

Through the principle and diligence of William Donaldson, the agency completed the Sarbanes-Oxley rulemaking process, strengthened mutual fund oversight to alleviate potential fraud and abuse in the future, and reinforced the SEC's enforcement and examination programs. During his tenure the SEC hired 1,200 new employees and also promoted teleworking and a virtual workforce. Perhaps most impressively, under Mr. Donaldson's leadership the agency prosecuted more than 1,700 enforcement actions, the two highest annual totals in the SEC's history. During this time the SEC authorized more than \$7 billion in penalties to companies which have not played by the rules.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's financial institutions are stronger and more secure because of the due diligence of William H. Donaldson. I know that my colleagues in the House of Representatives wish him well in his future endeavors. But at this moment and at this time in our country's history he and his staff have made a great contribution.

TO WELCOME HIS EXCELLENCY
PHAN VAN KHAI, PRIME MINISTER OF VIETNAM

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, as the Republican Chairman of the U.S.-Vietnam Caucus here in the House, I rise today to welcome His Excellency Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of Vietnam.

I am delighted to be here to celebrate this historic occasion—the first official visit of the Prime Minister of Vietnam to the United States Capitol here in Washington, DC.

Thirty five years ago I served in Vietnam as a soldier. Two years ago I returned to that country searching for the remains of a fellow soldier from my district, Captain Arnold Holm, who was shot down in Thua Thien Province in 1972. Although we never found his crash site or his remains, the Vietnamese Government and people were extraordinarily generous and helpful as we searched.

And while we did not find the crash site of Captain Holm, we did find something else of great value. We found Americans and Vietnamese of courage, good will and generous spirit who believed the time had come to heal the wounds of war. As Senator JOHN MCCAIN said last night, we found people who were willing to forget the pain of the past and move forward as friends to build a better future for all our people.

When I returned from my visit to Vietnam I joined my friend and colleague LANE EVANS to create the U.S.-Vietnam Caucus. The purpose of this caucus is to build constructive relationships between our two countries; to search for and recover the remains of soldiers of both countries; to develop tourism and trade; to promote educational exchanges; and to build better relations between our people.

Sir Winston Churchill once remarked, "The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty." I am an optimist. While there is much work left to do, today is a day of optimism—a day to celebrate the progress we have made

so far and a day to let that progress encourage us as we walk together towards an even better future.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
ARTS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I rise today in support of the amendment to increase funds by \$10 million to the National Endowment for the Arts and \$5 million to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The value of Federal arts programs lies in their ability to nurture the growth and artistic excellence of thousands of arts organizations and millions of artists throughout the Nation, making a variety of arts—performance, graphic, literature, and media—available to millions of Americans.

The NEA is the Nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art—both new and established—to all 50 States, including rural communities, inner-city neighborhoods, schools, and military bases.

Support for the arts is a critical investment in the economic growth of every community in this country. The nonprofit arts industry generates \$134 billion annually in economic activity, supports 4.85 million jobs, and returns \$10.5 billion to the Federal government in income taxes.

Minnesota's 4th Congressional District alone is home to over 1,200 arts-related businesses that employ nearly 9,000 people. These businesses range from theaters, arts schools, museums, architecture firms, and advertising agencies. In addition, unnumbered individual and freelance artists call my district their home. I am proud to represent these artists and their families.

I appreciate how the arts deeply enrich Minnesota. The educational, cultural, and economic impact of the arts is very measurable. Not only do 95% of Minnesotans believe that the arts are an important or essential part of the education of Minnesota children, but 67% of Minnesotans have attended an arts activity themselves within the past year. In addition, the arts in Minnesota have over a \$1 billion economic impact annually.

Arts education has also been proven to help students increase cognitive development, inspire creativity, and enhance problem-solving skills. At a time when students are expected to take more high stakes tests, we must support the activities, such as the arts, that encourage their success.

It is with a commitment to the economic, social, and cultural well-being of my district, and of the Nation, that I rise today in support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

RECOGNIZING FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH YOUTH CHOIR—SULPHUR SPRINGS, TX

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to pay tribute to the First Baptist Church Youth Choir in Sulphur Springs, Texas. The choir is made up of 84 high school students. They have traveled to New York City, San Diego, San Francisco, Washington DC, Canada, the Bahamas, Disney World, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Mexico, and this year will be traveling to Ireland. On these trips, the choir performs concerts in areas approved by the city, usually outdoors where anyone who is walking by can stop and listen. While the students are performing, the adult sponsors talk to those who are listening and distribute free Bibles to anyone who asks for one. These high school students have been able to reach the hearts of thousands of people in a variety of places.

The youth choir began in 1981 under the leadership of the Minister of Music of First Baptist Church, Fred Randles, and his wife, Jane. The students meet every Sunday evening for rehearsal. Throughout the year, they perform at church services and at Holiday in the Park at Six Flags over Texas to help them prepare for their summer trip. During the spring, they begin to learn choreography for the songs they sing.

The choir has received certificates of appreciation from four different Presidents, the U.S. Congress, and Disney World Entertainment Industry. They have also been recognized by the Governor of Cozumel, Mexico, and the Bahamas tourist board, and they have had appearances on Good Morning America and The Early Show on CBS.

In addition to performing, the students also participate in a number of ministry activities. In Hawaii, for example, they conducted Vacation Bible School and Sports Camp, worked with people who needed help around their house, helped at homeless missions, and shared the gospel with people who live on the beach.

The First Baptist Church Youth Choir of Sulphur Springs, TX has not only been blessed by the opportunities they have had, but also by the people whom they have met and associated with in their travels, and in turn the choir has been a blessing to their church and to multitudes of people around the world. As they travel to Ireland in July, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these outstanding young people and commending them for the great work they are doing.

PIERCE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
CENTENNIAL

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a historic building in my home district in Wisconsin. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Pierce County Courthouse has served as a grand symbol of law and order to the people of western Wisconsin

since 1905. I am pleased to honor the 100th anniversary of this unique building.

As early French pioneers made their way westward, they met the pristine beauty and abundant natural resources of the Mississippi River and its surrounding lands. Where the Mississippi meets the St. Croix River, they also encountered one of the most dense concentrations of native American villages in the upper Mississippi River Valley. It was here where many decided to settle, including those who began the first permanent settlement of Pierce County at Prescott in 1827.

By 1853, the population had grown and pierce became its own county, separating from St. Croix County. Prescott served as the first county seat, but in 1861 the people of the county voted to change the seat to Ellsworth. A brick courthouse then was constructed on the site of the current building.

The present courthouse was erected in 1905 in Ellsworth, and its evolution mirrors that of the city and of the county as a whole. The first courthouse in Ellsworth was made of logs. The next was a wooden frame building. Finally, in 1869, the brick courthouse was constructed, which included a jail. By the turn of the century, however, even this building was deemed inappropriate to the image and need of the growing county, and the current courthouse was erected as a true testament of the supremacy of law and a match to the beauty of the surrounding area.

Designed out of the neoclassical and Beau arts architectural traditions, it is constructed from several types of native stone and accentuated by Tennessee marble. Inside, vaulted ceilings depict the beauty of western Wisconsin, rising to a baroque dome covering the five-story hexagonal rotunda. Mr. Speaker, this building truly brings well-deserved pride to the people of Pierce County.

On March 3, 1982, the Pierce County Courthouse was recognized by the National Register of Historic Places, honoring the courthouse as a historic place with great importance to the Pierce County community and the State of Wisconsin, as well as notable architectural significance. The residents of Pierce County also demonstrated their own appreciation for this unique courthouse when they chose to repair the beautiful building rather than allow the decapitation of its dome, a fate that often befalls historic buildings.

A centennial celebration will be held at the courthouse on June 26, 2005. I commend the people and the local public officials of Pierce County for having the vision to erect such a monument to justice, law, and beauty, and the foresight to maintain this local treasure. This building truly has been a source of pride to Pierce County for 100 years, and it will continue to do so for generations to come. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor this milestone before you today.

MELANIE SABELHAUS: A STRONG VOICE FOR SMALL BUSINESS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to recognize the outstanding dedication and leadership of Melanie Sabelhaus for her ef-

forts and accomplishments in supporting small business nationwide. Melanie became the Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration in April of 2002, and has since helped to lead the agency to greater efficiency and effectiveness while drawing attention to women-owned businesses. She is leaving her position this month to pursue opportunities in the private sector.

After 15 years at IBM, Melanie Sabelhaus learned firsthand some of the challenges that face entrepreneurs when she started a property rental and management company in 1986. Melanie's entrepreneurial drive and business savvy grew her small business into a \$10 million dollar a year enterprise. This woman is a success story.

When Melanie arrived at the SBA, she pledged to help create more opportunities for small business owners and entrepreneurs using her extensive business knowledge. She fulfilled her promise to an extent I could not have imagined. She, along with Administrator Hector Barreto and the rest of the agency, followed the President's Management agenda. SBA has made solid progress on most areas of the President's Management agenda.

Melanie was responsible for the successful implementation of the Execution Scorecard, which introduced ways to measure and rank district offices and SBA programs. The SBA also introduced the Business Matchmaking program while Melanie was in office, which has already resulted in 25,000 one-on-one meetings between small business owners and Federal agencies or large companies in the private sector.

As a woman entrepreneur herself, Melanie has given particular attention and support to women in small businesses. When she arrived at the agency in 2002, there were only 11,285 7(a) and 504 loans granted to women entrepreneurs for the entire year. In the past year, the number of loans to women has increased to over 18,000 for the two main loan programs at the agency. She is the leading advocate for women in business in this country, and has been a tremendous role model for women everywhere.

Melanie Sabelhaus has been the recipient of numerous philanthropy, business and government leadership awards, including 2002 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year Award for Maryland, awarded by the Association of Fundraising Professionals; the Artemis Award from the European-American Women's Conference; the Distinguished Women's Award from the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland; the Superstar Award from the Alzheimer's Association of Central Maryland, Maryland's Top 100 Women from The Daily Record; and the Outstanding Business Achievement Award from Ohio University.

I am sure that wherever Melanie Sabelhaus goes after her departure this month, she will make a similarly lasting mark there as she has at the SBA. Although I am sorry to see her go, my wife, Freda, and I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on four amendments to

H.R. 2863, Defense Appropriations for FY 2006, on Monday, June 20 due to a travel delay.

I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted "aye" on agreeing to the Velázquez amendment; "aye" on agreeing to the DeFazio amendment; "aye" on agreeing to the Doggett amendment; and "aye" on agreeing to the Obey amendment.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 10, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 330 the Rule governing debate on H.J. Res. 10, an amendment to the Constitution to prohibit physical desecration of the flag of the United States. I oppose the Rule to H.J. Res. 10 because the Rule allows inadequate debate on a resolution is an overly broad infringement on the First Amendment Right to Freedom of Speech. This partisan, structure rule, severely limits amendment and debate on issues that affect every American citizen—the United States Constitution and the First Amendment.

I fully support the amendment offered by the Gentleman from North Carolina, the distinguished Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. WATT. That amendment is so simple that it nearly restates the First Amendment to the Constitution—which further exemplifies the ridiculous nature of the underlying legislation we debate before the Committee of the Whole House. It is a shame that Members have to propose and offer amendments that require adherence to the U.S. Constitution—as Representatives of the United States of America, we are charged with the duty of upholding individual rights, not restrict them.

In last Congress' iteration of this very legislation, I proposed an amendment that was not made in order. My amendment to that bill was designed to protect Americans' right to express their opinions and views about government activity. My amendment stated in pertinent part, "a person shall not have violated a prohibition under that section for desecrating the flag, if such desecration is an expression of disagreement or displeasure with an act taken or decision made by a local, State, or Federal Government of the United States."

Under my amendment Americans would have retained their freedom to speak out against actions taken by local, State, and Federal Governments through desecrations of the flag symbolizing their views. Our democratic government is a government of the people. Our citizen's freedom of expression is at the very heart of our democracy. An attack on American's freedom of expression is an attack on our entire democracy. My amendment would have protected our democracy and protects our citizens.

This Rule, on the other hand, is potentially harmful to our democracy and America's citizens. Freedom of speech and freedom of expression are fundamental components of our