

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN ALFORD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carolyn Alford, an outstanding citizen and educator in Southwest Michigan. A dedicated and committed individual, Carolyn first arrived in Southwest Michigan in 1969 as a recent high school graduate from Montgomery, Alabama. She came to visit her sister for a couple of weeks and, 36 years later, she has yet to leave! Carolyn is retiring from a long, industrious term of almost 16 years with the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education.

Throughout Carolyn's tenure with the Board she wore many "hats," including President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, among others. In her leadership roles, Carolyn continually went above and beyond the call of duty and could always be found outside of the office talking to parents and students regarding their concerns, attending open houses, or representing the board at graduation ceremonies, retirement dinners, awards presentations and, especially, sporting events.

However, Carolyn's community work didn't stop with the Kalamazoo Public Schools. As someone who always felt a "calling to be in public service," she is very active in her church, has served in numerous leadership positions with the NAACP, and tirelessly participates in the Northside Association for Community Development, YWCA Domestic Assault Program, the Douglas Community Association, Kalamazoo Northside Non-Profit Housing Corporation and many other organizations throughout Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan. All this while working full time as an administrator at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

We in Southwest Michigan are forever indebted to Carolyn Alford for the good she has done in our community. Her lifelong contributions to students and families throughout the Kalamazoo area have had great impact and will never be forgotten. I wish Carolyn and her family all the best in retirement, and I sincerely hope she enjoys the extra time with her grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN AND WILLIAM F. INMAN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Joan and William F. Inman of El Cajon, California. On June 25, 2005, Joan and William will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Bill and Joan met in 1952, married on June 25, 1955, and their first daughter JoAnn was

born the following year. As Bill went on to graduate from Pennsylvania State University in 1958, the couple decided to pursue the promise of employment and a chance for a new life together in San Diego, California. Over the next few years, Bill and Joan were blessed with a son, William F. Jr. and two more daughters, JoRae and Jodi.

While raising his family and beginning a career as a materials engineer at Rohr Industries, Bill continued his education at San Diego State College. During this time, Joan continued her service as a full time mother and worked as an emergency room and maternity ward nurse at Grossmont Hospital. Both Bill and Joan retired with more than 75 years of service to their community and nation.

Bill and Joan now fill their time with friends and family, enjoying golf and being a vital part of the lives of their four grandsons, Jeb, Jayme, Jonathan and Willie. Throughout their lives, Joan and Bill have faced life's challenges with a positive attitude and determined spirits, and have raised their children to do likewise. I wish Joan and Bill many more years of happiness together and in anticipation of their fiftieth anniversary, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this milestone.

CONGRATULATING MARGERY A. UFBERG ON THE OCCASION OF BEING THE RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED HEBREW INSTITUTE'S ANNUAL SHOFAR AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Margery A. Ufberg, of Kingston, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of her being named recipient of the United Hebrew Institute's Annual Shofar Award.

Just as the Shofar has been used for millennia to sound the arrival of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, the Shofar Award symbolizes the calling together of the community to recognize and praise the good works and accomplishments of an individual.

It is particularly fitting that Margery Ufberg is the recipient of the Shofar Award this year. She is well known throughout the community as a tireless advocate for the United Hebrew Institute and for the Wyoming Valley community in general.

Mrs. Ufberg's contributions toward refurbishing the UHI library and its kitchen and classrooms have been invaluable.

A teacher by profession, Mrs. Ufberg also serves on the board of directors and the Executive Board of the United Hebrew Institute. She also serves on the board of directors and the board of trustees at the Jewish Community Center.

She is a past board member at Ecumenical Enterprises, the Jewish Federation of Greater Wilkes-Barre, the Friends of Hospice St. John and Peoples National Bank.

Mrs. Ufberg remains active with Hadassah, Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School, United Jewish Campaign, Osterhout Library, Junior League of Wilkes-Barre and B'nai B'rith Women Green Circle Ethnic Diversity Program.

She has also given freely of her time to support the Camp Committee, Teen Committee, Soccer Committee, Basketball Committee and the Purim Carnival Committee for the benefit of children and teens at the Jewish Community Center.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Margery A. Ufberg on this notable occasion. Mrs. Ufberg's contributions have succeeded in raising the quality of life in the Greater Wyoming Valley and her dedication is an inspiration to all of us.

RECOGNIZING PAUL BERLANT OF WINDSOR, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Berlant who is retiring after seven years as Town Manager of Windsor, California.

During his tenure, the Town of Windsor experienced a renaissance. The Town's old downtown area was redesigned as a vibrant and thriving mixed use neighborhood. The Town Green was central to this redevelopment and became the focal point for a farmers market, Movies on the Green, holiday tree lighting, summer concerts, 4th of July celebration and other seasonal festivals.

This was consistent with Mr. Berlant's vision for orderly development throughout the town. The single-family homes in the Vintage Green subdivision use recycled water for irrigation. Keiser Park was expanded by leveraging federal, state and local grants.

Mr. Berlant also oversaw the development of the Shiloh Commercial Center, the town's new corporation yard, various housing projects and the opening of the Arcata Lane/Highway 101 interchange.

He will be remembered as a skilled negotiator who treated everyone fairly and with respect and as someone who was able to interpret the Town Council's vision that, as the local newspaper said, "turned a vast vacant lot into a thriving urban center."

Mr. Speaker, Paul Berlant has spent 33 years working for cities throughout California. He and his wife, Carol Ann, plan to spend time with their new grandchild and traveling. It is appropriate that we honor him today for his public service and to wish him well on his retirement.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on June 22, 2005, I was unavoidably detained on official business in my Congressional District.

On rollcall vote No. 293, if present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 294, if present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 295, if present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall votes Nos. 296 and 297, if present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall vote No. 298, if present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall votes Nos. 299, 300, 301, and 302, if present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 303, if present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY 1LT
AARON SEESAN

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Army 1LT Aaron Seesan, a constituent from my district who died on May 23rd from injuries he received in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Aaron was a graduate of Washington High School in Massillon, Ohio and of the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY.

It takes an exceptional young person to be nominated for military academies. Aaron had an outstanding record in high school and in the Merchant Marine Academy and continued to make a difference as he continued his service to his country and fellow man.

After graduation he chose to join the Army. During his service in Iraq his vehicle came upon an incendiary explosive device. In this distressful time while he suffered from injuries, he directed help to others showing his sense of responsibility and duty.

The community fondly remembers Aaron as a young man who always strove to make those activities he was involved in the finest they could be. Aaron made a difference to others his age both in the military and in the community. He was a true role model and hero.

His memory will live on through the Aaron Seesan Memorial Garden at Lincoln Park in Massillon Ohio. In addition, the Aaron Seesan Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Stark County Community Foundation will serve as a tribute to his service and dedication.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES C. BARR

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charles C. Barr, former president of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau.

On June 17, 2005, Charles Barr died of cancer at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz at the age of 81. Mr. Barr is survived by his wife Patricia; daughters Candy, Katherine, and Patricia; and his sons Chuck, Peter, Jeffrey, and Jonathan.

Charles C. Barr was born in Natick, MA on January 23, 1924. He was a third generation carnation grower, and pioneered the commercialization of miniature carnations in the United States. He joined the Navy and served our country in the capacity of a pilot on an aircraft carrier during WWII. In 1963 he moved his wife and seven children to Watsonville, CA and became a valuable member of the community.

Mr. Barr served as the President of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau from 1968–69 as well as the president of the American Carnation Society. Mr. Barr also resided on the Pajaro Dunes Homeowners Association Board of Directors, and was the president of the Watsonville Rotary Club as well as the vice-president of the Watsonville Bank of America.

Mr. Speaker, I am joined by Mr. Barr's family and friends to honor his life and contributions to the community. His leadership and love of the community serve as a model for all citizens.

TRIBUTE TO THE JIMMY CARTER
WORK PROJECT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the Jimmy Carter Work Project and the thousands of volunteers who joined together this week to help build Habitat for Humanity houses for the city of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Across the State of Michigan, over 4,000 volunteers are building a total of 200 houses in local communities. In Benton Harbor alone, 1,700 volunteers from around the world have built 20 new houses, bringing not only large smiles on the faces of 20 families, but the reward of success after hours of hard work. The hands-on approach that the Jimmy Carter Work Project takes towards homeownership is both invaluable and inspiring. Homeowners must donate about 300 hours of their own time toward building their own homes. This partnership of volunteers working side by side with those in need is truly encouraging to all of us who want to bring the opportunity of homeownership to every family.

Homeownership is fundamental to improving and preserving the quality of life for the folks of southwest Michigan and beyond, and is truly the cornerstone of the American Dream. Taking pride in our neighborhoods and homes is a necessity to building successful communities and the work that Habitat for Humanity has done for countless individuals is truly inspiring.

This year's Project in Michigan is the second largest in Jimmy Carter Work Project's 22 year history and the first time that Habitat has organized to build homes throughout an entire state. Over the past several years Benton Harbor has been through many challenges and obstacles, but the coming together of folks

throughout our community to work to bring the American Dream to our neighbors is what makes both the Jimmy Carter Work Project and southwest Michigan extraordinary.

I look forward to any opportunity to continue this partnership with Habitat for Humanity in its efforts to build more decent, affordable housing for all.

I want to once again commend everyone who has worked and continues to work to make homeownership a reality for people in need. This is a great day for our communities in Michigan and I want to once again commend both Jimmy Carter and Habitat for Humanity for turning dreams into reality.

TRIBUTE TO WALLY A.
"PREACHER" HEBERT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and career of Wally A. "Preacher" Hebert. Wally is holder of 4 pitching records for the San Diego Padres and on June 25, 2005, he will be inducted into the Pacific Coast League San Diego Padres Hall of Fame.

Born in Lake George, Louisiana in 1907, Wally's talents and interests were evident at a very early age. Aside from gardening, hunting, and fishing as a child, he became an expert golfer, playing close to par with a 2 iron and a putter. He enjoyed athletics and when it came to football and baseball, Wally excelled over his peers.

At Lake Charles High School, Wally was an all-state football star and had been offered a scholarship at Louisiana State University when he caught the eye of a major league baseball scout. In his first professional game in Springfield, Missouri, he got off the train from Louisiana, went to the ballpark, and pitched a 22 inning complete game victory.

In 1931, Preacher, as he was also known, was called up to spring training for the St. Louis Browns and remained with the team throughout the rest of that season. As a lefthander, he began to attract attention with a variety of curve balls at various speeds and arm motions. His first major league appearance came that year against the New York Yankees where he faced Babe Ruth with the bases loaded and one out. The Babe hit into an inning-ending double play.

That season, Preacher won six games and was the only pitcher in the major leagues to beat the New York Yankees and the world champion Philadelphia Athletics twice in one season. His finest game that year included 8 shut out innings against the Yankees—striking out Lou Gehrig and Ruth three times. Unfortunately, St. Louis lost the game by one run after Preacher exited the game.

Over the next two seasons in St. Louis, Preacher pitched in relief, battling a shoulder injury. He was then sold to the Hollywood Stars which after one season, moved to San Diego and began playing at Lane Field. During seven seasons with the San Diego Padres, Preacher delighted fans with a dominating presence and pinpoint control.

While with the Padres, Wally and his bride Bobbie moved out to California where they

had their first two children, Hillene and Linda. Of all their children, Hillene had the ability to do what the opposition could rarely accomplish; knocking her father out of a game. Preacher was pitching when Hillene's birth was announced, at which point he collapsed on the mound.

His finest season as a Padre came in 1942 when he established records for most complete games pitched, batters faced, and innings pitched. During this season, Preacher finished every game he started.

In 1943, Preacher was traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates and at the end of the season, he faced a turning point in his career. While his arm was as strong as ever, his oldest daughter was beginning first grade and America's involvement in World War II made domestic travel difficult. When Bobbie indicated that the family would not be traveling to Pittsburgh that season, Wally chose his family and his beloved Louisiana over baseball. He turned down a contract worth \$10,000 to earn 35 cents per hour in a wartime synthetic rubber factory.

After settling in Westlake, Louisiana, Wally and Bobbie had three sons and he resumed his life of hunting, fishing, and gardening while working in a nearby Firestone factory. He devoted himself to his family after his retirement from Firestone in 1965 and remained active as an outdoorsman until his death in 1999.

Today, Wally is survived by his beloved Bobbie, five children, numerous grandchildren. The legacy of Wally "Preacher" Hebert will long be remembered throughout the San Diego community and I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to his life and long list of accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Polish National Alliance which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

Founded in 1880 in Philadelphia to unite the needs of the people of Poland who had emigrated to the United States, the Alliance has remained faithful to that mission.

The PNA was founded to provide financial, social and leadership opportunities for a new group of Americans.

Since its founding, the PNA has contributed countless volunteer hours and raised significant charitable donations for community service projects and to encourage patriotism.

The PNA continues to support ethnic heritage programs that benefit its members and the community at large.

The PNA is one of 75 fraternal benefit societies that belong to the National Fraternal Congress of America.

The influence of Polish immigrants is a prominent part of the heritage of our community.

Let us remember their contributions and let us honor the women of the PNA who, for gen-

erations, have maintained the traditions and customs of their ancestors and who have given much service to the communities in which they lived.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Polish National Alliance now celebrating 125 years of service. This great nation is far better due to the contributions made by their members over the past century and a quarter.

RECOGNIZING JOHN GURNEY OF SONOMA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John P. Gurney who is retiring this month after 12 years as the Chief of Police for the City of Sonoma, California.

How a police department in a small town interfaces with the community has always been central to Chief Gurney's policing philosophy. During his tenure in Sonoma, Chief Gurney successfully integrated the concept of community policing into the department by re-directing resources from administration to patrol officers. He established the Sonoma Police Department Community Advisory Council to provide public, input and feedback on department policies, programs and training. He then facilitated a department-wide workshop identifying community expectations and developed a strategic plan to meet those expectations. A departmental mission and value statement was developed to incorporate the community's vision.

He also established the Sonoma Valley Interagency Council for Youth and Family. This organization consists of government and non-profit youth and family service organization and is charged with reducing the risk factors to our youth and their families. In acknowledgment of his work with young people, he received the 2001 Sonoma County Office of Education's Youth Award.

On a countywide basis, Chief Gurney also participated in the development, acquisition and implementation of a \$12 million Computer Aided Dispatch, Records Management and Mobile Computing/Field Reporting system and chaired the Oversight Committee for this project.

Professionally, he has served as President of the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Chiefs Association, Chair of the Santa Rosa Training Center Advisory Committee, member of the California Peace Officer's Association, law enforcement representative to the California Judicial Council Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee, member of the California Police Chief's Association, the California Police Chief's Association representative to both the Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Statewide Public Safety Advisory Committee and the Commission on Peace Officer and Standards and Training Advisory Committee.

As a member of his community, Chief Gurney served on the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Boys and Girls Club, and was in the inaugural class of Leadership Sonoma Valley.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Gurney and his wife Phyllis own a small vineyard in Sonoma and they intend to enjoy the good life upon retirement. It is appropriate that we commend him for his many years of public service and wish him well on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. EDWIN AND MRS. MARY ELLEN HENDERSON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a family from Virginia's Eighth Congressional District whose recognition is long overdue. For every person of national recognition there is a local leader that accomplishes much under the shadow of their more recognized peers. Two of these people are Dr. Edwin and Mrs. Mary Ellen Henderson, civil rights pioneers from Northern Virginia who have worked for social justice for nearly 50 years. The couple, who were married for 65 years, worked tirelessly for the education of African American children. They also chronicled the early civil rights struggles in letters to the editor published around the country and energized their community in Northern Virginia to join the Nation's civil rights movement.

The Hendersons viewed education as one of the primary sources of human progress, and they both served their communities as teachers. Mary Ellen filled the difficult position of teaching the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grades in the local segregated schoolhouse. The two-room facility overflowed with children, and it was heated by a potbelly stove and that lacked running water. Despite these difficult conditions of segregation, Mary Ellen taught with vitality and enthusiasm. Not satisfied with her inequitable surroundings, Mary Ellen worked to improve the conditions around her. By her own measure, she launched a study into the disparity between white and black schoolhouses, focusing on the learning environment and resources. Mary Ellen's work led to the formation of an interracial committee in Fairfax County, and ultimately the decision of the school administration to build the first new school for African American children in the area.

Dr. Edwin Henderson also dedicated his life to education. He focused his efforts on the promotion of interscholastic athletics and was certified as the first African American man to teach Physical Education in public schools. An avid basketball player himself, Edwin is credited with introducing the sport to the Washington, D.C. area as well as promoting athletics within the surrounding African American community. He organized the Interscholastic Athletic Association for black schools, the Public School Athletic League, and the Eastern Board of Officials for African American athletes. In addition, Edwin authored several books that spread awareness about the emergence of black sports. His groundbreaking works included "The Official Spaulding Handbook," "The Negro in Sports," and also "The Black Athlete: Emergence and Arrival." Edwin was a powerful force behind the positive recognition accorded to these athletes. As a result of his efforts, Edwin was admitted as a

charter member to the Black Athletes Hall of Fame.

The Hendersons also endeavored to improve the rights of African Americans in their community. In 1915, their hometown of Falls Church, Virginia, proposed to segregate all African Americans to a designated living area. The couple vehemently challenged the law by uniting people under the Colored Citizens' Protective League (CCPL). The CCPL succeeded not only in defeating the segregation ordinance, but also in advancing numerous civil rights endeavors. The organization later became the first rural branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in which the couple was highly active.

The Henderson's contributions were extensive and continued to be felt throughout Northern Virginia. Although they coveted no recognition for themselves, these extraordinary individuals not only affected their community, but also helped shape the Nation. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor these great Americans today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was in my congressional district yesterday participating in events in support of the 179th Airlift Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard, which has been slated for closure by the Department of Defense. As a result, I was absent from the floor during yesterday's rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted against the Watt amendment to H.J. Res. 10, in favor of tabling each of the two appeals of the ruling of the chair on the motion to recommit H.J. Res. 10, in favor of final passage of H.J. Res. 10, in favor of ordering the previous question on H. Res. 334, in favor of H. Res. 334, against the Baird amendment to H.R. 2985, against the Jo Ann Davis amendment to H.R. 2985, against the Hefley amendment to H.R. 2985, against the motion to recommit H.R. 2985, and in favor of final passage of H.R. 2985.

RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT
GENERAL RICHARD V. REYNOLDS

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to United States Air Force Lieutenant General Richard V. Reynolds for his 34 years of distinguished and honorable service in the U.S. Air Force and to our country.

On August 1, 2005, General Reynolds will be retiring from his current position as Vice Commander of the Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force, Ohio. The command conducts research, development, test and evaluation, and provides acquisition management and logistics support necessary to keep Air Force weapon systems ready for war.

This high level of research and development is critical to our Nation's defense, and requires

effective leadership and experience. It is those qualities that General Reynolds has demonstrated during his service at Wright-Patterson AFB, and throughout his military career.

General Reynolds received his commission as a Second Lieutenant at the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1971. During his career, he has served as a pilot training instructor, a combat-ready bomber air crew commander, and as an experimental test pilot. He has also commanded the 4952nd Test Squadron and has served as a program director for several strategic and tactical aircraft acquisition programs, including the B-2 Spirit.

In addition, General Reynolds was the Air Force Program Executive Officer for Airlift and Trainers at the Pentagon, commanded the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB California, and, prior to his current position, was Commander of the Aeronautical Systems Center located at Wright-Patterson AFB. He is also a commanded pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours in 60 types of aircraft.

Throughout his distinguished career, General Reynolds has received military awards for his service, including: the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

In closing, I commend General Reynolds for his honorable and distinguished service to our country over the years, and I send my best regards to him and his family as he embarks on this new chapter in his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I was detained and unable to cast a vote on H.R. 2985, the Legislative Appropriations Act for FY06, on June 22, 2005. I was in Brownwood, Texas attending the funeral of Lance Corporal Mario Castillo, a Marine from the 11th District of Texas. Please let the RECORD reflect that had I been here, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE WORK OF THE
SENTINELS OF FREEDOM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Sentinels of Freedom for the work they do in support of our troops.

This group of business and community leaders in the San Ramon Valley have worked together to help a wounded soldier returning from Iraq. This group, led by Mike Conklin of San Ramon, California has created a scholarship that will provide housing, a handicapped-equipped van, education, and job training and placement for a soldier who lost both his legs in Iraq. For the next four years, a team of mentors will help with his transition from the military back into civilian life.

I am deeply supportive of the tireless work Mr. Conklin has done in support of the brave

men and women of our Armed Services. Along with the Blue Star Moms, SBC Communications, Shapell Industries of Northern California, the community of San Ramon, California, the United States Army and Walter Reed Army Hospital, the Sentinels of Freedom have developed a great program to support our troops. This group is a tremendous inspiration and an example of the best spirit and values the American people have to offer.

Please join me in thanking the Sentinels of Freedom and encouraging communities and businesses around the country to follow their lead. The brave men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan give so much for our Nation and deserve nothing less than our complete support as they transition back to civilian life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 22, 2005, due to a death in the family, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 293, on agreeing to the Watt amendment to H.J. Res. 10; for rollcall vote No. 294, on moving to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair; for rollcall vote No. 295, on moving to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair; for rollcall vote No. 296, on final passage of H.J. Res. 10; for rollcall vote No. 297, on ordering the previous question to H. Res. 334; for rollcall vote No. 298, on agreeing to H. Res. 334; for rollcall vote No. 299, on agreeing to the Baird amendment to H.R. 2985; for rollcall vote No. 300, on agreeing to Representative JO ANN DAVIS's amendment to H.R. 2985; for rollcall vote No. 301, on agreeing to the Hefley amendment to H.R. 2985; for rollcall vote No. 302, on agreeing to the motion to recommit H.R. 2985; and for rollcall vote No. 303, on final passage of H.R. 2985.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 293, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 294, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 295, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 296, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 297, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 298, "no" on rollcall vote No. 299, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 300, "no" on rollcall vote No. 301, "no" on rollcall vote No. 302, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 303.

COMMENDING THE FEDERAL TRIO
PROGRAMS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an important group of Federal Education Programs known as the TRIO programs. In short, TRIO programs help to support and prepare low income students for post high school education.

TRIO is funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill that this body passed earlier today. I was proud to vote for this bill that included full funding for all TRIO programs. Two of the TRIO programs,

Upward Bound and Talent Search had been slated for elimination in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2006 budget request. As the co-chairman of the Congressional TRIO Caucus and a member of the Appropriations Committee, I worked with my colleagues on that Committee to make sure that these programs were restored to Fiscal Year 2005 funding levels.

I have received countless emails, letters and faxes from constituents in my district and other districts around the country urging me to spare Upward Bound and Talent Search. It is easy to understand why so many were concerned about the potential end of these two valuable TRIO programs that help over 3,500 low income Idaho students prepare for college. Parental income is one of the top predictors of whether or not a child will succeed in college or even go to college in the first place. Upward Bound and Talent Search help students exceed societal expectations and predictions by providing tutoring in college preparatory classes and help in navigating through the sometimes daunting maze of required forms and tests known as the college admission process.

Like so many other members of this House who joined me in the effort to save TRIO, several of whom are TRIO graduates themselves, I fully understand the worth and importance of these programs, and I will do everything I can to ensure that these programs continue to receive funding for many years to come. While the cost of Upward Bound and Talent Search may seem an unnecessary expense to some, I would ask them to consider the long term savings in public assistance generated by graduates of TRIO who go on to earn college degrees and become productive, self sustaining citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the over 900,000 students currently enrolled in TRIO programs nationwide, I would like to thank and commend all those involved in the TRIO programs for a job well done. You are truly changing lives and making the impossible a reality for many of our Nation's students.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, I missed rollcall vote 296 regarding a proposed amendment to the Constitution authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. I fully regret not being able to participate in the vote. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a small Federal program that is

often overlooked as a way to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, often referred to as JWOD, provides more than 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have other severe disabilities with the job skills and training necessary to receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life. The JWOD Program empowers people with disabilities who traditionally face an unemployment rate of 70 percent and rely heavily on social programs such as welfare and SSI.

National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH daily are creating new employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities, along with local nonprofit organizations in the State of Michigan. Demonstrating an excellent Federal-private sector partnership, NISH, National Industries for the Blind, and local nonprofits such as Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan, Inc. enhance opportunities for economic and personal independence of people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities, primarily through creating, sustaining, and improving employment.

On behalf of people with disabilities, I rise to salute the important contributions of JWOD and Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan, Inc. to the city of Kalamazoo and the community as a whole; and hereby commend all persons who are committed to and work towards enhancing employment opportunities for people with visual and other severe disabilities.

TRIBUTE TO CYRIL WRABEC

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the fine accomplishments of a fellow Missourian and Sigma Chi brother, Mr. Cyril Wrabec.

Mr. Wrabec will be graduating in May 2005 from the University of North Dakota's School of Aerospace Sciences with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Summa Cum Laude, in Commercial Aviation. He has been an exemplary student and has been named to the President's Honor Roll five times. While at the University of North Dakota, he spearheaded the re-establishment of the UND Flying Club.

Mr. Wrabec is a brother of the Beta Zeta chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity at the University of North Dakota. During his time as a brother, he has served two terms as president of the fraternity.

Community work has been an important part of Mr. Wrabec's life. In his home state of Missouri, he provided an aviation course for school children and has been an active volunteer at his church. Also, he is a Certified Homeland Security Volunteer Pilot.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wrabec is a fine, young man, and I know my fellow Members of the House will wish him all the best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. CARL
"BRONKO" STANKOVIC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Carl "Bronko" Stankovic, a proud World War II veteran, and the men of the Eighth Armored Division Association. Bronko is also a dear friend of mine.

Bronko has recently brought to my attention an inspirational poem written by A. Lawrence Vaincourt, a newspaper columnist and Canadian World War II veteran himself, in 1987. This poem speaks powerfully about the aging of our heroes. The emotions it represents rings true with Bronko and many other veterans that this poem has touched in its years of existence.

It is with great pride that I submit an excerpt of the poem, Just a Common Soldier, as a tribute to the memory of all our World War II veterans:

JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

(A SOLDIER DIED TODAY)

(By A. Lawrence Vaincourt)

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair
was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories
of the past.

Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds
that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were
heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his
tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they
knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill
has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier
died today.

He was just a common soldier and his ranks
are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may
need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict, then we
find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that others
often start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to
hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the
ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper
that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier
died today.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this poem inspires my
distinguished colleagues as it has inspired me.

The Greatest Generation has given so much
to younger generations that I am happy to
give something back by submitting this poem
to the House of Representatives. I would ask
my colleagues to join me in honoring World
War II veterans with a moment of silence.

IN RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE OF U.S. ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MATTHEW LOUREY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize and honor the life of U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Matthew Scott Lourey.

Matt Lourey, son of Minnesota State Senator Becky Lourey, was an Army helicopter pilot under the command of the Tikrit-based 42nd Infantry Division. He died May 26, 2005, from injuries received when the Kiowa Warrior helicopter he was piloting was shot down in Baqouba, Iraq, while he was serving his second combat tour in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Matt was born July 28, 1964, in Laurel, Maryland, grew up in Kerrick, Minnesota, and graduated from Askov High School in 1982. He had always wanted to be in the military as a child, and after graduating from high school, joined the U.S. Marine Corps. When he was not able to fly for the Marines, he left the military, trained as a private pilot in northern Minnesota, and joined the Army as an officer. Matt Lourey flew Kiowa reconnaissance missions in Bosnia and elsewhere prior to going to Iraq. Matt was preceded in death by his brothers, Jay and Fernando.

Matt Lourey grew up in a large, loving family, with 11 brothers and sisters, many of whom were adopted, in northern Minnesota. Matt was Sen. Becky and father Eugene Lourey's second son.

Three years ago, Matt Lourey married a fellow soldier, Army Capt. Lisa Lourey. They lived in Lorton, Virginia.

There have been 22 members of the military from Minnesota who have died in Iraq since 2003. I honor Matthew Lourey for his courageous service to this country, and his commitment to protecting our freedom.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE AVALON

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to musician, vocalist, actor, community advocate and friend Frankie Avalon.

Frankie Avalon is a show business icon. In some ways he is also a show business anomaly. Frankie Avalon has been the loving husband of 43 years to Kathryn, and the devoted father to his eight children, four boys and four girls. He is also a firm believer in giving back to his community. A resident of the city of Thousand Oaks in my district, he will exhibit that quality once again when he appears as Master of Ceremonies at the Awards Dinner following Monday's 2nd Annual Michael DiRaimondo Foundation Golf Tournament and Silent Auction.

U.S. Army medic Michael DiRaimondo died when his medical helicopter crashed in Iraq after being hit by a rocket-propelled grenade in January 2004. His parents, Tony and Carol, launched the foundation to provide scholar-

ships to those who wish to become paramedics, a dream of their son. Frankie Avalon's participation in the event has raised its profile and has helped ensure the event was sold out.

Frankie Avalon began his show business career as a child growing up in Philadelphia, where his father inspired in him a love of playing the trumpet. By the time he was 12, Frankie Avalon was performing on national television. He also formed a dance band with another young musician, drummer Bobby Rydell. His first hit, "De De Dinah," which he performed on Dick Clark's "American Bandstand," sold a million copies just as he was turning 18. More million-record hits followed.

In 1960, Frankie Avalon began his movie career when he co-starred with Alan Ladd in "Guns of the Timberland." In 1963 he and Annette Funicello began their series of surfing movies, "Beach Party," "Muscle Beach," "Beach Blanket Bingo," and several others.

Frankie Avalon continued to record during his movie-making years and in the summer of 1985 teamed up with Bobby Rydell and Fabian on a successful 50-city tour as the "The Golden Boys of Bandstand." In 1987 he reunited with Annette Funicello to parody their earlier beach movies with "Back to the Beach."

Frankie Avalon continues to perform in nightclubs and concerts, often with two of his sons, one who plays guitar and one who plays drums.

Frankie Avalon's music and movies has always presented him as a clean-cut, all-American boy. In his case, however, it is not a Hollywood facade. Frankie Avalon's success in the entertainment industry is equaled by his success as a husband and father and his success in giving back to his community.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in thanking Frankie Avalon for decades of entertainment and in paying tribute to him for retaining and promoting the American values we all hold dear.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN RONALD DAVIS, U.S.C.G.

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, for more than 20 years Ronald Davis has served Tennessee and the Nation as a member of our Armed Forces and a dedicated District Attorney General for the 21st Judicial District.

And today, looking back on those years of faithful service, it's fair to say that we in Tennessee have been truly fortunate to count Ron as a friend and neighbor.

It is with pride and thanks that we recognize Captain Ronald Davis as he retires from the United States Coast Guard. Ron's service history is truly inspiring. He served in Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Allied Force, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The commendations and medals awarded to Captain Davis are simply too many to mention here, but among those he's received is the prestigious Defense Superior Service Medal.

Williamson County and middle Tennessee are thankful Ron will continue his work as Dis-

trict Attorney General, and we look forward to many more years of his leadership in our civic and community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of men and women like Ron that America remains strong and free. God bless Ron and his family.

APPLAUDING ASSISTANCE TO MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, "Operation Helping Hand," a program of the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), was recognized for its efforts to assist the families of service members wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

The James A. Haley VA Medical Center is one of four designated polytrauma centers within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Since the start of OIF/OEF, these trauma centers have served as regional referral centers for individuals who have sustained serious disabling conditions due to combat. Patients treated at these facilities may have a serious Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) alone or in combination with amputation, blindness, or other visual impairment, complex orthopedic injuries, auditory and vestibular disorders, and mental health concerns. Because TBI influences all other areas of rehabilitation, it is critical that individuals receive care for their TBI prior to, or in conjunction with, rehabilitation for their additional injuries.

"Operation Helping Hand" provides assistance to the families of the very seriously wounded and injured service members who were deployed in either Iraq or Afghanistan and are now receiving treatment at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center. The average hospital stay for the injured is approximately 45 days. The families of these injured service members travel from all over the country to be with their loved ones at this critical time.

"Operation Helping Hand" assistance ranges from providing rental or leased cars, bus or taxi fares, cell phones or phone cards to the families of wounded service members. The program also provides tickets to local amusement parks, movie theaters and restaurants to make these families more comfortable while they are in Tampa waiting for their loved ones to recuperate. The assistance provided allows families to focus on their loved ones' recovery.

This year marks the sixth year that Newman's Own Inc., Fisher House Foundation Inc., and the Military Times Media Group have joined forces to present the "Newman's Own Awards" which seek to reward ingenuity and innovation for volunteer organizations working to improve the quality of life for military personnel and their families. These organizations issued a challenge to all private organizations serving our military communities: "present an innovative plan to improve the quality of life for your military community and receive funding to carry out that plan."

This year, 177 organizations submitted nominations for the award. I am pleased that "Operation Helping Hand" received the top

prize of \$10,000. Ten other organizations shared \$40,000 in grants.

I want to congratulate the Tampa Chapter of the MOAA and all the individuals involved in "Operation Helping Hand" for winning the Newman's Own Award. I also want to commend them and all the other award winners for their outstanding work in support of our military personnel and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, I was not present for rollcall votes 299, 300, 301, 302, and 303.

Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 299, 300, 301, and 302, and "yea" on rollcall vote 303.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
CATHLEEN "CATHY" ANDERSON,
HOLLYWOOD CITY COMMIS-
SIONER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a trailblazer and community icon in South Florida politics, Hollywood, Florida City Commissioner Cathleen "Cathy" Anderson. Commissioner Anderson is celebrating her 30th year of uninterrupted service as a member of the City Commission, making her the longest serving member in the history of that body.

The first woman to serve on the Hollywood City Commission, she was originally appointed in June of 1975 to fill the unexpired term of Thomas Wohl. A Broward County native, Anderson justifiably takes great pride in a family history that is intertwined with the history of our state—all the way back to 1896, when her great grandfather and great uncle traveled on the first Flagler train to Broward County. That pioneering spirit has since been a family tradition and a trademark of Anderson's career in Public Service.

She was an early leader in the Broward County Environmental Movement which brought one-half of Hollywood's Barrier Island into public ownership. She was a founding Director of the Broward Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in 1979 (now the National Conference for Community and Justice); served for more than 20 years as a trustee of the Broward County Historical Commission; and served seven years as chairperson of the Broward County Historical Preservation Board. She is currently a long-time Board Member of the Broward County Tourist Development Council; and Honorary Board Member of the Hollywood Police Athletic League.

Since early childhood, Commissioner Anderson has been an animal rights activist, with a

deep and enduring love of animals. In 1970, she founded Animal Birth Control, a non-profit organization established for the benefit and welfare of cats and dogs. Today, the organization continues to successfully operate with Commissioner Anderson as President.

Commissioner Anderson's innovative spirit and dedicated approach to public service has benefited and touched people in all walks of life and has resulted in her being recognized and honored by countless organizations, including NCCJ, American Jewish Congress, Humane Society of Broward County. Additionally, Commissioner Anderson was inducted in March of 1999 into the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame.

A resident of Hollywood said of Commissioner Anderson in a recent Miami Herald article, "No one owns Cathy; no one from old Florida, new Florida, no developer. Cathy is just Cathy." She has made and continues to make an indelible mark on the development of South Florida, and she is due a tremendous debt of gratitude for her foresight, courage and leadership over the past 30 years.

MOUNTING EVIDENCE OF WEST-
ERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INI-
TIATIVE'S NEGATIVE IMPACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, at a recent Senate hearing on the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, Senator NORM COLEMAN wisely asserted that "if you studied the Constitution, you will not find a section entitled, 'The Law of Unintended Consequences.' But it might as well be there."

Indeed, in the course of policymaking, unintended consequences can arise. It is thus the responsibility of lawmakers and policy practitioners to account for and mitigate these unforeseen effects. This seems to be the case as it relates to the Bush Administration's proposed Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

The Initiative will require all travelers to and from the Americas, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a passport to enter or re-enter the United States in order to strengthen border security. However, the Initiative is to be implemented in region specific phases, with travel to the Caribbean being affected by the end of 2005. Travel to Canada and Mexico will not be affected until the end of 2007—two full years later. It is expected that the early requirements will be a significant disincentive to U.S. travelers planning trips to the Caribbean, as this group is currently not required to utilize a passport.

A recent article in the New York publication *CaribNews* points to growing evidence of the Initiative's substantial negative impact. The article cited forecasts released by the World Travel Tourism Council (WTTC) which revealed that as much as \$2.6 billion of travel related export earnings, and 188,000 travel and tourism jobs could be lost in the Caribbean due to the Initiative.

These are sobering statistics, especially considering what the Caribbean has been

through in the last year. As most of us know, the Caribbean was devastated by destructive hurricanes and extreme flooding in late 2004. The region incurred billions of dollars in damage, and is only now starting to recover. In particular, the vital tourism sector is just starting to get back on its feet. If true, the forecasts by the WTTC spell further hard times ahead for our neighbors.

The American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) also cited statistics from the WTTC during the recent Senate hearing, where it stated that several Caribbean nations will be "seriously impacted" by the Initiative. The ASTA provided statistics that show nearly 80 percent of U.S. visitors to some islands, such as Jamaica, do not currently utilize passports. With passport processing times of up to 2 months, and processing fees which can exceed \$100.00, scores of U.S. tourists may choose vacation options that entail less hassle. The group further added that imposing the new requirements on the Caribbean earlier than other regions would likely cause a "diplomatic controversy."

ASTA also asserted that the early requirements will have negative implications for components of the U.S. travel industry, such as cruise ships, airlines, and travel agents, due to the forecasted reduction in U.S. travelers to the region. ASTA highlighted the particular case of the cruise industry, where unlike land based travel, substantial advance booking is commonplace.

With many cruise packages to the Caribbean selling for as little as \$400.00, the \$100.00+ passport processing fees that WHTI would necessitate, would represent an additional 25 percent in the original vacation price. With such a large and unexpected increase, many U.S. travelers may cancel their existing reservations. With over 3,578 cruises ships visiting the region in 2004, representing 6,380,021 in total passenger potential, this is no small consequence.

Also of note, the Advanced Notice for Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) process for the WHTI—where the public and industry are provided the opportunity to give their input and concerns on the proposal—has yet to be initiated by the appropriate government authorities. This is the case despite the fact that the new travel requirements for the Caribbean are set to go into effect in little more than 6 months. Even if the process does proceed, most entities in the U.S. travel industry will not have the time, or budget, to adequately inform the public by the Dec. 31, 2005 deadline. As such, the travel industry is urging the Administration to push back the timetable for the WHTI, especially as it relates to the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, all these facts, statistics, and opinions suggest that with the proposed Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative we are getting a lot more than we bargained for. Fortunately, we have an opportunity to make the appropriate modifications to ensure that this policy not only strengthens the security of the American people, but also protects the interests of the American traveler, and the economic interests of the United States and our regional neighbors. More than an opportunity, it is an obligation.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO
PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION
OF THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I attended the funeral of Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle—a former member of the House who represented the 10th District of Texas for 31 years. As the current representative of the 10th District of Texas, it was my duty to pay homage to Congressman Pickle who gave so much to Texas and his constituents.

In doing so, I was absent for legislative business on the floor, and missed the opportunity to vote in favor of an amendment to the Constitution to prevent the desecration of the flag. As an original cosponsor of this amendment, I would have voted "yes" to preserve the ultimate icon of American values.

Since 1994, there have been 119 instances of reported flag burning or desecration in the United States, but just one occurrence of this should be reason enough to outlaw this heinous act.

All 50 States have enacted resolutions asking Congress to pass a flag protection amendment, and an overwhelming majority of the American people have consistently supported the protection of our flag. Accordingly, the House has passed a flag protection amendment by more than the 2/3 majority needed in 5 separate Congresses.

Countless men and women, including my father, who are all heroes, have served under the glory of its stars and bars and died to ensure its spirit, and desecrating our flag is a desecration of their contribution to America. The American flag serves as the world's most recognized symbol of freedom and democracy, and should be given the appropriate respect and protection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, I was absent for votes due to important official business in my district. I missed rollcall votes Nos. 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303. Had I been present for votes, I would have voted "yea" on Nos. 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 303 and "nay" on Nos. 293, 299, 300, 301, 302.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPORTS
FOUNDATION, INC.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the

Sports Foundation, Inc. (SFI), a non-profit organization in the Bronx that will hold its 16th Annual "Claude Buddy Young Dinner" in acknowledgement of community leadership, on June 30th, 2005.

Using sports, education, health and the athletic arena as a model, Sports Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young people by developing innovative programs that foster development of the skills and qualities necessary to produce socially responsible citizens and community leaders. Since 1969, SFI has provided a full spectrum of youth development services and events to urban and at-risk youth, including sports and recreation, counseling and mentoring, educational and career development, and drug prevention and health awareness services free of charge. Through these services SFI has been able to impact over 100,000 young people.

The success that this organization has enjoyed over the past 36 years is due in large part to the great people who make up SFI. If it were not for their tireless efforts to empower the next generation of leaders, SFI would be nothing more than a great idea. I am proud to represent individuals who have the courage and conviction to take action when they see the need for improvement within the community.

Mr. Speaker, on June 30th, SFI will hold its annual dinner in which they pay tribute to individuals within the community who have complemented their efforts in the South Bronx. This year's honorees includes a wide array of influential leaders, including the late Yolanda Garcia, whose good works helped to provide adequate housing and cleaner air for Bronx residents. It is my hope that SFI and all of this year's honorees will continue to serve as a bridge between despair and hope for young people living in the South Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, as they celebrate their 16th Annual "Claude Buddy Young Dinner", I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Sports Foundation Inc. for more than thirty-six years of service to the youth of the South Bronx.

FREEDOM FOR ALEXIS RODRÍGUEZ
FERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alexis Rodríguez Fernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Rodríguez Fernández is a member of both the Christian Liberation Movement and the Movement of Cuban Young People for Democracy. Mr. Rodríguez Fernández believes in bringing freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Unfortunately, Mr. Rodríguez Fernández has been a constant target of the dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, in January 2002, Mr. Rodríguez Fernández was attacked and threatened by plain clothes state security agents and later abandoned in a remote area. In March 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Rodríguez Fernández was

arrested. Subsequently, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Rodríguez Fernández is currently languishing in an infernal cell in the totalitarian gulag. These depraved conditions are truly appalling. The State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people who work for freedom are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions.

Let me be very clear. Mr. Rodríguez Fernández is languishing in these depraved conditions because he believes in freedom. He believes in freedom of religion and human rights for every Cuban citizen. It is intolerable that freedom fighters like Mr. Rodríguez Fernández are locked in gulags 90 miles from our shore because they believe in fundamental human rights.

Mr. Rodríguez Fernández is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is condemnable and unconscionable that any person can be sentenced to 15 years in the grotesquely inhuman quarters of Castro's gulag for a belief in democracy. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alexis Rodríguez Fernández and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

2005 ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF
HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the 2005 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO)—an umbrella group of more than 250 organizations that spans the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions—the Ellis Island Medal of Honor commemorates and recognizes Americans of all ethnic backgrounds who have made significant contributions to our society. These medals have been aptly named for Ellis Island, as in so many ways Ellis Island is an enduring symbol of the immigrant roots and diversity that characterize our great Nation.

America has always been a haven for legal immigrants from all over the world who come to our shores with one simple dream; forging a new life in a land of opportunity, liberty, and freedom—freedom from religious, economic, political or ethnic persecution. When the immigrant station at Ellis Island, New York, opened on January 1, 1892, it admitted 700 immigrants into the United States on just its first day of operation. By the time the center closed in 1954, 17-million immigrants had passed through its doors. The Ellis Island administration and staff, on average, processed up to 5,009 people per day. Many of these

newcomers spoke little English, hardly had any money, and arrived with only the clothes on their backs. Despite those challenges, all were willing to risk their lives in exchange for the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their families.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was created in 1986 to honor those individuals who—through their own perseverance, sacrifice and success—continue to help keep America at the forefront of science, business, sports, entertainment, health care research, and myriad of other important issues. Representing a rainbow of ethnic backgrounds the 2005 recipients received their awards on May 14, 2005, in the shadow of the historic Great Hall, where the first footsteps towards a new life were taken by the millions of immigrants who entered the U.S. in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

NECO Co-chairman Lee Iacocca, paying tribute to NECO's Founder and Chairman, William Denis Fugazy, said: "Bill's most enduring legacy is the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations and the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. He has been the driving force behind NECO since its inception. Under the NECO banner he has led the fight against intolerance and hate, and brought together disparate groups to work together and to celebrate the gifts that each ethnic group brings to keep America the land of freedom and opportunity for all. His life is testament to what one person with a big heart and boundless energy can accomplish."

Nasser J. Kazeminy, Chairman of NECO's Executive Committee, said that the 2005 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients have enriched this country and have become role models for future generations. He noted that a posthumous Medal was given to Sergeant Christian P. Engeldrum, U.S. Army National Guard, who was killed in Iraq last November. Engeldrum, he said, was a heroic New York City firefighter, and also served in the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm. He was the first New York City employee to be killed in Iraq. His third child, a daughter, was born in June 2005.

Since 1986, approximately 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, which continue to pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. In addition, NECO awards one International Ellis Island Medal of Honor each year. This year's international honoree was Richard Platt, Chairman of Visy Industries, Australia.

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Ellis Island recipients are without doubt a remarkable collection of individuals who have distinguished themselves as outstanding human beings and citizens of the United States. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America.

I once again commend NECO and its Chairman, my good friend William Denis Fugazy, for honoring the accomplishments of these outstanding individuals and their tireless efforts to foster dialogue, build bridges between different ethnic groups, and promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all the 2005 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients, and I would ask that the

names of all of this year's recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

2005 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR
RECIPIENTS

Abu S. Alam M.D. P.A., Bangladesh; George Atanasoski, Vice President, Microflex, Inc., Macedonian; Nishan Atinjian, President, Fresh Pond Mall Ltd Partnership, Armenian; Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, Counsel & Sr. Advisor Global Strategies, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, Irish; Avi Barbasch M.D., New York Oncology, Czech/Polish/Israeli; Joseph L. Basralian Esq., Managing Partner, Winne, Banta, Hetherington, Basralian & Kahn P.C., Armenian; Paul P. Bernstein, Board Member, Seeds of Peace, Russian; Nicholas A. Buoniconti, Founder, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, Italian; Terry Burman, Chairman & CEO, Sterling Jewelers, Inc., Russian/Polish; Hon. Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of Labor, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Chinese; Dr. James S.C. Chao, Chairman, Foremost Group, Chinese; Yeoung Bae Choi, Chairman, The Korean American Association of Flushing, Korean; Dr. Parveen Chopra, Chairperson, Comm. Of Human Rights—Nassau County NY, Asian Indian; Joseph A. Cimino M.D., Professor & Chairman, Community & Preventive Medicine, Italian; Vahakn N. Dadrrian, Director of Research, Zoryan Institute, Armenian; Thomas E. Dreesen, Comedian, Italian/Irish; Victor J. Dzau, MD, Chancellor for Health Affairs, Duke University Medical Center, Chinese/Canadian; I. Steven Edelson, Managing Member, Mercantile, Russian/Polish; Christian Engeldrum (Posthumously), Sgt US Army, NYC Firefighter/Ladder 61; Andrew Evangelatos, Attorney at Law, Hellenic; Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, President & CEO, Arab American & Chaldean Council, Jordanian; Stefan J. Fedor, Service Delivery Executive, Cisco Systems, Inc., Czech/Hungarian; Anthony C. Ferreri, President & CEO, Staten Island University Hospital, Italian; Dr. Homayoun Firouztash, Partner, Centurion Holdings, LLC, Iranian; John W. Galanis, Esq., Chairman, Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, Hellenic; Judge John Gale, State of Florida, Italian; Robert C. Gallo, M.D., Director, Institute of Human Virology, Italian; Rickey M. Gelb, President, Gelb Enterprises, Austrian/Russian; Lola Nashashibi Grace, Philanthropist, Lebanese/Palestinian; Edgar Hagopian, Chairman, Hagopian Family of Companies, Armenian; Alexander W. Harris, CTC, Chairman, General Tours, Inc., Polish; Jay Hershenson, Vice Chancellor, CUNY, Polish; Wilhelmina Holliday, Commissioner (Ret), NYPD—MVPD, African American; Soung Eun Hong, President/CEO, Rainer Group of Atlantic, USA, Korean; Richard C. Iannuzzi, Vice President, NYSUT, Italian; Muta M. Issa, MD, MBA, Assoc. Prof./Chief of Urology, Emory Univ School of Med/Atlanta; VA Med Ctr, Iraqi; BG Jimmie C. Jackson, Jr., Cmdr 305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire Air Force Base, Irish/Mexican; Eppaminondas G. Johnson, Founder, Eppie's Race, Director Univ of Nevada-Reno Foundation, Hellenic; Ranya Caren Kelly, Founder/Exec. Director, The Redistribution Center Inc., English/German; Cecile Keshishian, President (Ret), NH Medical Society Auxiliary, Lebanese; Won Ho Kim, President, Warner, Inc., So. Korean; Yohyun Kim, President, Ace Printing & Publishing, Korean; Theodore A. Laliotis, President, Laliotis & Associates, Hellenic; Dr. Henry C. Lee, Chief Emeritus, CT Forensic Science Laboratory, Chinese; Susan Levit M.D., F.A.C.P., President & Medical Director, Levit Medical Arts Pavilion, Russian/Israeli; Boris Lipkin, President & CEO, Therma-Wave, Ukrainian; Joseph Macnow, Executive VP & CFO,

Vornado Realty Trust, Russian/Polish; LTG Robert Magnus, Deputy Commandant, US Marine Corps, English/Polish; Ranjan Manoranjan, Chairman & CFO, 3SG Corporation, Sri Lanka; Aris Mardirossian, President, Technology Patents LLC, Armenian; Penny Marshall, Director & Producer, Italian/German/Welsh; Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, Former Ambassador, Chairman, Board of Gov. / American Red Cross, President, Pace Communications, Scottish/Irish; Aaron David Miller, President, Seeds of Peace, Russian/Polish; Benjamin E. Montoya, CEO, Smart Systems Technologies, Inc., Mexican; Edward D. Mullins, President, NYPD Sergeants Benevolent Association, Irish/Spanish; John V. Murphy, Chairman President & CEO, Oppenheimer Funds Inc., Irish; Francesco Musorrafti, Chairman & CEO, Engineering & Professional Serv. Inc, Italian; Firouz M. Naderi, Associate Director, Programs, Project Formulation & Strategy, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Iranian; John S. Najarian, MD, Professor of Surgery, University of Minnesota, Armenian; John M. Nasseff, Community Leader & Philanthropist, Lebanese; Maria Neira, Vice President, NYSUT, Puerto Rican; Peter Nikiteas, Community Leader, Hellenic; James J. O'Connor, Chairman & CEO (Ret), UNICOM Corp & Commonwealth Edison, Irish; Michael D. O'Halleran, Chairman & CEO, Aon Corporation, Irish; Harris J. Pappas, President, Pappas Restaurant, Inc., Hellenic; Sudhir Parikh M.D., Center for Asthma and Allergies, Asian Indian; Peter P. Parthenis, CEO, Grecian Delight Foods, Inc., Hellenic; Martin R. Pollner, Senior Partner, Loeb & Loeb LLP, Polish/Hungarian; Rev. Peter A. Popaj, Our Lady of Shkodra RC Church, Albanian; Richard Pratt, AC, International Recipient, President, Visey Communications, Polish; Cassandra L. Romas, Managing Director, Bouras Properties, LLC, Hellenic; Joseph R. Rosetti, President, Safir Rosetti, Italian; BG Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Commandant, US Military Academy at West Point, Italian; Stephen M. Schuck, Chairman, The Schuck Corp., Russian/German; H.R. Shah, Chairman & CEO, TV Asia & Krauszer's, Asian Indian; M. Morris Shirazipour, CEO, Aero Toy Store, Israeli/Iranian/Canadian; Barbara Simmons, Department of Veterans Affairs, African American; Barry Ivan Slotnick, Attorney at Law, Buchanan Ingersoll PC, Polish; Edward M. Snider, Chairman, Comcast-Spectacor, Russian/Polish; Mona So, Chairperson, Chinese Import Association of America, Chinese; Mercedes H. Spotts, Esq., Polish; Thomas Stankovich, Senior VP & CFO, MP Biomedicals, Yugoslavian; John L. Starks, Founder & President, The John Starks Foundation, American Indian; Gwynn T. Swinson, Secretary of Administration, NC Dept. of Administration, African/Caribbean/European; Abdul Jamil Tajik, M.D., Cardiovascular Diseases & Internal Medicine—Mayo Clinic, Pakistani; Meilin Tan, Founder & President, Small Business Owners of Greater New York, Chinese; James Thomas, President & CPA, Thomas Auto Motor Group, Hellenic; George Tomov, President, Folk Dance Foundation, Macedonian Arts Council, Macedonian; Angelo Vivolo, Community Leader, Italian; Dionysios Vlachos, President, Allboro Waterproofing Corp., Hellenic; Frank Volpicella, Vice President, United Federation of Teachers, Italian; Robert Weisberg, Deputy Chief of Mission, American Embassy Helsinki, Russian/Rumanian/ Austrian; Thomas V. Whelan, Chairman & CEO, Concepts International, Irish; Capt. Glenn A. Wiltshire, Cmdr. of Coast Guard Activities NY, United States Coast Guard, English/Polish; James B. Zafiros, Vice President (Ret), NBC Television, Hellenic/Turkish; Larry A.

Zavadil, President & CEO, American Solutions For Business, Czech/German.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE J.J. PICKLE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man whose presence in this chamber raised the level of civility and decency and lifted the hearts of each and every one of us. Yesterday, with a number of my colleagues, I attended the funeral services of Representative J.J. "Jake" Pickle of Texas. This was a man whose gregarious spirit and good humor over 31 years was a welcomed addition to the proceedings of the chamber, and whose passion and determination to achieve a better life for all Americans were evident in his every day good will and efforts.

Jake was a natural politician because he loved to serve the people and realized that serving the people meant knowing them. He went out of his way to greet and meet individuals who were constituents, who were Americans, and who were simply human. In formal meetings or walks to this chamber or sitting around the office, Jake always had a welcoming and calming smile accompanied by a hearty greeting and oftentimes an affectionate bear hug. He was a lightening rod of energy and enthusiasm and infused that passion and concern into everyone he came in contact with.

That passion and dedication to the public carried over into his work in this chamber. I had the honor to work with Jake on the Ways and Means Committee and I know he was committed to helping the public in every way possible. He was not blinded by partisanship but believed in the right ideals and direction for this country. In the 1980s, as chair of the Social Security Subcommittee, he worked across party lines to achieve reforms in the system that would guarantee the program for future generations. He built alliances with members of different ideologies on issues of importance to him, Austin, Texas, and the American public.

His bonds and connection to public service were rooted in principle and a desire to do what was right. He often stated to me his worry in 1964 over the Civil Rights Act. He knew that legislation to secure rights that had been long denied to African Americans was overdue and right; yet he also knew of the strong opposition to civil rights legislation in his congressional district and Texas. He took the unprecedented and dangerous (for a Texan) step of supporting that legislation, which has moved the country so far in terms of race relations. He knew the importance of addressing the issue of race in America and ensuring that all Americans were treated equally in this country. While he received President Lyndon Johnson's personal appreciation for that action, he was concerned that he would not be returned to office. Fortunately, the people of Austin saw the greatness of this man and reelected him fifteen times.

There was clearly something superb about the Gentleman from Texas. He was willing to work for and do the work of the people. His

smiling face, his generous handshakes, and his willingness to put his neck on the line for the right cause were a welcomed part of his role in the House of Representatives. I miss working with Gentleman Jake as he would readily discuss and debate the issue of the day with anyone and with a hearty smile on his face.

There were several well-written obituaries earlier this week after Jake Pickle's death which captured much of the spirit and essence of this fine public servant. The one I found most meaningful is the one I submit for the RECORD today to share with my colleagues. It is an editorial from Jake's home town newspaper, the Austin American Statesman, paying him as high a compliment as any elected official can achieve, asserting that it was "A Privilege to be Served by Pickle."

A PRIVILEGE TO BE SERVED BY PICKLE

JUNE 19, 2005—Elected officeholders rightly talk about the privilege of serving the people. Occasionally, though, an officeholder comes along so complete in dedication, energy and humanity that the community is privileged to have his service. And having Jake Pickle for a congressman for 31 years proved just such a privilege for Central Texas.

Jake—anyone could call him Jake; that was fine by him—always enjoyed being the center of attention. He was a terrific storyteller, in part because he so obviously loved telling a story. Audiences, in turn, couldn't help but enjoy and start laughing at his stories, and soon he was laughing at himself and their reaction, too.

Another reason people liked him was that he so obviously relished being with people. He was a born politician, someone who really did get a charge out of meeting, being with and helping people. And he found in public office a perfect way to live out an honorable and useful life: Help others, and bask in the thanks.

But Pickle was far more than the glad-handing, back-slapping pal, as good as he was at that. He deeply believed that government could do things to help and protect ordinary people, and that's how he used his office in Congress. As he rose in seniority in Congress and the influential House Ways and Means Committee, he became chairman of its Social Security subcommittee, which in the early 1980s faced the same kind of fiscal problems it does today.

Here's an excerpt from the 1992 edition of the American Almanac of American Politics describing Pickle:

"While other Democrats went out and demagogued the Social Security issue on the campaign trail, Pickle pointed out its problems and worked hard as the architect of the Social Security rescue of 1983, when benefits were in effect cut by raising the normal retirement age over the years to 67 in the next century. He was a serious player on tax reform and on trade; he has come forward with well thought out amendments to help rural hospitals, to strengthen the Caribbean Basin Initiative and to tax foreign subsidiaries. Recently he has been looking closely, and to their discomfort, at government sponsored enterprises like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, not because they seem to be in trouble now, but because he wants to avoid huge unanticipated obligations of the sort generated by federal deposit insurance of savings and loans."

If only he were in Congress today!

Pickle worked hard for Central Texas, not just in committee meetings and on the floor of the House of Representatives, but by coming home and asking us, repeatedly, what we

wanted him to do. He kept doing it so well that we kept sending him back, until he decided it was time for someone younger to fight the good fights.

It was a privilege to have him represent us, and we're sorry he won't be telling us any more good stories.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. MCCAUL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I attended the funeral of Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle—a former Member of the House who represented the 10th District of Texas for 31 years. As the current representative of the 10th District of Texas, it was my duty to pay homage to Congressman Pickle who gave so much to Texas and his constituents.

If I were able to vote on yesterday's considered measures, I would have voted in favor of an amendment that I offered to the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. This fiscally conservative, commonsense amendment would have addressed the excess printing and paper that is generated by the GPO, and directed those funds to a far more worthy recipient—the Capitol Police. I thank Congressman PATRICK MCHENRY for his support of my amendment, and for acting as my designee during the debate.

I also would have voted "yes" on a Constitutional Amendment banning the desecration of the American Flag—legislation of which I am an original cosponsor.

For the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, I would have voted: "no" on the Baird amendment, "no" on the Davis amendment, "no" on the Hefley amendment, "no" on the motion to recommit, and "yes" on passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House on Monday, June 20, 2005 so that I could testify before the BRAC Commission regional hearing in St. Louis, MO, on behalf of Ft. Knox, an Army installation in my district designated for significant realignment. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

House amendment 328, claiming religious proselytizing at the Air Force Academy, "no."

House amendment 330, prohibiting funds for activities in Uzbekistan, "no."

House amendment 331, prohibiting military action against Syria, Iran, N. Korea without Congress authority, "no."

House amendment 333, prohibiting funds for carrying out sections of the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program Act, "no."

H.R. 2863, on final passage of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2006, "yea."

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE JAMES JARRELL PICKLE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to my good friend, J.J. Pickle. Those of us who have the tremendous honor of serving in this great institution sometimes fail to see the giants that serve among us. Certainly J.J. Pickle was one of those giants.

He was born in Big Spring, Texas on October 11, 1913 and was educated in the public schools. He was a man who was clearly a leader, not only of the people of the State of Texas, of the district that he represented in the central part of Texas, but of this entire Nation.

He was a man who gave his heart, literally, to this country. He poured hours after hours into trying to grapple with the important issues we faced as a Nation, and he did it because he loved this country. He was truly a public servant who cared about the people in the State of Texas, and cared about the people in this great country.

It is rare that we see people in this institution who worked as hard as J.J. Pickle. However, in doing so, he was always able to retain his touch of the common man. As much as he accomplished academically and through the higher ranks of government in this country, he never lost the ability to relate to people on a day-to-day level. To me he will always be Jake, the fellow who would put his arm around you, smile and joke, and ask how things were going. He was a man who cared about you as an individual and cared about people.

He loved high-powered debates with intellectuals, but he never put on airs. He was one of only seven southern representatives to vote for the 1964 Civil Rights Act legislation. He believed that his most significant accomplishment as a lawmaker was the 1983 Social Security reform bill, which he helped pass as chairman of the Social Security subcommittee. That legislation eased Social Security's financial problems by raising the age for full benefits from 65 to 67 in the year 2000. He could talk to farmers and mechanics as easily as Presidents such as and from his mentor, President Johnson and other leaders. It is no wonder the voters of Central Texas kept Jake in Congress for 31 years. They knew a good man when they saw him. They, and all Americans, have lost someone very special.

HONORING CW4 THOMAS W. GERRISH

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor CW4 Thomas Gerrish for his 27 years of service in the U.S. Army Reserves.

CW4 Gerrish was born and raised in a family with a long history of military service. His

father and grandfather served in the Navy for 20 and 30 years, respectively, and his two sons are both currently serving in the U.S. Army, with one presently on the ground in Iraq. It is evident that this strong commitment to serving one's country has made a profound impact on CW4 Gerrish's life and career path, and his own impressive record of military service reflects just that.

CW4 Gerrish enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1977. CW4 Gerrish decided to enroll in flight school, where he received his aeronautical rating as a U.S. Army Aviator and promotion to Warrant Officer in 1982. He was deployed to Southeast Asia to participate in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1989, and in 1992, he attended and graduated from the CH-47 Maintenance Manager's/Maintenance Test Pilot's Course. As an Aircraft Component Repair Platoon Leader, CW4 Gerrish was responsible for overseeing 23 soldiers, six allied shops and equipment valued at over \$10 million. Later, he served as Maintenance Platoon Leader and his hard work was largely the motivating factor behind his company earning the best OR rating in the Battalion.

Before retiring from military service, CW4 Gerrish coordinated aircraft maintenance prior to deployment for Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. His last assignment was to serve as the Senior Warrant Officer to the Cargo Helicopter Project Manager's Office. During this assignment, CW4 Gerrish was responsible for fleet management and customer support for all CH-47 units and 461 H-47 helicopters. His leadership and technical abilities were instrumental in maintaining aircraft at the highest state of readiness and motivating and inspiring the soldiers under his command.

During the course of his service, CW4 Gerrish has been awarded 24 medals and honors, including the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit. His long and varied career exemplifies his broad experience and growth. CW4 Gerrish has proven that hard work, dedication and a strong work ethic will achieve great things in one's career, and his impeccable record classifies him as a truly outstanding soldier. He has served his state and country valiantly and I know he will continue to do great things in his retirement. It is truly an honor to recognize his accomplishments today, and I thank him for his service.

HONORING PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Chairman, this week marks the 95th birthday of Gordon Bitner Hinckley, the 15th President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Gordon B. Hinckley was born on June 23, 1910 to Bryant and Ada Hinckley in Salt Lake City, Utah. The day Hinckley was born, a can of Campbell's soup cost 10 cents, a man's shirt was less than \$1 and beef sold for 30 cents a pound in Salt Lake City.

Growing up in Salt Lake City, young Gordon spent summers on the family fruit farm in the

rural Salt Lake Valley. He and his brother Sherman often slept out under the stars in the box of an old farm wagon where they lay on their backs, picking out familiar stars. They also weeded and irrigated the family garden, looked after livestock, and dug fence post holes. In 1923, when President Warren G. Harding visited SLC, Gordon and his siblings helped line the streets to wave flags as the President's motorcade came into town.

In 1928, just a year before the onset of the Depression, Gordon Hinckley enrolled at the University of Utah thinking he might become an architect. But he loved English literature, particularly Shakespeare, and he decided to go into journalism instead.

From 1933 to the summer of 1935, he served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the British Isles. In addition to the hard work of proselytizing, he led efforts there to improve relations with the press, published articles, and wrote eloquent letters home.

Upon returning to Utah, he accepted a job as executive secretary of the newly formed Church Radio, Publicity and Mission Literature Committee. In this capacity he led the public relations and media efforts of the Church, grasping and utilizing new electronic media to modernize the delivery of the Church of Jesus Christ's message.

He married the late Majorie Pay on April 29, 1937 and together they had 5 children and 25 grandchildren.

By the time he became President of the Church on March 13, 1995, he had labored nearly 60 years at Church headquarters—38 years of service as a General Authority and 15 of those in the First Presidency.

During the last 10 years, President Hinckley has traveled extensively throughout the world meeting with dignitaries and members of the Church. Through these meetings, he has reinforced his statement that, "Good homes produce good people. Good homes become the foundation for the strength of any nation." In writing and speaking, he has encouraged church membership and others to strengthen their homes and families and cultivate virtues such as love, honesty, civility, mercy, industry, and gratitude.

As the leader of the ninth largest religion in the United States, he has overseen significant international building efforts, worldwide expansion of church membership, and has been noted for his openness to the press. He has endeared himself to Church members and others he meets with attributes developed in his earlier years: hard work, an ease with language, a dry wit, and a genuine love for people.

In addition to Church service, President Hinckley has been active in community affairs, receiving numerous honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2004.

He wrote, "My plea is that we stop seeking out the storms and enjoy more fully the sunlight. I am suggesting that as we go through life, we 'accentuate the positive.' I am asking that we look a little deeper for the good." President Hinckley has embodied this positive attitude throughout his 95 years and shared it vigorously during his last 10.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in wishing a very happy 95th birthday to this great man and leader.

HONORING REVEREND JOHN F. EDWARDS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong dedication of Reverend John F. Edwards, who will retire this month after 50 years of active ministry.

As the Pastor of The Church of the Incarnation, in Wethersfield, Connecticut in my district, Father Edwards was an inspiration and source of strength for those he met during his service to the priesthood. Father Edwards experienced a religious calling and entered the St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, Connecticut, where he remained from 1947–1949. On January 6, 1955, Reverend Edwards was ordained as a priest at St. Brendan's Church in New Haven, Connecticut by The Most Reverend Henry J. O'Brien. Shortly thereafter, Father Edwards received temporary assignments in Washington Depot, Connecticut and as Chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury. In April–August 1955, he received a permanent assignment as a Chaplain at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut.

In August of 1955, Father Edwards returned to St. Thomas Seminary, where his vocation developed and strengthened, and served as a teacher and administrator from 1955–1981. During his 26 year tenure, Father Edwards taught history and mathematics and became Principal of the high school at St. Thomas Seminary. In his final 6 years at St. Thomas Seminary, Father Edwards served as Director of The Permanent Diaconate Program of the Archdiocese of Hartford, which was a program that proved to be instrumental in fulfilling the needs of the Archdiocese. He also served as a weekend assistant at St. Helena Church in West Hartford, Connecticut from 1967–1980. Father Edwards was an inspiration in the classroom and in his community.

Father Edwards arrived at St. Joseph Church in Meriden, Connecticut in 1981, where he continued his service for 11 years as part of a Team Ministry with Father Mark Jette. In 1992, Father Edwards was appointed Pastor of The Church of the Incarnation where he continued to be a dedicated pastor, devoted spiritual leader, and friend. For the past 4 years, he has been the Dean of the Suburban Hartford Deanery where he fostered fellowship within the Greater Hartford Area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking and honoring Reverend John F. Edwards for his 5 decades of service to the people of Connecticut. The parishioners of the Church of the Incarnation will miss his dedication and quiet thoughtfulness. Please join me in congratulating Father Edwards on his retirement and wishing him many enjoyable rounds of golf.

EXPLORING THE CARIBBEAN: THE INSTITUTE OF CARIBBEAN STUDIES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the sig-

nificant work of the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), a magnificent organization that highlights and explores the linkages between the Caribbean and the United States. Today, Representative BARBARA LEE, Representative DONNA CHRISTENSEN, and I hosted a meeting of the Institute of Caribbean Studies in the Rayburn Building. I thank these wonderful congresswomen for joining me in our effort to raise the awareness and provide an opportunity for this Congress to explore the dynamics of the Caribbean economy, culture, and global appeal.

The Institute of Caribbean Studies works to find common links between the American public and the people of the Caribbean. It explores different avenues of change and development that are common to our two regions and seeks opportunities to nurture those developments to our collective best interests. This group is working to build a stronger economic, social, and cultural bond between two important regions of the world.

At their legislative forum today, the panels addressed the growing importance of the border security, economic development, disaster assistance, and human security. Panelists such as Foreign Minister of the Bahamas Fred Mitchell, the Jamaican Ambassador Gordon Shirley, the St. Lucian Ambassador Sonia Johnny, and the Grenadian Ambassador Denis Antonie examined various causes, effects, and responses to the challenges of linking the Caribbean and the United States. Their discussion and assessments provided important insight into the solutions and opportunities for advancement in the region.

I thank the panelists and participants for their thoughts, opinions, and wisdom on developing and encouraging a stronger linkage between our two parts of the world. I particularly would like to thank Dr. Claire Nelson, the President and Founder of the Institute, for her leadership and direction in the activities of the Institute of Caribbean Studies. I am sure that under her continued helm the organization will become a valuable resource for Congress and its deliberations on improved international relations.

I submit for the RECORD a copy of the mission statement and goals of the organization. I hope my colleagues will put this organization to use in developing responsible policies toward the Caribbean.

The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1993 and dedicated to research, policy analysis, and education with a focus on issues that impact the Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora. The purpose of the Institute is to provide a forum for scholars, the private sector, the non-government organization community and others interested in promoting a dialogue on Caribbean issues. The Institute seeks to address economic development problems facing Caribbean society, and to adopt a thorough, systematic and coordinated long-term perspective towards their resolution.

Since its inception, ICS has been on the forefront of the challenge to bring attention to the issues of critical importance to the Caribbean American community, which numbers over 3 million. ICS represents an important role in history as the first Caribbean-American community organization in the Washington, DC area devoted to the successful inclusion of Caribbean-Americans in U.S. policy making, and the economic development of the Caribbean region. ICS has built up a unique network of knowledgeable

and committed individuals with expertise in a variety of sectors.

ICS's location in Washington, DC makes it an ideal interlocutor, advocate and intermediary between the U.S. government, multilateral agencies, the private sector, Caribbean-American communities, and Caribbean governments, communities, and organizations in the region. ICS enjoys the respect of a significant proportion of the Caribbean-American community, as well as the Caribbean diplomatic corps. ICS has established and will continue to develop partnerships and collaborative relationships with local and national organizations in the United States and the Caribbean, such as the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Global Rights Law Group, National Minority Suppliers Development Council, World Bank/IMF Caribbean Staff Association, Caribbean Research Center, and the Caribbean Policy Development Center to meet its objectives, particularly those in the area of economic development and policy making.

ICS is dedicated to building bridges between Caribbean Americans and the U.S. population at large and advocating for the economic welfare of the Caribbean American community. Together with partner organizations with industry, government and civil society, we have built the foundation to make the Institute of Caribbean Studies, the leading Caribbean American organization in Washington, DC. Our mission is to provide our partners with solutions to the challenges they face, that will enable their survival, growth, and prosperity in the ever changing global marketplace, by providing world class research and action that supports their missions.

The organizational structure of the ICS provides an established framework within which 'Caribbeanists' can be mobilized to address issues of concern and implement research and/or program initiatives. This includes a Private Sector Council and a Research Council.

ICS program areas are designed to:

To promote the increased participation of Caribbean Americans in the U.S. economic and policy agenda.

To facilitate increased educational exchanges between Caribbean and American peoples.

To foster increased cooperation between the Caribbean and other developing country regions, such as Latin America and Africa, as well as the developed countries of Canada and Europe.

To facilitate the participation of, and discussion with, the Caribbean Diaspora around the world on issues pertaining to Caribbean development.

In keeping with its holistic philosophy of development, the Institute develops and supports programs which serve a multiplicity of interests—the community leader, the business person, the policy-maker, and the scholar, across various sectors. The program areas include: Economic Development, Science & Technology, Education & Health, and Sociology & Culture.

Our goal for economic development is to increase the participation of Caribbean Americans in the U.S. business sector, to promote increased trade and investment between the U.S. and the Caribbean, and to support entrepreneurial development and micro-enterprise development in the Caribbean. Our work includes creating linkages between U.S. small and disadvantaged businesses and Caribbean businesses, entrepreneurial development and skills training for youth with particular reference to, and acting as an interlocutor and facilitator for creating partnerships between U.S. transnational corporations and the Caribbean American community.

Our goal in the area of science and technology is improve the level and quality of technical assistance provided to the Caribbean region, to support improvements in the access, development and use of science and technology across all sectors, and the increased access of disadvantaged communities in the Caribbean to information technology. Our current agenda is the support of Computer centers in disadvantaged centers in the Caribbean and the development of exchange and linkages programs to support science education in the Caribbean such as support for the establishment of children's science centers.

Our goals in education and health include increasing transfer of technology to the Caribbean region; ensuring Caribbean Americans equity in health care; and supporting the provision of increased educational opportunities to disadvantaged populations in the Caribbean. This includes assisting in the establishment of linkage programs between historically Black colleges and universities.

Our goal in sociology and culture include: assisting the Caribbean-American community to participate in U.S. democratic processes; promoting the conservation and development of Caribbean arts and culture, and promoting an understanding of Caribbean culture in the U.S. Our current focus in this area is the establishment of June as Caribbean Heritage Month in the Washington, DC metropolitan region and the production of the DC Caribbean Film Festival.

**THE CONVICTION OF EDGAR RAY
KILLEN ON JUNE 21, 2005, IN
NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is so strange. It is so ironic. It is almost eerie that Edgar Ray Killen was convicted today exactly 41 years to the day that James Chaney, Mickey Schwerner, and Andy Goodman were found missing in Philadelphia, Mississippi. I knew these three young men, these brave and courageous fighters for freedom. They did not die in Vietnam. They did not die in the Middle East. They did not die in Eastern Europe. They did not die in Africa or South America; they died right here in the United States. And they were killed simply for helping Americans exercise their constitutional right to vote.

They were killed, not just by vicious members of the Ku Klux Klan, but they were also killed by an evil system of tradition and government that perpetuated segregation, racial discrimination, and deliberately and methodically denied African Americans the right to vote. Their murder was a sad and dark hour for the whole Civil Rights Movement, and especially for those of us who participated in the Mississippi Summer project. When we realized that these three young men were missing, it broke our hearts, but it did not destroy our determination to continue the struggle to gain the right to vote.

For more than a thousand young people who risked their lives in Mississippi that summer, and for the mothers and the families of James Chaney, Mickey Schwerner, and Andy Goodman, maybe, just maybe, what happened today will offer some degree of closure. It took a long time to bring some resolution to this case, but justice is never too late. I hope that

this conviction will have a cleansing effect on our nation's dark racial past.

I also hope that the state of Mississippi and the American people will do more. I hope that we will seek and find appropriate ways to honor the sacrifices of these three young men. I hope that as a nation and as a people we will always remember that the struggle for civil rights in America is littered by the battered and broken bodies of countless men and women who paid the ultimate price for a precious right—the right to vote. We must not take that right for granted. We have a mandate from these three young men who gave their lives for our freedom in the red clay of Mississippi. We must continue the struggle for justice in America and around the world.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDIKIDS
HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2005**

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I join my colleagues in the House today to introduce the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2005. This bill is also being introduced in the Senate by my good friend, Jay Rockefeller.

Mr. Speaker, this year we are honoring the 40th anniversary of Medicare, our nation's health insurance program for the elderly and people with disabilities. At the time we created Medicare, our nation's seniors were more likely to be living in poverty than any other age group. Most were unable to afford needed medical services and unable to find health insurance in the market even if they could afford it. Today, as a result of Medicare's success, seniors are much less likely to be shackled by the bonds of poverty.

Now it is our nation's children who are most likely to be poor. Kids in America are nearly twice as vulnerable to poverty as adults. This travesty is not only morally reprehensible, it also denotes grave consequences for the future of our country. Poor children are often malnourished and have difficulty succeeding in school. Untreated illnesses only worsen the chance for success. The future of our country rests in our ability to provide our children with the basic conditions to thrive and become healthy, educated, and productive adults. Guaranteeing continuous health coverage is a critical component of realizing this potential.

The MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2005 assures that every child in the United States has health insurance by 2012. Modeled after Medicare—with benefits appropriate to children, simplified cost sharing, and comprehensive prescription drug coverage—MediKids covers America's kids from birth until age 23.

MediKids assures that families will always have access to affordable health insurance for their children. Parents retain the choice to enroll their kids in private plans or government programs such as Medicaid or S-CHIP. However, if a lapse in other insurance coverage occurs, MediKids automatically fills in the gap. MediKids is the ultimate safety net, available nationwide, with maximum simplicity, stability, and flexibility.

Many children's advocates and health care professionals who care for children are united

in their support for MediKids, including: the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Defense Fund, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Nurses Association, Consumers' Union, FamiliesUSA, the March of Dimes, the National Association of Children's Hospitals, the National Association of Community Health Centers, National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, and the National Health Law Program. I am submitting a sampling of letters from these groups along with my statement.

I can think of no better use of Congress' time than to provide health insurance to every child. While some are fixated on flag burning, Terri Schiavo and banning gay marriages, my colleagues and I are offering solutions to real problems facing American families. Providing a simple, stable, and flexible health insurance option will afford millions of parents the peace of mind of knowing that their children will be cared for when they are sick. Our nation's priorities should be centered on creating a bright future for our children, and MediKids helps to achieve this goal.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and the many endorsing organizations to enact the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2005.

**MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2005—
BILL SUMMARY**

The MediKids Health Insurance Act provides health insurance for all children in the United States regardless of family income level by 2012. The program is modeled after Medicare, but the benefits are improved and targeted toward children.

MediKids is the ultimate safety net, with maximum simplicity, stability, and flexibility for families. Parents may choose to enroll their children in private plans or government programs such as Medicaid or S-CHIP. However, if a lapse in other insurance coverage occurs, MediKids automatically picks up the children's health insurance. MediKids follows children across state lines when families move, and fills the gaps when families climbing out of poverty become ineligible for means-tested programs.

ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

Every child born after 2007 is automatically enrolled in MediKids. Older children are enrolled over a 5-year phase-in as described below. Children who immigrate to the U.S. are enrolled when they receive their immigration cards. Materials describing the program's benefits, along with a MediKids insurance care, are issued to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each child. Once enrolled, children remain enrolled in MediKids until they reach the age of 23. There are no re-determination hoops to jump through because MediKids is not means tested.

PHASE-IN

Year 1 = the child has not attained age 6;
Year 2 = the child has not attained age 11;
Year 3 = the child has not attained age 16;
Year 4 = the child has not attained age 21;
Year 5 = the child has not attained age 23.

BENEFITS

The benefit package is based on the Medicare and the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits for children, with simplified cost sharing mechanisms and comprehensive prescription drug coverage. The benefits will be reviewed annually and updated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to reflect age-appropriate benefits as needed with input from the pediatric community.

PREMIUMS, DEDUCTIBLES, AND COPAYS

MediKids assures that families will always have access to affordable health insurance for their children. Families below 150 percent of poverty pay no premiums or cost sharing. Families between 150 percent and 300 percent of poverty pay reduced premiums and cost sharing. Parents above 300 percent of poverty are responsible for a small premium equal to one fourth of the average annual cost per child. Premiums are collected at the time of income tax filing. Premiums are not assessed during periods of equivalent alternative coverage. Families will never pay more than 5% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for premiums.

Cost sharing is similar to the largest plans available to Members of Congress. There is no cost sharing for preventive and well child care for any children. A refundable tax credit is provided for cost sharing above 5% of AGI.

FINANCING

Initial funding to be determined by Congress. In future years, the Secretary of Treasury would develop a package of progressive, gradual tax changes to fund the program, as the numbers of enrollees grows.

STATES

Medicaid and S-CHIP are not altered by MediKids. States can choose to maintain these programs. To the extent that the states save money from the enrollment of children into MediKids, states are required to maintain current funding levels in other programs and services directed toward the Medicaid population. This can include expanding eligibility or offering additional services. For example, states could expand eligibility for parents and single individuals, increase payment rates to providers, or enhance quality initiatives in nursing homes.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP); American Academy of Family Physicians; American Academy of Pediatrics; Children's Defense Fund; Consumers' Union; Families USA; March of Dimes; National Association of Children's Hospitals; National Association of Community Health Centers; National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems; National Health Law Program.

Contact Deborah Veres at 225-4021 or deb.veres@mail.house.gov if you have any questions.

HONORING THE TEN TOWNS
GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee of Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant organization I am proud to represent! On June 24, 2005 the Trustees and Friends of the Committee are celebrating its Tenth Anniversary.

The Great Swamp Watershed is a 55 square mile region in Morris and Somerset Counties and includes portions of Bernardsville Borough, Bernards Township, Chatham Township, Harding Township, Long Hill Township, Borough of Madison, Mendham Borough, Mendham Township, the Town of Morristown, and Morris Township.

The Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee was formed in 1995

through an Inter-municipal Cooperative Agreement among the ten municipalities that have lands within the Great Swamp Watershed. Developed under the auspices of the Morris County leadership group, Morris 2000 (now Morris Tomorrow), the Ten Towns Committee was formed for the specific purpose of developing and implementing a watershed management plan for the watershed in the Upper Passaic River basin of northern New Jersey.

Since its formation, the Ten Towns Committee has developed a full range of programs to protect water quality and water resources in the Great Swamp, including: a water quality monitoring program, development of environmental ordinances, and construction of "Best Management Practices" improvements to correct existing non-point source pollution conditions.

The Ten Towns Committee has been recognized as a model in the State of New Jersey and has received awards for its work from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my Colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee on the celebration of the Committee's ten years of service to the Great Swamp Watershed area. Special praise is due to their dedicated staff and active volunteers who work tirelessly to protect and enhance the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SOUTHERN
NEW JERSEY VETERANS
COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE
ACT"

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Southern New Jersey Veterans Comprehensive Health Care Act". I am proud to have Representatives JIM SAXTON, CHRIS SMITH, and ROB ANDREWS join me as original cosponsors of this legislation. My colleagues and I all share a serious concern that South Jersey veterans are not currently having their health care needs adequately served by the Veterans' Administration. In order to increase health care accessibility in our area, this bill directs the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to expand the capability of the VA to provide for the medical care needs of vets in Southern New Jersey.

The issue of improved access to health services from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, is especially important with the growing number of veterans in Southern New Jersey. Many of our older veterans from World War II and other conflicts are in need of more frequent health care services and inpatient care. As a result of the continued fight in the Global War on Terror, there will be many new veterans in our area who need care in the coming years, as over 62 percent of the New Jersey National Guard is currently deployed, deploying, or has been deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. This percentage of Reserve Component forces from our State who will be eligible for veterans' status is growing rapidly.

As it relates to Southern New Jersey, I have serious reservations about the VA's access model for health care access, which currently says that adequate access is being provided if a veteran lives within 60 to 90 mile radius of a VA Medical Center. Today, despite falling within the VA's access model, veterans residing in Southern New Jersey must often travel several hours away, either to the neighboring states of Pennsylvania or Delaware, or to Northern New Jersey, in order to receive inpatient medical care and some outpatient services.

Although transportation is provided to the Wilmington, DE facility via a new handi-capped-accessible van, these veterans often face a ten-hour round trip. Veterans riding a van from Southern New Jersey must board the van early in the morning, making several stops before reaching the VA facility, stay all day until each veteran has completed their appointment and then return home. This means that a veteran with a 4 p.m. appointment boards the bus at 8 a.m. and waits at the facility until 4 or 5 p.m. And, the veteran whose appointment is at 9 a.m. must wait to return home until the last appointment is completed, resulting in a 10 hour day of travel.

Of equal concern is that veterans have told me they simply do not use the services at these three facilities because of the transportation hardship. Southern New Jersey is a prime example of suppressed demand for VA health care.

The Southern New Jersey Veterans Comprehensive Health Care Act gives an overview of the VA health care access situation veterans are facing Southern New Jersey and proposes a choice of two workable solutions to this growing problem. The bill cites that the current and future health care needs of South Jersey veterans are not being met by the VA, travel times to existing VA facilities in Philadelphia and Wilmington may fall within VA's access parameters, but that these parameters fail to take into account that the area is rural, and that routes to the two VAMCs are congested, leading to a "suppressed demand" for care. It also outlines that the number of vets in the area is increasing as more retire in the area and new vets come back from being deployed in support of the War on Terrorism. States that 62 percent of the NJ Guard will have been deployed on active duty by the end of 2004.

This bill defines "Southern New Jersey" as the counties of: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester, Camden, Burlington, and Ocean and requires the VA Secretary to determine and notify Congress no later than March 15, 2006 as to how he will provide for the full service health care needs of South Jersey vets.

The Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs is given two options for providing this improved access to health care for veterans in Southern New Jersey. The Secretary is given the choice of establishing a public-private partnership between the VA and an existing hospital (private-sector entity) in South Jersey—a "VA Wing", or construction of a full-service, 100 bed VA Medical Center (VAMC). If the VAMC option is chosen, the bill authorizes \$120 M for the construction of the facility.

I am proud to introduce the Southern New Jersey Comprehensive Health Care Act with my New Jersey colleagues Congressman

SAXTON, Congressman ANDREWS, and Congressman SMITH. Our nation's veterans answered the call without question when our country needed them, and it is our duty to provide quality, convenient health care for them when they need it. This issue is a top priority for me and I will continue to fight to ensure that all veterans have adequate access to the health care they have earned and deserve.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, the Intelligence Authorization Bill provides resources vital to the continuing effort to improve our nation's intelligence capabilities and to transform the intelligence community to ensure that we do everything possible to prevent another event like September 11, 2001. As such, I support this legislation.

In particular, I am gratified that this bill provides resources above the President's request to increase our human intelligence capabilities. This is an issue that has concerned me for many years and one that I have worked to correct. The House-passed FY 2006 Defense Appropriations bill includes substantial, new HUMINT resources, which I will make every effort to protect as we go into conference with the Senate later this year.

Additionally, the authorization bill includes provisions to strengthen Ambassador Negroponte's hand as he undertakes the tremendous responsibility of defining the role of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and transforming the intelligence community. I am hopeful that the authorizers and the appropriators can work together to support the DNI in this critical first year.

Certainly, there are areas of the bill, particularly some of the technical programs, where I am a little disappointed in the resource levels recommended by the Intelligence Committee. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the committee to find a mutually acceptable approach to meet the nation's space platform requirements. However, overall, I believe that this is a good bill that goes a long way to meeting the needs of the intelligence community.

HONORING THE NATIVE AMERICAN
TRIBES OF THE PACIFIC NORTH-
WEST AND THE TREATIES OF
1855 BETWEEN THESE TRIBES
AND THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a resolution to honor the 150th anniversary of the 1855 treaties signed between the Native American Tribes of the Pacific Northwest and the United States of America.

This weekend marks the 150th anniversary of the treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon, one of the many important treaties signed in 1855. The treaty emerged as a solution to tensions growing between the thousands of settlers flooding through the Columbia River region in the mid-19th century and the tribes that had inhabited the area for countless generations. By 1852, more than 12,000 white immigrants were journeying through the territory each year. Although most continued westward, the portion of settlers who chose to remain in the region eventually claimed Indian lands as their own. To settle the dispute, the Department of Indian Affairs for the Oregon Territory began work on the 1855 treaty.

The Treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon ceded 10 million acres of Indian land to the United States government, including what have since become Wasco, Sherman, Hood River, Gilliam, Jefferson, Crook, Wheeler, Deshutes, Clackamas, Grant, Marion, and Morrow counties. The Tribes of Middle Oregon Treaties, were signed by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, Deschutes, Walla Walla, Tenino, and Wasco.

These treaties helped guide and shape the management of land, water, wildlife, and fisheries of the Pacific Northwest now and into the future. These treaties were understood by their signers to ensure the unique quality of life of the native people in Middle Oregon. Unfortunately, the United States' history of honoring its commitments to Native Americans leaves much to be desired.

In honor of the anniversary of these treaties, we should reaffirm and support the promises made 150 years ago between the Pacific Northwest tribes and the United States of America. Together we have a rich legacy and a bright future to protect, and I urge my colleagues in joining me in supporting this resolution.

A TRIBUTE TO ELLA ADENE KEMP
BAMPFIELD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ella Adene Kemp Bampffield.

Mrs. Kemp Bampffield was born on June 29, 1905 in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Waynesville, North Carolina. She is the fourth of nine children born to Elijah and Lelia Kemp. However, she is currently the sole survivor.

Mrs. Kemp Bampffield attended elementary school in Waynesville. Then she enrolled in the high school division of Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C., and graduated as the valedictorian of her senior class. Following high school, she attended Fayetteville State Normal College, Howard University and Cortez Peters Business College.

Mrs. Kemp Bampffield's first marriage was blessed with one child, Admiral Dewey Dunn. Admiral Dewey Dunn, now deceased, had two sons: Anthony Dewey Dunn and Amiel Dunn. She later married Robert Smalls Bampffield of Beaufort, South Carolina, now deceased.

Mrs. Kemp Bampffield's career included teaching for 7 years in North Carolina. Upon moving to D.C., she was employed with the

U.S. Treasury Department Division of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. She retired on October 31, 1969 after nearly 29 years of service.

Since retirement, Mrs. Kemp Bampffield and her grandson, Anthony, have enjoyed traveling. They have visited most of the contiguous United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, the Caribbean, Thailand, Hong Kong, China, Mexico, Spain, Germany, France, Italy, Jerusalem, and England.

Mrs. Kemp Bampffield has been a faithful member of John Wesley AME Zion Church of Washington, D.C. since 1934. In addition, she and her grandson, Anthony, have resided in Washington, D.C. for the past 55 years. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Mrs. Kemp Bampffield's lifelong accomplishments and her upcoming milestone 100th birthday.

RECOGNITION OF STEVEN H.
STEINGLASS FOR HIS YEARS OF
SERVICE AS DEAN OF CLEVELAND
MARSHALL COLLEGE OF
LAW, CLEVELAND STATE UNI-
VERSITY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Steven H. Steinglass for his years of service to the students of Cleveland Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, to the legal community for his scholarship and service, and to the Greater Cleveland community at large. After 9 years as dean of the law school, Dean Steinglass is stepping down from that position and returning to the law school faculty to continue his illustrious career as professor and legal scholar.

Since joining the faculty at Cleveland Marshall in 1980, Dean Steinglass has made presentations at continuing judicial and legal education programs in more than 20 states for such organizations as the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Federal Judicial Center, the National Judicial College, the Ohio Judicial Conference, and the Practicing Law Institute. Dean Steinglass has also twice argued before the United States Supreme Court.

Equally important to the people of Ohio's 10th Congressional District and its surrounding communities is his commitment to the local community. Currently, Dean Steinglass is serving as a Trustee for the Cleveland Bar Association, as a member of the Ohio State Bar Association Council of Delegates, on the Board of the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation, as a member of the Advisory Board of the Greater Cleveland Drug Court, and on the Program Committee of the City Club, the nation's oldest continuing free speech organization. Dean Steinglass is one of those rare academics who is equally comfortable as a teacher, a scholar, and a practicing attorney. Although he leaves the deanship, I am pleased that he will remain on faculty.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the invaluable service Dean Steinglass has provided to the Greater Cleveland community as dean, and to wish him the best in his continued service to Cleveland

Marshall School of Law and the people of Northeast Ohio.

HONORING THE 2005 GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE RECIPIENTS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the winners of the 2005 Goldman Environmental Prize, the world's most prestigious prize honoring grassroots environmentalists.

Now in its 16th year, the Goldman Prize is annually awarded to environmental leaders from six geographic regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South & Central America. The recipients are engaged in important efforts to preserve the natural environment, including protecting endangered ecosystems and species, combating destructive development projects, promoting sustainability, influencing environmental policies and striving for environmental justice. Goldman Prize winners often are figurative men and women from isolated villages and inner cities who are willing to endure great personal risks to safeguard the environment.

To be given the award is a great honor. It is a recognition of the outstanding work that the activists do to ensure social and environmental justice in their communities and around the world.

This year the recipient from Mexico is Isidro Baldenegro López. Mr. Baldenegro is a subsistence farmer and community leader of Mexico's indigenous Tarahumara people in the country's Sierra Madre mountain region. He has spent much of his life defending old growth forests from devastating logging in a region torn by violence, corruption and drug-trafficking. Tragically, Baldenegro is acutely aware of the grave risks involved in defending the forest. As a boy, he witnessed firsthand the assassination of his father who was killed for his opposition to logging. In the face of these serious risks and repeated threats against his life, Baldenegro has chosen to remain and defend the forest and ancestral lands his community has inhabited for hundreds of years. In 1993, Baldenegro developed a non-violent grassroots movement to fight the logging industry in the Sierra Madres. He later mobilized a massive human blockade which resulted in a special court order outlawing logging in the area. Following the blockade, Baldenegro was suddenly jailed on what later proved to be false charges of arms and drug possession. After 15 months of imprisonment, he emerged to establish an environmental justice organization, which currently has cases pending in the federal courts in Mexico. He has brought world attention to the beautiful, ecologically crucial old-growth forests of the Sierra Madre as well as the survival of the Tarahumara people.

Father José Andrés Tamayo Cortez, another Goldman Prize recipient, is a Catholic priest leading the struggle for environmental justice in the Olancho region of Honduras. He directs the Environmental Movement of Olancho, MAO, a coalition of subsistence

farmers and community and religious leaders who are defending their lands against uncontrolled logging in the region. Logging has already taken more than half of the region's 12 million acres of forest in one of the most biologically diverse forest ecosystems. Father Tamayo has worked to exert pressure on the Honduran government to reform its national forest policy. He has been harassed and violently assaulted, and has had a bounty put on his life for his work in his community. Father Tamayo is selflessly committed to the peaceful protection of the forests and the people of Honduras. He has said, "Natural resources and life itself are human rights; therefore, to destroy God's creation is to attack human life; our last remaining option is to defend life with our own life."

These are just two of the six leaders awarded the Goldman Prize this year, but I would like to commend all the winners for their incredible commitment to a better world for their communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring them today.

THE NEW G.I. BILL: PAYING A DEBT TO TODAY'S VETERANS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the G.I. Bill of Rights for the 21st Century.

This week, we commemorate the 61st anniversary of the G.I. Bill. The bill was enacted in 1944 to support our troops returning from World War II with educational benefits, home loans and medical assistance. This legislation greatly impacted my life.

I was a high school dropout when I first enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948. After serving in Korea, where I was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, I came back home in 1952 with no idea of what to do next. I had achieved the rank of Sergeant, but now I found myself frustrated, pushing hand trucks in New York's garment district, just as I had before I was deployed to Korea. Desperate for help, I went to the Veterans Administration where I learned the government would pay for my education under the G.I. Bill. I decided to finish high school and to pursue a higher education and a law degree. The rest is history.

Almost 8 million veterans went to college as a result of the original G.I. Bill and we owe today's veterans that same opportunity tailored to today's needs. Today, there are CHARLIE RANGELS from all over the country who don't know what they will be doing when they return from serving. They enlisted with the hope of a better way of life by getting an education through the G.I. Bill. More than one million men and women have served so far in Iraq and Afghanistan. These troops have put their lives on the line for our country, and we owe them nothing less than a new and improved G.I. Bill.

The new G.I. Bill recently introduced by Democrats in Congress, if passed, would improve benefits for our men and women serving today and meets the needs of veterans and military retirees.

To help our soldiers take part in our economy and help recruit new service members,

the new G.I. Bill would provide the full cost for college or job training for those who serve four or more years of active duty. It would also provide \$1,000 bonuses to the nearly 1 million troops who have been placed in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan. The new G.I. Bill also honors our National Guard and Reserve by expanding military health care to cover all reservists, making sure they do not suffer a pay cut while deployed and improving incentives for recruitment and retention.

For military retirees and the families of those who died in the line of duty, the package would eliminate the Disabled Veterans Tax, allowing disabled veterans to receive disability compensation along with their retirement pension. It would also do away with the Military Families Tax which penalizes survivors, mostly widows, of those killed as a result of combat from injuries sustained in service. These widows lose their survivor benefits if they receive compensation because their spouse has died of a service-connected injury. If passed, the bill would also improve veterans' health care.

Like me, most of today's volunteers are from economically depressed urban and rural areas with high rates of unemployment. Enticed by enlistment bonuses up to \$20,000, they look at the military as an economic opportunity. In effect, they are subject to an economic draft. This is why I appealed to President Bush to call on all Americans to share the burden of war.

I oppose the war in Iraq, whose justifications have all been proven false. I strongly support the troops, whose job is not to question the legitimacy of the war, but to follow the orders they are given. We must see to it that we show them how much we appreciate their sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, on June 22, 2005 I was unavoidably detained during votes on H.R. 2985. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: on Rollcall vote No. 299, I would have voted "nay"; on Rollcall vote No. 300, I would have voted "nay"; on Rollcall vote No. 301, I would have voted "nay"; on Rollcall vote No. 302, I would have voted "nay"; on Rollcall vote No. 303, I would have voted "aye".

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY SIGNING BETWEEN THE TRIBES OF MIDDLE OREGON AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of the treaty signing between the Tribes of middle Oregon and the United States on June 25th, 1855. I will have the honor this weekend

of celebrating this historic agreement with the Tribes at the Warm Springs Reservation. This historic agreement has been the guiding document between the Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the United States government for 150 years. The Wasco, Taih, Wyam, Tenino, Dock-Spus Bands of the Walla Walla and The Dalles Ki-Gal-Twal-La and the Dog River Bands of Wasco have called the Middle Columbia River home since time immemorial.

As we near the anniversary of this Treaty, I would like to share with my colleagues some of the rich history of the Treaty. On June 25th, 1855 near what is now The Dalles, Oregon, these bands and tribes finalized negotiations with Superintendent for Indian Affairs of Oregon Territory Joel Palmer and agreed to cede over 10 million acres of land that became most of Central Oregon from the east side of the Cascade Mountains up to the middle of the Columbia River and over to the Blue Mountains.

For the past 150 years, the Tribes of Warm Springs have had a strong government that has been successful in preserving their traditional cultural ways and providing for the well being of their members, homelands, and future generations. Today, The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have over 4,000 enrolled members and the Tribes operate almost all their own programs and services including their own tribal public safety department which includes tribal police, courts, and justice, as well as medical and fire response, utilities, infrastructure, social services, housing and education among other programs.

In addition, the Tribes lead the way nationally and within Indian Country for managing their vast reservation lands and resources. The Tribes co-operate a large hydroelectric project, manage their large timber resources, operate their own sawmill, and is pursuing innovative endeavors in creating energy from biomass production of wood products. In addition, they help manage their Treaty-entrusted fishing resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs in the United States Congress and have enjoyed working on many projects important to the Tribes and the people of eastern Oregon. Whether it has been working with the Tribes on legislation authorizing the 408-megawatt Pelton Round Butte hydroelectric project near Madras or partnering with them to help site their future casino in Cascade Locks, I have had the pleasure to work with the honorable people of The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

As Chairman of the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, and co-author of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, I have also had the good fortune to work on issues that will assist the Tribes in managing their own lands. In June of this year I was pleased to announce that Warm Springs Forest Products Industries received a \$250,000 grant through the U.S. Forest Service's Woody Biomass Utilization Grant Program which was authorized in the Healthy Forests legislation. This grant program creates markets for small-diameter material and low-value trees removed from hazardous fuel reduction activities and helps organizations and businesses turn hazardous fuel reduction material into marketable forest products and energy resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share with you and my colleagues the rich history of The

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and look forward to continuing our productive working relationship in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO COMPUTER CORE OF
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate the Computer Community Outreach and Education program, or Computer CORE, of Alexandria, Virginia, for celebrating its fifth anniversary. This wonderful non-profit program promotes the realization of better job opportunities through basic computer skills training. It is offered to unemployed and under-employed adults in Northern Virginia, who may have little or no experience with computers, but have something much more important to each of them: an insatiable desire to learn, achieve, and contribute to our society.

These students come from a wide array of families and backgrounds, but all of them leave with the proficiency necessary to enter the workforce and contribute to the economic development of our nation. They leave Computer CORE not only with competence in keyboarding, word processing, and spreadsheets, but also with the ability to identify their own strengths and interests, set goals, develop resumes and cover letters, and pursue their goals and the American dream. In addition, they leave with a free refurbished computer of their own, allowing them to continue to develop their skills at home, as well as teach their families the valuable skills they have learned.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of Debra Roepke, the executive director and founder of the program, as well as the staff of instructors who generously volunteer their time and energy to help these students acquire the skills they need to achieve the American Dream. Through hard work and education, the students of the Computer CORE classes are grasping their future and entering a new stage of life. After graduation, these students will find new job opportunities they never had before. Some will continue at institutions of higher education. Some will teach their families the skills they have learned. But all of them will have truly experienced the American dream.

BRAC REGIONAL FIELD HEARING
IN RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, on June 20-23, 2005, I attended the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Regional Field Hearing in Rapid City, South Dakota in an effort to convince BRAC commissioners to remove Ellsworth Air Force Base—South Dakota's second largest employer—from the Department of Defense's list of military bases recommended for closure. Therefore, I was unavoidably absent

from the House of Representatives on these days and was unable to support important legislation brought before the full House.

I would like the record to show that had I been present I would have voted in support of H.R. 2863, the Fiscal Year 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations Act; H.R. 2475, the Fiscal 2006 Intelligence Authorization Act; and H.J. Res. 110, the Flag Desecration Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Appropriations bill funds the activities of the Department of Defense including the funds needed to outfit and train our servicemen and women and important benefits and services for members of our military and their families. The bill also includes funding for three partnership programs between the Department of Defense and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. These important programs will help bring together a unique array of capabilities offered by the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to help our Nation's military meet the challenge of transformation and modernization.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to improve our Nation's commitment to the men and women who serve in the military. There is no question that all Americans owe their freedom to those brave enough to serve in our Nation's military.

I also would like to express my support for the Fiscal Year 2006 Intelligence Authorization Act. This bill provides funding for 15 U.S. intelligence agencies and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. government—including the CIA and the National Security Agency, as well as foreign intelligence activities of the Defense Department, FBI, State Department, Homeland Security Department, and other agencies. I will continue working to ensure our Federal intelligence and security agencies receive the resources and funding needed to protect the United States from external and internal threats.

Finally, I would like to express my support for the flag desecration amendment to the United States Constitution. This resolution authorizes Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. Our Nation's flag is a symbol of freedom and a source of pride for all of us fortunate enough to call ourselves Americans. Our Nation has always encouraged free discussion and reasonable disagreement, but the physical desecration of an American flag goes beyond the pale. Such actions are insulting to those who have fought, and died, under the American flag, and I am proud to support efforts to ban flag desecration.

In 1989, the Supreme Court held that no laws could prohibit political protesters from burning the American flag and declared unconstitutional the flag desecration laws of 48 states and of the United States. In that case, *Texas v. Johnson*, Justice Stevens wrote a powerful dissenting opinion that has guided my reasoning on the Amendment for some time.

Justice Stevens pointed out the importance of distinguishing between disagreeable ideas and disagreeable conduct. In a particularly apt analogy, Justice Stevens noted that if Johnson had spray painted his message on the Lincoln Memorial, the government could prohibit his "expression." I have always found myself in agreement with the idea that there should be a legitimate interest in preserving the quality of an important national asset.

I look forward to continuing to work on these and other important issues in the 109th Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE JAMES JARRELL PICKLE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a true patriot. Known simply as "Jake," James Jarrell Pickle served in the House of Representatives for 32 years where he became a senior Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee—where I had the pleasure of serving with him.

While in Congress, his dedication to the concerns of his constituents as well as putting their interests first made Jake a well respected figure on Capitol Hill. Publicly listing his home phone number and personally taking calls from his constituents well into the night, Jake embodied accountability in governance. His political drive was so focused that it is said that he lost 25 pounds during his first Congressional campaign.

The strength of Jake's political convictions can best be seen in his vote in favor of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—one year after his first election. Jake was convinced that this vote would guarantee him a ticket out of Washington in his next election. Regardless of this potential outcome, he became one of only seven southern Representatives to vote for this important piece of legislation, and the good voters of Texas' 10th District sent him back to Congress for the next 31 years.

As the Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, Jake played a major role in writing legislation that saved Social Security in 1983, when, much like today, it faced financial challenges. His words then calling for bipartisanship ring true today—Jake said, "We should hold our fire. We can't inflame this subject. If we inflame it too much, nothing will get done, and if nothing gets done, the American people will have the right to throw us all out." One year later, Jake was influential in preserving Social Security benefits for the disabled.

Before he entered Congress, Jake served in World War II as a Gunnery Officer on the USS *St. Louis* and the USS *Miami*. During his three year stint, starting in 1942, Jake survived three torpedo attacks. Clearly he was meant to make it back. When he returned home, he established Austin, Texas's third radio station, KVET.

When I was first elected to the Ways and Means Committee, Jake helped me understand the great tradition of that Committee. Once, our Committee held a retreat in Austin, Texas, and Jake entertained us for hours with Lady Bird Johnson, telling us story after story. Jake served his District and Nation well, and he will be missed by all of us.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
GENERAL LOUIS H. WILSON

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late General Louis H. Wilson, a World War II veteran, a recipient of the Medal of Honor, and 26th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps. General Wilson was also a recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for "exceptionally distinguished service" during his four-year tenure as Commandant and his contributions as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He leaves his wife, the former Jane Clark of Pearson, Mississippi and one daughter, Janet. Our country lost a strong leader, courageous Marine, and dedicated patriot upon the passing of General Wilson.

Born February 11, 1920, in Brandon, Mississippi, General Wilson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi. In May 1941, he embarked upon his path of commendable service in the Marine Corps Reserve, as he enlisted and was commissioned a second lieutenant. As a young Marine, Wilson participated in the ferocious battle to liberate Guam. His actions during fierce combat on Guam, which was heavily occupied by the enemy for 32 months, earned him the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest award for heroism and leadership. Wilson was promoted to the rank of Captain while serving overseas with the 9th Marines in 1943. His tour in the Pacific Theater took him to Guadalcanal, Efate, and Bougainville. In December 1944, he was transferred to Washington, D.C., where he served as Detachment Commander at the Marine Barracks and was presented the Medal of Honor by President Truman.

The Medal of Honor was but the first accolade bestowed upon General Wilson during his service in the Marine Corps. In March 1970, Wilson was promoted to Major General. General Wilson was also awarded two additional Legion of Merit medals and the Korean Order of National Security Merit, GUK-SEON Medal, 2d Class and the Philippine Legion of Honor (Degree of Commander) for his service in those countries. On July 1, 1975, General Wilson received his final promotion to General when he assumed the office of Commandant of the Marine Corps.

As Commandant, General Wilson advocated modernization of the post-Vietnam Marine Corps for the protection of his corps. His indomitable leadership and relentless dedication enhances the highest traditions of our country. I join the millions of Marines and their families in mourning the passing of this honorable man. General Wilson will always have a special place in the hearts of the people of Guam.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 23, 2005, owing to an important family matter,

I regrettably missed recorded vote numbered 306.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this measure.

HONORING SPECIALIST BRANDON
SABETTI

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic action of one of our brave soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Brandon Sabetti of Mosier is a member of the National Guard from my home state of Oregon. He was called to active duty with Alpha Company of the Third Battalion of the 116th Cavalry and conducted training exercises at Ft. Polk, Louisiana and Ft. Bliss, Texas before transferring to Iraq at the end of last year. I had the honor of meeting with many of the citizen soldiers who comprise Alpha Company when I visited both forts during their training.

Since that time he conducted regular mobile infantry missions to secure dangerous areas of Iraq and to help Iraqis rebuild their country after decades under Saddam Hussein's ruthless regime. On the morning of June 3rd, he was traveling in a convoy toward Forward Operating Base Warrior near Kirkuk as part of a road-clearing mission when the vehicle in which he was riding was struck by a roadside bomb.

Spc. Sabetti, the gunner and designated combat lifesaver in his vehicle, was sitting in the open turret at the top of the Humvee and was ejected upon impact. He immediately got back on his feet and began triaging his wounded companions—dressing their wounds and administering intravenous fluids. He quickly ran to the second vehicle in the convoy to report the injuries and share the need for a quick medical evacuation.

He jumped into the third Humvee, which was pulling into position to provide security to the injured when a second bomb detonated, destroying that vehicle as well. Undaunted, Sabetti again went to work administering medical care to those wounded in the second attack and assisting in their evacuation after additional support arrived.

Sabetti's heroic courage under fire and willingness to attend to the needs of his comrades despite risk to himself was central to ensuring that none of the ten Oregon Guardsmen injured in the attack lost their lives.

Mr. Speaker, this young man exemplifies the honorable character of the men and women who have answered duty's call throughout our Nation's history. His willingness to serve and sacrifice for our country and his fellow soldiers is a clear demonstration of the courage and professionalism that distinguish our armed forces. This grateful Nation owes Spc. Sabetti and his compatriots in arms serving around the world every day a profound debt of gratitude. I am proud to call him a fellow Oregonian and I thank him deeply for his service.

God bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOOREOF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, due to my questioning of witnesses at a hearing of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee of the House Financial Services Committee yesterday morning, June 23, I just missed the vote on rollcall no. 304. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RICHARD C. CROTTY, U.S. ARMY

HON. KEN CALVERTOF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Colonel Richard C. Crotty, United States Army, for his service and leadership while commanding the United States Army's 653rd Area Support Group. On June 25, 2005, Colonel Crotty will relinquish his command of the 653rd and report for assignment to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-3 Operations Directorate at the Pentagon.

After graduating from North Georgia College with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1980, Colonel Crotty began his military career at the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. As a trained parachutist, he served with a number of airborne units, including the much heralded 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

While with the 82nd Airborne Division he fought in Grenada during the 1983 U.S. invasion. Colonel Crotty spent 12 years in the Rangers and Special Forces and was a student at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania when receiving orders to take over the 653rd.

On August 9, 2003, Colonel Crotty assumed Command of the 653rd, headquartered at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California. This unit is based in my congressional district and a number of the reservists under Colonel Crotty's command are my constituents. I have come to know Colonel Crotty as a dedicated and selfless leader with a "can do" attitude. He has demonstrated his leadership and innovation in developing and coordinating the joint training center at March Air Reserve Base. When complete, this jointly funded and shared training center will be used by 1,800 service-members.

Colonel Crotty has seen the 653rd deploy 1,367 troops in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. These troops include military police officers, chemical and biological warfare specialists, Humvee mechanics, communications experts and oil-pipeline builders. Knowing the sacrifice and challenges all reservists experience, Colonel Crotty has demonstrated a sincere dedication to preparing these service-members for the serious mission that lies before them. I know his troops share my admiration of his compassion, strength, and service to our country.

He has earned my many thanks. I wish him well in his new assignment at the Pentagon and in all of his future endeavors.

TO HONOR 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINSOF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary service of the Hotel Lenhart of Chautauqua County, town of Bemus Point, upon the occasion of reaching their 125th year of business.

The Hotel Lenhart is dedicated to providing Bemus Point's tourists the get away that is truly a historical education. Originally the hotel was used by Dr. J.J. Lenhart as a way to use the excess goods bartered by his patients in exchange for his medical services.

Today the Hotel Lenhart is managed by Dr. J.J. Lenhart's great grandson, John Lenhart Johnston, sister Bebe and wife Deborah. Their intent is not to change the hotel but to improve it and keep it up without adding any modernizing features.

Guests of The Hotel Lenhart should not expect a hotel room full of modern day amenities. The 53 rooms do not have televisions, telephones, air conditioning or heat. Only 37 of the rooms have private bathrooms. All of this adds to the historical feel of a bygone era.

In an effort to bring guests back to a simpler time, the hotel staff will be adorned in Victorian costumes. The hotel is also offering afternoon teas and guided tours. I am honored Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor the rich heritage of this lakeside jewel.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
U.S. MARINE CORPORAL BRAD D. SQUIRES**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Corporal Brad D. Squires, who bravely and selflessly heeded the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Corporal Squires' life was framed by his family, friends and his community. He gained personal strength and faith from those who knew him best and loved him most, especially from his wife, Julie Squires. A kind and understanding soul, Corporal Squires was always willing to go the extra mile for an individual in need. His commitment to helping others was reflected in his studies to become a firefighter.

Corporal Squires was blessed with physical strength, a high level of intelligence and a courageous heart. His humble nature prevented him from reveling in the many honors and commendations that he received throughout his years in the service.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Corporal Brad D. Squires. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Julie; his parents, Donna Squires and Bruce Squires; his brother Chad and sister Jodie; his grandmother, Jackie Squires; his sister-in-law, Sharon Squires; his brothers-in-law, Mike Bogdan and Mike Brandyberry; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Dorothy and Rev. Simeon Brandyberry; his nephew Chad;

his nieces, Cassidy and Alexis; and his extended family and many friends.

The significant sacrifice, service, and bravery that characterized the life of Corporal Brad D. Squires will be a legacy and testament to all that is good in humanity, and his life will be forever honored and remembered by the Cleveland community, and the entire nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASSOF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 23, 2005, owing to an important family matter, I regrettably missed recorded vote numbered 307, on the Bradley amendment to H.R. 3010. This amendment would add critical Federal support for grants to States to carry out the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

As a constant and long time supporter of meeting the Federal Government's share of IDEA funding, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this measure.

HONORING SERGEANT JOHAN
CHRISTIAN BAGGE AND SECOND
LIEUTENANT TIMOTHY BOMKE**HON. GREG WALDEN**OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, June 24, 2005*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of two patriots who have made tremendous sacrifices as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom to help preserve and expand the liberty that we all hold dear.

Sergeant Johan Christian Bagge of Eugene and Second Lieutenant Timothy Bomke of Portland are members of the National Guard from my home State of Oregon. They were called to active duty with Alpha Company of the Third Battalion of the 116th Cavalry and conducted training exercises at Ft. Polk, Louisiana and Ft. Bliss, Texas before transferring to Iraq at the end of last year. I had the honor of meeting with many of the citizen soldiers who comprise Alpha Company when I visited both forts during their training.

Since that time they conducted regular mobile infantry missions to secure dangerous areas of Iraq and to help Iraqis rebuild their country after decades under Saddam Hussein's ruthless regime. On the morning of June 3rd they were traveling in a convoy toward Forward Operating Base Warrior near Kirkuk as part of a road clearing mission when, without warning, two separate roadside bombs detonated, damaging two of the three vehicles in the convoy and injuring ten of the soldiers.

Both Sgt. Bagge and Lt. Bomke sustained severe wounds in the attack and were transferred back to the United States for further treatment. They were brought to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC briefly to begin their recoveries and have since been relocated to Brooke Army Medical Center and Ft. Lewis. From conversations with family and friends, I understand that these soldiers have maintained extremely positive attitudes

throughout their ordeals even as they've undergone a series of significant medical procedures.

Mr. Speaker, these two men exemplify the honorable character of the men and women who have answered duty's call throughout our Nation's history. Their willingness to serve and sacrifice for our country is a clear demonstration of the courage and professionalism that distinguish our armed forces. This grateful Nation owes these men and their compatriots in arms who serve around the world every day a profound debt of gratitude. I am proud to call Sgt. Bagge and Lt. Bomke fellow Oregonians, I thank them for their service and I wish them both a healthy recovery.

God bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 20, I was unavoidably detained at the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's Regional Hearing in St. Louis, Missouri and therefore absent for votes on rollcall nos. 283, 284, 285, 286, and 287. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall nos. 283, 284, 285, 286, and 287.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD "DALE" HINES II

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. The City of Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Donald "Dale" Hines is one of these individuals. On June 22, 2005, Dale was the proud recipient of the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

The Congressional Award is the U.S. Congress' award for young Americans that demonstrate a commitment to community service and physical fitness. This non-partisan, voluntary, and noncompetitive program is open to all 14 to 23-year olds. The Congressional Award challenges young adults to meet goals in four program areas: Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. The Congressional Award Gold Medal is the highest honor one can achieve through this program.

To meet this challenge, Dale enrolled himself in an emergency medical technician (EMT) training school and subsequently graduated at the top of his class. In order to meet the physical demands of his work as an EMT, Dale began to regularly go to the gym and lift weights. Additionally, Dale found a way to match his work with his physical activities by serving on a bike-medical team that provides emergency medical care at special events in the community.

As an active participant in the Boy Scouts of America, Dale serves as an Assistant Council Commissioner for the California Inland Empire Council. He is a past recipient of the Venturing Silver Award and an Eagle Scout. Furthermore, Dale is dedicated to sharing his passion for community service with others and became active in the Buckskin Junior Leader Training program. While at Buckskin, he served as a Camp EMT and Associate Course Director for Physical Arrangements.

Dale's sincere commitment to community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community and I am proud to call him a fellow community member and a great American. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and I salute him as he receives the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF CATHERINE E. DIAMOND CREELEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary educational achievement of Catherine E. Diamond Creeley, a former resident of the Chautauqua County town of Jamestown, upon the occasion of her receiving her Doctoral Degree in Behavioral Neuroscience from the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

Catherine Creeley is both a graduate of Jamestown High School and Jamestown Community College. Upon graduation she proceeded to obtain her Bachelor's degree in psychology, with biology minor, from the State University of New York at Cortland.

Mrs. Creeley is an extremely dedicated student, whose goal of her dissertation was to find new treatment options for Alzheimer's disease. Catherine will continue her research on the neurobiology of the brain, as well as teach as an adjunct professor at the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

Mrs. Creeley is the granddaughter of Eugene Diamond and the daughter of Suzanne Diamond, both residents of Jamestown, New York. Catherine lives with her husband Scott, and son, Nicholas in St. Louis, Missouri.

Catherine Creeley also was awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Washington University School of Medicine.

IN HONOR OF ACCLAIMED FILMMAKER BRENDA BRKUSIC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of filmmaker Brenda Brkusic. Brenda is a courageous and hard working young woman who has been identified as a visionary in the Croatian community. At the age of twenty-one, Brenda started working on the film *Freedom From Despair* as her student thesis at Chapman University in Los Angeles, California.

Freedom From Despair explores one man's arduous journey from his homeland of Yugoslavia to the United States, and his fight for human rights and Croatian independence. It also scrutinizes the relationship between ruthless dictators, the slaughter of 250,000 people, and the silence of the mainstream media. It creatively portrays the power of the human spirit and the tenets of democracy, without preaching or the use of propaganda.

Her film has been met with critical acclaim, and has garnered countless awards, including the CINE Golden Eagle award, which has previously been awarded to Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. Her peers have recognized her as an emerging talent in the film industry, and a remarkable human being.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ms. Brenda Brkusic, the writer, producer and editor of *Freedom From Despair* for her hard work encouraging human rights and personal triumph over evil.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 23, 2005, owing to an important family matter, I regrettably missed recorded vote numbered 305, on the Obey amendment to H.R. 3010. This amendment would restore critical Federal support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

As a constant and long time supporter of public broadcasting, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 282. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following this vote.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative SHAYS and I introduce legislation to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and to commend the organization on its history of diplomatic achievement throughout the world.

Since its founding, the United Nations has made many contributions to the global community in the fields of health, medicine, education, peacekeeping and humanitarian aid.

One of the organization's most noteworthy actions is its recent outpouring of aid and support to the people of the nations affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Southeast Asia in December 2004. The United Nations is critical to the balance and well-being of all nations, and makes significant advances in the world every day; however, structural reforms are necessary to ensure that the organization can continue its noble efforts to effect positive change. As the United Nations seeks to reform itself, this resolution sends the message that Members of Congress are willing to work with them to ensure a future humanitarian successes.

I look forward to working with Representative SHAYS and my other colleagues to honor the United Nations for 60 years of good work and to pledge the support of Congress as the organization moves forward.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL JOHN
D. BUTLER

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rear Admiral (Lower Half) John D. Butler, a Texas City, Texas, native who retires after 31 years of faithful service from the United States Navy on July 1, 2005.

Many of us have come to know and recognize Rear Admiral Butler over the past two years as he has served as the Program Executive Officer (Submarines) since February 2003. During his tenure as the Navy's top submarine acquisition officer, Rear Admiral Butler delivered USS *Virginia* (SSN 774) and USS *Jimmy Carter* (USS 23). *Virginia's* commissioning in October 2004 ended the longest drought of submarine commissioning in that service's 105-year history. Whereas *Virginia* is the first of her class, *Jimmy Carter* is the last of the *Sea Wolf* Class. *Jimmy Carter* brings a host of new and revolutionary capabilities to the fleet that will help the United States to win the Global War on Terror.

Under Rear Admiral Butler's watch, the submarine construction industry has been, virtually, reborn. He was a driving force in transitioning the *Virginia* Class' second Block Buy contract into a Multi-Year agreement that will save an estimated \$80 million per submarine over the five-hull agreement. Currently, there are six *Virginia* Class submarines under construction and an additional three ships under contract.

Admiral Butler has also made great efforts in converting four *Ohio* Class Trident Ballistic Missile Submarines into the transformation SSGNs. Each of these 560-foot long, 18,000-ton submarines will be able to carry up to 154 precision-guided Tomahawk Land-Attack cruise missiles, 66 Navy S and to support covert Special Operations, each SSGN will be able to carry two Dry-Deck Shelters, two Advanced SEAL Delivery Systems, or one of each top the ships' integrated lock-in/lock-out trunks. With the *Ohio* Class' inherent stealth, these SSGNs, the first of which delivers in November 2005, will be a potent warfighter in the Global War on Terror.

Admiral Butler has also acted as an emissary with allied nation's undersea forces, es-

pecially with both the Royal Australian Navy and with Great Britain's Royal Navy. In doing so, he has not only strengthened our bonds with these most trusted allies, but has also enhanced national security.

Admiral Butler joined the Navy via the Nuclear Power Officer Candidate Program in 1975 after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry. His sea duty assignments have included: Division Officer on board USS *Will Rogers* (SSBN 659); Navigator/Operations Officer on board USS *James K. Polk* (SSBN 645); Navigator/Operations Officer on board USS *James Madison* (SSBN 627); and Repair Officer on board USS *Proteus* (AS 19).

Admiral Butler's shore assignments have included: Attack Submarine Training Head for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Submarine Warfare); AN/BSY-1 Submarine Combat and Acoustic System (PMS417) Chief Engineer for Program Executive Officer, Submarine Combat and Weapons Systems; *Sea Wolf* Class Submarine (PMS350) Assistant Program Manager (Design and Construction) for Program Executive Officer, Submarines; Strategic and Attack Submarines (PMS392) Major Program Manager for Naval Sea Systems Command; and Executive Assistant and Naval Aide to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition). He has also served in temporary assignments attached to the Applied Physics Laboratory Ice Station, Arctic Ocean; Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Groton, CT, and Newport News, VA; and attached in support of U.S. Embassies at Cairo, Egypt; Moscow, Russia; and Panama City, Panama. Over the course of his career, Admiral Butler has helped to design, build, and deliver a total of 23 submarines—nearly one-third of today's total force.

Admiral Butler's personal awards include the Legion of Merit (3 awards), Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, in addition to other service and unit awards.

Mr. Speaker, Admiral Butler has given 30 years of service to the Navy, to Congress, and to the people of the United States of America. He has served our Nation well and has helped to ensure that our undersea fleet remains the best in the world. He has left a large and meaningful legacy and I am honored to rise today to express my appreciation for Admiral Butler and for his wife Eileen who has served her Nation right along side her husband. Being a Navy wife is not an easy task, and she has been nothing less than a model of courage, patience, and devotion.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues, please join me in wishing Admiral and Eileen Butler: "Fair winds and following seas and long may your big jib draw!"

HONORING VEDA GREEN WINNER
OF THE SPIRIT OF JPS VOLUNTEER
OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and commitment of Mrs. Veda Green. Mrs. Green was named the Spirit of JPS Volunteer of the Year by JPS Health

Network for her years of outstanding and dedicated community service in multiple capacities for the JPS Health Network.

Mrs. Green received the award at the annual JPS Health Network Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in recognition of the over 4000 hours of community service she has worked during the last 8 years. Veda earned a reputation as someone who truly cares about others through her work as a volunteer at the information desk and in pastoral care.

JPS Health Network is an organization committed to improving the health of families throughout my district. The Network includes John Peter Smith Hospital, the JPS Institute for Health Career Development, and a network of community-based health centers, home care and psychiatric services at Trinity Springs Pavilion. That such a large organization with so many different great people associated with it would choose Mrs. Green speaks quite highly of her.

It is with great honor I stand here today to recognize a woman who has touched so many people on a personal level and asked nothing in return.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD ELINSON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker. Mr. WAXMAN and I ask our colleagues to join us today in honoring Dr. Howard Elinson, who was born on the 11th of January, 1940 in New York City and who passed away on Friday June 17th, 2005 in Los Angeles at Midway Hospital.

Howard earned his B.A. and his Ph.D. in Sociology at UCLA. He taught for 1 year at Yale and for 7 years at UCLA. He worked as Administrative Assistant and Consultant for 27 years for Congressman HENRY WAXMAN. Six of those years were when WAXMAN was a State Assemblyman.

Howard is survived by his beloved and devoted brother Mark who is an admired and respected high school teacher of Social Studies in the Los Angeles City School system. He also serves as an Adviser to the L.A. Unified School District, instructing Social Studies teachers on the best techniques for teaching Social Studies.

Howard Elinson was and is unforgettable to any or all who knew or met him (no matter how casually or for how short a time). He changed the life of everyone in his personal orbit by his magnetic personality his unique insight into the human condition, his sharp wit his gigantic intellect his mastery of any human behavior subject, and his generosity and kindness.

But, unknown to most Californians and "Angelinos" (and unmentioned in media accounts) Howard Elinson changed the face of California and Los Angeles politics.

It was Howard Elinson who conceived and invented individually targeted computerized mail—the campaign technique that was instrumental in the 1968 primary election victory of HENRY WAXMAN for State Assembly (by, still to this date, the largest margin against an incumbent—this one a 26 year incumbent—of his own party), and the 1972 primary and general election victory of HOWARD BERMAN for State

Assembly (the general against, ironically, a 26 year Republican incumbent).

It was Howard Elinson's ideas that were instrumental in electing Congressman HENRY WAXMAN Congressman HOWARD BERMAN, Congressman Mel Levine Congressman Julian Dixon State Senator Herschel Rosenthal, State Assemblyman Burt Margolin, State Assemblyman Terry Friedman and countless others.

And it was Howard Elinson who inspired the strategy and direct mail efforts that led to the election of Mayor Tom Bradley in 1973.

But Howard Elinson's life was much more than about politics. As a devout and Orthodox Jew his faith came first. And imagine this dark suited, yarmulke wearing, fast-talking man writing the "early 60's seminal study" of voting behavior for his Ph.D. thesis. He conducted lengthy and open-ended interviews, drawing out in their homes 50 white working class voters in Bell, California—the then-place-of-entry of the vast immigration from Oklahoma, the mid-west and the South to Southern California.

These Christian and working class people had perhaps never before met a Jew—and certainly not a readily recognizable Orthodox Jew. Yet they opened their hearts to this amazing man. They trusted him—no matter how "New York" he spoke, no matter how foreign he might have looked. That was the uniqueness, the special nature of Howard Elinson.

Perhaps inspired by his faith, or by his innate decency, Howard Elinson affected the lives of everyone who knew him. Many dozens of interns, staff, and budding politicians that came through HENRY WAXMAN'S office sought Howard Elinson's advice and counsel—both personal and career. Hundreds of young people confused by the conflicts between a traditional religious life and modernity sought Howard Elinson's advice on how to cope—"who better to ask?" Children flocked to him—no child was unworthy of his attention, his sense of playfulness, his devotion to the child's value as a human being. No one in need (whether for a religious cause or in personal need) was turned down for a contribution. Howard Elinson's generosity was open ended and well known.

The untimely death of Howard Elinson was not just a loss to his family and friends, but to the people who have had in him a champion of a tolerant, liberal, and more humane America.

IN HONOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S
DELEGATION TO THE 2005 YMCA
YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NA-
TIONAL AFFAIRS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the South Carolina delegation to the 2005 YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs. The Youth Conference on National Affairs brings together some of the best and brightest students from across the country. YMCA Youth and Government seeks to teach teenagers the process of learning about government through hands-on experiences

and in-depth learning at state conferences throughout the country.

The YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs will be held the first week of July in Black Mountain, NC, and I am proud of each and everyone of the delegates that will be representing the Palmetto State.

Viki Alvarez—Riverside High School, Greer.

Dustin Atkins—Liberty High School, Liberty.

Morgan Bauserman—Riverside High School, Greer.

Martha Bordogna—Spartanburg High School, Spartanburg.

Lucy Bullock—AC Flora High School, Columbia.

Stephanie Dunaway—Riverside High School, Greer.

Jason Hill—Riverside High School, Greer.

Stephanie Hoo—Southside High School, Greenville.

Samantha Jaeger—Riverside High School, Greer.

Quentin James—Mauldin High School, Mauldin.

Hart Moede—Wren High School, Powdersville.

Leah Nakom—Spartanburg Day School, Spartanburg.

Eric Novak—Porter-Gaud School, Charleston.

Megan Novak—Mauldin High School, Mauldin.

Niti Parthasarathy—Governor's School for the Arts, Greenville.

Asha Purohit—Porter-Gaud School, Charleston.

Dave Raheja—Riverside High School, Greer.

Paul Richardson—Spartanburg High School, Spartanburg.

Monica Ryskamp—Riverside High School, Greer.

Rebecca Street—DW Daniel High School, Clemson.

Meg Turlington—Southside High School, Greenville.

Kyle Warren—Greenville High School, Greenville.

Kyle Williams—AC Flora High School, Columbia

I wish the delegates all the best for a great conference, and continue to thank them for their keen interest in improving our government and public service.

HONORING LENORE CROUDY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am truly happy to rise before you today to recognize the accomplishments of a woman who has selflessly devoted her life to education and public service. On June 24, civic and community leaders will join the "Lifetime Friends of Lenore Croudy," and honor Ms. Croudy as she celebrates her retirement from Flint Community Schools after 39 years.

It is difficult to imagine what the Flint area would be like had it not been for the influence of Lenore Croudy, an influence which began in August 1960, when she moved here from Atlantic City, NJ. A graduate of West Virginia State College and later Eastern Michigan University, Lenore started her relationship with Flint Community Schools as a teacher, and continued that relationship with roles such as

Instructional Specialist, Assistant Principal, Assistant Dean, and Coordinator for Learning Improvement Services, among others.

Lenore's long and distinguished educational career includes the coordination of several local and county-wide multicultural education conferences for middle school and high school students, as well as the first state-wide conference for educators. She has been at the forefront of numerous presentations and conferences on behalf of Flint Schools, the Urban League, the YWCA, the NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and many others. On July 1, Lenore will begin her fourth term as a member of the C.S. Mott Community College Board of Trustees, where she has served as Chair since 1995.

Lenore's dedicated work on behalf of others has been acknowledged on countless occasions. Examples of this include 2005 Administrator of the Year from the United Teachers of Flint, Exemplary Role Model for Youth by the Flint Professional Black Nursing Association, Mother of the Village Award by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and an Outstanding Citizenship Award given by the Michigan House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with many others in Genesee County and the State of Michigan, have benefited from Lenore Croudy's intelligence, insight, and vision. She has always been more than an advocate for education; she has been a fighter, for she believes that a strong educational background is the basis toward improving the quality of life. As a former teacher, I applaud her efforts, and I am proud to call her my colleague, my constituent, and my friend. I ask the House of Representatives to please join me in congratulating Lenore on her retirement, and wishing her the very best in all her future endeavors.

HONORING CHARLIE RANGERS,
COMPANY C, 75TH INFANTRY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor members of the Charlie Rangers, Company C of the 75th Infantry. The Charlie Rangers are celebrating a reunion in D.C. and will gather later today at the Vietnam Memorial. As a member of the Charlie Rangers 75th Infantry who served with these fine and extraordinary men, and as a guy who did nothing special myself in Vietnam, I can attest that the men of Charlie Rangers are very special Americans.

Company C came into being after the Army realized the need for special capability elite forces. Rather than create an entirely new unit designation, the Department of the Army designated the 75th Infantry as the successor of the legendary 5307 Composite Unit which served with distinction during WWII. The Charlie Rangers built on the formidable legacy of Merrill's Marauders by providing reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition and special type combat missions.

True to its motto of Sua Sponte, or Of Their Own Accord, Company C Rangers during their service in the Vietnam War, penetrated behind enemy lines without cover. Acting by themselves, Charlie Rangers slogged through

enemy positions gathering critical and valuable information on major infiltration routes.

The Rangers operated in vast, inhospitable terrains throughout Vietnam. Their prowess, coupled with boat patrols, night ambushes, and stay-behind infiltration techniques were instrumental in thwarting members of the Viet Cong and NVA. According to historical accounts, this company, comprised of merely several hundred men, was able to keep vast numbers of North Vietnamese Army troops occupied, thereby potentially saving numerous American troops.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this incredible company, the Charlie Rangers, and I am honored to have been able to serve in a small way alongside such professional and selfless soldiers. I know my colleagues join me in applauding them for a job well done and share my wishes for a memorable reunion.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF
CLINTON, IOWA

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the sesquicentennial celebration of Clinton, Iowa—a community I am very proud to represent in Congress.

One hundred and fifty summers ago, the Iowa Land Company purchased the site of the town and named it in honor of DeWitt Clinton, a former New York governor.

A number of energetic entrepreneurs worked hard to help fuel Clinton's early growth. They rooted the city along the banks of the beautiful Mississippi River; and when a railroad bridge crossing the river was completed a few years after the town was established, the lumber industry boomed.

Logs were floated down the river from Minnesota and Wisconsin to Clinton's sawmills and distributed along the river to other flourishing communities. Clinton was known as the sawmill capital of the country from the late 1850s to around 1900.

The huge log flotillas on the river of Clinton's early days must have been an impressive sight. If you visit Clinton's Eagle Point Park today in the same area, you might see families enjoying a picnic or barges carrying Iowa's bounty down the mighty Mississippi.

Today, Clinton remains full of industrious people determined to make the most of their community's strengths. Clinton's leaders are looking forward to creating even more opportunities for local workers. And every time I meet with a group of Clinton residents, I am always impressed with their incredible enthusiasm and pride in their community.

In another 150 years from now, I am sure Clinton will still be home to the same brand of wonderful people, living in a vibrant, active city by the river.

Happy birthday, Clinton!

DOWNING STREET MEMO HEARING

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, last week, House Democrats, led by Judiciary Committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, convened a hearing to investigate the so-called "Downing Street Memo." Because I am disappointed with the continued unwillingness of Congress to exercise an adequate level of oversight over the intelligence operations of the Executive Branch, I was therefore pleased to learn that someone was willing to pose questions that have for too long gone un-asked.

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, I serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I believe that the Downing Street Memo, which is essentially minutes of a July 2002 meeting of the British Prime Minister and his cabinet, justifies exploring the underlying rationales for the Iraq War. It documents a loyal ally's assertion that the architects of the Iraq war used suspect evidence to support a pre-determined policy. Its authenticity has not been questioned. Such documentation deserves to be probed.

Because of prior commitments, I attended this meeting for about 20 minutes. I later learned through news reports that, after I left, one of the witnesses at the hearing, former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Analyst Ray McGovern, offered repugnant personal viewpoints. Alleging that the war was the product of a U.S.—Israeli partnership to "dominate" the Middle East, Mr. McGovern's statements were insulting, unsubstantiated, and defamatory. There is no justification or excuse for implying that the war in Iraq was the result of any action on the part of the state of Israel, its people, or the American Jewish community. The decision to invade Iraq was the decision of President Bush and a majority of Congress. Ascribing such motives to the pro-Israel community is not simply defamatory—it is anti-Semitic. Mr. McGovern should apologize.

Mr. Speaker, I have been one of the more outspoken members of this body regarding the intelligence that this president used to justify using force against Iraq, how the war has been carried out, and the post-war occupation. I reject Mr. McGovern's statements. His remarks only encourage those who seek to blame Israel and Jews in general for all that ails them. His remarks shed no light on the issue. In fact, they undermined the values of community and equality, which all Americans hold dear.

Sixty years after the end of the Second World War, it is a shame that one of its most notorious sentiments—anti-Semitism—has yet to be eradicated. Each of us has a role to play in combating anti-Semitism whenever and wherever we see it. As a member of the Congressional Task Force Against Anti-Semitism, I ask each of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to confront anti-Semitism whenever it arises.

I hope that Mr. McGovern's offensive and misguided rhetoric does not obscure the purpose of the hearing on the Downing Street Memo. Congress should investigate the extent to which the Bush Administration used questionable evidence to justify a predetermined war. Failure to do so would be an abandonment of our oversight responsibility.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
EXTEND AIRLINE WAR RISK
INSURANCE POLICIES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce legislation that will extend war-risk insurance coverage for our Nation's airlines for 3 years, through August 31, 2008.

In the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, commercial insurance providers invoked their 7-day cancellation clauses on war-risk insurance policies held by U.S. airlines. With the absence of a commercial war-risk insurance market, the Federal Government was forced to step in. Less than 2 weeks after the attacks, Congress authorized the Federal Aviation Administration to begin offering war-risk insurance to airlines, and that authority has been extended a number of times, but is now set to expire on August 31 of this year.

We need to extend the FAA's ability to issue war-risk insurance policies for the financial sake of the U.S. airline industry, which lost approximately \$9 billion in 2004. This program is not a bailout. First of all, it is actually a revenue raiser for the Federal Government. Second, it is considerably more expensive than the war-risk insurance policies held by the airlines prior to September 11th. Four years ago, the airline industry paid a total of approximately \$20 million in premiums per year. Last year, they paid over \$140 million. However, this is much more reasonable than the over \$600 million the Air Transport Association estimates they would have to pay on the open market. This massive jump in premiums could mean the difference between solvency and bankruptcy for many of our struggling airlines. In addition, the commercial insurance policies that exist still contain the 7-day cancellation clause that would allow the insurers to cancel policies in the face of an enhanced threat.

Should the airlines be unable to obtain war-risk insurance policies, they would be forced to stop operating. This would be a crippling blow to not only the aviation industry itself, which employs over 15,000 people in New Jersey alone, but also to the entire United States economy.

Airlines are still a prime target for terrorist attack, which makes war-risk insurance both an absolute necessity and something that can not be offered by the commercial market at a reasonable price. This bill would help our struggling airline industry without costing the Federal Government one cent, and I urge my colleagues to support this small but crucial piece of legislation.

HONORING DR. CLAUDE H. ORGAN,
JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of Dr. Claude H. Organ, Jr., M.D. of Oakland, California. An internationally renowned surgeon and medical educator, Dr. Organ was the second African American to serve as president of

the American College of Surgeons. Throughout his career, he was known for his tireless efforts to ensure the inclusion of African Americans, women and other severely underrepresented minorities in the training and practice of surgery. Dr. Organ passed away in Oakland on June 18, 2005 at the age of 78.

A native Texan, Dr. Organ attended public school in Denison, Texas and received his B.S. degree from Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Though he was initially accepted at the University of Texas medical school, he did not attend after school officials discovered that he was black and offered to pay his expenses if he enrolled elsewhere. He instead chose to attend Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, where he received his M.D. in 1952, and where he later completed his surgical residency.

After serving as a Lieutenant Commander MC in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps from 1957 until 1959, Dr. Organ joined the faculty of the department of surgery at Creighton University in 1960. There, he rose to the rank of professor and chair of the department, and later became a professor of surgery at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where he served from 1982 until 1988.

Dr. Organ came to Oakland in 1989 to establish and lead the University of California, Davis/University of California, San Francisco East Bay Surgery Department. In that role, he became known for his work in building the department into a highly respected training program, and made a concerted effort to recruit and support African American students, particularly African American women, who were studying to become surgeons. Throughout his career he oversaw the training of dozens of surgeons, all of whom looked to him for guidance as a teacher and a mentor, and strived to emulate the professional and personal excellence that marked his career and conduct.

While practicing medicine and educating residents, Dr. Organ also served as a member of a number of professional and academic medical associations. He was the editor of the prestigious *Journal of American Medical Association's Archives of Surgery* for 15 years, and in 1999 was honored by the American College of Surgeons with its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. Over the course of his career, he authored or co-authored more than 250 scientific articles and book chapters as well as five books. In addition, Dr. Organ spent many years serving as president of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons, president of the Board of Trustees of Xavier University, and as president of the Urban League of Omaha.

On Wednesday, June 22, 2005, the family and friends of Dr. Claude H. Organ, Jr. will gather to pay tribute to his extraordinary life. In addition to his myriad scientific and academic contributions to the surgical field, Dr. Organ leaves a legacy of excellence in his commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity for all surgical students and residents. Dr. Organ's work as a healer, a teacher and a mentor changed countless lives, and I salute and thank him for all that he has given to people of the 9th Congressional District, the Bay Area and our country.

IN HONOR OF BART AND CHERRY
STARR AND THE RAWHIDE BOYS
RANCH

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize before this House a wonderful program that has helped hundreds of young men across Wisconsin turn their lives around—the Rawhide Boys Ranch.

Forty years ago an idea was born. The idea was to start a program to help troubled boys get a new start on life—a program that would teach them how to become good citizens, husbands and fathers. It was called the Rawhide Boys Ranch, and since opening its doors so many years ago hundreds of boys have successfully passed through the program, becoming positive, productive young men. Today, Rawhide has grown into one of the most successful faith-based programs in Wisconsin, and it has literally paved the way for scores of other organizations dedicated to helping young folks.

In 1965, the year the Green Bay Packers were crowned football world champions, quarterback Bart Starr was one of the most celebrated figures in professional sports. It was then, while his star was shining brightest, that Bart and his wife Cherry were approached by a local businessman and his wife with the dream for Rawhide Boys Ranch. Well, it didn't take John and Jan Gillespie long to sell the Starrs on their dream, and a short while later Rawhide was born. Since then, these remarkable folks have spent countless hours mentoring young men, raising funds, telling others about their amazing program, and serving as shining examples for us all.

Mr. Speaker, when Rawhide Boys Ranch was founded 40 years ago, no one could have predicted it would become such an overwhelming success. It has changed lives, touched hearts, and given families hope that a brighter future lies ahead. And, it is my distinct privilege to recognize John and Jan Gillespie, Bart and Cherry Starr, and the Rawhide Boys Ranch today.

IN HONOR OF THE NBA CHAMPION
SAN ANTONIO SPURS

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise today to recognize our 2005 National Basketball Association champions, the San Antonio Spurs.

After going head to head for 6 games, the Spurs and the Detroit Pistons met for their final showdown in San Antonio Thursday night. In front of their hometown crowd, the Spurs demonstrated once again why they are the best team in the Nation.

Following a tight and evenly matched first half, the Spurs pulled away from the Pistons in the final quarter to win 81–74 over Detroit, closing out an incredibly hard fought championship series four games to three.

Congratulations are also due to the Detroit Pistons and their coach, Larry Brown, for putting up a battle worthy of a championship series.

With the NBA's number one and number two defensive teams battling against one another for the title, this was an exciting game not only for the Alamo City, but for fans around the Nation and in more than 200 nations around the world where sports fans watched and cheered.

Under the guidance of Coach Gregg Popovich, the Spurs' Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker, Robert Horry, Bruce Bowen, Nazr Mohammed, Brent Barry, Beno Udrih, Rasha Nesterovic, Glenn Robinson, Devin Brown, and Tony Massenburg played valiantly to bring the NBA trophy back home to San Antonio. My congratulations go as well to the Spurs' owners, Peter and Julianna Holt, as well as the many other people in the Spurs organization.

Much credit is due to Tim Duncan, who with 25 points and 11 rebounds, was appropriately named the Most Valuable Player of the Finals series. This marks the third time he has won the award for his outstanding athletic skills, leadership and performance on the court.

This is the Spurs' third championship victory in franchise history. They won their first in 1999, followed by their second in 2003. Three titles in 7 years isn't just a magnificent accomplishment—it's a basketball dynasty.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank Coach Popovich and all the Spurs players for an unforgettable season.

HONORING TASK FORCE PHOENIX
IV, THE 53RD BRIGADE COMBAT
TEAM

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the great honor to join in ceremonies at Camp Shelby, Mississippi as we sent Task Force IV, The 53rd Brigade Combat Team headquartered in Pinellas Park, Florida to join Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The backbone of this task force operation is a contingent of 1,200 citizen soldiers from Florida National Guard units. They will be led in this operation by Brigadier General John M. "Mitch" Perryman, the first Florida General Officer to deploy and lead a Florida formation in combat overseas since World War II.

These 1,200 patriots from Florida, along with 250 soldiers from units in Tennessee, Kentucky, Iowa, Nebraska, and Vermont, were mobilized in April to begin their training and preparation for this mission to train the Afghan National Army. An advance party from the 53rd Brigade is already in Afghanistan preparing for the arrival of this unit.

The 53rd Infantry Brigade has earned a national reputation for excellence and achievement in service to our Nation and our great State of Florida. It was among the first units in the Nation to be activated following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Their mission was to guard airports, seaports and nuclear facilities.

Members of the 53rd also proudly served side by side with Special Operations forces,

the 3rd Infantry Division, and the Marine Expeditionary Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom. They fought for nearly a year in the streets of Baghdad and Ramadhi.

Many of those soldiers returned in April 2004 and were quickly deployed last summer to assist Floridians throughout our state who were devastated by four hurricane strikes. They served for up to 70 days helping with our state-wide recovery effort.

A large number of the troops my wife Beverly and I met with today at Camp Shelby are eagerly volunteering for a return to Southwest Asia to serve with Task Force Phoenix after having served earlier tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The troops that deploy for this mission join 1,976 Florida Army Guard and 200 Florida Air Guard troops who are currently deployed overseas. Since 9/11, 6,980 of the Florida Guard's 12,000 soldiers and airmen have been activated overseas to join in the international war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor and a privilege to be with these soldiers today to see the spirit of pride and devotion with which they serve. They are America's Team that seeks to root out terrorists to protect our nation and our allies. Their motto is "From the Front!" which is where Florida's Guardsmen have found themselves over the almost 4 years that we have fought this international campaign against terrorists. Under the outstanding leadership of Florida's Adjutant General Douglas Burnett, the 53rd Brigade Combat Team is ready to carry out this latest mission to serve as ambassadors for freedom and peace overseas. They are a credit to our state, our Nation, and the United States Army.

HONORING FRANK PEPE PIZZERIA
NAPOLETANA AS THEY CELEBRATE
THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, early in the twentieth century, Frank Pepe, an Italian immigrant living in New Haven, created the first American pizza by putting tomatoes on top of old bake-shop bread. The creation was so popular that he opened America's first pizzeria on Wooster Street—and so the local legend of Pepe's pizza is recounted. Today, I am proud to stand and join the thousands of Pepe's fans across the Nation in extending my sincere congratulations to Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana and the Pepe Family as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this New Haven institution!

When Frank and Filomena opened their pizzeria in 1925, pizza was not considered a delicacy or a treat that you found on every street corner—in fact, it was a peasant meal. With hard work, countless hours, and dedication the Pepe's created a successful business that carried themselves and their extended family through the Great Depression and allowed them to raise their two children, Elizabeth and Serafina (Betty and Sarah). Throughout the years, Pepe's popularity grew outside the Italian-American community of Wooster Street and for four generations enthusiastic cus-

tomers have returned with their own families. The excitement and loyalty of their customers has never wavered—a truth that is reflected in the long lines of anxious patrons that are a constant on Wooster Street.

In fact, Pepe's has even inspired other pizza entrepreneurs, the first of which was Frank's nephew Sal Consiglio who opened his own restaurant, Sally's, just steps from his uncle's restaurant. Years later another former employee opened Randy's Wooster Street Pizza Shop.

When Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana first opened in 1925, it was the dream of Frank and his wife Filomena to have a successful neighborhood business where friends and neighbors could gather. Frank and Filomena could have only dreamed of the success their small business has come to be. Four generations later, the business is still run by family and the walls are still adorned with family photos as well as those of Bill Murray, Meryl Streep, and Matthew Broderick—just a few of the stars who have dined at Pepe's in the past. Their pizza is legendary and the ambience is unforgettable—enjoyed by neighbors and celebrities alike. However, it is not just the pizza that make Pepe's such a special part of our community. It is the history and community spirit of Frank Pepe and his family that has made it a New Haven landmark.

Today, as they mark their 80th anniversary, it is not just a celebration of a successful family business, but of a thriving community treasure. It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to join Frank Pepe's children, Elizabeth and Serafina, grandchildren, Anthony, Francis, Lisa, Bernadette, Genevieve, Jennifer, and Gary, as well as their family, friends, and extended family of customers and fans as they celebrate this very special occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD
COUNCIL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize several members of my district who have given their time in support of Congressional Award program.

Since 1979, the Congressional Award program has encouraged young people around the Nation to learn about their community, their government and themselves. Taking part in the program, young men and women ages 14 through 23 challenge themselves to accomplish established goals in voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and an expedition. Participants earn bronze, silver and gold medals based on their levels of achievement. This is a non-competitive, highly individualized program allowing all young people, whether fit or disabled, affluent or disadvantaged, to get involved.

Within Florida's First District, I have had the unparalleled support of the Congressional Award Council, most recently led by Martha Krehely. This council is one of only four chartered in the nation and has been a backbone in nurturing the program over the last decade.

Mrs. Krehely, along with her husband Don, Ann Ball, Jacqueline Young, Margaret Restucher, James Sheffer, Lamar Smith, Thomas Gilliam, Honor Bell, Henry Giles and Jeff Weeks, have selflessly devoted hundreds of hours over the years to young men and women working to achieve their goals. Through their efforts the program has grown so that over 120 young adults are currently participating.

Their tireless commitment led to dozens of participants earning their bronze, silver and gold medals. As several members move on to other challenges, we can all be grateful for the strength and character they helped foster in the lives of our future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the First Congressional District's Congressional Award Council and wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(ADAP) FUNDING

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, ADAP, and the dire need for increased funding to help meet the needs of Americans living with HIV and AIDS. This necessary program provides medication to under and uninsured HIV/AIDS patients. Without ADAP, these people would not be able to obtain the necessary medication to prolong and improve their lives.

Every year since its inception, the number of people helped by ADAP has increased dramatically. While we are all aware of the limited resources this committee has been given to meet its many pressing needs, the ADAP program is simply and urgently a matter of life and death for over 136,000 Americans each year.

ADAP has been given a \$10 million increase in this year's appropriations bill over last year, but the reality is that to keep pace with current and anticipated patient needs, ADAP requires a funding increase of \$303 million. Without this funding, some 25,000–35,000 HIV+ Americans who may have relied on ADAP will not be able to this year.

In my home state of New York, where more than 22,000 people are enrolled in ADAP each year, I know first-hand the importance of the ADAP program. New York has been particularly hard-hit by the AIDS epidemic, with more than 160,000 residents diagnosed with AIDS, and 150,000 to 200,000 persons currently living with HIV/AIDS. The state government has been extremely supportive of ADAP, appropriating \$60 million for 2005 to supplement the federal program.

Despite New York's statewide commitment, there are dozens of states that find themselves unable to keep up with the demand for coverage under ADAP. As documented in the National ADAP Monitoring Report, some states are being forced to take drastic measures to offset the federal funding shortfall, including establishing waiting lists for AIDS medications, reducing drug coverage, and restricting eligibility.

This has contributed to the pool of several hundred thousand HIV+ Americans who are unable to access available appropriate treatment for their HIV disease. This is dangerous to their personal health and quality of life, as well as to the public health. This ensures that more costly hospital interventions will be forthcoming in federal, state, local, and private funding streams, as HIV progresses without proper treatment.

I urge the conference committee to fully fund ADAP at \$303 million. All Americans living with HIV/AIDS must get the help they need to purchase their medications and save and improve their lives.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the courage, spirit and resiliency of refugees around the world and the compassion, generosity and valor of those who have helped them rebuild their lives. The amazing stories of these people are an inspiration to us all.

The lives of refugees are driven by fear of persecution based on race, religion or nationality; or even by membership in a particular social group or political opinion. The United States government plays a unique role in protecting the human rights of current refugees, resolving the conflicts and problems that produce refugees and preventing further refugee crises. Our government must remain a world leader in protecting the human rights of all refugees.

According to statistics from the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, as of December 31, 2004 there are approximately 11.5 million refugees and asylum seekers worldwide. The United States has the capacity and the potential to receive many more refugees: in fiscal year 2004, the refugee ceiling was set at 70,000, while admissions into the United States totaled only 52,875.

I challenge the United States government to ensure a fair process for determining refugee status and to provide physical protection for those seeking asylum. Moreover, the United States should not unnecessarily detain refugee seekers in an attempt to deter them or others from seeking asylum in the United States; such a process is fundamentally contrary to the hope of freedom and democracy that our country represents.

I applaud the United States government for granting refugees basic human rights such as access to work, the means to earn a livelihood and the freedom of movement.

As a representative from California, a State with one of the highest number of refugee arrivals each year, I know there is much yet to be done to protect the rights of refugees.

Mr. Speaker, honoring the courage of refugees requires more than mere praise; we need concrete actions and durable solutions. In their battle against despair, let us be an ally to refugees; let us provide a glimmer of hope; let us be the beacon that America has always symbolized.

PAUL KRUGMAN'S ESSAY
ENTITLED "THE WAR PRESIDENT"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I recommend to my colleagues Paul Krugman's essay entitled "The War President" which was published in today's New York Times. How this country gets involved in a war always matters and since Congress has the Constitutional power to declare war, every Member of Congress must know how we got there, what we're doing there now and how the war shall end.

[From the New York Times, Jun. 24, 2005]

THE WAR PRESIDENT

(By Paul Krugman)

In this former imperial capital, every square seems to contain a giant statue of a Habsburg on horseback, posing as a conquering hero.

America's founders knew all too well how war appeals to the vanity of rulers and their thirst for glory. That's why they took care to deny presidents the kingly privilege of making war at their own discretion.

But after 9/11 President Bush, with obvious relish, declared himself a "war president." And he kept the nation focused on martial matters by morphing the pursuit of Al Qaeda into a war against Saddam Hussein.

In November 2002, Helen Thomas, the veteran White House correspondent, told an audience, "I have never covered a president who actually wanted to go to war"—but she made it clear that Mr. Bush was the exception. And she was right.

Leading the nation wrongfully into war strikes at the heart of democracy. It would have been an unprecedented abuse of power even if the war hadn't turned into a military and moral quagmire. And we won't be able to get out of that quagmire until we face up to the reality of how we got in.

Let me talk briefly about what we now know about the decision to invade Iraq, then focus on why it matters.

The administration has prevented any official inquiry into whether it hyped the case for war. But there's plenty of circumstantial evidence that it did.

And then there's the Downing Street Memo—actually the minutes of a prime minister's meeting in July 2002—in which the chief of British overseas intelligence briefed his colleagues about his recent trip to Washington.

"Bush wanted to remove Saddam," says the memo, "through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and W.M.D. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy." It doesn't get much clearer than that.

The U.S. news media largely ignored the memo for five weeks after it was released in The Times of London. Then some asserted that it was "old news" that Mr. Bush wanted war in the summer of 2002, and that W.M.D. were just an excuse. No, it isn't. Media insiders may have suspected as much, but they didn't inform their readers, viewers and listeners. And they have never held Mr. Bush accountable for his repeated declarations that he viewed war as a last resort.

Still, some of my colleagues insist that we should let bygones be bygones. The question, they say, is what we do now. But they're wrong: it's crucial that those responsible for the war be held to account.

Let me explain. The United States will soon have to start reducing force levels in

Iraq, or risk seeing the volunteer Army collapse. Yet the administration and its supporters have effectively prevented any adult discussion of the need to get out.

On one side, the people who sold this war, unable to face up to the fact that their fantasies of a splendid little war have led to disaster, are still peddling illusions: the insurgency is in its "last throes," says Dick Cheney. On the other, they still have moderates and even liberals intimidated: anyone who suggests that the United States will have to settle for something that falls far short of victory is accused of being unpatriotic.

We need to deprive these people of their ability to mislead and intimidate. And the best way to do that is to make it clear that the people who led us to war on false pretenses have no credibility, and no right to lecture the rest of us about patriotism.

The good news is that the public seems ready to hear that message—readier than the media are to deliver it. Major media organizations still act as if only a small, left-wing fringe believes that we were misled into war, but that "fringe" now comprises much if not most of the population.

In a Gallup poll taken in early April—that is, before the release of the Downing Street Memo—50 percent of those polled agreed with the proposition that the administration "deliberately misled the American public" about Iraq's W.M.D. In a new Rasmussen poll, 49 percent said that Mr. Bush was more responsible for the war than Saddam Hussein, versus 44 percent who blamed Saddam.

Once the media catch up with the public, we'll be able to start talking seriously about how to get out of Iraq.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2475.

I commend the leadership of the Chairman and Ranking Member, and thank them for supporting the amendment I offered at markup to align the authorization for an important technical program with the level set by the Armed Services Committee.

H.R. 2475 also underscores the importance the Committee places on providing full-funding of intelligence requirements related to the global war on terrorism. For years, Intelligence Committee Democrats have fought hard for this. If fact, some of us voted against the intelligence bill last year because it contained less than one-third of the funding needed for counterterrorism. This year, I'm pleased the Committee has finally brought a bill before the House that provides full intelligence funding for our dedicated men and women on the front lines.

This bill also includes House Resolution 173, a measure which encourages the DNI to establish a uniform, multi-tiered security clearance system. Such a system is needed to ensure all intelligence agencies fully-leverage the cultural knowledge and foreign language skills of people who may not be able to be cleared, in a timely manner, to the highest levels. It will also help increase the workforce diversity and skills-mix, both of which are critical to the future success and viability of the Intelligence Community.

The report accompanying H.R. 2475 also highlights the work of the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC). Although EPIC is funded through DEA in other legislation instead of this bill because of its drug-related intelligence mission, its work is critically important to the U.S. national security overall. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure EPIC's activities are funded at an appropriate and consistent level.

In addition to highlighting the strengths of this bill, I must also note my serious concerns about the general oversight of systematic failures related to the handling and interrogation of detainees. While it is critical that we collect actionable intelligence from detainees to prevent future threats, it is imperative that we do so in a way that respects U.S. law, and international conventions and treaties.

Although there were some issues some of us would have resolved differently, H.R. 2475 is, on balance, a sound bill.

ROSE GARCIA, RECIPIENT OF THE
2005 NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP
MONTH HERO AWARD

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of one of New Mexico's most devoted citizens, Rose Garcia. This morning at the Anthony Community Center in Anthony, New Mexico, Rose Garcia is receiving New Mexico's 2005 National Homeownership Month Hero Award. For more than 20 years, she has worked to provide housing for residents of rural and urban communities along the U.S.-Mexico border. In her tireless pursuit of creating opportunities for affordable housing, Rose Garcia has made the American dream of homeownership a reality for thousands of New Mexican families.

With this award, the New Mexico Partners in Homeownership are recognizing Rose especially for her work on behalf of very low income, underserved and colonia populations. Colonias are rural border communities and neighborhoods that lack safe and sanitary housing, along with basic conveniences we take for granted, such as sanitary water and sewer systems, street lighting and roads. Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation, of which Rose is Executive Director, not only provides housing but also builds the infrastructure to support these neighborhoods.

There are many obstacles one faces in the quest to own a home. Rose Garcia helps her clients through every step of the process and provides special assistance in one of the most important aspects—education. Tierra del Sol provides homeownership counseling and training, before and after the home purchase. Residents are given the tools to help themselves and begin a new tradition of ownership—and hope. Through her work for the last 23 years, Rose Garcia has helped countless otherwise neglected persons achieve the social and financial benefits of homeownership, despite economic and cultural challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss not to mention the only other recipient of this esteemed award—the Honorable Joe Skeen. Congressman Skeen was an ardent supporter of home-

ownership programs in New Mexico, and Rose Garcia worked with him in that endeavor. She continues this legacy, not only through her commitment to homeownership, but in her dedication, her creativity and her unflinching spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Rose Garcia on this well-earned distinction and express my gratitude for the dedication and innovation she has demonstrated. I commend Rose for the hard work she continues to perform, and I am proud to recognize her—a true model of commitment to homeownership—today before my colleagues.

“The American Dream of Homeownership.” For thousands of New Mexicans, Rose herself is a dream come true.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that one of my votes yesterday, Thursday, June 23, 2005, was not recorded by the electronic device.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote #307 (On Agreeing to the Bradley Amendment to H.R. 3010).

DR-CAFTA

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to the proposed US-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA).

Former U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick led the team of U.S. negotiators who concluded what they consider to be a good trade agreement in DR-CAFTA, and President Bush signed it the summer of 2004. This agreement will not take effect, however, until it is formally submitted to the Congress for a straight up-or-down vote, pursuant to the fast-track trade negotiating authority that Congress approved in 2002.

Fast-track trade negotiating authority was first approved by Congress when the Trade Act of 1964 was enacted. As a result the Congress cedes much of its power to amend trade agreements negotiated by the President.

I voted against giving the President a 5-year extension of fast-track trade negotiating authority in 2002. Fundamentally, I believe Congress ought not cede such open-ended, blanket trade negotiating authority to any President. Nevertheless, the DR-CAFTA agreement has been negotiated by the President's representatives and will come before Congress.

International trade is not just inevitable, it is a good thing. But lowering the cost of goods and increasing their availability is not the single goal of trade. Trade done right helps lift the global standard of living and works to protect the irreplaceable environment we inher-

ited. Trade is about values. Trade agreements are not just about goods and commodities; they are also about what constitutes acceptable behavior in environmental matters, worker's rights, intellectual property, and so forth. We should make sure we export the goods we produce and not the workers who produce them.

Each new trade agreement entered into by the U.S. should be very closely scrutinized. Each ought to include the strongest enforceable worker rights and environmental safeguards attainable, like those included in the U.S.-Jordan agreement of 2000. Each should also include enforceable rules to protect intellectual property rights and guarantee access for U.S.-based corporations to foreign markets. This can be achieved in trade agreements if we enter negotiations with clear principles.

I voted against the Chile and Singapore trade agreements, for example, because the inadequate labor and environmental provisions included in them, in my estimation, failed to meet the negotiating objectives that Congress carefully spelled out in the 2002 law extending fast-track negotiating authority to the President. They did not provide, for example, that trade dispute settlement mechanisms within those free trade agreements afford equivalent treatment to trade-related labor and environmental protection as intellectual property rights and capital subsidies, and the impending DR-CAFTA fails in this regard, too. The agreement between the US and Jordan, on the other hand, is a fine example that good agreements are achievable.

I am troubled by the DR-CAFTA that the President has signed. The DR-CAFTA does not contain strong, enforceable provisions to protect internationally-recognized worker rights. Nor does it have any provisions for environmental safeguards. Such provisions are critical because they both preserve existing labor laws and environmental standards in the affected countries, and because they ensure that American companies will be competing on a more level playing field with our Central American neighbors. Without such provisions, U.S. companies and employees are forced to compete with countries that have no labor wage, working conditions, or environmental protections. The people of all countries lose in such a “race to the bottom.”

Mr. Speaker, I will vote against the DR-CAFTA when it comes to the floor of the House and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

APPLAUDING ASSISTANCE TO
MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, “Operation Helping Hand,” a program of the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), was recognized for its efforts to assist the families of service members wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

The James A. Haley VA Medical Center is one of four designated polytrauma centers within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Since the start of OIF/OEF, these trauma centers have served as regional referral centers for individuals who have sustained serious disabling conditions due to combat. Patients treated at these facilities may have a serious Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) alone or in combination with amputation, blindness, or other visual impairment, complex orthopedic injuries, auditory and vestibular disorders, and mental health concerns. Because TBI influences all other areas of rehabilitation, it is critical that individuals receive care for their TBI prior to, or in conjunction with, rehabilitation for their additional injuries.

"Operation Helping Hand" provides assistance to the families of the very seriously wounded and injured service members who were deployed in either Iraq or Afghanistan and are now receiving treatment at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center. The average hospital stay for the injured is approximately 45 days. The families of these injured service members travel from all over the country to be with their loved ones at this critical time.

"Operation Helping Hand" assistance ranges from providing rental or leased cars, bus or taxi fares, cell phones or phone cards to the families of wounded service members. The program also provides tickets to local amusement parks, movie theaters and restaurants to make these families more comfortable while they are in Tampa waiting for their loved ones to recuperate. The assistance provided allows families to focus on their loved ones' recovery.

This year marks the sixth year that Newman's Own Inc., Fisher House Foundation Inc., and the Military Times Media Group have joined forces to present the "Newman's Own Awards" which seek to reward ingenuity and innovation for volunteer organizations working to improve the quality of life for military personnel and their families. These organizations issued a challenge to all private organizations serving our military communities: "present an innovative plan to improve the quality of life for your military community and receive funding to carry out that plan."

This year, 177 organizations submitted nominations for the award. I am pleased that "Operation Helping Hand" received the top prize of \$100,000. Ten other organizations shared \$40,000 in grants.

I want to congratulate the Tampa Chapter of the MOAA and all the individuals involved in "Operation Helping Hand" for winning the Newman's Own Award. I also want to commend them and all the other award winners for their outstanding work in support of our military personnel and their families.

STATEMENT CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, some prominent members of the Vietnamese community within my Congressional District have asked that I deliver a message to Con-

gress regarding human rights issues in Vietnam. I take this opportunity to express their sentiments on the heels of Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai's visit to the United States. I am convinced that while this is a historic and unprecedented visit, I believe that their concerns are equally important.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this statement be made a part of the official RECORD.

Vietnam is a nation that has a record of violating human rights and suppressing religious freedom. This has been recorded in the U.S. State Department's 2004 Human Rights report on Vietnam. The report declares that the governing party, the Communist Party of Vietnam, has restricted the freedom of speech, the freedom of press, and the freedom of assembly, freedoms that our nation holds so dear. The Vietnamese government also continues to hold political and religious prisoners. It prohibits human rights organizations and political, labor, and social organizations from forming or operating. The 2004 U.S. State Department report also found that government security forces have been known to beat, shoot, and even bear responsibility for the disappearance of its citizens. These are not the government activities of a free nation.

The United States must not ignore the oppressive practices of governments with which we build economic and military ties, for our relationships with other nations reflect our own national values and beliefs. While it is my sincere hope that relations between the United States and Vietnam will become stronger in the future, we must remember that our Nation prides itself upon protecting democracy and supporting human rights all over the world.

Although Vietnam has made steps toward progress, we have seen that it still partakes in practices meant to oppress its citizens. Therefore, it is my expectation that the United States will work with Vietnam to improve its grave human rights and religious freedom records so that we may continue to take steps to strengthen and broaden our ties with that country.

TRIBUTE TO MILDRED SPITZER,
VOLUNTEER

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the ageless energy, optimism and achievements of Mildred Spitzer, who at 100 years young brings a brightness and light to her community.

Mrs. Spitzer's volunteer service at the University City Children's Center, the Washington University School of Medicine, and Temple Israel are part of her lifelong commitment to serving society. Mrs. Spitzer has spent what should be her retirement years performing office work, working as the secretary of her retiree's group, and caring for infants. Mr. Stephen Zwolak, the executive director of the children's center, says that her work is "wonderful," and provides the "human touch [the babies] need to create attachment," a cornerstone of the center's educational philosophy. By all ac-

counts, she inspires others with her youthful exuberance and enthusiasm.

Mrs. Spitzer was born on April 22, 1905, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she also attended Temple University. While living in Summit, New Jersey, she founded a chapter of a Jewish educational charity. She was married to Harold Spitzer for 47 years and she is the proud matriarch of a family of three daughters, six grandchildren, and now six great grandchildren. Mildred Spitzer has resided in the First District of Missouri for the past 12 years. She is committed to regular exercise and played golf well into her eighties. She now enjoys playing cards and reading and takes pride in doing her own shopping and housework.

For her part, Mrs. Spitzer is humble and eager to thank God for her longevity, health, and happiness. Her philosophy of good—good will and good thoughts—is both pragmatic and profound, as she asks us all simply "What's the use in being cranky?" Her life stands as a testament to her kind spirit, faith and optimistic outlook.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Mrs. Mildred Spitzer before the U.S. House of Representatives for her many lifetime achievements, longevity, and ongoing vigor and energy. She has demonstrated an indefatigable love of life and a commitment to helping others. Mildred Spitzer is a national treasure and a source of national pride.

COMMEMORATING THE 33RD
ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate an extremely important anniversary.

Thirty-three years ago today, Title IX, the landmark legislation banning gender discrimination in federally funded education programs, was enacted into law.

I adamantly oppose restrictions to Title IX. Recent "clarifications" to the law will only lead to allowing schools to avoid providing equal opportunities to female students.

For women, especially young women, Title IX is one of the most important pieces of legislation in the past half century.

Title IX helps those who need help the most, particularly in low-income areas.

Girls who participate in athletics at the high school and college levels are more likely to graduate with higher grades than their peers who do not play sports. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and girls who play sports often take their appreciation of exercise and activity into their adulthood.

Team sports prepare girls for success in the workplace by teaching the benefits of teamwork and tenacity at a young and receptive age. Athletics imbue girls with self-confidence they may not be able to develop elsewhere.

We must not interfere with Title IX's effectiveness. That is why I oppose the recent clarification and advocate for increased equality in sports for female students.

CONGRATULATING MS. BONNY BEACH ON RECEIVING THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Bonny Beach, Executive and Clinical Director of NDNS4Wellness at the American Indian Prevention Coalition, Inc., in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ms. Beach was recently named one of ten recipients of the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program Award, considered the nation's highest honor for community health leadership. She will receive \$120,000 for her work in preventing substance abuse in Native American youth.

Substance abuse and its associated health problems have had a devastating impact on the Native American population. Phoenix has the second largest Native American population in the U.S., with more than twenty-one tribes represented in the city and surrounding areas. Some 75,000 Native Americans reside in Maricopa County, where Ms. Beach's organization is located.

Ms. Beach is a Native American who has seen firsthand the pain and destruction that substance abuse has exacted on her community. Tired of attending funerals resulting from an epidemic of alcoholism and substance abuse among Native Americans, she became determined to have a positive impact on her community. In 1997, she helped to establish the American Indian Prevention Coalition, an intertribal nonprofit organization that works with Native American youth and their families to improve the quality of life for indigenous people.

In 2000, she developed the NDNS4Wellness Behavioral Health Agency. NDNS4Wellness employs more than fifty Native Americans, providing culturally respectful prevention, educational, and counseling services through school-based programs. It also offers substance abuse treatment to some three hundred young people through its residential and outpatient services.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I am honored to recognize Ms. Beach for receiving this prestigious, national award, and to express my gratitude for her determination and leadership. Her deep commitment to preventing substance abuse among Native American youth and families has undoubtedly inspired many others in Phoenix and elsewhere to take action. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Ms. Beach today for this award, which duly recognizes her important work for the community.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARINUS ALBERT BOSMA'S RECEIPT OF THE YAD VASHEM AWARD

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest respects and congratula-

tions to Mr. Marinus Albert Bosma, his parents Mr. Albert Bosma and Mrs. Helena Bosma-V.D. Pol, and his sister Mrs. Alberta Bosma-Iseil. Mr. Bosma and his family will be receiving the Yad Vashem Righteous Among the Nations Award on June 29, 2005.

The Yad Vashem Award is the Jewish people's memorial to the six million victims of the Holocaust. Its name derives from the Book of Isaiah, "And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (a "yad vashem") . . . that shall not be cut off (56:5)." In 1963, Yad Vashem embarked upon a worldwide project to grant the title of Righteous Among the Nations to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

Mr. Bosma and his family are natives of Arnhem in the Netherlands. During World War II, the Bosma family helped find shelter for thirty Jews and housed twelve Jews within their own home. Between the ages of twelve and nineteen, Mr. Bosma showed great valor through his assistance in the Dutch resistance.

Yad Vashem honors both the heroism and tragedy of the Holocaust for those generations where World War II is a distant history lesson. It gives a memorial and a name to the millions of men, women, and children who lost their lives for their religion and culture. Yad Vashem provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women who represent the best of the human spirit; living by principles and convictions, acting heroically in the face of adversity, and finding value in all human life.

Marinus, I offer you and your family my respect for your actions during World War II. Congratulations on receiving this prestigious award.

CONGRATULATING BOSTON YACHT CLUB

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boston Yacht Club (BYC) of Marblehead, Massachusetts, which this year is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Marblehead-to-Halifax Ocean Race.

The race began in 1905 as an informal competition among sailors from the Boston, Eastern and New York Yacht Clubs. In 1939, the Boston Yacht Club joined with the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron to formalize this biennial event.

The race is run on alternate years from the Newport Bermuda Race, as one of the pre-eminent ocean races of the North Atlantic. The course runs 360 nautical miles from Marblehead through the Gulf of Maine, across the Bay of Fundy and up to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

There are few sailing sights as thrilling as the Marblehead-to-Halifax Ocean Race, which traditionally begins the second week in July. More than 100 spectator boats look on as over 100 racing yachts maneuver for starting position. The race committee is assisted by dozens of official boats and by both the United States and Canadian Coast Guard.

The Boston Yacht Club was founded in 1866, and at one time operated from five different locations in Massachusetts and one in

Maine. Today the club operates from a single station in Marblehead, with 400 yachts flying the BYC burgee.

It is appropriate that the House recognize the Boston Yacht Club for continuing the tradition of the Marblehead-to-Halifax Ocean Race, which is part of the rich seafaring history of Marblehead.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge that many Boston Yacht Club members are running the race in memory of their comrade Paul Simon of Marblehead, who had intended to race this year, but was tragically killed with his wife Sanda in an automobile accident last March.

HONORING DONORS TO TSUNAMI RELIEF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express our Nation's gratitude for the El Paso community, which provided generous donations and assistance to help rebuild the lives of those hurt by the massive tsunami that crashed ashore in South Asia on December 26, 2004.

Just a few weeks after the Asian tsunami, I traveled to South Asia with colleagues from the House Armed Services Committee and the House International Relations Committee. As part of that trip, we traveled to Indonesia to deliver medical supplies to help contribute to the relief effort and assist those touched by the tragedy.

The most crucial component of this mission in Indonesia—providing medical supplies—would not be a reality without the charitable donations of numerous El Paso hospitals, organizations and individuals. Through their contributions—which amounted to nearly one ton of supplies such as gauze, surgical masks, syringes and antibiotics—the El Paso community has made a direct contribution to the relief efforts.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the following individuals who, when the call for supplies went out, answered positively and enthusiastically and gave generously: Hank Hernandez, CEO of Las Palmas and Del Sol Healthcare; Doug Matney, CEO of Sierra Providence Health Network; Jim Valenti, CEO of Thomason Hospital; Jerry Wilson, District Manager of the Walgreen Company; Gerald Rubin, President and CEO of Helen of Troy; and Scott Wells of Cardinal Health.

Sadly, our world is plagued by terrorism, the war in Iraq, and now the mounting death toll and devastation caused by the tsunami in South Asia. However, the collective outpouring of compassion and quick action from across the globe to aid those in this time of overwhelming need is cause for hope.

El Paso has also shown that it is committed to assisting the tsunami victims and helping them rebuild their lives. Our entire community should be proud of our contributions to this effort.

MUKHTAR MAI

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I rise today to address the safety and well-being of Ms. Mukhtar Mai in the nation of Pakistan. As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus I have been monitoring this situation closely. As a long-standing and active member of the Women's Caucus and the Human Rights Caucus I am greatly concerned about the well-being of this woman who has undergone tremendous suffering in her life.

For those who do not know the story of Mukhtar Mai she was gang raped in 2002 by the order of a tribal council, allegedly as punishment for her brother's affair with a woman from a powerful rival clan in the remote town of Meerwala. Thirty-three-year-old Ms. Mai defied threats and local customs to testify against these suspects. In August of 2002 six men were sentenced to death. But this March, another court overturned five of these convictions and reduced the death sentence of the sixth to life in prison. Twelve men were then rearrested on the Prime Minister's orders based on community safety laws but were freed on June 10 since the law only allows them to be held for a limited time under these laws. Since that time it has been alleged that the Pakistani government has confiscated her passport and forbidden her from leaving Pakistan.

It has come to my attention that efforts have been made by the Pakistani Government to insure the safety and well-being of Ms. Mai. I understand that since this horrific incident occurred in 2002 she has been provided with a security detail and legal assistance in accordance with their laws. However, the judiciary in Pakistan, as it is here in the United States, is independent of the executive branch of the government. The decision made by the court seems ill-considered and is not supported by the Executive branch. It seems that the government plans to have these accused rapists arrested and tried again, this time before the High Court of Pakistan in accordance with their laws.

Representatives from the Government of Pakistan say that they have not in fact barred Ms. Mai from traveling where she pleases and

that she has access to her passport at any time. State Department spokesman Adam Ereli stated on Wednesday that "senior Pakistani officials, both here and in Islamabad" had been contacted regarding Mukhtar Mai and that the State Department has "been informed by the Government of Pakistan that, consistent with Ms. Mukhtar's wishes and at her request, the Government has her passport and that she is satisfied that she can have access to it whenever she wants." Moreover, they have "received renewed assurances from the Pakistani authorities that she is free to travel whenever she so desires." Mr. Ereli went on to say that they have confirmed this with sources close to Ms. Mai. I have also been told that Ms. Mai has appeared on certain TV and satellite outlets and declared that she in fact has not been barred from leaving the country; however I have not personally seen such footage so I can not confirm its validity.

The current Government of Pakistan has tried to rule by a vision of "enlightened moderation," which is to say that the people of Pakistan must raise themselves up through individual achievement and socioeconomic emancipation. One issue which the present government has worked hard to improve is that of women's rights. Currently, there are 73 female members of the National Assembly which has 60 seats open only for women to ensure that they are represented on their legislative body. Similarly, 17 percent of seats in each of the four provincial assemblies have also been reserved for women. In addition, I spoke to the Pakistani Minister of Education a few months and he told me that the national plan for education on Pakistan places great emphasis on ensuring that their female population gets educated. In fact they are working to provide incentives to poorer families in Pakistan to send their girls to school instead of keeping them at home. These are all steps the Pakistani Government under President Musharraf says they are taking to advance the cause of women in Pakistan.

However, there is much, much more work to be done in this area to ensure women's rights. The truth about Pakistan is that there is a great divide between more urban and more rural communities. Mukhtar Mai comes from a more remote area of Pakistan in which tribal law and customs are often held above the law of Pakistan. These tribal areas unfortunately often hold harsh views towards the rights of

women. One of the great heroes of Pakistani independence was Fatima Jinnah who is considered the mother of Pakistan. She was the outspoken and strong-willed sister of Mohammed Ali Jinnah who is considered the founder of Pakistan. In fact, Pakistan had the first woman to head the government of an Islamic State when Benazir Bhutto was sworn in as Prime Minister of Pakistan in December of 1988. The truth remains that Pakistan must ensure the rights and safety of women throughout their nation regardless of tribal law and customs. However, we must also recognize that such large social change takes time and will not be solved easily.

Regardless of the political or international ramifications of this issue let us not forget the pain that Mukhtar Mai has endured. But, while she was brutally victimized she did not allow herself to be a victim. After testifying against her attackers she took the money from that settlement along with many international donations to open a school in her small village. She understands that education is the way to end brutality and ignorance. She even went so far as to enroll the children of her attackers in the school because she will not allow herself to be a hateful person, she wants to bring goodness into the lives of others around her. The verdicts of her attackers being overturned were a great setback for her personally and the entire women's rights movement in Pakistan, but it certainly is not the end. This woman has gone through so much and done such great things that she will not give in. I applaud her, she is the face and voice of a movement that gains strength everyday, one that will not succumb. In tribute to her efforts I will continue to fight for the cause of women's rights and join with Mukhtar Mai and all the women of Pakistan to move forward towards justice and equality.

Furthermore, I have always supported the message of women's rights whether it is here or abroad, whether I have to deliver it to an ally of our nation or one we consider an enemy. Additionally, I join with the women of the United States House of Representatives to unite around protecting women throughout the world and in Pakistan. Today, I believe that the nation of Pakistan must do more to ensure the rights of Pakistani women and I have confidence that they are working towards this end. I pray for Mukhtar Mai and all the women of Pakistan that they will get justice in their lives.