

I am proud to honor Judge Matthew J. Jasen today—an outstanding member of the bar and of the Western New York community—and I am certain that the whole of our community would join with me in offering my congratulations to Judge Jasen upon his receipt of this most recent honor in his long and distinguished career. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for offering me an opportunity to share with the House Judge Jasen's accomplishments and for allowing me this chance to join in honoring him.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND  
DREW CABLE

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished public service of Andrew Cable.

Andrew Cable graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1992, and received his Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice. Upon graduation, he decided to pursue a career in law and real estate. He has had an extremely varied and successful professional life: he currently holds a real estate license, a license as a community corrections officer, and a certification in commercial banking.

He and his wife, Rebecca, have been tireless volunteers in their community. Mr. Cable is a member of many organizations, including the Texas Justice Court Judges Association, the Texas Community Justice Task Force, the Wimberly High School Mentor Program, and the Community Emergency Response Team Advisory Board.

Mr. Cable was elected Justice of the Peace in 1998. He represents Precinct 3 of Hays County, which includes, among several other towns, Mr. Cable's home of Wimberly. His extensive education and experience make him an excellent public servant, and an important resource for his friends and neighbors.

Mr. Cable is the sort of energetic, knowledgeable leader who holds our communities together. The people of Hays County are lucky to have him as a Justice of the Peace, and I am happy to have the chance to acknowledge him here today.

IN HONOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ  
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL  
TEAM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Santa Cruz High School Boys Basketball Team. The Cardinals won the title of Boys Basketball Division III California State Champions 2004–05. Led by Coach Pete Newell Jr., the exciting victory of 67–56 against St. Augustine took place on March 19, 2005.

The Boys Basketball team has enjoyed a winning season with their record standing at 36–1. Their only loss was by one point to

Santa Margarita in a suspenseful overtime. The team set a Central Coast record with 36 season victories, the most by any team, boys or girls, in the state this season. Their accomplishments brought unprecedented firsts for the Central Coast community.

All nineteen Cardinal players were able to contribute to the successful season. After thirty years of coaching the Santa Cruz High School's Boys Basketball team and with the 2005 State Championship under his belt, Mr. Newell has opted to retire with a winning record. Throughout his career, he has led the team to victory 554 out of 880 games. Mr. Newell's diligent efforts will surely be missed by the Cardinals and the Santa Cruz community.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Santa Cruz High School Boys Basketball Team on their Division III State Championship. They have demonstrated hard work, perseverance, and relentless dedication to the sport of basketball. I extend my congratulations to the Cardinals and wish the team many successful seasons to come.

MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE A NATIONAL PRIORITY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it was barely 20 years ago when the nation first became concerned with minority communities and the disproportionate impact from polluting facilities. At that time, we referred to this problem as environmental racism. This was a term which strongly depicted the harsh reality and the disparities of environmental policy or practices affecting individuals, groups, or communities based on race or color. In the last decade, the pursuit against environmental racism has been transformed into an effort to achieve environmental justice in all socio-economic communities, suggesting that we are making wiser environmental policy decisions and engaging in a proactive approach.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. EO 12898 required that all appropriate federal agencies collect data on the health and environmental impact of their programs and activities on "minority populations" and "low-income populations" and to develop policies to achieve environmental justice. EO 12898 also requires federal agencies and their funding recipients to fully comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by conducting their programs and implementing policies in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Despite EO 12898, federal efforts to achieve environmental justice have been minimal at best. In fact, in 2002, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held hearings on the issue and concluded that due to organizational and financial limitations, "there is inconsistency and unevenness in the degree to which agencies achieved integration of environmental justice into their core mission." It also noted that "current funding and staffing levels [at federal agencies] undermine meaningful Title VI enforcement at a time when there are increasing judicial barriers to enforcing Title VI."

I come to the floor today to introduce legislation that expands the definition of environmental justice, directs each Federal Agency to establish an office of environmental justice, re-establishes the interagency Federal Working Group on Environmental Justice, and requires that EO 12898 remain in force until changed by law. My legislation represents a significant step in ensuring that current and future federal policies reflect the intentions and goals of EO 12898 and protect minority and low-income communities from poor environmental and energy decisions and policies.

I ask for my colleagues support, and urge the House Leadership to expeditiously bring this critical legislation to the House floor for consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA BUDGET AUTON-  
OMY ACT OF 2005

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, Senate Government Affairs Chair SUSAN COLLINS, Ranking Member Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, Senator DANIEL AKAKA, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, House Government Reform Committee Chair TOM DAVIS, Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN and I introduce H.R. 1629, the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2005, which passed the Senate in the last Congress, but did not pass the House. It marked the most significant change in self-government since the Home Rule Act was passed in 1973. Instead, Congress continues to essentially use the same oversight process it has used since the District was created as a functioning city more than 200 years ago. The partial budget autonomy in this bill would be a major step to improve the efficiency of the congressional appropriations process and a historic step toward full self-government for the District of Columbia.

Our bill starts as a compromise that is less than what the District and every local jurisdiction is entitled to in the management of its local funds. As important as this bill is, it is not the self-contained and more efficient procedure used by every state and locality in our country. The District's budget would still come to the Congress, but it would be discharged after 30 calendar days. This step would take the city a great distance toward functional budget autonomy and away from a congressional process that adds large dollar costs to running the city, and incalculable waste and inefficiency directly traceable to the congressional appropriations process.

Our bill would significantly streamline and untangle the process. It also would eliminate the most inefficient and demeaning impediment to the local control every other jurisdiction enjoys, in requiring that the budget of the local jurisdiction be enacted by the District and the Congress as Congress enacts the budgets of federal agencies, such as the Interior Department and the Labor Department.

For most of my service in Congress, the enactment requirement has usually kept the District from having a local annual budget with which to operate and manage the city for months at a time. The requirement of our bill