he wrote in "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis" in 1987, "[T]his love of the preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medicine or food, above all, those without hope of a better future."

Human dignity, he also reminded us, should never be eclipsed by oppressive political systems, which deny the individuality of the person. Nor should the dignity of the human person be destroyed using tools of what he so eloquently called the "culture of death," such as legalized abortion or physician-assisted suicide.

Pope John Paul II spoke to the world about the importance of every human person, and he especially addressed the responsibility of our nation during his visit to the United States in 1995. I am submitting this statement for the RECORD, in which the Pope so eloquently called on us to live up to our democratic responsibilities, reminding us that, "[d]emocracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes. Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life."

The freedom of this country can only be understood within context of the moral responsibilities of our democracy. As we mark the passing of this tremendous man, I believe we should remember his exhortation to the United States: "At the center of the moral vision of your founding documents is the recognition of the rights of the human person, and especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development."

"I say to you again, America, in the light of your own tradition: love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death."

May God grant Pope John Paul II eternal light and peace, and may his personal witness to faith, hope and courage remain in our hearts and those of all the people.

Statement of Pope John Paul II, on the Occasion of His Visit to the United Nations and the United States Given on October 8, 1995

Dearest Vice-President, Dear Friends, Dear People of America,

As I take leave of the United States, I wish to express my deep and abiding gratitude to you, to the United States Government and the non-profit sector. With such comprehensive vision and talented staff, CT Voices has been able to provide new and unique insights into the impact of policy and issues on today's youth and families. In fact, in just under a decade, CT Voices has become a leading voice in public policy with political leaders, the media, other advocacy groups and others regularly turning to them for public and budget analysis. The outstanding success of CT Voices allows this organization to have a real impact on public policy—a reflection of the remarkable efforts of Janice and her co-founders.

Currently serving as the Senior Advisor on Early Childhood for Connecticut's Governor M. Jodi Rell, Janice's expertise in early childhood education is recognized throughout the state. In addition to this role, she also continues as a lecturer at the Yale University Child Study Center and acts as a part-time senior consultant fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children. The multitude of work that Janice has done on behalf of our youngest citizens has gone a long way in increasing public awareness of the importance of early childhood education and its positive impact on our children.

I am proud to stand today to join her husband, Herb; her three sons and daughters-in-law, David and Liz, Darren and Yoya, and Stephen and Anne; her grandchildren, Allisa, Elena, Vivian, and Mateo, as well as all of the family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in congratulating my dear friend, Dr. Janice Gruendel as she is honored by the ACES Foundation and its positive impact on our children. The multitude of work that Janice has done on behalf of our youngest citizens has gone a long way in increasing public awareness of the importance of early childhood education and its positive impact on our children.

In addition to her role as a senior advisor to Connecticut's Governor M. Jodi Rell, Janice's expertise in early childhood education is recognized throughout the state. In fact, in just under a decade, CT Voices has become a leading voice in public policy with political leaders, the media, other advocacy groups and others regularly turning to them for public and budget analysis. The outstanding success of CT Voices allows this organization to have a real impact on public policy—a reflection of the remarkable efforts of Janice and her co-founders.

Currently serving as the Senior Advisor on Early Childhood for Connecticut's Governor M. Jodi Rell, Janice's expertise in early childhood education is recognized throughout the state. In addition to this role, she also continues as a lecturer at the Yale University Child Study Center and acts as a part-time senior consultant fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children. The multitude of work that Janice has done on behalf of our youngest citizens has gone a long way in increasing public awareness of the importance of early childhood education and its positive impact on our children.

I am proud to stand today to join her husband, Herb; her three sons and daughters-in-law, David and Liz, Darren and Yoya, and Stephen and Anne; her grandchildren, Allisa, Elena, Vivian, and Mateo, as well as all of the family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in congratulating my dear friend, Dr. Janice Gruendel as she is honored by the ACES Education Foundation. Her many years of dedication and commitment has left an indelible mark on the State of Connecticut and a legacy that will continue to make a difference in the lives of our young people for generations to come.

Express appreciation for the life and work of Pope John Paul II

Hon. Ed Whitfield
Of Kentucky
In the House of Representatives
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Kentucky New Era/Rotary Academic All-Star Team.
Mr. Speaker, education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in my District are developing their talents, furthering their education and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement to recognize, develop confidence and achievement among our Hooligans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:


Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to an individual from my district whose initiatives and vision might well be paying dividends in Idaho from years to come.

Through hard work and passion, Jason Crawford gathered support from many medium and large technical institutions throughout my great state in support of a promotional effort in the Wall Street Journal on behalf of Idaho’s outstanding business environment.

As Jason’s own Treetop Tech, Micron Technology, Hewlett-Packard, Dell, and Extended Systems are just a few of America’s top technology businesses that have chosen to locate large operations in Idaho over the years.

Anyone who spends even a short time in Idaho soon comes to realize the enormous potential of our State and its people, and the great benefits of doing business there.

From the low cost of living and absence of urban congestion to the overall quality of life, Idaho has a lot to offer the technology industry. Jason Crawford is one of Idaho’s greatest advocates, and leaders like him are among our most valuable assets. I hope the House will join me in acknowledging Jason’s contribution.

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE PARENTS OF THERESA MARIE SCHIAVO

Mr. UDALL. Of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the heart-wrenching details of Ms. Terri Schiavo’s case are well known to all of us. Her personal case, not to mention the family rift that has resulted, is certainly a tragedy and my heart goes out to Terri’s family, especially now that Terri has passed away.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that should be determined by those very people. This is not a matter for Congress to decide. Unfortunately, since Terri’s family has been unable to agree on the best course of action, they have had to undergo, and continue to undergo today, lengthy legal battles. While it is unfortunate, that is what our legal process is for, and it has repeatedly ruled in favor of Terri’s husband. Bringing this bill to the floor allows those who are trying to do what they believe is best for Terri. However, Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that should be determined by those very people. This is not a matter for Congress to decide.

Unfortunately, since Terri’s family has been unable to agree on the best course of action, they have had to undergo, and continue to undergo today, lengthy legal battles. While it is unfortunate, that is what our legal process is for, and it has repeatedly ruled in favor of Terri’s husband. Bringing this bill to the floor allows those who are trying to do what they believe is best for Terri.

Mr. Speaker, these students embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. I am proud to represent Idaho and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of this House.

ACKNOWLEDGING JASON CRAWFORTH’S CONTRIBUTION TO IDAHO

HON. C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER

Mr. Speaker, it is written if you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect. I rise humbly today to pay a debt of honor and respect to Army National Guard Sergeant Mike Hiest and Bluffton, Indiana.

As I saw firsthand last December at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan, Hoosiers have made an extraordinary difference for freedom in Operation Enduring Freedom, and Master Sergeant Mike Hiest was a leader of men in that place. His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart (posthumous), two Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, four Good Conduct Medals, three Reserve Components Achievement Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Global War on Terrorism expeditionary and Service Medals, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device and Bronze Hour Glass device, NATO Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with “3” device, Order of St. George, Pathfinder Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge (posthumous) and the German armed forces Swords on Treasure. His state awards include the Indiana Long Service Medal (2nd award), Indiana Overseas Service Ribbon, and Indiana Outside Continental United States Ribbon (2nd award).
On March 26, 2005, Mike lost his life while fighting to defend America in Afghanistan. His military vehicle, with the 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, Indianapolis, struck a land mine 30 miles west of Kabul, Afghanistan claiming his life and the lives of three other Indiana Army National Guardsmen.

At his home in Bluffton, Indiana he was known as a loving husband and father. He was a member of the Bluffton Fire Department and he will not soon be forgotten by this grieving community of Bluffton, which will say goodbye to him this week. According to his wife Dawn, “Mike was very much believed in the cause for which he gave his life. His entire family and friends have supported him in his endeavors.”

I rise to offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Dawn; his two children, Emily and Adam; his parents Thomas and Kay Hiester; his two sisters, Megan and Michele; his nephews Casey, Jesse, Kyle and Jared; his niece Carley; and all those across northeastern Indiana and all of our state who cherish the memory of this hero.

Master Sergeant Michael Hiester is a hero, whose service and sacrifice bolstered the hopes of millions of Americans and Afghans. The memory of his sacrifice and service will forever be emblazoned on the hearts of two grateful nations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. LEE, Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 18 and H. Con. Res. 32.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the sentiments that these resolutions advance. There is no doubt that there must be an end to brutal human rights violations against the Syrian people and that a Syrian-occupied Lebanon poses a threat to the stability of the Middle East.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am firm in my belief that we must find a peaceful, nonmilitary solution to foster peace in the Middle East. These resolutions, while overwhelmingly approved by the House, must not be cited as tacit approval for any future preemptive military action against Syria.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. ED CASE
OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CASE, Mr. Speaker, I wish today to express my unqualified support for House Resolution 55, reprinted below and of which I am a proud cosponsor, recognizing the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, and in doing so to acknowledge the truly inspiring work of generations and millions of Rotarians over the last century.

Mr. Speaker, can there be a better example of selfless public service than that of Rotary International? From humble beginnings in Chicago in 1905, the world’s first service club now claims 1.2 million Rotarians in some 31,000 Rotary clubs in 166 countries. And it has found a special home in my own great State of Hawaii, with 41 clubs operating in all four counties, from Hanalei Bay to Hilo Bay.

The secret of Rotary’s success is that it evokes our innermost desire to give back to our worldwide community, as captured in its motto: Service Above Self. Its now famous Four-Way Test—Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?—is a lighthouse not only for its own efforts but for those of all of us.

One hundred years of individual, community, statewide and countrywide projects have solidified Rotary International’s reputation and collectively earned it widespread recognition. But no project better exemplifies the spirit, success and potential of Rotary International than PolioPlus, its partnership with the World Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to eradicate the scourge of polio from the face of our earth.

Most of us of adult age in our country remember the polio scares and tragedies of decades past, but we do not regard polio as a credible threat to our children due to widespread immunization and other advances. That is not true universally; polio still exists and strikes randomly, especially in South Asia and Africa.

In 1985, Rotary International undertook a truly breathtaking endeavor: to eliminate polio through universal immunization. And with its partners in the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Polio Eradication Initiative—funding from many governments including $260 million since 1996 of our own—it has brought polio to its knees: 1988’s 350,000 cases internationally are today’s couple hundred.

But we all know that the last few steps of any marathon are often the hardest, and so it is with polio. I certainly saw the challenges in my trip last year to Afghanistan—one of just six countries where polio is still endemic—where the challenges in simply reaching some of the most remote and isolated communities in our world are staggering.

Yet with the efforts of those near Rotary International’s efforts have been redoubled, and I want to tell you about just one inspiring contribution: that of Rotarian Bob “Motorcycle Bob” Mutchler and his wife, Patti. For the last seven years Bob, himself a victim of polio, and Patti have undertaken several marathon motorcycle rides across our country and world to highlight PolioPlus and raise funds for polio’s endgame.

Bob and Patti recently kicked off their last PolioPlus Ride, the “Centennial Ride”, in our Hawaii, aiming to cover all fifty states ending in Alaska this summer. On Tuesday, March 15th, they and local Rotarians and other well-wishers started their engines in my hometown of Hilo and set off on the first leg of their latest adventure, a trip around my Big Island, followed by rides around Maui and Kauai and capped by a journey around Oahu on Saturday, March 26th, which I was honored to start. They’re now off riding the Mainland, taking our aloha with them; you can follow their journey at www.poloplusride.org, where Patti’s keeping a journal.

Bob and Patti Mutchler exemplify the spirit of Rotary International, as did Mike Nelson, President of the Rotary Club of Volcano on the Island of Hawaii. Mike embraced the Mutchlers’ efforts and chaired their Centennial Ride in Hawaii. Tragically, he lost his life in an auto accident on February 23rd; the ride was dedicated to him, and we remember him with the deepest appreciation and admiration as representing the true spirit of Rotarians everywhere, while appreciating our actions on behalf of all of our citizens, would have us move beyond as soon as possible to the remaining and urgent tasks at hand.

Mahalo, and aloha!

TRIBUTE TO SAUL STERN

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Saul Stern who will receive the Project Interchange Am Yisrael Chai Award on May 25, 2005. Saul Stern has worked tirelessly on behalf of Project Interchange to provide American political and civic leaders with a first-hand look at the vibrant democracy of Israel. His efforts have increased the understanding of many American leaders of the special bond shared by the United States and the State of Israel.

Saul has made involvement with international, national and local Jewish and secular communal affairs a lifetime commitment. Over the years, Saul has accompanied many political and military leaders to Israel to help educate them about the complex issues affecting Israel. A passionate supporter of Project Interchange, he believes that the most effective way to help people understand the value of the U.S.-Israel relationship is by becoming a true eyewitness to life in Israel.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Saul Stern for his commitment and dedication to fostering understanding between the United States and Israel.

FREEDOM FOR RICARDO SILVA GUAL

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Ricardo Silva Gual, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Silva Gual is a Medical Doctor and member of the Christian Liberation Movement. He believes that the men and women of Cuba deserve freedom, democracy, and basic human rights. Dr. Silva Gual is dedicated to bringing liberty to Cuba and ending the nightmare that is the Castro regime.

Because of his belief in the non-negotiable rights of all people to freedom, democracy and
human rights, Dr. Silva Gaul was arrested by the dictatorship on March 18, 2003. This heinous arrest was a part of the regime’s March 2003, deplorable, island-wide crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, Dr. Silva Gaul was sentenced to 10 years in the totalitarian gulag.

According to cubapp.info, while imprisoned in a repugnant dungeon Dr. Silva Gaul declared a hunger strike to protest the inhuman treatment of political prisoners in Castro’s gulag. It has also been reported that Dr. Silva Gaul has been transferred to a maximum security section where the conditions are even harsher.

Dr. Silva Gaul, despite being imprisoned, despite facing even more severe maltreatment in the inhuman gulag, continues to advocate for liberty. Dr. Silva Gaul is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ricardo Silva Gaul and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAUL RAMIREZ

HON. HENRY CUellar
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUellar. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Saul Ramirez for his commitment to serving the citizens of Laredo, Texas.

Saul Ramirez began his career as a Laredo City Council Member in 1982. He has held a number of positions in local government, and his contributions to town and country have helped transform Laredo into an international center of commerce and culture.

As the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, he handled major federal neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and homelessness programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. As Assistant Secretary he oversaw rehabilitation programs such as Community Block Grant, Hope for Ownership of Single Family Homes, Home Investment Partnership, and various other programs that established funding for housing and support services.

Among other accomplishments in his distinguished career, Mr. Ramirez created the Laredo Affordable Housing Finance Corporation in 1990. He has worked hard to help some of Laredo’s poorest neighborhoods. Working to improve housing in the Laredo community, Saul Ramirez’s tireless efforts ensure that our citizens have a decent place to live.

A former mayor of Laredo, Mr. Ramirez is no stranger to the unique needs of his community. Serving at a time of great community growth, he has helped to provide guidance and leadership for our changing city.

Saul Ramirez is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including Newsweek Magazine’s “25 Most Dynamic Mayors” in 1996. He has served as Director of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, as a Board Member of the U.S. Council of Mayors, and with the Texas Municipal League.

According to cubapp.info, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the important contributions of Saul Ramirez. His hard work and community dedication have helped to transform Laredo into the city it is today.

HONORING NEAL McBRIDE

HON. TOM DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Neal McBride for being recognized as 2005 Citizen of the Year by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations. This special honor is truly well-deserved.

Mr. McBride has been an active member of the community within the South County region since the late 1980’s. He has served as the chair or coordinator for numerous civic groups including the South Run Coalition, South County Schools Alliance, the Laurel Hill Development and Arts Center and the Cold War Museum. In addition, McBride has also served as an officer with the Federation of Lorton Communities and Newington Forest Community Association. He is director-at-large of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, a member of the Lorton Heritage Society, a Lorton Arts Foundation Advisory panelist and a member of the Laurel Hill Planning Task Force. In 2003, Mr. McBride was honored by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors with the title of “Lord Fairfax.” Mr. McBride, a retired health care management specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs, has lived in South Springfield since 1981.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Neal McBride for all of his efforts on behalf of the Mount Vernon area. He has served his community well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. McBride’s past accomplishments and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL NICHOLAS DAVID LARSON

HON. HENRY J. HYDE
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Lance Corporal Nicholas Larson. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine Lance Corporal Nicholas Larson. David Larson of Wheaton, Illinois. Corporal Larson was killed on November 9, 2004 when his unit took fire from terrorists in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Nick was killed in the ensuing firefight. He had been serving in Iraq since mid June 2004 and his tour was set to end in January 2005.

Lance Corporal Larson was 14 years old when he did more than 100 push-ups for a recruiter. Nicholas told his mother after 9/11 that he joined the Marines because “I just want to make a difference.”

He began his service after graduating from Wheaton North High School in 2003. He was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. Corporal Larson followed in the footsteps of his father, who served in the Navy.

Teachers and administrators at Wheaton North High School described Nicholas as quiet and focused and an intense student. And always knowing he wanted to be a Marine.

Lance Corporal Larson was a young man of only 19 when he made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. Our deepest sympathies to his beloved family: David and Anne Larson, and his sister Katie Larson. The entire community joins in mourning Nicholas’s loss.

We honor the memory of Lance Corporal Nicholas Larson. David Larson and the dedication and bravery with which he served our nation and the people of Iraq.

HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. Farr. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Benjamin “Ben” De La Selva. Ben was born in Somoto, Nicaragua, in 1939. He immigrated to the United States in 1961, subsequently serving in the U.S. Army for six and a half years. In the mid 1960s he studied French and Polish at the Defense Language Institute, DLI, and then served a year in Vietnam (1966–67) with the 173rd Airborne as Prisoner of War interrogator and French linguist. Ben was in Dakto, Central Highlands, at the onset of one of the Vietnam War’s bloodiest battles. After leaving the military and getting a college education through the GI Bill, Ben was hired at DLI, where he occupied numerous positions from 1972 to 2005.

During his rise from teacher to dean at DLI, Ben trained thousands of military linguists, guided several generations of language teachers, and mentored supervisors and managers who now occupy leadership positions. Moreover, he supervised every DLI language program and participated in the development of much needed Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Arabic curricula. During the last 20 consecutive years, Ben served as dean of every DLI resident school, a credit to his solid leadership qualities. As a dean, he participated in several pioneering initiatives including Team Teaching, the Faculty Personnel System, and the introduction of up-to-date teaching methods. Likewise, Ben was at the forefront of DLI’s giant leap to modern-day technology. Ben retired on January 3rd, 2005, but is still associated with the U.S. government in his capacity as President of the DLI Alumni Association, a non-profit organization he founded in November 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Ben is an excellent example of the immigrant young man who arrives in the USA with a high school diploma, serves in the military, gets an education through the GI Bill, pursues and flourishes in a governmental career, and 40 years laterretires with an impeccable and distinguished record. Ben truly believes he has achieved the American dream. He exemplifies the highest aspirations of this nation. I am proud to honor him today.
TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM
SOLOMON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about a remarkable, courageous man who has dedicated himself for the betterment of Texas, and the lives of those around him. Mr. William Soloman is a fine member of my home community of Dallas, Texas and I am proud to announce that he has been recognized for his outstanding work as the latest recipient of the Linz Award, Dallas County's oldest award for recognizing exceptional community and humanitarian volunteer efforts.

Bill Solomon began working in 1967 at the company that his grandfather founded in 1918, Austin Industries, Incorporated, the largest commercial and industrial contractor in Dallas. In 1970, Bill was named president of the company, and he continues to serve as chairman of Austin Industries today.

Mr. Solomon is also a renowned civic leader, a member of the Dallas Citizens Council, the World Affairs Organization, and the Northaven United Methodist Church. He serves on the boards of the A. H. Belo Corporation, the Southwestern Medical Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Hobbitzelle Foundation. In addition to this, he has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and our country have always relied on the contributions of those individuals who have the ability to rise above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of others, both personally and professionally. Bill Solomon has demonstrated an unfailing and tireless commitment to the betterment of Dallas County, the State of Texas, and the entire Nation. With his steady guidance and strong leadership, in 1991, he founded the Dallas Together Forum, where he has potentially made his greatest impact. This multi-racial group of approximately 30 Dallas business leaders met monthly to discuss ways to reduce racial tension and improve minority economic opportunities. The Dallas Together Forum helped defuse racial tensions in the ’80s and early ’90s, and its impact on racial harmony is still felt today.

Bill Solomon is a dedicated community servant, activist, and leader. He is a credit to Dallas, and through his tireless work, my home town has become a better place to live. I am proud to join his family, his colleagues, Zale Corp. and The Dallas Morning News in congratulating Bill Solomon on a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 17, 2005, I was unable to vote on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 18, Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian and Lebanese people by the government of the Syrian Arab Republic (roll call 89). Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

HONORING DAVID HANNON, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SOUTH SHORE HOSPITAL ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute David Hannon who is being honored today for his outstanding work as President and Chief Executive Officer of the South Shore Hospital in Weymouth, Massachusetts.

Since Mr. Hannon’s tenure as President and CEO began in 1986, South Shore Hospital has experienced considerable growth and development, adding programs consistent with the highest quality of medical care in the region, and bringing to the community a level of excellence that was once the domain of prestigious academic medical centers in major cities. In addition, David has promoted sustained investments in hospital infrastructure, including new medical technologies and health care equipment.

These initiatives have enabled the hospital to grow from a small community facility to a regional medical center offering highly complex and sophisticated care—from acute and outpatient services to home health and hospice care—to more than 650,000 residents in southeastern Massachusetts.

In addition to caring for the medical needs of the community, he has also taken an equally strong interest in the outstanding work of the 3,000 employees who are the very heart and soul of South Shore Hospital. Through their collective efforts, South Shore Hospital has become a leading health care provider in the state of Massachusetts, with a record of clinical excellence and superb patient care. That is reflected in the hospital being the first in the Commonwealth to earn maximum recognition with commendation from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations for three consecutive review periods.

On behalf of a deeply grateful community, I want to join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives in thanking David Hannon on a job well done.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COUNTY SHERIFF OF ATASCOSA TOMMY WILLIAMS

HON. HENRY CUellar
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUellar. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Atascosa County Sheriff Tommy Williams.

Tommy Williams is an excellent example of a man who understands the needs of his community. Sheriff Williams has been serving his community since 1973, when he first became sheriff of Atascosa.

Sheriff Williams is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Master Peace Officer certificate. Williams has also served as President of the Sheriff’s Association of Texas. He is a member of the National Sheriff’s Association, Sheriff’s Association of Texas, the Peteet VWF Post and the American Legion Post.

Sheriff Williams believes that an informed public is better equipped for preventing crime in our streets and neighborhoods. As part of his duties and responsibilities, Sheriff Williams provides security for the operation of county and district courts as well as enforcing county ordinances and other state laws.

Sheriff Williams is a major resource for his county and sets a great example for his law enforcement community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the past and future accomplishments of Atascosa County Sheriff Tommy Williams.
HONORING THE OCCOQUAN WATERSHED COALITION

HON. TOM DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Occoquan Watershed Coalition (OWC) of Fairfax County, Virginia. Established in 1994, the Occoquan Watershed Coalition is a nonpartisan, broad-based citizen group that works to improve communication and expand dialogue regarding major issues concerning the Springfield District portion of this environmentally sensitive region. The coalition actively works with the Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and citizen and homeowner associations to protect and improve the environment and the quality of life of the area’s residents. Specific examples of the OWC’s efforts include their involvement in the closure of the Lorton Prison Complex and subsequent redevelopment of the area. The coalition also closely monitored numerous transportation decisions including the refurbishment of the Yates Ford Bridge and paving of Yates Ford Road.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Occoquan Watershed Coalition for 10 years of dedicated service to its community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the OWC’s past accomplishments and in wishing the program continued success in the many years to come.

HONORING CORPORAL JOHN T. OLSON

HON. HENRY J. HYDE
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Marine Corporal John T. Olson of Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Corporal Olson was killed by enemy action while conducting combat operations on 21 February in Nassir Wa Al Salam, Iraq. It was Corporal Olson’s third tour of duty in Iraq. He graduated from boot camp from the San Diego Marine Corps Depot in 2002 and was deployed to Iraq in January 2003 for his first tour. His third tour of duty was with the Alpha Truck Company, Headquarter Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

John Olson was a graduate of the Elk Grove High School, Class of 2001, graduating six months early. He was a student at Harper College in September 9/11 changed his life, he enlisted shortly afterward and was deployed to his first tour in Iraq. At the time of his death, he was driving a truck just outside his base when a bomb exploded. He died while medics tried to save him.

 Corporal Olson was a young man of 21 when he made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. Our deepest sympathies go to his beloved family—his mother Diana, his father John R, and his sister Courtney—as well as to his other family and friends. The entire community joins in mourning John’s loss.

We honor the memory of Corporal John T. Olson and the dedication and bravery with which he served our Nation and the people of Iraq.

IN HONOR OF THE WORK OF PROFESSOR JOHN MONTGOMERY

HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished work of Professor John J. Montgomery, a native Californian who was a pioneer of early aeronautics from 1882 until 1911.

Professor Montgomery made many distinguished advances in the field of aerodynamics and fluid mechanics. In 1883, he designed, constructed, and flew a glider 600 feet at Otay Mesa, California, achieving the very first controlled flight of heavier-than-air, fixed winged craft in history. This was quite a remarkable feat, as Professor Montgomery relied only upon his superb knowledge of fluid mechanics and his scientific observations of birds.

In 1893, after many more years of exploration and reflection, Professor Montgomery attended several conferences where he was able to share his findings with the world. Audiences were captivated by his writings describing fluid mechanics and his initial flight experiments. His original manuscript, aptly titled “Soaring Flight,” contained some of the world’s earliest understanding of fluid dynamics and is now housed at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC.

As Professor Montgomery’s interest and knowledge in fluid mechanics grew, he continued to explore the abilities of larger aircraft. Professor Montgomery was exhilarated by these larger models, and when inspired to fly, he retreated to the beautiful Leonard Ranch in Aptos, California, here in the 17th district.

In 1903 Professor Montgomery reached a breakthrough and built a full-scale version of his human-powered glider. He quickly began testing the abilities of his new machine by flying it like a kite, performing load carrying tests, practicing vertical drop launch, and navigating and control tests. He continued to conduct these tests and manned flight experiments in the spring and summer of 1904.

In the winter of 1904–1905, Montgomery was ready to display the skills of his new craft in a spectacular new way. Montgomery hoisted his craft high into the air with the aid of a hot air balloon. Montgomery then trained a crew of acrobats and pilots, Daniel J. Maloney, the delicate skills required to steer the aircraft. Maloney and Montgomery performed daring acrobatics, including the first ever parachute jump. The world was amazed, and Montgomery’s “aeroplane” set lasting altitude and endurance tests that served as a testament to Professor Montgomery’s genius.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the achievement of this fine gentleman on this day, March 19, 2005, the Centennial Celebration of his “Soaring Flight.” Professor Montgomery will always be remembered for his ceaseless devotion to aerospace science and his many contributions to the Santa Cruz County community in the 20th century. Though no longer with us, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize such a unique and fascinating individual.

TRIBUTE TO THE TURTLE CREEK CHORALE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the Turtle Creek Chorale, of Dallas, Texas. The TCC has performed hundreds of concerts andampilssed to over 200 singing members. The TCC performs an annual series in Dallas at the Meyerson Symphony Hall, along with traveling around the United States, Canada, and many locations in Europe. In addition to more than 100,000 hours of rehearsal, and over 50 years of benefit performances, the TCC also participates in numerous community service projects.

The TCC has many accomplishments, such as their collaboration with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation with the creation of the much respected Sing for the Cure: A Proclamation of Hope, narrated by Maya Angelou. In addition, the chorale has performed the world premier of Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle that was based on the award winning book Old Turtle. A portion of all the proceeds benefitted St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The TCC also participated in the inaugurations of Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk and Texas Governor Ann Richards.

The dedicated members of TCC have excelled in their mission to entertain, educate, unite, and uplift audiences through music distinguished for its innovation, diversity and artistic excellence. Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging the honor for the TCC’s 25th Anniversary.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SEGuin MAYOR BETTY ANN MATTHIES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize distinguished civic service of Seguin Mayor Betty Ann Matthis.

Betty Ann Matthis is a native of Guadalupe County. She graduated from Seguin High School, and attended the University of Texas at Austin. She graduated from St. Elton School of Nursing in Austin in 1976, and received her Certificate in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in 1978.
Ms. Matthies has been a strong advocate for health care in Guadalupe County. She has been involved in nursing for almost 30 years, and is a member of the American Nurses Association, the Texas Nurses Association, the Texas Organization of Nurse Executives, and the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

Betty Ann Matthies entered public service in 2000, as Seguin District 7 City Council Member. In 2004, she was elected Mayor of Seguin. In addition to her executive responsibilities, she finds time to give to a variety of volunteer organizations. She is a member of Seguin Senior Citizens, the Seguin Area Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and she is director of the Pecan Museum.

Betty Ann Matthies has done a great deal for the people of Guadalupe County, both as a nurse and a public official. Her energy and spirit of volunteerism serve as a wonderful example to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of Seguin Mayor Betty Ann Matthies.

HONORING REVEREND KENNY SMITH

HON. TOM DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Reverend Kenny Smith for his exceptional work in the Northern Virginia community as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Vienna, Virginia, and president of the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Reverend Smith received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He continued on to Virginia Union University’s School of Theology, where he graduated magna cum laude with a master of divinity degree. Reverend Smith also holds a doctor of ministry degree from Virginia Union University’s School of Theology.

Reverend Smith serves as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Vienna and as an adjunct professor at the Howard University School of Theology. He is also the immediate former moderator of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association and was elected in June 2003 as Vice President of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia.

During his time as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Reverend Smith has been a model of positive influence in the community. His congregation has partnered extensively with HABITAT for Humanity and built several houses for needy families, contributing both labor and funds for materials. Through Reverend Smith’s leadership, the church adopted Shelter House, a shelter located in Falls Church, Virginia for homeless families. First Baptist Church has provided Shelter House with toys, gifts, funding and other resources for the residents since 1990.

Reverend Smith’s dedication to his community has been recognized by many awards, including the Dean’s Pastor’s Award from the Howard University School of Theology, the Outstanding Achievement in Religion Award from the Howard University Alumni Club of Northern Virginia, the Religious Affairs Award from the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP, and the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Northern Virginia Baptist Association. He has also been honored by HORIZON Community Outreach Group, Fairfax County Public Schools, Old Dominion Bar Association, and the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission.

Reverend Smith has been an invaluable asset to the Northern Virginia community. He deserves to be commended for his work in the community and on his time as president of the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Reverend Kenny Smith for all of his efforts on behalf of Northern Virginia. He has served his community well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Reverend Kenny Smith’s accomplishments and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING SPECIALIST ADRIANA N. SALEM

HON. HENRY J. HYDE
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Army Specialist Adriana N. Salem, of Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Specialist Salem was killed on March 4, 2005 when the vehicle in which she was riding turned over near Tikrit, Iraq. She had been serving in Iraq since February 2005, when she returned from a prior tour of duty in Afghanistan for much of 2003.

Specialist Salem was a 2001 graduate of Elk Grove High School, where she played violin for 4 years in the school orchestra. Her future goal following high school was to position herself to join a Police Force, and following 9/11 Adriana enlisted in the Army to further that goal. At Elk Grove High School she is remembered as a student who loved learning, arrived early and was a leader in class and athletics. Specialist Salem was assigned to the Fort Stewart, GA based 3rd Infantry Division, 3rd Forward Support Battalion, Division Support Command.

Specialist Adriana Salem was a young woman of 21 when she made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Country. Our deepest sympathies go to her beloved family—her mother Sandra, her father Shamshoum “Sam,” and her sisters Christina, Sabrina, Al exandria, and Larissa—as well as to her other family and friends. The entire community joins in mourning Adriana’s loss.

We honor the memory of U.S. Army Specialist Adriana N. Salem and the dedication and bravery with which she served our Nation and the people of Iraq.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DUDLEY KNOX LIBRARY NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dudley Knox Library staff of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, located in my Congressional District. The Naval Postgraduate School is an academic institution focused on graduate and research programs relevant to the Navy’s interests. For the second consecutive year, staff members from the Dudley Knox Library will be honored by the Library.

Dudley Knox is recognized nationally as a leading library in government and defense information. The library has been selected from among more than 2,000 libraries operated by the federal government to receive the 2004 Federal Library/Information Center of the Year award in the competitive library/information center category.

The Federal Library of the Year Award applauds the library’s exemplary achievements throughout the past year. The award is based upon customer satisfaction and innovative services and resources. During the past year the Knox Library has created several new services, including a virtual reference service, an active instruction program that has attracted more than 2,300 users, and an added wireless internet service. The Library also provided foreign language keyboard support in response to requests from international students who comprise 25 percent of the student body.

In addition, the library added a Homeland Security Digital Library, a state-of-the-art digital library to serve the needs of a particular user group. It is cited by others as a model for its use of emerging technologies with other agencies and groups.

The Dudley Knox Library owes its success to its dedicated and skilled staff of 34. Throughout the year the entire staff has consistently made sure that library members obtain accurate information for their academic and research endeavors. It is not uncommon to find more than 10 percent of the resident student population in the Library at any one time during the day.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the Dudley Knox Library staff for their exceptional dedication and creativity in their jobs and their continual pursuit in developing an outstanding library. Out of more than 2,000 libraries and informational centers operated by the federal government, the Dudley Knox Library has deservedly earned the 2004 Federal Library/Information Center of the Year award.

IN HONOR OF DR. JACK SMITH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jack Smith for his outstanding courage and important service abroad as a physician in Afghanistan.

After being called to duty in October 2004, Dr. Smith was sent to serve in the 325th medical combat unit of the United States Army. While in Afghanistan, he spent much of his time in platoon hospitals, often near dangerous combat operations. The situation required that Dr. Smith utilize his strong skills both as a physician and as a soldier.

Dr. Smith recently returned to the United States to resume his private practice and has been welcomed with enthusiasm and admiration by family, friends, and coworkers. Born
HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCILMAN DANIEL GUERRERO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important achievements of San Marcos Councilman Daniel Guerrero, of my Congressional District.

Daniel Guerrero is a native of San Marcos, and graduated from San Marcos High School in 1995. He decided to further his education and earned his Bachelors Degree in Mass Communication/Public Relations in 2000 from Texas State University.

Mr. Guerrero was elected to the San Marcos City Council in 2004. He is actively involved in the community, giving his time to a variety of organizations that work for the public good. He has worked as City Councilman to improve city planning and the city’s quality of life.

Daniel Guerrero served as President of LULAC No. 654, and was appointed by the City Council to serve on the Arts Commission. He is an inspiration for his public service, and believes deeply in the role of the community in supporting and encouraging strong families.

Daniel currently works as a national recruiter and professional development specialist with Inroads, Inc. He is a member of the Austin Chapter of the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists, the Texas State University Alumni Association, and Omega Delta Phi Alumni Association.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel Guerrero’s career as a public servant has done credit to the city of San Marcos, and I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him.

HONORING DELEGATE JAMES H. DILLARD
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DAVIN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delegate James H. Dillard for over 21 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Delegate Dillard has served as Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly from 1972–1977 and then again from 1980–2005. Delegate Dillard represents the 41st District in central Fairfax County. He served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1957 and received a B.A. from The College of William and Mary and a M.A. in Political Science from The American University.

Delegate Dillard previously served as a Fairfax County teacher and principal and began his political career as a member of the Fairfax Education Association by working to establish a living wage for teachers in the 1960’s. His strong interest in education led him to be one of the original architects of the Virginia Standards of Learning. Additionally, he was chief sponsor of legislation placing a guidance counselor in every elementary school, and has been re-elected Delegate of the Year by the Guidance Counselors Association.

As Chairman of the Natural Resources sub-committee of the House Appropriations Committee, Delegate Dillard initiated the largest growth in parks and conservation activities in Virginia’s history. Delegate Dillard was the author and chief sponsor of the Virginia Soil and Siltation Act which protects streams and waterways from pollutants. He has also worked behind the scenes to ensure the development of the Leesylvania State Park sailing marina, one of the finest facilities of its kind on the Potomac River and has been recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Delegate Dillard on his retirement from the General Assembly. Through his long and distinguished career Delegate Dillard has touched the lives of countless Virginians. While I know that he will be greatly missed, his retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Delegate Dillard and in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 21, 2005 I was unable to return to Washington from California for consideration of and the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote 90.

COMMENDING SEA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION STUDENTS WHO AIDED IN RESCUING 49 HAITIAN REFUGEES

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, very few of life’s important lessons come from a book. That is the educational philosophy of the Sea Education Association, a unique program based on Cape Cod to teach hands-on sailing skills to young men and women. SEA offers college students a rigorous semester “overseas” that challenges them intellectually and physically by combining study of the deep ocean with the sailing adventure of a lifetime.

For 22 U.S. college students on a voyage in the Caribbean, the six-week trip would have been an adventure to remember in any case, but their encounter with a boat full of Haitians adrift at sea made it a life-changing event.

The students, studying oceanography in a program called Sea Semester at Woods Hole, Mass., were about 45 miles north of Jamaica on Wednesday deploying some research equipment from their sailboat, the SSV Corwith Cramer, when one student spotted what turned out to be a 25-foot open boat packed with 49 Haitians, including 14 children and infants. The Haitians had been heading for Jamaica, but were adrift after their boat lost its mast and rudder. Passengers on the distressed boat said they had been at sea for five days.

What to do was decided over the course of the next five hours. Through calls to the U.S. Coast Guard and Jamaican authorities, the students learned that the Corwith, a 135-foot sail-powered research vessel, was the only boat within reasonable range to rescue the Haitians. Jamaican officials said they could not rescue the group of Haitians but would receive them.

But there were risks to be considered, said John Bullard, president of Sea Semester: “Piracy is one of them. Exposure to disease is another.”

On the other hand, he said, if the research vessel “had just sailed away from 49 people . . . our students would have been scarred in other ways.”

ASSESSING THE RISKS

Under the direction of the vessel’s captain, Steve Tarrent, who leads an 11-person professional crew, calls went out to search-and-rescue experts and medical experts.

The decision was made to bring the Haitians aboard before the sun set. “We thought that if we attacked the vessel it might not survive that. We would end up losing people out of the water,” said Bullard. “We felt the safest action was to bring them aboard during the daylight when we could control some things.”

As the Haitians gathered in a sheltered spot above deck on the research vessel, the crew transferred the smaller boat, marking it with fluorescent paint to avoid sparking unnecessary search-and-rescue efforts if
The original Lyceum was a grove of trees in ancient Athens where Aristotle educated the leaders of the day on issues critical to the time. Key issues were debated and focused through the lens of enlightenment and character, so, in 1980 with young leaders recently named “Rising Stars of Texas” by Texas Business magazine, began exploring the idea of establishing a leadership confederation based on providing solutions to problems in Texas, Aristotle’s Lyceum seemed an appropriate model.

Tieman H. “Skipper” Dippel and an impressive group of founders including: Bud Shivers, Mike Hopkins, Ann Quirk, Jim Windham, John Connally, Ill, Rob Mosbacher, Ken George, Scott Bennett, and others too numerous to mention teamed with Texas Business magazine and George Kozmetsky to establish this forum which represents the diversity of the state and emphasizes constructive responses to issues critical to Texas.

The Lyceum has always endeavored to bring out the best in people and enlighten the next generation to the power of ideas. It teaches leaders to foresee they are alike rather than how they are different while still valuing the rich diversity of Texas. To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts quarterly meetings to educate its Directors and other policy makers on the important issues of our times and sends its members back into the community armed with the most up to date information available.

The Lyceum also publishes the Journal of the Texas Lyceum, a mainstay for policymakers looking for insightful and thoughtful solutions. Each issue is edited to be in keeping with the Lyceum’s philosophy of valuing differing opinions from our state’s leaders. This document was invaluable to me and my colleagues when I served in the Texas Legislature.

Twenty-five years later, the Texas Lyceum boasts over 600 alumni and 96 current directors. Judging from where Lyceum alumni can now be found it is obvious that the Lyceum has successfully met its goal of educating the next generation of leaders in Texas. The Lyceum should be extremely proud of its accomplishments.

From the courtroom to the board room, from farms and ranches to the world of high tech, from medical centers to the oil fields, from education intuitions to houses of worship, and from city councils to the halls of Congress and even the White House, Lyceum alumni are woven through the leadership structures of the state of Texas and this nation. Numerous state legislators, Members of Congress, a sitting U.S. Senator, the current Governor and even the current President of the United States are all Lyceum Alumni.

The Texas Lyceum membership reflects the rich diversity of Texas and succeeds because it seeks to identify and prominently promote the unique values of our state that bring us all together as Texans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting the over 600 men and women who have participated in the Texas Lyceum since its inception in 1980. For over a quarter century the Texas Lyceum has been committed to promoting the stewardship of the values, traditions, resources and diversity that is Texas.
HONORING LEE LEONARD FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN JOURNALISM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, a most distinguished career in journalism is coming to an end with the retirement of Columbus Dispatch statehouse reporter Lee Leonard. The dean of the Ohio Capitol press corps, Lee’s career has spanned five decades, with most of that time spent covering state government and politics in Columbus.

Lee began his journalism career with United Press International in Boise, Idaho in 1962 and spent six years with UPI in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania covering state government. He moved to Columbus in 1969 and became manager of UPI’s Statehouse bureau. Lee has covered 11 national political conventions, interviewed former presidents Eisenhower and Carter and was voted one of UPI’s 20 most respected bylines in a national survey of subscribing newspaper editors. Among his many awards and honors is a first place prize from the Press Club of Cleveland in 2001 for politics and government writing.

For the last 15 years, Lee has reported for the Columbus Dispatch. He is a living Statehouse encyclopedia who is widely respected and admired, both by his journalistic peers and those in state government. It’s not surprising that “Just call Lee” has become a common refrain at the Dispatch offices whenever a question has arisen about state government.

As a former state legislator who has enjoyed many dealings with Lee over the years, I am glad to join his family, friends and colleagues in wishing him a long and active retirement.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF REVEREND EDWARD L. HAYES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of the Reverend Edward L. Hayes.

Reverend Hayes, who was born in 1948, is a long-time Texan. He attended school in the San Antonio area and later became a graduate of the Guadalupe Seminary. In 1982 Reverend Hayes was ordained to the ministry at Shiloh. He served as Pastor at St. Frederick Baptist Church for nine years before moving to Shiloh. He served as Pastor at St. Frederick Baptist Church in October of 1994.

A dedicated and passionate member of our local community, Reverend Hayes has worked tirelessly as the MLK Commission Chairman for San Antonio and has been instrumental in the Meals on Wheels for Christian Senior Services program. His dedicated community service has helped those who need it the most.

It is important to recognize the good work of spiritual leaders in our community. The service and leadership of people like Reverend Hayes is important, especially for the elderly or less fortunate among us. Reverend Hayes spends his days providing not only community guidance, but also leading by his good example.

Reverend Edward Hayes and his wife Rice have three children and one grandchild. Rice Hayes is a local teacher at the Judson School District.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Reverend Edward L. Hayes.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES PROTECTION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce the Federal Employees with Disabilities Protection Act.

The Federal Employees with Disabilities Protection Act (FEDPA) simply states that in cases where federal jobs are contracted out, a federal employee should not lose his or her job if that employee is an individual with a significant physical or mental disability and had been hired under a program designed for individuals with such disabilities.

The FEDPA was drafted to respond to a particular situation that occurred at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, in the fall of 2003 I visited the Hospital, which has developed an innovative and successful program hiring developmentally disabled individuals from our local community to work in its kitchen and cafeteria. Many of these individuals have worked there for more than twenty years. They are hard-working, reliable, and beloved by the naval officers and staff. I was shocked to learn that the Administration had selected these positions to be subject to competitive sourcing.

In other words, these hard-working disabled employees, who had been hired under a federal program designed specifically to hire the severely disabled, would be forced to compete for their own jobs against people who were not disabled, leaving them on the verge of losing their jobs. I wrote the President about this injustice, and am pleased that as a result of our timely intervention, plans to compete these jobs have been withdrawn and these individuals have been able to keep their jobs and the sense of dignity that comes with them.

But it is unconscionable that other severely disabled federal workers might have to suffer through the same situation. The FEDPA will protect federal employees with severe disabilities from losing their federal jobs as a result of contracting out. The bill does allow for jobs to be tendered out to organizations that provide for people with disabilities. It is important, especially for the elderly or less fortunate among us, to have protections in place that support employment opportunities for the disabled.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that everyone in this body wants to protect employment opportunities for the severely disabled. I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor the Federal Employees with Disabilities Protection Act.

I am submitting for the RECORD an article that was published by The Washington Post on October 14, 2003 that describes the situation involving the scullery workers at the National Naval Medical Center.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 14, 2003]

BETHESDA, HIRING POLICY, 'COMPETITIVE SOURCING' CLASH

NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER CONSIDERS REPLACING DISABLED WORKERS

(By Christopher Lee)

President Bush’s efforts to make government run more like a business collided this month with the reality that, in many ways, government is not a business.

For the two years the Navy, as part of the Bush administration’s initiative, has been studying whether a private contractor should take over the custodial and food services provided by 21 federal employees at the National Naval Medical Center, in Bethesda.

It is just one small example of Bush’s “competitive sourcing” initiative, which requires hundreds of thousands of civil servants across the government to prove they can do their work better and more cheaply than a private contractor, or risk seeing the work outsourced.

But in one important way the 21 workers in the hospital scullery are different: All are mentally retarded, but the government is not a business, and there are no federal policies that promote the employment of people with disabilities.

To their supporters, the administration’s requirement that they prove their jobs miss the point that government employment has always been about more than the bottom line. Through various policies and laws, federal agencies for decades have gone out of their way to hire members of certain populations, from veterans to disabled people to welfare mothers and students.

“There are different goals of the federal government, and one of those goals is to get different people into real jobs,” said Representative Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), who met last month with the scullery workers at the hospital, in his district. “And this [policy] will undercut that goal.”

Bush has strongly defended “competitive sourcing,” calling it one of his most important management initiatives. He says forcing government workers to compete with private contractors for their jobs promotes government efficiency and saves taxpayer dollars—even if the jobs stay in-house. An Office of Management and Budget report said federal agencies have identified $431,820 jobs that are ripe for such competition, of which 103,412 are being evaluated for possible contracting out.

“We are confident that the savings and service benefits expected from this effort will soon follow,” Clay Johnson III, OMB’s
deputy director for management, said that day.

That provides scant comfort to employees such as Devorah Shapiro, 30, who has worked at the hospital for 10 years. She worries what will happen if she loses her job. "I like working here," Shapiro said the other day, "and I plan to work for the rest of my life." She also has a break from the first half of her eight-hour shift. "I work on the belt. I help push carts upstairs sometimes. I wash plates, pick silverware—I do everything.

Shapiro landed the job after interning at the hospital while a student at Rock Terrace School, a public campus in Rockville that serves children in grades 6 through 12. "I live in a group home and I have to pay the rent there," said Shapiro, her dark curls tucked neatly under a hairnet. "I have to work, or else they'll ask me to leave. I don't want to leave my friends. I don't want to leave my house. It's too nice.

The work isn't easy. The employees, clad in blue uniforms and white plastic aprons, remove trash and utensils from used trays as they traverse across a go-cart-like red tile floor. Many wear earplugs to block out the drone of the industrial dishwasher that cleans the dishes and trays that pass through it on a conveyor belt before the workers retrieve and stack them in neat piles. Shifts begin at 5:30 a.m. and finish as late as 7 p.m.

James, a former Rock Terrace student, has worked in the kitchen for 22 years. That is long enough for him to earn several promotions and enough money to buy a home in Hagerstown, where he lives with his parents. "I started out when I was 16 years old and just kept on working; the years just flew by," he said. "I just keep on working. When I was in school, I was pretty wild. They got me in the job... and I've been doing good ever since then.

Randy Severt, a teacher at Rock Terrace, said more than 300 students have interned or worked at the hospital since the school formed a partnership with the institution in 1979. The Navy got reliable, long-serving employees for hard-to-fill positions. The students, who earn $9.42 and $12.80 an hour, are given an opportunity to work, learn about money management and become more self-sufficient.

Providing opportunities is a long-standing goal of the federal government. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 banned discrimination against disabled people in federal hiring and services to develop affirmative action plans to hire more people with disabilities.

Most of the scullery workers joined the hospital under a federal hiring authority that allows agencies to take on people with mental retardation as provisional employees, who, due to circumsstances and disability, do not cope well with change, Severt said. "They have problems finding jobs on their own... They are treated as if they are well themselves and they don't have a lot of skills," Severt said. "Some of them can speak well. Some of them have very good social skills. But they are retarded, and they need help every step of the way. They just don't adapt.

Hospital officials say the quality of the work isn't at issue. "They're very loyal employees," said Cmdr. Martie Slaughter, the hospital's nutrition manager. "I've only been here for two years and they are like my family."

In similar competitions across the government, the in-house bid has triumphed more often than not. That has the OMB and the Office of Personnel Management that year, more than 7 percent of the 1.8 million-strong federal civil- alian workforce, according to the Office of Personnel Management. (Overall, more than 120,000 disabled people worked for the government that year, more than 7 percent of the federal workforce.)

If the hospital scullery work goes to a private contractor, it will mean a big adjustment for hospital workers who contribute well to the facility and don't have other work nearby. The government employed 1,734 mentally retarded workers in 2000, about one-tenth of 1 percent of the 1.8 million-strong federal civilian workforce, according to the Office of Personnel Management. (Overall, more than 120,000 disabled people worked for the government that year, more than 7 percent of the federal workforce.)

Mr. Davis of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on February 26 the young men of George Westinghouse Career Academy High School's basketball team, lead by coach Quitman Dillard, won the Chicago Public League's fourth City Championship in the last six seasons.

The game was never really in doubt and second place Simeon could never get any closer than eight points in the second half.

By a score of 67–52, Westinghouse clinched their place at the top of the Chicago Public League. According to press reports, one of the Nation's top high school basketball proving grounds.

The 72 team Chicago City league is reportedly used by some college coaches as a benchmark for the success of their recruiting efforts.

The Westinghouse team was powered by DeAndre Thomas, rated by many as the best high school player in Illinois. Thomas scored 29 points, snagged 9 rebounds and had three assists.

However, the victory was definitely a team effort. Westinghouse had 23 assists. Marquis Johnson scored 14 points and secured 11 rebounds. Kris Harris and Corey Caston each scored nine points. Caston had 7 assists.

Mr. Speaker, Westinghouse Career Academy, which serves the Austin, South Lawndale and West Garfield Communities, is a public school fighting its way to the top in every category.

Eighteen percent of its almost 1400 students are enrolled in honors classes. They were City champs in the C–CAP culinary arts competition. Westinghouse students have earned nine medals in Academic Decathlon competition.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I salute Westinghouse Career Academy and Principal Dr. Lona C. Bibbs.

The Westinghouse Warriors are setting an example for the entire school by now setting their sights on the next task: the State finals. All Chicago wishes them the very best.

The Westinghouse Warriors have, through their hard work, their determination and their talent, achieved a remarkable record.

Congratulations to the Westinghouse team, their coach and to each of these outstanding young athletes individually.
During his presidency, Sacramento City College co-sponsored the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. event. In 1996 inaugurated an annual Capital Shrine Bowl to raise awareness and funding for Shriners Hospitals for children. It was also under Dr. Harris’ stewardship that Sacramento City College, in partnership with Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region, expanded its Associate Degree Nursing Program and Sutter has committed more than $16 million through 2010 with the goal of educating 450 registered nurses.

Dr. Harris also helped establish Beta Eta Psi, a campus chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. He helped to create a $7,500 scholarship to pay the induction fee for students who need assistance, and was one of only 24 college presidents honored with the prestigious Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction which recognizes college presidents for outstanding efforts in promoting the goals of Phi Theta Kappa at the chapter level.

Also, a decade ago, President Harris supported the creation of Susurrus, the college literary journal, which has twice won first place in the National Community College Humanities Association Annual Literary Magazine Competition.

President Harris deserves special recognition for his unwavering support of programs that provide services and encouragement to underrepresented and non-traditional students. It is fair to say that the Sacramento City College Classified Senate would not exist without his encouragement and his support. President Harris’ views on participatory governance promoted an unprecedented level of collegiality on campus.

In 2004, directly as a result of Dr. Harris’ leadership, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges reaffirmed Sacramento City College accreditation without conditions—the highest level of accreditation a college can receive.

As a neighbor of Carl and Louis Stokes, Mr. Wynn, I rise in honor of Ms. Marvelle S. Wilson who will be 75 years young on April 9, 2005. Marvelle was born on April 9, 1930, in Cleveland Ohio. She is the youngest of three girls, born to Charles and Ruth Seaton. As a neighbor of Carl and Louis Stokes, Marvelle and her sisters worked tirelessly to achieve Carl Stoke’s victory as the first black mayor of Cleveland. Marvelle received her degree in Library Science. She worked at the Cleveland Public School as a librarian for over 20 years until retiring to a part-time position as a Librarian with Cuyahoga Community College, a position she currently holds.
Marvelle has two sons, Marvin and Leslie Holmes. Her oldest son was elected to the Maryland State Legislature in 2002 and presently serves on the Environmental Matters Committee as well as other leadership roles within the Maryland House of Delegates. Marvelle is recognized by her church, friends, and relatives as someone who continues to donate her time and talents to improving the community. I would like to add my wishes to the many friends and admirers. I wish you a happy 75th birthday Ms. Marvelle S. Wilson, and many more.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANGELINE NAZARETIAN

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Angeline Nazaretian, known by her friends and colleagues as Angie, upon her appointment as Grand Electa for the Order of the Eastern Star in the State of Alabama. Dr. Nazaretian lives in my Congressional District and is a member of the Athens Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Order of the Eastern Star is the world’s largest fraternal organization to which both men and women may belong.

Dr. Nazaretian moved to Athens in 1958 and has demonstrated a deep commitment and strong love for her adopted community ever since. She has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for young and senior individuals in the area.

She retired from Athens State University in 1999, after forty-two years as a Professor of Health and Physical Education and the Director of Alumni Affairs. During her tenure at Athens State, she worked with the faculty and students, local churches, and schools in the Athens-Limestone community to develop physical education programs in elementary and secondary level schools.

Dr. Nazaretian is a board member and volunteer for numerous community organizations. As an instructor for the American Red Cross, she developed successful programs in First Aid, Water Safety, and C.P.R. She also served as a member of the R.S.V.P. Advisory Board, where she helped organize a Fitness Program for the Elderly, which is now part of the Community Wellness program. Furthermore, Dr. Nazaretian is recognized as one of the first leaders in Alabama to develop the Special Olympics program in the State.

Mr. Speaker, for her hard work and dedication, Dr. Nazaretian is respected by all who know her. On April 2, the Athens community gathered to celebrate and honor her achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to congratulate her on behalf of everyone in North Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO FRED KOREMATSU

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Fred Korematsu, who passed away last week at the age of 86. In his early years, Mr. Korematsu experienced America at its worst, but he did so as an American at his best. Many years later, in large part thanks to Mr. Korematsu and his courageous actions, our country atoned for its mistakes, and took great steps towards fulfilling the promises embodied in this Constitution.

Fred Korematsu was born in Oakland, California on January 30, 1919. An American citizen by birth, Mr. Korematsu was nonetheless among the Americans of Japanese heritage ordered to report to World War II internment camps in May 1942. He defied the order, choosing instead to marry his girlfriend and live the life he believed that, like any other American, he was entitled to. That dream did not materialize; in May 1942 he was caught, arrested and jailed for failing to report as ordered.

Mr. Korematsu maintained that his Constitutional rights had been violated by the forced internment order, given without evidence, specific charges, or a trial. With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, Mr. Korematsu sued the government and appealed his case to the Supreme Court. He lost the landmark Korematsu v. the United States by a vote of 6 to 3. In the majority opinion, Justice Hugo Black wrote that the internment was based not on “hostility to him or his race” but on “military necessity.” In his dissent, Justice Frank Murphy spoke out against the internment in no uncertain terms: it “goes over the very brink of constitutional power and falls into the ugly abyss of racism.”

For almost forty years, Fred Korematsu’s conviction stood as a black mark of U.S. jurisprudence. In the early 1980s’ Peter Irons—a professor of Political Science at University of California, San Diego—discovered documents in which government intelligence agencies categorically denied that Japanese Americans posed any security threat whatsoever. In the Supreme Court case, the official reports exculpating Japanese-Americans were suppressed. In the course of his investigation, Irons unearthed other reports describing government claims of Japanese American spying as “intentional falsehoods.”

In light of this information, in November 1983 Judge Marilyn Patel of the San Francisco Federal District Court overturned Mr. Korematsu’s conviction. Five years later, the specter of state-endorsed racism was finally lifted for all Japanese Americans when federal law provided apologies and payments to those wrongfully relocated during the war.

There is no doubt that Fred’s case figured prominently in the quest for justice for those American citizens wrongfully interned during the war. In 1984, the Supreme Court acknowledged Mr. Korematsu’s role by awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation’s highest civilian award. Like Rosa Parks, who insists she was just tired when she took her bus seat in Montgomery, Fred Korematsu was not looking to change the world when he refused to be interned. But as Justice Frank Murphy once noted, “he did just like Rosa Parks, his defiance reverberated throughout our country, and engendered change as profound as his action was simple.

Mr. Korematsu spent his years after the war in California realizing his dream of a simple life; he worked as a Damon and raised a family. He is survived by his wife Kathryn, his son Ken, and his daughter Karen Korematsu-Haigh.

His is a life worth remembering; his defiance a testament to the potential for greatness within every ordinary American; his story a reminder of the progress our country has made, and a beacon keeping us ever hopeful for a better future. In the words of President Clinton, “In the long history of our country’s conflicts for justice, some of the greatest and ordinary citizens stand for millions of souls... Plessy, Brown, Parks... To that distinguished list, today we add the name of Fred Korematsu.”

Mr. Speaker, Fred Korematsu was an American. He saw a wrong and did what he thought was right. With simple courage, he stood up to an entire nation and demanded that it make good on its promises. He should be remembered and honored, and as common men and women not all that different from him, we should strive to walk in his footsteps, fighting for equality and justice wherever their defense is needed.

REMEMBERING MICHELLE BUL-LOCK MARRS, DEDICATED HEALTH-CARE ADVOCATE

HON. JIM COOPER
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michelle Bullock Marris of Nashville, Tennessee. Michelle Marris was the Chief Executive Officer of the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center in Nashville. She was a dedicated health-care advocate for all Tennesseans, especially the poor, uninsured and underserved. The community suffered a great loss when she passed away on Wednesday, March 16, 2005.

Michelle Marris was born on July 13, 1952 in Louisburg, North Carolina. She attended grade school in Louisburg and Raleigh, and went on to receive a Bachelors Degree from North Carolina Central University and a Masters in Education from Harvard University. Before moving to Nashville, she served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Metrolink Comprehensive Health Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she was instrumental in generating significant funding for a Women’s Center and Teen Clinic. She also dedicated much of her time to mentoring young women who were beginning their careers in healthcare.

Michelle’s numerous public service awards included the 2004 Urban Legend Award for exemplary contributions for empowering communities and changing lives; The Ladies of Distinction Incorporation Award for dedicated service to African American Women in Healthcare in 2004; the Jefferson Street United Merchants Partnership Living Legend Award in 2003; and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Public Service Award in 2000. Michelle was an official representative of the Greater Nashville Black Chamber of Commerce and she served on the Mayor’s Taskforce for Child Development, as well as the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Her most recent notable achievement was management of the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center’s million-dollar building project. Though diagnosed with a terminal illness, Michelle’s clarity and resolve to ensure continued community healthcare led to the...
Mr. Switzer turned to teaching chemistry at San Bernardino Valley College for almost forty years and was a dedicated professor, who demonstrated genuine concern for his students. He realized that many students were having difficulty understanding basic chemistry concepts that were being taught using advanced techniques. Mr. Switzer decided to create a more clear methodology for teaching chemistry by specializing in making the fundamentals of chemistry easier to understand. His passion for the subject that he taught and dedication for teaching led him to become Chair of the Department of Chemistry. In addition to being a remarkable professor, Mr. Switzer celebrated his retirement by serving his community board by setting up after-school programs for teenagers.

I join today with family and friends in paying my respects to Mr. Switzer. He was a generous and humble human being who touched the lives of many and will be deeply missed by all. He has touched my life as a friend and mentor. His inspiration and encouragement have led me to hold office and be who I am today.

HON. HENRY CUPELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many contributions that Reverend Howard Anderson has made to his community.

Howard Anderson is a native of New York City. He first came to Texas to attend the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, from which he received his Masters in Divinity.

Reverend Anderson was ordained in 1980 under the authority and order of St. Paul Baptist Church in San Antonio. He served under the leadership of Live Oak Baptist Church in New Braunfels, and began his interim tenure at Coliseum Park Baptist Church in San Antonio in October 1995.

Mr. Anderson has also had a distinguished career in military service. He served for 15 years, winning the Military Excellence Award from the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy and rising to the highest possible enlisted rank: Chief Master Sergeant.

Finally, Reverend Anderson has been a tireless volunteer and community activist. He is an active Mason, a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and a Golden Heritage Life Member of the NAACP. He serves as President of the Ministers Conference of the American Baptist Convention of Texas, and is an adjunct faculty member at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Howard Anderson has proven himself to be an outstanding leader, a committed community activist, and an exceptional spiritual resource for the San Antonio community. He has truly distinguished himself, and I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him.

TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE INTEL CORPORATION AND THE INTEL FOUNDATION

HON. DAVID WU
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the employees of the Intel Corporation and the Intel Foundation for their efforts to provide tsunami relief to the Indian Ocean region.

As we all know, on December 26, 2004, a 9.0 earthquake erupted off the coast of Indonesia. Following the earthquake, a major tsunami swept across the region, destroying lives, homes and businesses in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives, and Thailand.

Along with governments, citizens, businesses, and other private organizations around the world, Intel’s employees and the Intel Foundation mobilized and delivered critical supplies and funds that helped save lives and begin the reconstruction process.

I stand here today to applaud Intel and its employees, many of whom live and work in my district in Oregon. Without their good work, many more lives may have been lost because of the Indian Ocean Tsunami.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS PAUL SMITH

HON. JIM DAVIS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sergeant First Class Paul Smith, of Tampa, Florida.

Yesterday, President Bush posthumously awarded Sergeant Smith with our nation’s highest military honor—the first Medal of Honor awarded to a soldier since 1993. Sergeant Smith always gave his fellow soldiers, his country and his family his very best. But on April 4, 2003, Sergeant Smith showed extraordinary valor when making the ultimate sacrifice for the soldiers whose lives he saved and the values and ideals that have made this country great.

Sergeant Smith had always wanted to serve our country as a professional soldier, and when he graduated from Tampa Bay Technical High School at 18, he immediately enlisted in the Army. He went on to serve in the Persian Gulf War, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo before serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Smith was known for holding his soldiers to high standards, but on April 4, 2003, he held himself to the highest standard of all. Sergeant Smith’s unit, B Company of the 11th Engineer Battalion was constructing a prisoner holding area at Baghdad Airport when the Engineers found an under attack by nearly 100 Iraqi soldiers. Sergeant Smith immediately organized the unit’s defense and risked his own life to hold back the enemy and help move injured soldiers to safety.

Despite Sergeant Smith and the unit’s efforts, the enemy continued to fire on the compound. When faced with the call of having to pull his troops back, Sergeant Smith chose instead to take an exposed position behind a
mounted .50-caliber machine gun and fire through three boxes of ammunition before being mortally wounded by enemy fire.

The official medal citation said Sergeant 1st Class Smith’s “courageous actions helped defeat the enemy attack, and resulted in as many as 50 enemy soldiers killed, while allowing the safe withdrawal of numerous wounded soldiers. Sergeant First Class Smith’s extraordinary heroism and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Third Infantry Division ‘Rock of the Marne,’ and the United States Army.”

Paul Smith was a loving and devoted father, husband, brother and son. While the Medal of Honor will never fill the enormous hole in hearts of Sergeant Smith’s family, this honor signifies our nation’s deepest appreciation for Sergeant Smith’s heroism and sacrifice. His courage and patriotism will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MAYOR OF SCHERTZ, HAL BALDWIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal Baldwin, mayor of Schertz, Texas, for his commitment to public service.

Hal Baldwin’s life has been fully dedicated towards helping of his fellow citizens ever since he served with the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing at Naba Air Force Base during the Korean war. He continued to serve with the U.S. Air Force until 1974, when he retired from the military profession as a senior master sergeant.

After the conclusion of his military tenure, Baldwin moved back to Schertz where he served 6 years as the assistant city manager of Schertz. After his tour of duty as the assistant city manager, Baldwin was appointed to the Schertz City Council in 1983. He served his community with distinction in this post until May 1994 when the City Councilman Hal Baldwin became the Mayor Hal Baldwin.

Now, going on 11 years of service to Schertz as Mayor, Hal Baldwin also has spent 48 lovely years with his wife Barbara. They have five children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grand children, all of whom Mayor and Mrs. Baldwin love dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize the Schertz mayor, Hal Baldwin, for his dedicated public service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REVEREND LESTER J. GILLESPIE, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of the Reverend Lester J. Gillespie, Sr.

Rev. Gillespie is a native of San Antonio, Texas. He comes from a family tradition of spiritual service; he is the son of the late Rev. W.G. Gillespie and the late Sister Vernell Gillespie-Jones. He received his Bachelor and Doctor of Divinity from the Guadalupe Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as a Doctor of Divinity from the American International Theological Seminary.

Lester Gillespie has had a long and distinguished career of community service and religious leadership. He is a former Pastor of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Crystal City, Texas, the 2nd Vice President of the Ministers Conference of the National Baptist Convention of America, and Moderator of the United Fellowship Baptist District Association. He has worked to reach out to some of our State’s most troubled citizens as Chaplain of the Frio County Jail Ministry and Chairman of the Gang Intervention Committee of the Southern Baptist Association of San Antonio.

Currently, Rev. Gillespie serves as the Organizer and Pastor of the Greater Love Missionary Church in San Antonio, and National President of the Ministers United for Ministerial Development. He provides invaluable spiritual leadership to both his San Antonio church and the national Baptist community. Finally, he helps to build a future for the next generation as founder of the Rev. W.G. Gillespie and Vernell Gillespie-Jones Memorial Institute Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gillespie is one of our most accomplished and beloved community leaders, and I am proud and happy to have the chance to honor him here today.