

Task Force, Napa County Cities Mayors Council, the Association of Bay Area Government, and the North Bay League of California Cities just to name a few. As Mayor, he tackled important and complicated issues ranging from job training and employment for the disadvantaged, to flood control and improving local water supplies. He also worked ardently with the Napa County Flood Control District to protect Saint Helena from dangerous and destructive winter flooding. He is also recognized for spearheading the creation of the new Saint Helena First Station.

Mr. Speaker, Ken has even risked his own life on multiple occasions in order to protect his fellow citizens. From 1976 to 1978 he served as Captain of the Saint Helena Police Reserves. After his time with the Police Department, he selflessly devoted the next seven years to the Saint Helena Volunteer Fire Department. During his time there, his passion for protecting and serving the community earned him overwhelming respect and praise from his fellow fire fighters. As a result, he has been recognized as an Honorary Member of the Fire Department.

When not working with the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Sierra Club, or other local organizations Ken and his wife Barbie look forward to cruising through the Napa Valley on their Screaming Eagle Harley Davidson.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we thank and honor Ken Slavens for his passion, dedication, and numerous contributions to this community. We wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of Mrs. Terri Schiavo.

On March 21, 2005, S. 686 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 203–58. This was rollcall vote number 90. Unfortunately, I was out of the country on official Congressional business and unable to return for this emergency session. However, had I been present I would have voted in support of this legislation.

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#### HONORING THE LATE MR. JAMES MCDOWELL

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Mr. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. James McDowell.

Mr. McDowell was a World War II B–17 pilot who flew 31 missions over Germany. On January 13, 1945, on his second mission over Mannheim, Germany, Mr. McDowell's aircraft was hit by enemy fire. The heavy flak hit the cockpit floor and sent a piece of schrapnel through his clothing into his right calf.

The severely damaged plane was unable to return to the base, and was forced to land at

Manston England Air Base. Mr. McDowell was taken by the medics to the hospital, treated and released with a cane. The B–17 was so damaged that it never returned to action.

Last year, Mr. McDowell and his family approached me about getting his long overdue Purple Heart. Unfortunately, before I was able to present the Purple Heart to him, Mr. McDowell passed away.

Mr. Speaker, while it is unfortunate that Mr. McDowell is not alive to receive his Purple Heart, I know that his family will cherish the medal and his memory for the rest of their lives. Mr. McDowell's story is emblematic of many who served in World War II and surely places him as a member of the "greatest generation."

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#### HONORING UNDERSHERIFF CURTIS L. WATSON

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. STARK and I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of Undersheriff Curtis L. Watson to the Alameda County Sheriff's Department over the past 34 years. Curtis joined the department in 1970 and steadily climbed its ranks to become the undersheriff in 1993, providing excellent service throughout his tenure.

In 1970, Curtis had just completed a tour in the United States Air Force. On the advice of his brother, he applied for the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, where he was hired as a sheriff's deputy and assigned to work at Santa Rita Jail.

Curtis had worked his way up to the position of lieutenant at Santa Rita when he first made the acquaintance of Charles Plummer, the Alameda County Sheriff, in 1987. Curtis's competence and confidence made a positive impression on the sheriff, who would remember him when their paths crossed again a few years later.

After advancing to captain and becoming the commanding officer of the North County Jail in Oakland, Curtis took the commander's examination in April 1992, finishing with the highest score of any candidate and again catching the attention of Sheriff Plummer. By that time, Curtis had made such an impression that when the undersheriff position came open in 1993, Sheriff Plummer tapped him to fill it.

With his promotion to undersheriff, Curtis became not only the highest-ranking African American in the Alameda County Sheriff Department's 152-year history but also the highest-ranking black sheriff's official in the state of California.

Curtis served as undersheriff from 1993 until his retirement on March 24, 2005. Only one other undersheriff in the entire history of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department served longer than Curtis's 12 years in the position.

On the occasion of Curtis Watson's retirement, we would like to honor his contributions to law and order in Alameda County over the past 34 years. He has served with distinction and dedication, breaking down barriers and forging new paths. We salute him for his commitment to justice and equality in our society, and we are certain that others will draw inspiration from his accomplishments for generations to come.

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

SPEECH OF

### HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 20, 2005*

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of the first legislation introduced to protect the life of Terri Schiavo, I am pleased Members of Congress from both bodies and from both sides of the aisle were able to come together to pass legislation that gives Terri Schiavo a chance at life. S. 868 will allow members of Terri's family to file a claim in the U.S. District Court in Florida for an alleged violation of her Constitutional rights. Our Constitution states that no state shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." Yet Terri has never had her own attorney exclusively representing her interests in court. This action will finally give her that opportunity. Convicted criminals on death row are granted this right; should not an individual who has never been convicted of a crime?

I understand issues involving long-term family illness are areas in which Congress should tread softly, if at all. This is an extremely sensitive area. But the facts of this case show that Terri's parents and siblings are willing to care for her and bear her medical expenses. This is not someone in a coma or with a terminal illness. Terri is awake and is able to see and hear and is often alert and interacts with her environment. We have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable among us. Though we sometimes are led astray, every man, woman and child is precious in God's eyes. Terri's family must be given the opportunity to give her the treatment and care she deserves.

It was vitally important that Congress pass this legislation; not just to protect Terri's life, but also to avoid setting the disturbing precedent of ending human life against the wishes of someone's family and those willing to give her care. What kind of statement would we have been making to other incapacitated or disabled individuals who aren't able to survive without the assistance of medical technology or the care of others? As many have stated, when it comes to life and death decisions we must always err on the side of life.

I regret I was not available to vote for S. 868. Had my vote been needed for passage, I would have returned immediately.

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#### THE INVESTMENT TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2005

### 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 exploring bold business ventures.

After two failed attempts to start an automobile manufacturing company, in 1903, Henry Ford and 11 business associates raised