

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING CHRISTINA REIN

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Christina Rein for her creativity and ingenuity.

Last year, like many parents, Christina felt the frustration of crumpled diapers when they were placed in her diaper bags. She decided she was going to do something about it. With the inspiration from her children, she designed Diapees and Wipees, a pouch created to carry a few diapers and wipes that has helped her tremendously in raising her baby boy.

After numerous hours of research on how and where to market her invention, Christina founded the Christina Leigh & Company in 2004. Through her company, she has been able to help relieve the stress of many other parents, as well as starting a fashion trend. Recently, she attended the annual International Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association Trade Show and appeared on morning shows to advertise her product. Her product comes in many fashionable designs and can be purchased in baby boutiques and stores in several states or from her website.

Today, I want to recognize Christina Rein for her outstanding accomplishments. Her success as a loving mother and a successful entrepreneur is admirable, and we wish her the best in her future endeavors.

### EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE MEMBERS OF BRAVO BATTERY FORWARD, FIRST BATTALION, 109TH FIELD ARTILLERY DIVISION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 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 126 members of the Bravo Battery Forward of the First Battalion of the 109th Field Artillery, based in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, who have returned after service in Iraq.

We welcome home our brave soldiers with gratitude for their selflessness. During times of war, it is important that we realize the sacrifices our troops endure. Through voluntary military service, Americans proudly uphold ideals, consistently emerge as leaders and valiantly ensure democracy.

The Bravo Battery consists of: Richard Osborne Adams, David Paul Anthony, Stephen John Arnold, Richard Anthony Aulicino, Joseph John Baloh III, Michael William Bauder, James Lee Bell, Joshua Michael Bohinski, Jason Otto Bolesta, Joshua

Brandes, Dennis Michael Bressler, Travis C. Brigalia;

Christian Benjamin Brown, Mark Earl Brown, Ronald Joseph Bruza Jr., Kyle Edward Buff, Robert Anthony Burge, Kevin Thomas Burritt, Raymond Charles Cannell, Gary Bruce Caton Jr., John Lawrence Cavanaugh, Richard Lloyd Chesnet Jr., Gerald B. Cobb, Scott Elliott Cousins, Ryan Hazen Craig, Christopher Alan Daniel, Scott Anthony Domanowski, Robert Patrick Donahue, Dean Emery Doty, Nicholas Andrew Dulina, William Sanderson Dutzar, Jason John Ellison, Eric Anthony Eppler, Eugene Joseph Everett;

Rodney Stephen Fedorchak, Robert Allen Franks, Terrance Charles Frederick, James Joseph Gallagher, James Michael Gallagher, Patrick Edward Gallagher, Tomas Rafael Garcia, Mario Luis Gonzalez Jr., Jeremy James Granahan, Nicholas Joseph Guzenski, Justin Matthew Harris, William Joseph Harris, Kelly Scott Harter, Kevin Patrick Hettler, Bruce Alan Hinds II, David Andrew Hoover, Kevin Thomas Hoover, Christopher Andrew Hudock, Matthew David Jacobs, Elijah Kareeme Jones, James Joseph Kanja;

Daniel Steven Kankiewicz, Christopher James Keen, Christopher Warren Keller, Brendan Kevin Kelly, Jared Raymond Kennedy, David John Kinney, Rory Francis Kirwan, Rhyann Lee Kleiner, Neil Charles Klings, Nicholas Andrews Kopko, Raymond Louis Krzak, Brett David Kunkle, Charles Cushing Ladd V, George Leibman, Matthew Lipo, Billy Joe Lorah, Phillip Glenn Losito, Andrew Lukashewski, Brian Lukashewski, Joseph Andrew Lukashewski, Matthew Lupico;

Nicholas Richard Lynn, Leonard John Macking III, Brian Jason Martin, William Frank Marusak, Michael Aloysius McKeown, Adam Charles Metz, Kenneth Paul Miller Jr., Robert Jason Miller, Robert John Miller, Paul Minnicks IV, David Joseph Miscavage, Cliff Antonio Morales, Joseph John Novackowski, Patrick Francis O'Boyle, Walter Robert Ohl, Thomas Robert O'Leary, Charles Alex Pavlick, Francis William Petroski, Kris Sean Petrosky Sr., Tony Phan;

Francis Joseph Poperowitz, Neil Aaron Ravitz, Jason Rexford Robbins, Timothy Michael Roberts, Jeremy John Rusczyk, Stephen Mark Rutkowski, Sean Paul Sarokas, John Sedon IV, Daniel Thomas Seip IV, Christopher Jude Sicurella, Jonathan Neil Silva, Anthony William Skrypski, K. Jaime Sorber, Daniel Christian Stella, Robert Paul Stemick, William Fredrick Stiefel Jr., Jamie Lee Sult;

Justin George Thomas, William Lewis Thubbron, Jonathan David Torres, Daniel Kieran Walsh, Nicholas William Walters, Wesley James Waters, Leonard Kenneth Weston Jr., Adam Thomas Wilcox, Aron Preston Wright, Joshua Paul Yetter, Michael Lee Yetter, Eric Mark Zagata, and Robert Louis Zamoch.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking these soldiers for their courage and love of country. It is truly an honor to serve them in the United States Congress. Please join me in welcoming these fine Americans home.

### A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JANE M. HARTLEY, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE

#### HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Captain Jane M. Hartley of the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Captain Hartley is retiring after serving the people of this great Nation for 27 years.

Captain Hartley was an accomplished officer who always put country, duty, and honor first. Throughout her illustrious career, Captain Hartley was honored with the Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal twice, 9/11 Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Commandant's Letter of Commendation, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal twice.

In addition, Captain Hartley blazed a path of progress by being the first woman to have a command in the Fifth Coast Guard District and the first woman in the Coast Guard to become Captain of the Port of Wilmington.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Captain Hartley will remain in our area after her retirement and continue to be an important part of our community.

Captain Jane M. Hartley has served her nation and citizens in an exemplary manner, and her devotion to the security of our country should serve as an example to us all.

May God bless her and her family, and may God bless the men and women in the U.S. Coast Guard.

### RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

#### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans Administration, what is now the Department of Veterans Affairs. Since the VA's inception, more than 33 million Americans have become veterans, and 25 million veterans are alive today.

When President Hoover declared the Veterans Administration to be "one of the most important functions of Government," he couldn't have been more right. It is one of our greatest callings and duties to provide care for those who sacrificed so much to preserve the liberties and freedoms we enjoy.

The importance of this anniversary isn't just to mark the longevity of a federal agency, it is to honor and recognize the department's quality execution of its great and noble mission

• 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.

“ . . . to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.”

The Department of Veterans Affairs operates the largest integrated health care system in the country, maintaining 1,300 clinics, nursing homes, hospitals, and other medical sites, and it is a system which pioneers advances in medicine, such as telemedicine and prosthetics, which improves the lives of all Americans, not just veterans. In fact, three Nobel Prize in Medicine recipients were VA doctors.

Indeed, in keeping true to its mission, the VA has provided benefits to many spouses and dependents of our Nation's veterans by providing housing loan assistance and education benefits; and, when a veteran's noble life comes to its end, the VA's mission does not end, as it provides burial assistance for families, operating 120 national cemeteries in the United States and Puerto Rico.

It is our responsibility, Mr. Speaker, as representatives of this great Nation's veterans, to uphold our commitment to them; to provide for them and their families the best care available; and to do that, we must enable the Department of Veterans Affairs to endure and build upon its impressive legacy.

Today a new generation is coming to understand the sacrifices that come with service. As they join the ranks of our Nation's veterans, our commitment to them cannot be any less than it has been to past generations, and to the veterans still with us that depend so greatly on the Department's care.

And so, though we mark a great milestone in the Department of Veterans Affairs history, let us not forget that its mission continues and that its success is dependent on our dedication to its cause.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD an article from U.S. News and World Report, dated July 18 of this year, “Military Might,” that powerfully demonstrates the impact of today's Department of Veterans Affairs and the legacy it is building for future veterans.

[U.S. News & World Report, July 18, 2005]

#### MILITARY MIGHT

TODAY'S VA HOSPITALS ARE MODELS OF TOP-NOTCH CARE

(By Christopher J. Gearon)

Three summers ago, Augustin Martinez's skin was yellow. He was in pain. And physicians at Kaiser Permanente, his usual source of care, were baffled. The frustrated Martinez, a retired Lockheed Martin engineer in San Jose, Calif., asked his brother, a New York physician, for advice. After consulting colleagues, his brother advised him to go to the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in nearby Palo Alto. Martinez, a former Navy petty officer 2nd class, was entitled to VA care (eligibility depends on several factors, including date and length of military service, injury, and income). But his brother's recommendation took him by surprise. Better care at a VA hospital? But he went—and was quickly diagnosed with pancreatic cancer by Sherry Wren, chief of general surgery, who operated on him within days. He has relied on VA hospitals and clinics ever since. “They run a good ship,” says Martinez, now age 72.

That they do, say healthcare experts. Routinely criticized for decades for indifferent care, attacked by Oliver Stone in *Born on the Fourth of July*, the VA health system has performed major surgery on itself. The care provided to 5.2 million veterans by the nation's largest healthcare system has improved so much that often it is the best

around. And in the new VA, patient safety is a particular priority. Before making the first incision, for example, surgeons conduct a five-step audit to be sure they don't cut into the wrong body part or person. Doctors and nurses are unusually conscientious about hand hygiene, to reduce infections caused by carrying germs from one patient to another.

Technology helps, as would be expected. Martinez is particularly impressed by the computerization of patient records. When he visits, his doctors and nurses instantly call up his medical records, including test results (his cholesterol is high and he suffers from asthma), CT scans, and medications via laptop, which has become as ubiquitous a tool at VA facilities as a stethoscope.

Paper delay. But computerized records are more than a convenience. If all patient information could be reviewed on a computer screen and updated with each new test and observation, studies suggest that many of the medical errors that kill hospital patients would be prevented. Keeping everything on paper has been shown to delay care, force 1 in every 5 lab tests to be repeated, and cause unnecessary hospitalizations. But switching to computerized records can cost millions of dollars at a single hospital, so relatively few medical centers outside the VA have changed over.

“The information is right at your fingertips, right at the bedside, right when you're making decisions,” Wren says. Besides giving her a quick snapshot of a patient's progress, the system automatically displays the latest and best studies and guidelines for that patient's condition. The screen also prompts her about preventive measures. If she calls up the record of a diabetic patient, for example, she is reminded to perform or schedule foot and eye exams, which diabetics must have regularly to prevent amputation or blindness.

Such prompting is largely why the VA vaccinates 92 percent of patients ages 65 and older against pneumonia versus 29 percent 10 years ago, says Jonathan Perlin, the top doctor in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Outside the VA, he says, the rate averages below 55 percent. “The increase not only has saved the lives of 6,000 patients with emphysema,” says Perlin; “we've halved hospitalizations for [patients with] community-acquired pneumonia.”

And the computerized system reduces medication errors, blamed for thousands of deaths in hospitalized patients, by flagging an order if there's a possible drug interaction, if the dosage doesn't match a doctor's order, or if there is a potential allergic reaction. Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Lance Sweigart of Laurel, Md., takes six medications for arthritis, high cholesterol, and depression. The 61-year-old Sweigart says he has “never gotten the wrong medication” at VA facilities in Baltimore.

All drugs carry bar codes, as do patients' ID bracelets. Both are scanned before a medication is administered to make sure the drug and patient match and last-minute order changes are caught. It's not yet sophisticated enough to offer the appropriate dosage, but Isabel Sotomayor, a nurse at the VA Medical Center in Washington, D.C., says the system snags one or two potential errors every day during her medication rounds.

The impact of such changes is real, says Harvard School of Public Health professor and renowned patient-safety advocate Lucian Leape. “Recent evidence shows [that care at the VA system] is at least as good as, if not better,” he says, than care delivered elsewhere. In the 1990s, for example, the VA began using a new way—since adopted by the American College of Surgeons—to evaluate surgical quality. It enabled VA surgeons to reduce postoperative deaths by 27 percent

and post-surgical complications by 45 percent. Recently published studies have found that the VA rates much better than Medicare fee-for-service providers in 11 basic measures of quality, such as regular mammograms and counseling for smokers. Late last year, the *Annals of Internal Medicine* published a study showing that the VA had “substantially better quality of care” than other providers in many of nearly 350 indicators of quality, such as screening and treating depression, diabetes, and hypertension.

Overhauling a system of 157 hospitals, 134 nursing homes, and 887 clinics is never finished. Recent reports by the inspector general of the Department of Veterans Affairs have highlighted such problems as cancellation of surgeries, unexpected deaths, and radiology backups at VA facilities in Florida. Surgeries have had to be canceled at some facilities because surgical supplies were unavailable or improperly sterilized. But John Daigh, who as assistant inspector general for healthcare inspections is responsible for exposing such flaws, says that VA top brass haven't retreated into denial. They “have stepped up to the plate and fixed the problems” that his investigators uncover.

That, too, is evidence of a seismic shift, brought about not by high-tech breakthroughs but by a fundamental change in VA culture. A new emphasis, on patient safety and on a work ethic that stresses constant examination of the processes and procedures that go into caregiving, arrived in 1994 when Kenneth Kizer, former director of California's Department of Health Services, was tapped to run the VA health empire. His mission, as he saw it, was to remake the unwieldy system into one of the world's safest and finest. Kizer started holding doctors, administrators, and managers directly accountable for the quality of their patient care, linking, for example, how many heart-attack patients received recommended beta blockers and aspirin to job reviews. And the performance for each facility was made public, which turned out to be a major motivator. “People competed like hell,” says Kizer, now president of the nonprofit National Quality Forum, which develops national standards for assessing the quality of healthcare.

Kizer was immersed in studies of patient safety years before the Institute of Medicine's jolting report in 1999 of hospital errors that kill tens of thousands of patients. To cultivate a “culture of safety” at the VA, he created a National Center for Patient Safety, and to head it up he brought in James Bagian, a former astronaut who had investigated the space shuttle Challenger accident for NASA.

Bagian's hire was “one of the smartest things [Kizer] did,” says Leape. Both an engineer and physician, Bagian brought to the VA unique skills and a zealous commitment to safety. “It was like being in two different worlds,” Bagian says of the move from NASA to the VA. “One had a very constructive and methodical approach to how we identify problems, decide whether they are worth fixing and then fix them versus one that was done much more like a cottage industry, where decisions are based on what's my opinion or how do I feel about it today, which is not how you should run healthcare today.”

Out loud. Bagian wanted people to report mistakes or close calls in treating patients. Such intelligence was crucial if safety was to be improved, because many errors happen because of a flawed system rather than a careless individual—a chart mix-up that could have ended in surgery on the wrong patient, the incorrect medication given to a patient because it was stored next to another one with nearly the same name. At today's VA

hospitals, patient safety teams identify every step that led up to a blunder or close call to determine needed changes. For example, the VA has instituted a process to ensure that surgeons operate on the correct person or body part. One step includes asking patients to say their full names and birth dates out loud and to identify the body part to be cut.

Bagian's greatest challenge was shifting the attitudes of VA staffers. Few people reported a gaffe, for fear that they or the person who made it would suffer. "The VA had the most punitive, hardest culture I had ever seen," says Kizer; he and Bagian wanted to change the VA's punishment-oriented ways to an open, nonpunitive environment. But the staff didn't begin to respond until top managers showed they were serious. In the new VA, for example, managers could be fired, fined, and even jailed for retaliating against workers who file mistake reports.

Reports began coming in. More than 200,000 close-call and error reports have been filed at the VA without anyone being punished. "Staff gets to have input about how to provide better care," says Sotomayor, a VA nurse for 15 years. "The attitudes of people have changed." They take pride in the results, such as a decline in patient falls and a pacemaker redesigned by the manufacturer because of a close call. And other hospitals have noticed. Jennifer Daley, chief medical officer and senior vice president of clinical quality at Tenet Healthcare Corp., is using the VA as a blueprint to improve performance at the nation's second-largest for-profit hospital operator.

"There is room for improvement," says Bagian. "We're not perfect, make no mistake about it." But now the drive to enhance safety has become an accepted part of the VA. Caregivers on the front lines turn in a steady flow of ideas, such as requiring that doctors key in the full name rather than the first few letters when ordering a prescription. That minimizes the chance, say, that a patient who needs clonidine, a blood-pressure medicine, will get clozapine, an antipsychotic.

Augustin Martinez simply appreciates that he took his brother's advice. "I was fortunate I was a veteran. Otherwise, I don't know what else I would have done," Martinez says. "I don't think I would be here today."

#### SMALL STEPS THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

These are a few of the changes the VA has put in place to make patients safer.

#### FALLS

Problem: In older patients, falls were the top cause of injury and the No. 1 cause of deaths resulting from injury.

Solution: Bedside floor mats. Putting the bedside table, call button, and light switch within easy patient reach. Outfitting at-risk patients with hip protectors.

Did it work? In a six-month trial at 31 VA facilities, there were 62 percent fewer major injuries from falls.

#### INFECTIONS

Problem: Infections caused by an antibiotic-resistant strain of *Staphylococcus aureus*, largely spread by healthcare workers' hands, were killing patients or making them very ill.

Solution: In 2001, the VA's Pittsburgh Healthcare System mounted a hand hygiene campaign, raising awareness of the need for disinfecting hands and for gloving and using gowns and masks, and making sure such supplies were always at hand. At the same time, infection monitoring was increased.

Did it work? Such infections have been cut 85 percent in the general surgical unit, 50 percent in the surgical ICU.

#### BLOOD THINNERS

Problem: Delays in follow-up care for discharged patients taking blood thinners such

as warfarin, which can cause bleeding complications if patients are not carefully monitored.

Solution: The VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System in Michigan recently required doctors to ensure that these discharged patients are seen within a week in one of its clinics. Their blood levels and medication dosage can be checked, and they can be counseled about diet, because certain foods interfere with blood thinners.

Did it work? It's too early for clinical results, but reportedly all such patients have had follow-ups, lab tests, and counseling within one week of discharge.

### HONORING PHIL AND BRYSON GAPPA

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil and Bryson Gappa for their act of patriotism and selflessness.

As a visual statement to help others remember, Mr. and Mrs. Gappa created a memorial dedicated to honor those who sacrificed their lives for our country. One hundred and seventy hand-painted ornaments, each recognizing and honoring a Texas soldier killed in Iraq, adorn two large trees in the front lawn of their Lewisville home.

The memorial and tribute to the soldiers also serve as a heartwarming display for families of the victims. One family described seeing the memorial as a special and spiritual experience. They were moved that the couple had put time and effort into a cause when never even having met many of the soldiers.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Phil and Bryson Gappa for their wholehearted public display of respect and patriotism. Through their contribution, they not only stand as devoted American citizens, but serve as an inspiration to others.

### EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE MEMBERS OF ALPHA BATTERY FORWARD, FIRST BATTALION, 109TH FIELD ARTILLERY DIVISION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 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 124 members of the Alpha Battery Forward of the First Battalion of the 109th Field Artillery, based in Kingston, Pennsylvania, who have returned after service in Iraq.

We welcome home our brave soldiers with gratitude for their selflessness. During times of war, it is important that we realize the sacrifices our troops endure. Through voluntary military service, Americans proudly uphold ideals, consistently emerge as leaders and valiantly ensure democracy.

The Alpha Battery consists of: Jean Luc Robert Adams, Thomas Charles Albanese, James Robert Albright, Kevin Francis

Armitage, Tyler Scott Barnes III, Bernard Alfred Barry III, Jason John Bedew, John Willard Bedew, John A. Bilski, Jarrad J. Bogaski, Craig Joseph Bondra, Charles Earl Boyer;

Donald Brenner, Frank Donald Brizgint Jr., Andrew Khareme Brown Jr., Nikolas James Butrej, David Wayne Butz, Robert Leo Charnichko, Stephen Nicholas Chronowski, Nicholas Anthony Cipriani, Kevin Jeffrey Clocker, Michael Thomas Collis, Richard John Colorusso, James Randall Conley, James Henry Crown, John Daniel Crispell, William Patrick Cunningham, Erik Lee Daniels, Robert Darin Davis, Brian Lee Deats, Steven Eugene Deininger, Anthony Delgiudice, Anthony Joseph Derosia, Timothy James Dickson, Matthew Christopher Dohman, David Russell Duke Jr.;

Cory Alfred Dumont, Rodney Everett Durant Jr., Anthony Thomas Eddy, Matthew Charles Eddy, Jason Daniel Ellis, Jeremy Edward Endrusick, William Andrew Eppley, Gomez Juan Francis Fernandez, Timothy James Finley, James Carl Fisher, Hando David Galutia, Michael Brian Gifford, Daniel Robert Giniewski, Steven Frederick Griffiths, William Robert Grosz Jr., Charles David Gundrum, James Allie Harper III, Pierce Samuel Heffner, Sean Michael Hess, Joseph Patrick Hogan Jr.;

Eric Ronald Holzman, James Jesse Hoskins, Ian Charles Hughes, Michael Huntzinger, Michael Joseph Jeziorski, Gerald Wayne Johnson II, Dylan Stewart Jones, Richard Michael Jones, Christopher Kashi, Matthew Thomas Kearns, Peter Scott Kelchner, Avery Reed Kessler, Sean Paul Kilbourn, Joshua Boyd Kimmins, Ronald Joseph Knorr Jr., William Lawrence Koepke Jr., Paul Anthony Konschnik;

Mark Steven Kozen, David James Krzak, Jeffrey Anthony Kwiecien, Joshua James Lake, Sean Michael Lehman, Colin Michael Liput, James Edwards Mason II, Jeffrey Charles Mead, Michael Carmine Meloro, Heath Adam Midaugh, Dominic Michael Nardelli, Ronald Otto Neher Jr., Jed Joseph Nolan, Matthew Brent Noll, Adam Charles Olisewski, John David Oros, Keith Leon Paller, Jason Palmer, Joseph Michael Perrins, Robert Richard Perrins, Robert A. Pissott Jr., Charles William Plantamura, Brian Douglas Powell, Richard Lee Herman Price II, Mark Anthony Robinson, Anthony Jason Rodriguez, Donald Paul Rorick Jr.;

William Roy Ross Jr., Edward Arnold Rowell, Walter Charles Rudaski Sr., Joseph Andrew Ruotolo, Scott Allen Seelye Sr., Robert Daniel Senchak, Erik William Shaw, Jeremy Paul Shuman, Gordon Alan Simerson, Robert J. Slovik, Andrew Sromovski, Bret Joseph Stemrich, James Reeves Stokes, Brian Patrick Turlip, Jarret Paul Tuttle, Jason Francis Veneziale, Victor Verdekall, Randy Joseph Wagner, Charles A. Williams, Geoffrey Michael Williams, Lawrence Michael Wolfe, Michael Anthony Yuscavage, Vincent Roger Zardus, and Daniel Joseph Zyskowski.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking these soldiers for their courage and love of country. It is truly an honor to serve them in the United States Congress. Please join me in welcoming these fine Americans home.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF DANIEL DAVID CAMERON**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding leader in Southeastern North Carolina, Mr. Daniel David Cameron. Mr. Cameron passed away on July 2, 2005, after a lengthy battle with cancer. However, his legacy and contributions will live on in the hearts and minds of many for generations to come.

Born and raised in his beloved City of Wilmington, Dan served his city, state, and nation with distinction, dedication, and determination. As a graduate of Virginia Military Institute, and as a Major in the U.S. Army, Dan was a part of the distinguished "Greatest Generation" serving in World War II, having landed at Normandy during the Allied invasion of France following "D-Day". He understood the price of freedom and risked his life so others can rest peacefully each night.

After the war, Dan came home to Wilmington and began a decades long career that truly made a difference in the city and community. From his position as Mayor to his work in forming the Committee of 100, from his affiliation with WECT-TV to his love for the Boys and Girls Club, from his support for the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to his contributions to the Salvation Army and the United Negro College Fund, the efforts of Daniel David Cameron have truly been a foundation on which Wilmington and New Hanover County have blossomed.

Samuel Logan Bringle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once said some very important words that reflect the character and life of Dan. He said, "The final estimate of a man will show that history cares not one iota about the title he has carried or the rank he has borne, but only about the quality of his deeds and the character of his heart." Indeed, Dan Cameron has reflected this through his sacrifice and commitment. He was known by persons of all races, ages, and religions for both his kind deeds and his loving, unselfish heart.

Mr. Speaker, dedicated service to others combined with dynamic leadership has been the embodiment of Dan's life. May we all use his wisdom, selflessness, and integrity as a beacon of direction and a source of true enlightenment for many, many years to come. Indeed, may God bless to all our memories the tremendous life and legacy of Daniel David Cameron.

IN REFERENCE TO HALL  
RESOLUTION (H.R. 261)**HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague from Texas, Mr. HALL is to be commended for authoring a resolution to get a sense of the Congress on the issue of extending the CMS quality of cancer care demonstration project. I share his concern to preserve

this country's cancer care treatment system and expressed this, in a bipartisan letter sent to the President, along with Mr. HALL and 95 of my House colleagues.

For the record, I note that Mr. HALL's resolution makes no mention of extending the demonstration project at the current funding level of \$300 million. Additionally, as mentioned in our letter to the President, the resolution does not mention the real problems with the new Medicare payment system for cancer care, but only addresses the short-term fix of extending the demonstration project.

Among other problems, the new Medicare system pays closer to market rates for cancer drugs. This is a step in the right direction. However, it now does not pay for the pharmacy costs related to those drugs. As another example, Medicare does not pay community oncologists for the treatment planning that provides for each new cancer case.

I implore my colleagues to support the extension of the cancer care demonstration project at the level of \$300 million. I also ask my colleagues to direct CMS to work with community cancer care on permanent solutions. American's access to quality, affordable, and accessible cancer treatment needs to be preserved.

COMMENDING THE CONTINUING  
IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS  
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES  
AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 364, commending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India. This historic relationship is exemplified by the current official visit of the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh. This important resolution recognizes the benefits of our two nations working together towards our common goals of promoting peace, prosperity, and freedom among all countries of the world.

The Fifth District of Illinois is enriched by the presence of long-time residents and recent immigrants from India. Indian-Americans have proven that America is made stronger by their contributions to our cultural richness and diversity.

I am also pleased to recognize the continuing and growing friendship between the nations of India and the United States. India is the most populous democratic country in the world and has historically been a steadfast ally and loyal friend of the United States. We have benefited from our close and mutual friendship with India, through cooperation on security, trade and technological advancements which improve lives in both countries and help promote safety throughout the world.

It is a particular pleasure to pass this Resolution on the occasion of His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit. His Excellency has, in his previous capacity as Finance Minister, helped shape India's economic policies to permit the growth of free markets, which has led to much greater economic prosperity for many

people in India and the creation of a large middle class.

With this bipartisan resolution, the American people recognize that we will be more effective and successful with India as a partner in achieving our mutual objectives to promote democracy, combat terrorism, pursue nuclear non-proliferation, strengthen the global economy and trade, and slow the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this concurrent resolution and I look forward to continue working with my colleagues on all of our efforts to promote peace and cooperation between these two great nations.

## RECOGNIZING LARRY SIGLER

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Larry Sigler for his lifelong dedication and commitment to the education and development of our youth.

After attending North Texas to receive his math degree and Master's in secondary education, Larry taught at Dallas Hillcrest High School and at Lewisville Middle School, now DeLay Middle School. He then served as assistant principal at DeLay, Hedrick Middle School, and Lewisville High School. He also served as principal of Hedrick before serving as the first principal of Marcus High School.

After 19 years as principal at Marcus, Larry retired in 2000. While there, he helped to develop the school into one of the best academic schools in the state. Also, despite graduating from and playing football for the rival school, Lewisville High, he helped to build Marcus's strong athletic program. The Marcus High athletic program has been recognized with both state and district championship on many occasions.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize Larry Sigler for his contributions in improving the quality of our secondary education. His commitment serves as inspiration to others in his field and those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of young people.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE  
MEMBERS OF HEADQUARTERS  
BATTERY FORWARD, FIRST BATTALION,  
109TH FIELD ARTILLERY  
DIVISION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA  
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 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 44 members of the Headquarters Battery Forward of the First Battalion of the 109th Field Artillery, based in Kingston, Pennsylvania, who have returned after service in Iraq.

We welcome home our brave soldiers with gratitude for their selflessness. During times of

war, it is important that we realize the sacrifices our troops endure. Through voluntary military service, Americans proudly uphold ideals, consistently emerge as leaders and valiantly ensure democracy.

The 109th Field Artillery enjoys a rich heritage. It is one of the oldest units in continuous existence in the United States Armed Forces. It was organized under Col. Zebulon Butler in the Wyoming Valley of northeastern Pennsylvania on October 17, 1775, nearly a year before the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Since the Wyoming Valley was then part of Connecticut, the unit was formed as the 24th Regiment, Connecticut Militia. The Regiment carries both the Connecticut and Pennsylvania state flags in its color guard. It is also officially named "The Wyoming Valley Guards."

The 109th, under various unit designations, fought in the Revolutionary War, mustered into service for the War of 1812, fought in the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I in France and in World War II in both France and Germany.

In World War II, the unit distinguished itself during the Battle of the Bulge when the 109th fought valiantly to oppose the German Ardennes Offensive. After its guns were destroyed, the unit fought as infantry often in vicious hand-to-hand combat. For its valor, the battalion was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, the highest decoration a unit can receive.

On September 5, 1950, the 109th was mobilized for the Korean War. On September 11, 1950, the unit was en route to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, when a passenger train struck the battalion's troop train in Coshocton, Ohio, killing 33 soldiers and wounding scores.

On April 26, 2004, the unit lost its first soldier in combat since 1945 when Sgt. Sherwood Baker was killed after a building he was inspecting in Baghdad, Iraq, exploded.

The Headquarters Battery consists of: Christopher A. Barnes, James J. Belusko, Clinton R. Bollinger, John D. Borger, Raymond T. Bozek, Benjamin B. Chamberlin, Daryl A. Crawford, Matthew J. Deacon, Joseph A. Didino, Mark A. Gordon, John Gowin, Travis L. Haldeman, Kevin M. Hayes, Shaun A. Hinehine, John L. Hosey, Louis F. Johnson, Dean C. Jones, Terry D. Ketchem, William H. Maclunny, Jeffrey E. Marriott, Jeffrey Martin, Joseph J. May, Joseph A. McHugh, Jonathan Mitchell, Brian J. Moore, Troy D. Mueller, Armando Pascale, Casey J. Poeth, Robert R. Rae, Roger E. Reed, Evan L. Reibsome, Michael R. Shoffler, John Shulskie, Michael K. Skoniecki, Damien J. Smith, Stephen S. Stankavage, William P. Verbyla, Brian J. Vest, James E. Waldrop, Patrick L. Walsh, Ralph M. Watkins, Valroy Williams, Michael Wisnewski, and Michael Yavorski.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking these soldiers for their courage and love of country. It is truly an honor to serve them in the United States Congress. Please join me in welcoming these fine Americans home.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESERVING PATIENT ACCESS TO INPATIENT REHABILITATION HOSPITALS ACT OF 2005

**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the "Preserving Patient Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act of 2005." This important piece of legislation will ensure that patients across America will continue to have access to the rehabilitative care they need, and that experts in this community are organized to advise and make recommendations to Congress and the appropriate federal agencies based on the realities and challenges facing the rehabilitative field today and in the future.

Rehabilitation hospitals provide essential care to patients recovering from conditions such as stroke, hip replacement, and cardiopulmonary disease. They treat patients young and old, temporarily and permanently disabled. They allow their patients not only the chance to recover quicker, but to resume active and high quality lifestyles.

Unfortunately, with each passing month fewer and fewer Americans will have access to the unique care and services that rehab hospitals provide. A Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) policy, commonly known as the "75% Rule", is being enforced in such a way that many patients, often regardless of their unique and pressing needs, are being turned away from facilities that could otherwise provide them with the best available care.

The "75% Rule" requires a rehab facility to ensure that a percentage of its patients are receiving treatment for one or more conditions as specified by Medicare. When the current rule went into effect in July of 2004, 50% of a rehab facility's admissions were required to fall within the list of conditions, on July 1st this percentage rose to 60%, and will continue to rise until it returns to 75% in 2007. According to a Government Accountability Office report, many rehab facilities will not be able to meet this 75% threshold required at full implementation of the rule.

In an effort to comply with the 75% Rule over the past year, thousands of patients across the country have been turned away from the care they desperately need. Rehab hospitals have been forced to tell patients recovering from cancer and strokes to look elsewhere for care, and have been forced instead to leave beds empty and reduce their staffs so that they can continue to provide care to the patients they are still able to treat. And with each coming year the situation will only get more dire.

The "Preserving Patient Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act of 2005" will help ease this problem by allowing hospitals additional time to figure out how to ensure they are in compliance with CMS's rules, while still providing the unique care and services they are able to provide to the patients most in need. It will also create a National Advisory Council on Medical Rehabilitation to ensure that future policies created by Federal agen-

cies and Congress reflect the realities and challenges facing the field of rehabilitative care without denying needed care to patients.

The American Hospital Association, American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association, Federation of American Hospitals and numerous other associations and advocacy groups join me in supporting the "Preserving Patient Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act of 2005." Their members are seeing first hand the devastating effect the "75% Rule" is having on those in need of rehab care today and the enormous impact further implementation of this Rule will have.

Each and every day, patients across America are being denied the rehab care they need and deserve and which could be available to them. I urge you to speak for them and to support the "Preserving Patient Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act of 2005."

RECALLING THE INFAMOUS ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recall the tragic anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, the nation of Cyprus was viciously attacked by Turkey. This abominable act of violence against the people of Cyprus has never been undone. To this day, Turkish troops illegally occupy Cyprus, splitting the nation into two areas.

Since 1974, the nation has been divided, but progress is being made toward the reunification of Cyprus. In late April 2004, the people of Cyprus went to the polls to vote on a plan of reunification. Unfortunately, this reunification proposal was rushed, allegedly to coincide with the ascension of Cyprus into the European Union. Because of many legitimate concerns, including security, and in a demonstration of great courage and independence, approximately 75 percent of Greek Cypriots opposed the plan. However, this rushed and unfortunate effort must not, and will not, be the end of attempts to reunify the island. A lasting and equitable solution for the people of Cyprus, and the goal of a united Cyprus, is too important to abandon, now or ever.

The goal of the process must be to attain a just and lasting solution, not a rushed or imposed solution. Currently, the Republic of Cyprus is seeking a plan that truly reunifies both its society and economy, while allowing each community to retain its own identity and culture, without foreign occupation.

I remain committed to achieving a solution to this problem so that we never have to gather again to commemorate an anniversary of this condemnable and unjustifiable invasion. Mr. Speaker, I pray that this will be the last year of a divided Cyprus. It is my fervent hope that, 31 years after Cyprus was torn asunder, all Cypriots can be reunited, living in peace and freedom forever.

RECOGNITION OF THE 2005 SANTA ROSA COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Jimmy W. Nelson family for being selected the 2005 Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family. The Nelson family has been involved in farming in Northwest Florida through four generations.

Both Jimmy and his wife Wynell are fourth generation farmers born in Santa Rosa County in my district. Their extensive history with working the land has helped them instill in their children the same love and appreciation of farming. Their son and two daughters helped with the family's farmwork up until the time they went off to college, and they still frequently visit to make sure the family business is still going strong.

Active in farming through all of his school years, Jimmy was also a member of the FFA in high school. In 1967, Jimmy began working as a pilot with Jay Flying Service, which he and his wife Wynell now own. The company has been the longest running crop spraying business in the Jay area, and Jimmy has helped with spraying crops since his first day with the business in addition to farming the 80 acres that he and his wife live on.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family that could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of work ethic and values has been instilled through all the generations of the Jimmy W. Nelson family. It is my hope that this family tradition continues for many generations to come.

HONORING ROBERT ATKINSON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous and heroic efforts of Mr. Robert Atkinson.

On June 25th of 2005, when vacationing at Destin Beach with his wife and two daughters, Mr. Atkinson acted above and beyond the duties of an ordinary citizen. While others ran for safety, he did what many would not think of doing—he jumped into the water while a shark was still in the water.

Mr. Atkinson's instinctive and courageous act was an attempt to save the life of Jamie Daigle, a 14 year old girl from Gonzales, Louisiana. He had put himself in danger's way and risked his own life to save another.

A hero is someone who shows great courage and is to be admired for his achievements and noble qualities. I feel that Mr. Atkinson's act of selflessness and courage is one that we all can admire. Therefore, it is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize Mr. Robert Atkinson as a hero in the not only the eyes of his daughters and his hometown of Argyle, Texas, but also the 26th District of Texas.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO HONOR CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI ON THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 202, which will permit the use of the Rotunda for a ceremony honoring Constantino Brumidi on the 200th anniversary of his birth. I would like to thank my colleagues, Representative PASCHELL, MICA, and BILIRAKIS, for their efforts in getting this bill to the Floor today.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I am especially proud of Brumidi's Greek heritage. The son of a Greek father and Italian mother, Constantino Brumidi, fled Rome and immigrated to the United States on September 18, 1852. From 1868–1879 as a resident of New York City, Brumidi painted forty-three murals and paintings at St. Stephen's Church which is located in my congressional district.

Brumidi is most famous, however, for his artistic achievements in the U.S. Capitol. "The Apotheosis of George Washington," on the dome in the Rotunda, is one of the highlights of his work here. Although he worked flat on his back on wooden scaffolding through the intense summer temperatures, Brumidi created a masterpiece. Additionally, his artwork can be found in the House of Representatives Chamber, several committee rooms, the President's Room, the Senate Reception Room, and throughout the corridors of the Capitol.

I am thrilled that we are recognizing such an outstanding artist and an important contributor to the history of our Nation. The Capitol Building is truly special because of its beautiful architecture and priceless artistic treasures. Without Brumidi's influence, tours of the Capitol simply would not be as interesting and exciting for our constituents.

I am pleased to see the Hellenic Caucus join with the co-chairs of the Italian American Congressional Delegation in bringing this resolution to the Floor, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the City of Louisville and to congratulate the citizens of this great community for the recent honor bestowed upon them. MONEY magazine and CNN spent months looking for towns across America worthy of being called "Great American Towns." A criterion for the search included a safe, enjoyable environment in which anyone would want to raise their children. Out of more than 1,300 cities eligible for CNN/MONEY's "Best Places to Live 2005," Louisville, Colorado placed fifth.

Louisville is located six miles from Boulder, a dynamic college town home to the University

of Colorado, and just twenty-five miles from Denver, Colorado's metropolitan capital. Louisville started as a coal mining town in the 1880s, and has since grown to be home to some 19,000 residents and 1,700 acres of open space. While the city has undergone significant development from its humble beginnings, it has not forgotten its roots. The city gets much of its charm through the preservation of its history. Main Street is filled with historic buildings giving it an old-time feel, and the Louisville Historical Museum keeps the past alive for generations to come. Despite its nostalgic past, Louisville is forward thinking with a thriving high-tech industry. The combination of small-town history and charm juxtaposed with modern advantages are at the heart of Louisville's success.

Louisville enjoys a low crime rate, strong environmental values, affordable housing prices, and close proximity to the Rocky Mountains—which provide boundless opportunities for outdoor activity including skiing, hiking, and camping.

Parades color Louisville's downtown streets on holidays. Schoolchildren discuss ways to improve the city in Youth Advisory Board meetings. Families watch classic movies in Louisville's picturesque parks. A lively, involved community keeps the city's traditions and a myriad of available activities alive.

I take great pride in representing Louisville, and commend Mayor Chuck Sisk and the city council for their work to ensure a safe and enjoyable community for its citizens. Cities like Louisville instill pride in the officials who govern them and the citizens who inhabit them, and serve to enrich the lives of all who live in them, work in them, or visit them.

FORCED REPATRIATION OF MONTAGNARDS BY CAMBODIA

**HON. JAMES A. LEACH**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday—notwithstanding numerous international humanitarian appeals, including several from Members of Congress and from the Executive Branch—the Government of Cambodia forcibly deported nearly 100 Montagnards to Vietnam, into uncertain circumstances where their well-being is not subject to effective international monitoring. Indeed, credible reporting by established nongovernmental organizations has documented recent cases in which Montagnard returnees were arrested and beaten after their repatriation. From a humanitarian vantage, the repatriation of Montagnard families in these circumstances was unacceptable, and was carried out to the discredit of both Cambodian authorities and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Two months ago, in a letter to UN High Commissioner Wendy Chamberlin, I and my Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] raised the details of this very case, and expressed our deep concerns that this situation "sets a dangerous precedent for refugee protection in Cambodia and elsewhere by lowering the standards for refugee repatriation." I ask that a copy of that May 4, 2005 letter be included in the RECORD. Sadly, the worst-

case-scenario outlined in that letter came to pass yesterday morning; when the visibly distraught families were forced onto buses by Cambodian police, and sent back across the border to Vietnam.

At this point, I believe that the international community bears the remedial burden of seeking robust, credible access to the Montagnard returnees to help ensure their well-being. I earnestly hope that the Government of Vietnam, in a tangible demonstration of the goodwill generated during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington last month, will favorably accommodate this request.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS,  
Washington, DC, May 4, 2005.

Ms. WENDY CHAMBERLIN,  
Acting High Commissioner for Refugees, United  
Nations High Commission for Refugees.

DEAR Ms. CHAMBERLIN: We are writing to express our serious concerns about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in January of this year by UNCHR, Cambodia, and Vietnam. In particular, we are concerned that the MOU does not ensure that adequate safeguards are in place to guarantee that refugee decisions are fully informed and voluntary, and does not provide UNHCR with unfettered access to returnees inside Vietnam. Accordingly, we urge the suspension of all repatriations of Montagnards to Vietnam until credible international monitoring of returnees is established in the Central Highlands.

While the MOU commits Cambodia to provide temporary protection to Montagnard refugees and asylum seekers, we are troubled by ongoing reports of their forcible repatriation by Cambodian authorities. As you are likely aware, credible reports describe continuing persecution, repression, and mistreatment of Montagnards in Vietnam, including those who have returned from refugee camps in Cambodia. The fact that UNHCR has had no access to the 35 Montagnards repatriated to Vietnam under the MOU thus far is particularly problematic. More immediately, we are concerned for the welfare of the approximately 100 rejected asylum seekers in Cambodia, and urge that none of them be forced back to Vietnam in current circumstances.

Against this background, we respectfully request that UNHCR:

Seriously reevaluate the MOU and work with Cambodia and Vietnam to revise it to ensure that refugee decisions are fully informed and truly voluntary, and that UNHCR has full and unfettered access to returnees inside Vietnam;

Suspend all repatriation of Montagnards until adequate monitoring is in place in the Central Highlands;

Maintain its protective mandate over all Montagnard shelters in Phnom Penh, including Site 1, which currently houses rejected cases;

Re-open the rejected caseload in Phnom Penh for those interested in having their cases considered on appeal again; and

Press the Vietnamese government to streamline the procedures for family reunification of Montagnards in Vietnam for those who have received authorization from the U.S. government to join family members in the United States.

Historically, UNHCR has taken the lead in protecting refugees around the world, important work that we strongly support. However, we are concerned that, unless it is promptly remedied, the January MOU sets a dangerous precedent for refugee protection in Cambodia and elsewhere by lowering the

standards for refugee repatriation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. LEACH,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Asia and the Pacific.

ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on,  
Asia and the Pacific.

DR. FREDERICK K.C. PRICE:  
LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize and congratulate one of the most distinguished pastors serving in the Los Angeles area, Mr. Frederick K.C. Price. Dr. Price, founder and pastor of Crenshaw Center and host of "Ever-Increasing Ministries", has accomplished a feat that very few have achieved in life—50 years of ministering the uncompromising Word of God. In 2005, Dr. Price will celebrate his "Golden Anniversary" as a minister, pastor and teacher of the Gospel.

It all began on January 3, 1932, in Santa Monica, California, when Frederick Kenneth Cercie Price, Jr. was born as the eldest of two sons to Fred and Winifred Price. He has one sister, Delores W. Jones. A product of the Los Angeles public school system, Fred Price attended McKinley Elementary School in Santa Monica, Foshay Junior High, Manual Arts and Dorsey High School in Los Angeles, and Los Angeles City College. He received an honorary diploma from the Rhema Bible Training Center in 1976 and an honorary Doctorate of Divinity Degree from Oral Roberts University in 1982; both institutions are based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was then referred to as Dr. Frederick K.C. Price.

Dr. Price met the former Betty Ruth Scott while attending Dorsey High School. They were married in March 1953 and have four children Angela Marie Evans, Cheryl Ann Price, Stephanie Pauline Buchanan, and Frederick Kenneth Price, Jr. All of the Price children and their spouses (A. Michael Evans, Jr. and Danon Buchanan, Angel Price) work in the family ministry. Drs. Fred and Betty Price also have six grandchildren; Alan Michael and Adrian Marie Evans; Nicole Denise and Allen L. Crabbe III; and Tyler Stephen Buchanan and Justin Eric Buchanan. The marriage of Fred and Betty Price spans more than 50 years.

Dr. Price was an assistant pastor in the Baptist church from 1955 to 1957, and then pastored an AME (African Methodist Episcopal) church in Val Verde, California from 1957 to 1959. He went from there to the Presbyterian Church, then to the Christian and Missionary Alliance in 1965. In 1973, Dr. Price and 300 parishioners moved from West Washington to establish Crenshaw Christian Center (CCC) in Inglewood, CA. In 1984, CCC outgrew its Inglewood facility and purchased the former Pepperdine University Los Angeles campus. CCC is not the home of the Faith Dome, with approximately 10,000 seats, is the largest church sanctuary in the United States. Construction on the FaithDome began in 1986, finished in 1989, and the Dome was

dedicated on January 21, 1990. Currently, CCC's church membership totals over 27,000.

In addition, in 1990, Dr. Price founded the Fellowship of Inner City Word of Faith Ministries (FICWFM). Members of FICWFM include pastors and ministers from all over the world. The Fellowship's mission is to provide fellowship, leadership, guidance a spiritual covering for those desiring a standard of excellence in ministry: In May 21, 2001, Dr. Price established CCC East, in Manhattan, New; the current membership is approximately 1,000. Dr. Price travels to New York every month to teach the weekly Bible Study and Sunday service.

People all over the world know of Dr. Price through the "Ever Increasing Faith" television, radio and tape ministry. The Ever Increasing Faith Ministries program reaches more than 15 million households each week throughout the United States, according to recent Neilson ratings. Dr. Price is the author of some 50 books on faith, healing, prosperity, and the Holy Spirit. "How Faith Works" is a classic book on the operation of faith and its life-changing principles. He has sold over 2.1 million books since 1976. His most recent projects include, "Race, Religion and Racism, Volume 1: A bold Encounter with Racism in The Church".

In September, 2000, Dr. Price was the first black Pastor to speak at Town Hall Los Angeles. In 1998, he was the recipient of two prestigious awards; the Horatio Alger Award, presented by an Alexandria, Virginia based association honoring those who exemplify inspirational success. He also received the Kelly Miller Smith Interfaith Award, presented by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, honoring those who have made the most significant contribution through religious expression affecting the nation and world, and most recently, he was presented the Living History Makers Award by Turning Point Magazine, honoring those while they walk among us leaving an indelible footprint of their deeds while making our world a better place.

RECOGNIZING DOUG AND  
HEATHER HUTCHENS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Doug and Heather Hutchens, of Argyle, Texas. Their love for children led them to embark on a fairly new procedure.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutchens are pioneers in the area of embryo adoptions. This procedure allows infertile couples to adopt excess embryos from genetic parents who participated in the process of in vitro fertilization. Unlike traditional adoptions, this procedure allowed Heather to carry and give birth to her children.

After a home study, background check, financial check, and completing the paperwork, the Hutchens created a profile for the genetic parents of the embryos. On their second attempt, Heather gave birth to two twin boys—Sam and Ben, and then two years later, David.

Satisfied with their decision, the Hutchens play a key part in promoting the process of adopting embryos. They have taken their efforts to Washington, DC to protest legislation to expand stem cell research.

Today, I want to recognize and congratulate Doug and Heather Hutchens. Their commitment to their pro-life and conservative views on life has made them the proud parents of three beautiful boys, and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE WORK OF WYCLEF JEAN AND HERMAN MENDOZA IN STRENGTHENING DOMINICAN/HAITIAN RELATIONS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the humanitarian efforts of Mr. Wyclef Jean and Herman Mendoza in addressing the needs of the Dominican and Haitian communities through their newly formed organization, "One Voice" in a much needed effort to create goodwill between Haitians and Dominicans on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

Hip-hop musician Wyclef Jean, founder of Yele Haiti, a nonpolitical, nonprofit foundation that provides education and other opportunities for children in his impoverished nation, is working with Herman Mendoza, co-founder and director of operations for Stepping Stones Ministries, a College Point, New York nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid to countries hit by disasters and funds programs for troubled youth.

"One Voice" is geared toward uniting Dominicans and Haitians through mutual support and aid. Its design is to encourage Dominicans in the U.S. to help Haitians in Haiti, and Haitians in the U.S. to help Dominicans back home.

Relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic have been fractious for generations. Haiti—a prosperous French colony known as St. Domingue in the 17th century and later, the first black republic—annexed the Dominican Republic (when it was known as Santo Domingo) in the 19th century. Haiti ruled all of Hispaniola from 1822 to 1844, when forces led by Juan Pablo Duarte established the Dominican Republic as an independent state.

Other conflicts between the two countries have fueled mutual distrust. In 1937, under orders from President Rafael Trujillo, Dominican soldiers killed close to 30,000 Haitian sugar cane workers along the border. These events occurred in a matter of weeks for various reasons but mainly because the skin of the Haitians was a few shades darker than that of the Dominicans.

The historical events surrounding the Dominican/Haitian relationship have continued to divide the Dominican Republic and Haiti so deeply that there may as well be an ocean not only around them but between them.

The tenuousness of the Dominican/Haitian relationship remains, but the efforts of Mr. Wyclef Jean and Herman Menendez are an important first step in developing a mutual understanding between the two nations.

I applaud their leadership on this issue and am pleased with their commitment to giving back to their communities in an effort to ease long seated resentment and unify the island and its people to achieve political, social, and economic development that will benefit the people of both nations.

[From Newsday, July 3, 2005]

HAITIANS, DOMINICANS JOIN VOICES TO HELP

A popular Haitian-American entertainer and a Dominican-American have joined forces to create goodwill between Haitians and Dominicans on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

Hip-hop musician Wyclef Jean, founder of Yele Haiti, a nonpolitical, nonprofit foundation that provides education and other opportunities for children in his impoverished nation, is working with Herman Mendoza, co-founder and director of operations for Stepping Stones Ministries, a College Point nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid to countries hit by disasters and funds programs for troubled youth.

Jean said the movement he and Mendoza started, called One Voice, "will encourage Dominicans in the U.S. to help Haitians in Haiti, and Haitians in the U.S. to help Dominicans back home. This never happens," he said. "Believe me."

Relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic have been fractious for generations. Haiti—a prosperous French colony known as St. Domingue in the 17th century and later, the first black republic—annexed the Dominican Republic (when it was known as Santo Domingo) in the 19th century. Haiti ruled all of Hispaniola from 1822 to 1844, when forces led by Juan Pablo Duarte established the Dominican Republic as an independent state.

Other conflicts between the two countries have fueled mutual distrust. In 1937, under orders from President Rafael Trujillo, thousands of Haitian sugar cane workers in the Dominican Republic were massacred.

Jean pointed to striking disparities between Haitians and Dominicans. He said in his country—which has been wracked by coups and invasions and is now the poorest nation in the hemisphere—most Haitians live on less than \$1 a day; unemployment is close to 80 percent; more than 50 percent of the people are illiterate. In contrast, he said, there is 15 percent unemployment in the Dominican Republic and 15 percent of the population is illiterate.

Mendoza said he did not notice tension during a recent visit to his homeland, but he said numerous Haitians are there looking for work and are subject to checks by immigration officials. "As far as Dominicans embracing Haiti, I don't see a problem," Mendoza said. "We want to work out our differences socially, politically and economically. People will see there's no bias."

One Voice is reaching out for medical and educational supplies for needy areas of both countries, sections of which were devastated by floods last year. Jean and Mendoza are asking the public to share some of what's in their medicine cabinets. They are collecting items for babies and adults, such as disinfectant and toothpaste, plus pens, crayons and notebooks, among other things.

"Numerous humanitarian service organizations as well as entertainment and music celebrities have pledged their support of this drive," Jean said. "If each family puts together one kit, it can mean so much to our countries."

A service that Stepping Stones Ministries sponsored on April 15 in Washington Heights—home to many Dominicans in New York—raised \$1,000 to support the cause. A similar service is scheduled for July 30 at the True Worship Church in the East New York section of Brooklyn.

One Voice hopes to help children in both countries fulfill their dreams.

"Despite what history tells them about the conflicts between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, we want them to know they are one," said Jean. "Our project is set up to

show them that at least Dominicans and Haitians in the U.S. can live that reality.

"The first step," Jean added, "is for us to send aid to the most impoverished communities, not as Haitians or Dominicans, but as One Voice."

RECOGNIZING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC PARISH

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Catholic Parish as it celebrates its 110th Anniversary on October 16, 2005. Since its founding in 1895, the Parish has been symbol of faith to the East St. Louis community.

The church was founded by Lithuanian immigrants after they fled religious bondage and famine occurring in Russia during the late 1800s. The first purely Lithuanian Catholic congregation was organized in 1885 in New York. Soon afterwards separate Lithuanian churches were built in other places like Immaculate Conception of East St. Louis in 1895.

The challenge of the Church is to be a constant light in a dark world and to bring resilience and hope to the people who need it most. Throughout these 110 years Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Catholic Parish has done just that. My family and I are proud to have attended mass at Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Catholic Parish.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless this small congregation and that they would remain a positive influence for the future of the Parish and the community of East St. Louis.

CONGRATULATING MR. PERRY M. SIMMONS ON HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Perry M. Simmons on a lifetime of work and dedication to the public. Mr. Simmons has spent his life serving the city of Baytown, Harris County, the State of Texas, and his country.

Mr. Simmons served in the Navy during World War II on board the ship that carried General Douglas MacArthur back to the Philippines, the USS *LST 709*. He would advance through the ranks to become lieutenant and go on to earn four combat medals and a Philippine Liberation Medal. After serving in World War II Mr. Simmons returned to Texas to earn his bachelors degree in Journalism. After short but successful careers in advertising and management, Governor Dolph Briscoe personally appointed Mr. Simmons Deputy Director for the Governor's Committee on Aging.

Mr. Simmons won his first election to Baytown City Council in 1980, and was hired by then-Harris County Judge Jon Lindsay as his

administrative assistant in 1981. He served on the Baytown City Council throughout the 1980s, and was instrumental in securing funds for the West Main Bridge—now named, in his honor, the Perry Simmons Bridge. In 1995, he retired from Judge Lindsay's office, at the age of 75.

Mr. Simmons can look back with pride at his life's accomplishments. I applaud him for his efforts and service to the public and wish him well in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS H. FISHER—  
DEDICATED COMMUNITY LEADER

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of my good friend, Lew Fisher, a generous and dedicated community leader who will be greatly missed in Aston, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. As his family, friends and neighbors mourn the passing of Lew Fisher, I want to take a few moments to remember his work and difference he made in the community he served so faithfully for over 20 years.

Lew spent almost his entire life in Aston, he loved it there and spent 20 years giving his service as a Township Commissioner without reserve to the people he called his neighbors. He leaves behind an impressive list of accomplishments that most people only hope to achieve in their lifetime. Lew will be remembered for many different reasons, including his generosity to the Aston community. His inspirational leadership had a profound effect on helping people better their lives. Even with all of his work in public service and with community organizations, Lew endeared himself to many because of his generous spirit and wise counsel. On a personal note, I benefited tremendously from his advice during my years of public service. Whether it was a township concern or just a relaxed visit with an old friend, the Aston locals always knew they would find the support and guidance they were looking for in a chat with Lew. While in his presence you were immediately put at ease with his warm smile, his firm handshake, his gentle voice and his admirable character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many in the 7th Congressional District. I wish Lew's wife of 52 years, Florence and family, my heartfelt condolences and may they find comfort in knowing that the many people he impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity and the example of his life and work.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MELROSE,  
NEW MEXICO

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the kickoff of centennial festivities in the town of Melrose, New

Mexico. The annual Old Timer's Festival on August 11th marks the beginning of an entire year devoted to celebrating the founding of this high-plains hamlet. In Melrose, the past will be commingled with the future as young and old stand together in tribute to one hundred years of perseverance and determination.

The town was originally called BrownHorn, after two local cattle ranchers. The Santa Fe Railway earmarked the area for its division switching point and requested that the name be changed to Melrose, purportedly after a town in Ohio. Soon after construction had started, the Melrose location was abandoned and the division switch was moved to a larger town nearby.

J.L. Downing, an early settler in the area, has been called the father of Melrose by some and is given much credit for the survival of this rural village. Downing is noted for encouraging early settlers by offering free water to residents until they could dig wells of their own; a feat of generosity that remains unrivalled to this date. The settlers stayed and the town continued despite the many challenges faced by early settlers.

Widespread availability of water led to agriculture which became a mainstay for Melrose residents who were now able to irrigate the arid land and produce life-sustaining crops. Once known as the broom-corn capital of New Mexico, Melrose stayed alive as enterprising folks opened businesses to service the area. The struggle for survival was exacerbated by severe winters, drought and fire but hard work and dedication prevailed as Melrose residents toughed it out and stayed.

In 1914, Melrose was reported to have had an Opera House, several businesses, a legendary girls' basketball team and a growing population. Some years later, however, WWI and the flu epidemic greatly depleted the town's population. Once again, residents of Melrose plowed through the hard times and in the 1930's organized a Chamber of Commerce for the betterment of the town and its people. In the WWII era, the population swelled to over 1500 from just a few hundred in 1940.

Today, the town encompasses 1.72 miles and averages 750 residents from all walks of life who engage in many career activities although ranching and farming remain at the heart of the Melrose economy. Located just 21 miles west of Cannon Air Force Base, the Melrose Bombing Range has been an integral part of testing and training operations. Many citizens of Melrose are employed by Cannon Air Force Base and local businesses benefit economically from it as well.

Melrose is also the birthplace of William Hanna, one-half of the legendary Hanna-Barbera, whose credits include cartoons such as, "Tom and Jerry, Yogi Bear and Huckleberry Hound." And the largest collection of Depression-era art in New Mexico can be viewed at the Melrose library.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the citizens of Melrose, New Mexico, as they reflect on the past and look toward the future of this unique rural community. The town of Melrose has endured despite many challenges and setbacks over the year through the determination and of residents through the ages. In the coming year, townspeople will pay tribute to one hundred years on the high plains of New Mexico and honor their forefathers whose actions by many accounts, led to the successful town we see today.

It is places such as Melrose that shaped this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community deserves our recognition.

Melrose has a proud past and a bright future.

HONORING THE DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF GREG HOLYFIELD

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service and tremendous contributions that Greg Holyfield has made to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while serving as a member of my Washington, DC, staff.

Greg is leaving our Nation's capital to attend graduate school at the University of Arkansas, where he will be part of the inaugural class at the Clinton School of Public Service. My staff and I are sad to see him leave, but we are proud of him for earning a spot in this select class.

While working on Capitol Hill, Greg has proven himself to be an outstanding legislative assistant. His hard work and insight have helped me do my job better. And those same abilities have gained the respect of his colleagues.

Greg is a talented professional who always completes the task at hand, no matter how complicated or tedious. He has truly excelled in the fast-paced environment of Congress. Through it all, though, Greg always took the time to bestow a compliment or kind word to those around him.

The Clinton School will be fortunate to have you, Greg. Thank you for all your help, and good luck in all your future endeavors.

CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS  
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE NATION  
OF BELIZE AS REPORTED  
BY AMBASSADOR LISA SHOMAN

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important and significant words of the Ambassador of Belize to the United States Her Excellency Lisa Shoman in her opinion editorial in today's edition of The Hill newspaper.

As Ambassador of Belize in Washington, Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interest of the people of Belize. She has brought to the attention of this Congress individually and collectively the importance of building, strengthening, and nurturing good relations between our two countries, not simply out of economic incentive, but for cultural and development purposes as well. Belize is truly privileged to have such an effective representative here in Washington, DC.

Belize admittedly is a small country in size, covering an area about the size of Massachusetts and with a population of only 275,000. It faces many of the challenges of small and developing nations as well as those pertinent to

Central America. Nonetheless, it has a literacy rate of over 90 percent, an average life expectancy of 67 years, and a diverse background of religious and racial groups. With a gross domestic product of \$1.778 billion and a third of the population living below the poverty line, Belize still faces many challenges to its economic development and stability.

Nonetheless, the government of Belize has worked to nurture and support business relationships with the United States. Its leaders have reached out to the American government to find mechanisms for tackling the issues of homeland and domestic security needs. It has shown considerable willingness to assist in the reduction of drug trafficking from the country and has worked impressively to address the health care needs and concerns of its citizens.

More still should be done to assist the people of Belize as they pursue means of economic and social advancement and tackle the crippling problems facing smaller nations. As they have reached out to us in the pursuit of answers and support to their problems, we should recognize the need for assistance and aid in their development. I believe that it is important that the U.S. Government continues to develop a strong relationship with our Belizean neighbors. Our global connectedness and shared interests are important causes that unite us today and will continue to draw us closer together.

I therefore submit for the RECORD a copy of The Hill's op-ed column written by Ambassador Lisa Shoman, discussing the connectedness and relationship between the small but important country of Belize and the United States. I hope my colleagues understand the significance of nurturing this relationship and continuing to build an ever closer relationship with the nation of Belize.

#### BELIZE: SMALL COUNTRY, BIG PROGRESS

While media attention has been firmly focused on the proposed Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement, a regional success story that has captured virtually no attention is unfolding.

The small nation of Belize (that I have the privilege of representing in Washington) has made significant strides over the past few years that have strengthened the bilateral relationship with the United States and attracted the attention of America's business community.

Belize, a nation of about 275,000 people situated at the crossroads of Central America and the Caribbean, is a staunch friend of America; a solid, strong and peaceful democracy with an independent judiciary; and a nation open and welcoming to the American private sector. It became a British Crown colony in 1862 and achieved independence in 1981.

Our two nations have had a long history of cordial relations. The United States is the home to the largest expatriate Belizean community in the world, some 150,000 strong, and thousands of American tourists visit my country each year, either by air or by cruise ship.

But there is a more profound reason for why the nations are so close: The dedication of both governments to common objectives has naturally led to an increasingly cooperative and productive diplomatic relationship. Belize shares the central U.S. goals of eradicating terrorism, bolstering security, combating the scourges of drugs and international crime and protecting human rights. And we have put real action and effort to these tasks.

Over just the past three to four years, Belize has agreed in principle to sign the

Proliferation Security Initiative, a key initiative of the Bush administration intended to impede or stop shipments of weapons of mass destruction. Our ports were upgraded to meet the International Maritime Organization's International Shipping and Ports Security Code. Our Cabinet has approved the Agreement Concerning Cooperation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime and Air Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in the Caribbean Area (CRA), a key objective of the U.S. government. The CRA will not only pay dividends in reducing drug trafficking but also assist law-enforcement cooperation in areas such as arms smuggling and money laundering.

Our two governments' determination to stamp out the drug trade yielded a concrete success last December in the conviction of a Belizean gang leader for multi-ton cocaine-importation offenses. The success of the operation was made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York City and officials in the Belizean Office of Public Prosecutions and our Police Department.

We have acceded to the U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and we are committed to work together to stamp out all forms of human slavery. Our two nations have signed and brought into force an extradition treaty and a mutual legal-assistance treaty intended to strengthen law-enforcement cooperation.

This fast-paced diplomatic activity is not only a direct result of the excellent relations between Belize and the United States but also an important expression of my country's fundamental commitment to the principle of the rule of law and of the necessity for a rules-based world.

That commitment governs Belize's relationship with her international investors and commercial firms operating in and with the country. And the results speak for themselves.

We are a beneficiary of the Caribbean Basin Initiative, and the United States is our largest trading partner. Two-way trade reached about \$259 million in 2004 and, according to early 2005 statistics, is over 35 percent greater this year than over the corresponding period in 2004.

The United States has consistently enjoyed a trade surplus. Our investment levels have also grown. The World Bank reports that from 2002 to 2003 (latest figures available) net inflows of foreign direct investment have increased by 60 percent.

These are encouraging numbers but clearly are below Belize's potential. We are focused on lifting trade and investment levels and believe that we shall, given the foundation we have already built.

Foreign investors are hardheaded businesspeople. They will not move into a country if the conditions are not right. The 2005 Index of Economic Freedom, jointly produced by the Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal, is of particular interest to any investor. This careful analysis shows Belize outranking virtually all nations with which the United States is currently negotiating a free-trade-area agreement or providing funding through the U.S. government's Millennium Challenge Corp.

The Belizean Constitution provides for an independent judiciary and, according to the State Department's Report on Human Rights Practices, the government generally respects this provision in practice. The report certifies that people accused of civil or criminal offenses have constitutional rights to presumption of innocence, protection against self-incrimination, defense by counsel, a public trial and appeal. Belize has a Freedom of

Information Act and an independent ombudsman who acts as a check on government power.

Abuses occur in every country. The report noted that when instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a government agency arose, the matters were settled under the rule of law and due process.

Belize is making significant progress, strengthening its commitment to a secure world, helping the United States in our common cause to fight terrorism, protecting human rights and promoting and welcoming trade and investment.

Belize is a small country with much to offer the United States and its investors. We pledge to work with Congress and the U.S. business community so that you will get to know us better.

#### THANKING CITY OF TRENTON, ILLINOIS

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both congratulate and express my gratitude to the City of Trenton, Illinois for hosting the Illinois State Junior Legion Baseball Tournament for 2005.

American Legion baseball gives youth an opportunity to understand teamwork, discipline, and leadership through experience in the sport. It helps our youth build personal physical fitness and leadership skills. I am delighted to see the support City of Trenton is providing the youth of Illinois in hosting this tournament.

I welcome all those participating in the tournament to southern Illinois. I wish each of the teams the best as they participate in the 2005 Illinois State Junior Legion Baseball Tournament.

#### A TRIBUTE TO COL. MICHAEL J. SMITH

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Michael J. Smith, Project Manager Soldier Weapons, for his support of our Soldiers in their ongoing war on terrorism and in particular for his innovative approach to shortening the acquisition cycle for critical new weapon systems. Of particular note was his success in rapidly fielding the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS). Through his vision and calculated risk taking, he has rapidly fielded this and other systems which have demonstrably led to the saving Soldier and civilian lives in Iraq. This has been a true force protection success story and a force multiplier for the Army.

Col. Smith's innovations benefit Soldiers, policy makers, and tax payers by streamlining the costly test and acquisition process. His wise use of tax dollars resulted in Soldiers receiving the best possible equipment and enabling the rapid fielding of new technologies to enhance soldier capability while ensuring soldier safety. Through his leadership, Col. Smith

established new levels of cooperation and teamwork between his program office and the numerous contractors involved in his programs. He embodies the highest tenants of Acquisition Reform and the Army's innovative Rapid Fielding Initiative.

RECOGNIZING SOMERSET COUNTY  
AS "AMERICA'S COUNTY"

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Somerset County which has received the honorary title of "America's County." This title, given to the county, recognizes its people whose hard work and determination made Somerset County the extraordinary place it is today.

To many Americans, Somerset County is known as the site of the United Airlines Flight 93 crash during the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Despite these sorrowful events, the people of Somerset have been looking into the future with enduring hope and pride. It is their patriotic determination to achieve American greatness that we commemorate today. It is their heroic determination that made Somerset County the "America's County," the source of inspiration and hope to millions of Americans.

The people of this great county are viewed as having traditional values and a strong vision of the future. Because of their hard work, Somerset County is taking pride in its schools and its emergency providers; it is taking pride in its agriculture, in its recreation, and in its industry. Somerset County is a great place to live, work, and visit, not only because it is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and breathtaking beauty, but most importantly because it is blessed with dedicated and courageous people.

For decades now the people of Somerset County have been working together to accomplish common goals for the future, while respecting the history and heritage of the past. Always welcoming to visitors, always loyal to their friends, these people make Somerset County a shining example of American greatness. Today their hard work and determination are deservedly recognized, and I rise to honor Somerset County, as it will always be known as a little piece of Heaven on Earth, as the "America's County."

INTRODUCING THE SEXUAL PREDATOR EFFECTIVE MONITORING ACT OF 2005

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sexual Predator Effective Monitoring Act of 2005. I am pleased to introduce this bill with Florida's senior Senator BILL NELSON, and I pledge my full commitment to helping communities throughout the country take the necessary steps to protect the vulnerable from sexual predators.

A recent report done by my hometown newspaper, The South Florida Sun-Sentinel, discovered that more registered sex offenders live in a zip code located completely in my district than any other zip code in Florida. The fact that no one living in the area knew the magnitude of the problem until the story was written is beyond troubling; it's absolutely scary.

In 2003, the Justice Department completed a report on recidivism rates of sex offenders. The report provided some very disturbing statistics. The Department of Justice tracked 9,691 male sex offenders released from 15 state prisons, including Florida. They tracked them for a 3-year period and found that 40 percent of the sex offenders who re-offended did so within the first year, and within 3 years of their release from prison, 5.3 percent of those sex offenders were rearrested for another sex crime. Even more, half of the sex offenders tracked in this study included men who molested children, and within the first 3 years of their release from prison, 3.3 percent of these convicts were rearrested for another sex crime against a child.

Even more, there are more than 30,000 registered sex offenders in the state of Florida alone. Nationwide, there are more than 300,000 registered sex offenders, of which the victims of some 70 percent of all the men in prison for sex crimes were children.

It is these statistical realities combined with The Sun-Sentinel's report that led me to co-host a community forum with the Broward County Urban League. At that meeting, our community had an opportunity to discuss how to best protect our children from those who prey on the vulnerable. The forum provided law enforcement, civic leaders, elected officials, and community residents the opportunity to voice their concerns and chart a path toward making our neighborhoods safe from sex offenders.

The legislation which I am introducing today expresses Congressional support for the tracking of sex offenders on probation through the use of Global Positioning Systems. The Sexual Predator Effective Monitoring Act also establishes a grant program that will allow states to improve their ability to track and monitor the movement and activities of sexual predators. The bill authorizes a total of \$30 million over 2 years to assist states in accomplishing this critical task.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no greater mechanism by which Congress can assist states in protecting children from sexual predators than to provide them with the financial assistance to develop and implement effective tracking tools to monitor these sick individuals. I ask for my colleagues' support for this legislation, and I urge its swift passage.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize

appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I take this opportunity to state my opposition to the amendment offered by Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

The language of the amendment is based upon a misinterpretation of the precedents concerning the management and control of the Great Lakes, and section 1109 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, in particular.

The Great Lakes are not possessed by the 8 states that border them. The United States maintains sovereign power over the Great Lakes under its authority to regulate commerce and to control the navigable waters within its jurisdiction. As the Supreme Court specifically recognized, the United States' ultimate interest in the Great Lakes is greater than those of any state.

It is the United States, not the states, that manages the Great Lakes. For example, the Great Lakes' role as a national transportation corridor is vital to the national economy. The Great Lakes navigation system generates more than 150,000 jobs for the U.S. economy, \$4.3 billion in personal income, and \$3.4 billion in transportation-related business revenue.

The United States has sovereign power over the Great Lakes and frequently exercises this power through control of water pollution, reducing the introduction of invasive species, protecting endangered species, and exercising water management functions generally.

Mr. ROGERS's amendment misinterprets section 1109 of the Water Resources Development Act to mean that Congress ceded authority over the Great Lakes to the Governors of the Great Lakes States. Congress did not.

The legislative history of section 1109 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 clearly indicates that Congress was acting to protect the limited quantity of water available from the Great Lakes system for use by the Great Lakes States and to prohibit any diversion unless that diversion was approved by the Governors of all the Great Lakes States. This "veto" authority granted to the Governors of the 8 Great Lakes States was the implementation mechanism for the Federal policy, not a relinquishment of authority. Therefore, it is inconsistent with law and precedent to indicate that Congress recognizes that management authority over the Great Lakes should be vested with the Governors of the 8 Great Lakes States, and the Premiers of the Canadian provinces.

For these reasons, I state my strong belief that the amendment erroneously characterizes Congressional policy and law.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. BOISEY O. BARNES

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Boisey O. Barnes who will be honored by the Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.

in conjunction with the National Medical Association on Friday, July 22, 2005 at the Sheraton New York Hotel. Dr. Barnes is being honored for his outstanding contributions to cardiology as an acclaimed physician, researcher, educator, humanitarian and spokesman.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barnes is a native of my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina. His parents were Dr. B.O. Barnes and Flossie Howard Barnes. He graduated from Charles H. Darden High School in 1960, Johnson C. Smith University in 1964, and the Howard University School of Medicine in 1968. While in high school, Dr. Barnes distinguished himself as a scholar and an outstanding quarterback on the football team.

Dr. Barnes' father practiced medicine in our hometown for many years prior to his untimely death in 1956. His patients were the poor and disadvantaged minority citizens of the county who basically could not afford health care but he provided it without reservation. One of the local elementary schools in our community is named "B.O. Barnes Elementary School." Mr. Speaker, it was this family background of public service that has laid the foundation for the great work of Dr. Barnes.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barnes has held a number of significant positions over the years including that of Founding Member of the Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc; developer of the Echocardiography, Laboratory at Howard University Hospital; Lead Investigator for ARIES, the first national cholesterol study in African Americans; and recipient of the Favorite Doctor in D.C. Award.

However, it is not the work for which he has already been honored that is most impressive nor is it the numerous accolades he has received from such notables as the D.C. Medical Society, Providence Hospital and President Bill Clinton. Rather it is the work that has received no recognition that makes Dr. Barnes a truly special individual.

Over the last 30 years, Dr. Barnes has acted as a dedicated servant to one of our nation's most disadvantaged communities. As the only Board Certified Cardiologist in Anacostia, Dr. Barnes has devoted his career, his talents and his long list of credentials to fighting the number one killer in our nation, heart disease. Over three decades, Dr. Barnes has stood for dedication, service and compassion in an environment that rarely affords either.

For his steadfast work through adversity and breakthrough accomplishments in the field of cardiology, I call upon my colleagues to join me today in rising to honor this truly great man and praise not simply his individual deeds but the body of his work. Dr. Barnes is a remarkable physician and a credit to his field; I thank him for his service, and thank his lovely wife of decades, Bernadine and their two precious daughters, Tamera and Bridget, for sharing Dr. Barnes with us.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GM POWERTRAIN FLINT NORTH

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise before you today to ask my

colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in celebrating a milestone happening in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. On Thursday, July 21, civic and community leaders will join General Motors and the United Auto Workers to commemorate the 100th anniversary of GM's Powertrain Flint North plant.

Originally a tract of farmland owned by the Durant-Dort Carriage Company, William Crapo Durant and J. Dallas Dort used the site to create a network of factories with the intention of maintaining all aspects of carriage production in close proximity. This network was the basis on which General Motors was formed. On September 4, 1905, a construction contract was signed for the creation of Buick Factory 1, and the company broke ground on November 1 that same year. Other factories followed, including the Weston-Mott Axle Factory and the Imperial Wheel Building, among many others that added to the history of General Motors, and the City of Flint.

The Buick site, where my father worked, became one of America's greatest contributors during both World Wars, producing many engines and parts used by the United States and the Allied Forces. Following World War II, the site experienced a period of growth and prosperity, with the development of new onsite foundries and factories, as well as several administrative and support buildings. The site was also home to Buick City, a multi-million dollar manufacturing project that garnered international attention. Today, under the name of GM Powertrain Flint North, the site remains home to four factories, five support buildings, a Cultural and Diversity Center, and the dedicated men and women of UAW Local 599, which has represented its members for 66 years.

Mr. Speaker, Flint, Michigan is still known to many as "Buick City." This name signifies the level of pride GM employees, UAW members, and Flint residents have in the Buick name, their product, and the community in which they have invested much of their lives. I have a personal reason to be proud of Powertrain Flint North's centennial; my father was a founding member of Local 599, joining the UAW in the 1930's. From my own family's experience, I know the impact the site's presence has made in the quality of life for many Flint households. As the Member of Congress representing the City of Flint, home of Powertrain Flint North and as the proud owner of a Buick LeSabre, I again ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating General Motors and the UAW.

HONORING ARTHUR A. FLETCHER

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. WATT, CBC chairman, and I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of Arthur A. Fletcher of Washington, DC. Known for his lifelong commitment to advancing civil rights and increasing educational and professional opportunity for African Americans and other minorities, Mr. Fletcher was a true pioneer in the movement for racial and socioeconomic equality in America. He passed away at his home in Washington on July 12, 2005 at the age of 80.

Mr. Fletcher was born in Phoenix, Arizona in 1924, but grew up in California, Oklahoma, Arizona and Kansas due to his father's career in the military. While attending high school in Junction City, Kansas, he organized his first civil rights protest after being told that African American student photographs would only be included in the back of the yearbook. Remaining in Kansas for college, he attended Washburn University in Topeka, earning degrees in political science and sociology, and later went on to earn a law degree and a Ph.D. in education.

Mr. Fletcher served in World War II under General George Patton, earning a purple heart after being shot while fighting with his Army tanker division. He went on to become a professional football player in 1950, joining the Los Angeles Rams and later the Baltimore Colts, where he was one of the team's first African American players.

Mr. Fletcher entered politics in 1954, working first on Fred Hall's gubernatorial campaign in Kansas, and later taking a post working for the Kansas Highway Commission. Central to his work in that position and in subsequent ones was his determination to use his knowledge of government contracts to encourage African Americans to bid on contracts and grow their businesses.

Mr. Fletcher lived in the San Francisco Bay Area during the late 1960s and later moved to Washington, where he served as a special assistant to the governor and was the first black candidate to run for lieutenant governor or any statewide office. In 1969, President Nixon appointed him assistant secretary of wage and labor standards in the Department of Labor. There he became best known for devising the "Philadelphia plan," which set and enforced equal opportunity employment standards for companies with federal contracts and their labor unions.

Given Congresswoman LEE's history as a small business owner, we can personal attest to the positive impact of Mr. Fletcher's work to extend federal contracting opportunities to African Americans has had on the minority business community. As a federal contractor in the SBA 8A program in the 1980s, Congresswoman LEE was able to directly benefit from his vision and foresight with regard to getting minorities involved in business, as have countless others.

In 1972, Mr. Fletcher became the Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund, where he fought to extend equal educational opportunity to African Americans, and coined the slogan "a mind is a terrible thing to waste." Known as "the father of affirmative action," he was later asked to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights under Presidents Ford, Reagan and Bush as a commissioner, and later as chairman, until 1993. Prompted by a series of attacks on longstanding affirmative action policies in the mid-1990s, Mr. Fletcher ran for president in 1996, and later became president and CEO of Fletcher's Learning Systems and publisher of USA Tomorrow/The Fletcher Letter, Mr. Fletcher served as a delegate to the United Nations and as the chairman of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, and spent a great deal of time speaking at venues across the country on the benefits of affirmative action and equal opportunity.

Many have benefited from the affirmative action policies and Mr. Fletcher's unyielding

commitment and work for equal opportunity. Clearly, this giant of a human being has paved the way for the success of countless individuals. For this, we are deeply grateful.

During a time when bipartisanship cooperation is badly needed for addressing the critical issues of our time, Mr. Fletcher stands out as one who truly embodied this spirit. We personally remember his efforts at working "both sides of the aisle," never forgetting what was fair and good for Black America was good for our Nation. We owe Mr. Fletcher a tremendous debt of gratitude for setting this exceptional standard of leadership.

On July 21, 2005, Mr. Fletcher's wife Bernyce, his three children and the rest of his family and friends will gather in Washington, DC to celebrate his extraordinary life. Mr. Fletcher's work as a presidential adviser and a champion of civil rights and affirmative action shaped the course of countless individual lives. Mr. Fletcher's tireless advocacy for equal opportunity made higher education and professional success possible for entire sectors of our society that otherwise would not have had those chances, and the effects of his activism will continue to be felt for generations to come. On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, we thank Mr. Fletcher for his truly invaluable contributions to our society, and for his work in making success, opportunity and the American dream possible for all people.

SUSPEND RESTRICTIONS TO CUBA  
TO ALLOW FAMILY ASSISTANCE  
IN AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE  
DENNIS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a resolution to temporarily suspend restrictions on remittances, gift parcels, and family travel to Cuba in order to allow Cuban-Americans to assist their relatives in the aftermath of Hurricane Dennis.

I have long opposed the embargo against Cuba, as I strongly believe that restricting travel and trade is a failed policy that harms the people of Cuba, and works against the promotion of democracy on the island. This is clearly evidenced in the wake of Hurricane Dennis when due to political sanctions Cuban Americans are powerless to reach out and assist their loved ones in a time of need.

Hurricane Dennis was a disastrous force that killed 16 people, destroyed numerous buildings and homes and left Cuba with \$1.4 billion in property damage. The embarrassingly small \$50,000 in aid offered by the U.S. is not nearly enough to address the needs of the millions of Cubans who have been left without food, clean water, electricity, and shelter caused by the devastation of Hurricane Dennis.

It is unfortunate that the U.S. government is unwilling to make a substantial contribution to the humanitarian mission in Cuba, but to deny Cuban Americans the right to help their families in a time of overwhelming need is an outrage. It is a policy that is both unethical and un-American.

The Cuban people are the ones who are suffering and it is time to put politics aside and

ease restrictions to allow Cuban-Americans to help their families and assist in disaster relief. This disaster is a prime example of why U.S. policy towards Cuba must be reevaluated. As it stands there is no exception in the law for emergency situations on the island and is therefore inhumane and serves as punishment to the people who are most vulnerable: Cuban citizens.

The recent case of Sgt. Carlos Lazo and his inability to visit his sons in Cuba is another example of why rigid U.S. policy towards Cuba must be reevaluated. Sgt. Lazo deserves the opportunity to visit his sons in Cuba. His story has become well known to many in Congress through his activism in trying to change Cuba policy. He has served in war for his adopted Nation, and the fact that he is denied the ability to see his sons more often than once every three years is absurd and indefensible.

For years Cuba policy has been driven by the Cuban-American community in Miami. It is clear, however, that the community no longer supports a hard-line approach. Many Cuban-Americans feel betrayed that their government dictates which family members they travel to see and how often they may do so. Cuban-Americans should have the right to visit their families, send them gifts, needed supplies, and money without the government restrictions now in place.

Developing a relationship with Cuba is an important foreign policy goal and in order to achieve this goal a new and rational approach to relations between our countries is urgently needed, based on dialogue, open travel and increased trade.

[From the New York Times, July 6, 2005]

FLORIDA'S ZEAL AGAINST CASTRO IS LOSING  
HEAT

MIAMI.—Fidel Castro is not dead, but he has haunted Miami for nearly 50 years. This is a city where newscasters still scrutinize Mr. Castro's health and workers conduct emergency drills to prepare for the chaos expected upon his demise. Spy shops still flourish here, and a store on Calle Ocho does brisk business in reprints of the Havana phone book from 1959, the year he seized power. But if Mr. Castro's grip on Cuban Miami remains strong, the fixation is expressed differently these days. The monolithic stridency that once defined the exile community has faded. There is less consensus on how to fight Mr. Castro and even, as Cuban-Americans grow more politically and economically diverse, less intensity of purpose. Some call it shrewd pragmatism, others call it fatigue.

In May, Luis Posada Carriles, a militant anti-Castro fighter from the cold war era, was arrested here on charges of entering the country illegally and was imprisoned in El Paso, where he awaits federal trial. Barely anyone in Miami protested, even though many Cuban-Americans consider Mr. Posada, 77, to be a hero who deserves asylum.

A month earlier, two milestones—the 25th anniversary of the Mariel boatlift, which brought 125,000 Cubans to the United States and transformed Miami, and the fifth anniversary of the seizure of Elián González—passed almost quietly.

When a Miami Herald columnist went to Cuba in June and filed dispatches critical of Mr. Posada, who is suspected in a deadly airline bombing and other violent attacks, indignant letters to the editor were the only protest. In the past, Cuban-Americans boycotted The Herald and smeared feces on its vending boxes to protest what they considered pro-Castro coverage.

This city where raucous demonstrations by exiles were once as regular as summer

storms has seen few lately. One theory is that the people whose life's mission was to defeat Mr. Castro and return to the island one day—those who fled here in the early years of his taking power—have grown old and weary.

"We are all exhausted from so much struggle," said Ramón Saul Sánchez, leader of the Democracy Movement, an exile organization that once ran flotillas to the waters off Cuba to protest human-rights abuses. Mr. Sánchez, 50, also belonged to Alpha 66, an exile paramilitary group that trained in the Everglades, mostly in the 1960's and 70's, for an armed invasion of Cuba, and later protested around the clock outside Elián González's house. Now, he said, he prefers less attention-grabbing tactics, quietly supporting dissidents on the island from an office above a Laundromat.

The subtler approach is gaining favor. Cuban-Americans have grown more politically aware since the Elián González episode, many say, when their fervor to thwart the Clinton administration and the boy's return to his father in Cuba drew national contempt. Americans who had paid little attention to the policy debate over Cuba tended to support sending Elián home, polls showed, and were put off by images of exiles blocking traffic and flying American flags upside down in protest.

"Elián González was a great lesson, a brutal lesson," said Joe Garcia, the former executive director of the Cuban-American National Foundation, a once belligerent but now more measured exile group. "It woke us up."

Mayor Manny Diaz, a Cuban-American whose political career took off after he served as a lawyer for Elián's Miami relatives, said he decided afterward it was more important to heal the wounds in Miami than to criticize the Castro government. Mr. Diaz did not mention Cuba in his State of the City speech this spring—an absence the local alternative newspaper called "downright revolutionary." In fact, Mr. Diaz said he had never used Mr. Castro's name to rouse support.

"I wish he'd get run over by an 18-wheeler tomorrow," Mr. Diaz said of Mr. Castro. "But as mayor, I'm supposed to fix your streets and your parks and your potholes."

Also revolutionary is that Cuban-Americans, solidly Republican since President John F. Kennedy's decision not to support the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, are reconsidering their allegiance. Most still stand by President Bush, which helps explain their silence after the arrest of Mr. Posada. Yet they also say Mr. Bush has repeatedly let them down.

He has continued the "wet foot, dry foot" policy that President Bill Clinton adopted, letting Cuban refugees who make it to shore remain in this country but sending back those stopped at sea. Mr. Bush also adopted new restrictions last year on visiting and sending money to relatives in Cuba, which all but the most hard-line exiles say hurts Cuban families more than Mr. Castro.

More recently, the Bush administration discussed reassigning to Iraq a special military plane it bought to help broadcast TV and Radio Marti in Cuba, a priority of exile groups.

"The Cuban-American community helped elect this guy," Mr. Garcia said, "and even then Cuban-Americans get short shrift."

Mr. Garcia made waves last fall by resigning from the Cuban-American National Foundation to join a Democratic advocacy group. José Basulto, the leader of Brothers to the Rescue, a group that flew over the Florida Strait in the 1990s seeking rafters in distress, held a news conference in 2003 to announce that he was abandoning the Republican Party.

But while Mr. Garcia, 41, has severed ties with the Bush White House, Mr. Basulto, 64, has hope. His new goal is the indictment of Mr. Castro's brother and chosen successor, Raúl Castro, for drug trafficking or for the 1996 shooting down of two Brothers to the Rescue planes by Cuban fighters, in which four men were killed.

Mr. Basulto announced in May that he was offering \$1 million for information that could lead to the indictment. So far, he said, he has received no word from Washington.

"The United States is duty bound, duty bound to act in bringing justice for these guys," Mr. Basulto said, speaking of the downed pilots. Like other outspoken exiles, he questions the administration's ousting of Saddam Hussein in Iraq before Mr. Castro.

"We don't want to see a double standard," he said. "We don't want to see democracy in Iraq and not in Cuba. We are owed that much."

His frustration was echoed by Miguel Saavedra, the leader of Vigilia Mambisa, a hard-line exile group. Mr. Saavedra said some exiles had been discouraging protests for fear of antagonizing the White House—but not his faction.

"We're not calming down," he said. "We're not tired. We haven't surrendered."

But when Vigilia Mambisa tried to rally support for Mr. Posada in May at the revered Cuban restaurant Versailles in Little Havana, and at the Torch of Friendship, a downtown monument, only a few dozen people showed up. Their shouts could not pierce the buzz of traffic.

The eclipse of the old exile passions is looming in a more literal way down the street from the Torch of Friendship, at the Freedom Tower, an elegant yellow beacon where more than half a million Cuban refugees were processed in the early years of the Castro government.

The family of Jorge Mas Canosa, the founder of the Cuban American National Foundation, once had plans to spend \$40 million restoring the building as a museum of the exile experience. The tower's new owner is Pedro Martin, a Cuban-American who remembers going there in the 1960s to pick up food for his family.

The museum is still in the works, but Mr. Martin's larger plan is to erect a 62-story condominium building around it, all but making the Freedom Tower vanish from the Miami skyline.

#### FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Chairman. I rise today to address H.R. 2601, legislation to authorize appropriation for the Department of State for FY '06 and '07. While I firmly support the underlying measure and the essential funding it provides, I opposed final passage to underscore my disappointment over several amendments that were made part of the legislation.

I opposed the Hyde amendment, which will withhold U.S. dues unless the international

body adopts a specified list of reforms. Based on the United Nations Reform Act, the Hyde Amendment also requires the U.S. to veto new or expanded peacekeeping missions if the reforms are not implemented. Reforms are necessary, but the Hyde Amendment requires unreasonable timetables for reform and requires punitive action that is counterproductive.

The Rohrabacher amendment also concerned me because it gives the appearance that we support the operations at Guantanamo Bay. I believe that our actions at Guantanamo are causing more harm than good for American interests as it has become one of the most potent propaganda and recruiting tools for terrorists.

Finally, I opposed the Ros-Lehtinen amendment which would have us to stay in Iraq indefinitely. I strongly believe that the American people have been misled into war with Iraq and much of what we have been told about this war has been wrong. It has created even more terrorists in the region. It has not made us more secure. It has made us less secure. It has diminished our standing in the world. It has even compromised our credibility as a defender of human rights.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on Monday, July 18 and Tuesday, July 19, I would have voted "aye" on: Monday's Rollcall vote #380—Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass House Resolution 328; Monday's Rollcall vote #381—Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H. Con. Res. 175; Monday's Rollcall vote #382—Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H. Res. 364; Tuesday's Rollcall vote #383—Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 365; Tuesday's Rollcall vote #384—Passage of House Resolution 365; Tuesday's Rollcall vote #385—The Hyde amendment to H.R. 2601, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal 2006 and 2007.

#### FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, "Today, I rise to discuss the need for the United States to be a true leader in the fight against global poverty. More than 1 billion people live on less than \$1 a day and another 2.7 billion people struggle to survive on less than \$2 a day. So what do these numbers

really mean? They mean that well over half of the world's population is struggling in poverty and one-sixth of the world's population can't meet even the most basic needs for survival. This is morally unacceptable.

I applaud the President's leadership on the issue, including his commitments to increased debt relief and direct assistance to Africa that were discussed recently at the G-8 summit in Scotland. Programs like the Millennium Challenge Account, which have allowed us to increase development aid and target it more effectively, are an important part of the solution. But, the United States still lacks a comprehensive strategy to help eliminate extreme global poverty. We need to leverage development aid, debt relief, technical assistance and public private partnerships. We need to coordinate with world bodies, including the United Nations, in helping impoverished countries devise plans that will work for them.

I'm pleased that this bill includes language that will move us in the right direction. The language, that I requested be added to the bill as it was being drafted in committee, declares that the elimination of extreme global poverty should be a top foreign policy priority for the United States and that the U.S. should work with all the players involved in this fight, including developing and donor countries and multilateral institutions to coordinate polices to address global poverty. Most importantly, the language urges the President to develop a comprehensive strategy to eliminate extreme global poverty. It says this plan should include foreign assistance, foreign and local private investment, technical assistance, private-public partnerships and debt relief.

I'd like to thank Chairman HYDE and the entire International Relations Committee for including this language in the bill. The United States has the opportunity to take a firm leadership role in bringing relief and a better future for billions of people around the world. The time to act is now and we can get started with developing a comprehensive plan and I look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan fashion on increasing the United States commitment to global poverty."

#### FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, yesterday I voted in favor of H.R. 2601 which authorizes multilateral aid for the Department of State, the primary diplomatic arm of our government. It is more important than ever that we resolve international conflicts through persuasion and negotiation where it is possible, and I believe this bill, on balance, strengthens our ability to pursue that strategy. I am also pleased that this bill takes much needed steps to dismantle global nuclear

black-market supplier networks, which pose a very real threat to our national security.

That being said, I remain concerned about several ill-conceived amendments that were approved by this body. One such amendment attached the United Nations Reform Act, legislation which would almost certainly force the United States to withhold 50 percent of the dues owed the U.N. because the measure's reform benchmarks are simply not achievable within the required timeframe. Even the Bush administration opposes this bill on the grounds that it would handicap our ability to work with other countries to make the U.N. a stronger and more effective organization. I voted against the United Nations Reform Act when it was brought before the full House as a stand-alone measure last month, and again when it was offered as an amendment yesterday.

I am also disappointed that my colleagues voted to approve an amendment that removes contraception from the fistula-prevention section of the bill. Fistula is a devastating injury that occurs when a woman suffers prolonged, obstructed labor. Very often, this befalls young girls living in impoverished, underdeveloped countries where birth control is unavailable and basic medical treatment doesn't exist. One of the best ways to prevent fistula is to prevent pregnancies from occurring to begin with. That's why H.R. 2601 included a bipartisan fistula prevention section which would, among other things, expand the use of contraception in countries where this injury is prevalent. Unfortunately, this body approved an amendment cutting contraception from this section of the bill, thereby weakening good faith efforts to prevent this terrible condition.

Mr. Chairman, although I have concerns about both of these amendments, I am hopefully optimistic that they will be removed when a House-Senate conference convenes later this year.

RECOGNITION OF THE 2005 SANTA ROSA COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Jimmy W. Nelson family for being selected the 2005 Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family. The Nelson family has been involved in farming in Northwest Florida through four generations.

Both Jimmy and his wife Wynell are fourth generation farmers born in Santa Rosa County in my district. Their extensive history with working the land has helped them instill in their children the same love and appreciation of farming. Their son and two daughters helped with the family's farmwork up until the time they went off to college, and they still frequently visit to make sure the family business is still going strong.

Active in farming through all of his school years, Jimmy was also a member of the FFA in high school. In 1967, Jimmy began working as a pilot with Jay Flying Service, which he and his wife Wynell now own. The company has been the longest running crop spraying

business in the Jay area, and Jimmy has helped with spraying crops since his first day with the business in addition to farming the 80 acres that he and his wife live on.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere commendation to a family that could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of work ethic and values has been instilled through all the generations of the Jimmy W. Nelson Family. It is my hope that this family tradition continues for many generations to come.

IN HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT ARTHUR C. AGPALASIN

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of United States Army Master Sergeant Arthur C. Agpalasin who served our country for 33 years, earning many medals as a result of his bravery and dedication. He passed away peacefully on July 13, 2005, in the company of his family. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Shirley and nine children.

Enlisted in 1940, MSG Agpalasin saw combat duty in World War II, the Korean war and the Vietnam war. Despite being wounded and captured as a POW during the Bataan campaign, MSG Agpalasin continued his military service to the United States through covert guerrilla operations against the occupying forces. During the Korean war, MSG Agpalasin participated in and survived the Inchon landing. He was wounded and captured as a POW at Hagaru ri but successfully escaped his captors.

In 1961, MSG Agpalasin continued his service to our country as a Drill Instructor at Fort Ord. He trained countless young soldiers for the war in Vietnam and in 1969, he joined his soldiers for what would be his final combat tour of duty.

Upon retiring from the U.S. Army, MSG Agpalasin continued his spirit of service by becoming involved in various community and civic organizations including the Fort Ord Retiree Council.

Mr. Speaker I wish to honor this man for his relentless commitment and service to our country, as well as his contribution as a role model for younger troops. Long into his retirement, MSG Agpalasin often visited the Defense Language Institute, DLI, located in Monterey Bay where he became a mentor and a heroic example for the soldiers. He was recently honored by the DLI troops at a picnic for war veterans for his utmost dedication to the core tenets of the U.S. Army. His contributions will be remembered and appreciated by citizens and his legacy will serve as an inspiration to future generations of soldiers.

HONORING DR. BARBARA HELLER

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Barbara R. Heller,

Rauschenbach Distinguished Professor of Nursing and Executive Director, Center for Health Workforce Development, University of Maryland, Baltimore for her many years of service to the citizens of Maryland, and to commend her for her leadership and unwavering commitment to help alleviate the shortage of nurses and allied health care workers.

The Center for Health Workforce Development at the University of Maryland is dedicated to analyzing and understanding health workforce issues, dynamics and trends with the goal of translating knowledge derived from research and evaluation studies into policies and programs to enhance the nursing and health workforce. Since its inception in 2002, the Center has produced documentation of the extent of the nursing shortage in Maryland; sponsored interdisciplinary consensus conferences on seeking solutions to nursing and health workforce shortages in acute and long term care; collaborated in the development of innovative nurse retention initiatives; and designed and implemented a model AmeriCorps Health Care Volunteer Service Program to train a cadre of skilled volunteers who are assigned to serve as auxiliary health care workers in hospitals and nursing homes. This program aims to lessen critical nursing and health workforce shortages and augment service delivery to patients while at the same time establishing an educational pipeline that encourages AmeriCorps members to pursue nursing and other health careers.

Dr. Heller has more than 30 years of academic and administrative experience. She served as Dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing from 1990 until 2002, and previously held senior academic administrative posts at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, and the State University of New York. Her past experience also includes an inter-governmental personnel assignment at the Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health; a Congressional Fellowship in the U.S. House of Representatives; an appointment to the Commission on Health, Montgomery County, Maryland; as well as service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Council on Collegiate Education for Nurses; the Board of Governors of the National League for Nursing; and the Board of Directors of Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem. She currently serves as a member of the Boards of Directors of the Washington Hospital Center and Nurses Educational Funds, Inc.; as a member of the Greater Baltimore Health Subcommittee; as well as my Health Care Advisory Committee. She is an alumna of Leadership Maryland, Class of 1996; the 1998 class of the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program; and has been named to the Circle of Excellence of Maryland's Top 100 Women.

Mr. Speaker, it is for her dedication to the pursuit of academic excellence and her contributions to improvements in nursing and health care that I rise to thank Dr. Heller. Nurses across the Nation and the people of Maryland are in her debt. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Dr. Heller's accomplishments and thanking her for her service to Maryland.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET HENDERSON

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Harriet Henderson, on her outstanding service as the Director of Public Libraries in Montgomery County, Maryland.

As Director for the past eight years, Ms. Henderson has helped make the Montgomery County library system the envy of library systems throughout the country. The Montgomery County library system consistently ranks among the nation's top ten, often noted as "one of the best...in the country." Working to increase library hours and expand the materials collection, Henderson has demonstrated a profound commitment to improving the quality and accessibility of our region's public libraries.

The impact of Ms. Henderson's work is not limited to her role in Montgomery County. A former president of the Public Library Association and the Virginia Library Association, Ms. Henderson has made contributions on a national scale. She has also served in leadership positions with the Urban Libraries Council as well as other organizations.

Ms. Henderson will soon assume a new position as Director of the Richmond Public Library. I am confident that she will excel in all of her future endeavors and that the Richmond libraries will benefit greatly from her wisdom and experience.

I applaud Harriet Henderson and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF THE RED WING SHOE COMPANY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 200TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN KLINE**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an icon in the state of Minnesota and a symbol of small business success.

This year the Red Wing Shoe Company celebrates its 100th anniversary. A cornerstone of the Red Wing Community and the great state of Minnesota, Red Wing Shoes represents a proud tradition of excellence.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Red Wing facility and meet many of the dedicated employees. If the strength of a company is its workers, it is easy to see how the Red Wing Shoe Company has come to enjoy a century of success.

On the occasion of this milestone achievement, I want to thank the men and women of the Red Wing Shoe Company for their service to the community and the state of Minnesota. I commend the employees and leaders of this great institution and wish them much continued success.

STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF GREG GUND

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I come to the floor of the House to mourn the passing of Greg Gund, who was tragically killed last week in a plane crash. I extend my deepest sympathies to his parents, my dear friends Theo and George, and his brother George.

I remember when Greg was born, how much joy "Silvo" brought to his parents. I hope it is a comfort to them that Greg was so loved, and that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

In his short life of 32 years, Greg touched the lives of so many. A curiosity of different cultures and people led him to travel around the world, establishing friendships everywhere he went. His love of travel and adventurous spirit brought Greg to Costa Rica, where he had been living for the past 5 years.

An avid adventurer, Greg loved to snowboard, surf, skydive and fly his plane. Greg spent countless hours over the past five years soaring off the coast of Costa Rica, and even recently completed a solo flight around the world.

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." Greg embodied this quote from Mahatma Ghandi that he taped to his passport as constant reminder to live life to the fullest. Greg enjoyed more adventures in his 32 years than most will in a lifetime.

Greg will be sorely missed by all of us who were fortunate enough to have him touch our lives. His indomitable spirit will long be remembered and live on in our hearts. My

thoughts and prayers, and those of my husband Paul and the entire Pelosi family are with the Gund family at this sad time.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WILMA B. WOODRUFF

**HON. TIM MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of my constituents. On August 10, 2005, Wilma Bane Woodruff will celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born August 10, 1905, in Cameron, West Virginia, Wilma is the youngest of three daughters born to William and Clara Fletcher Bane. On December 10, 1923, at the age of 18 she and Dorsey Woodruff were married. The couple raised four children: Willadeen Johnston, Frank, Ada Stimmel, and Eileen Dobbins and spent 59 years farming in southwestern Pennsylvania.

After Wilma and Dorsey farmed as tenants for 13 years, they bought a 325 acre property on the main highway from Pittsburgh to Washington, PA. The attractive white brick farmhouse and other buildings, lying across a deep valley, caught the eye of many travelers. It was here that Wilma and Dorsey raised beef cattle and sold hay and straw to manufacturers and other farmers. Dorsey was recognized as a Master Farmer in 1951. The couple bought two other properties in South Strabane and Hickory, PA, and in later years also raised horses. Dorsey passed away in 1982 and the farm is now the Woodruff Memorial Park.

Wilma has been a member of the Chartiers Hill Presbyterian Church and North Strabane Grange for more than 70 years. She was also active in the A.A.R.P. and Senior Citizens of Canonsburg.

At the age of 21 Wilma registered to vote, and she is very proud of the fact that she has never missed a year of voting until she was 96 years old.

In her life Wilma has accomplished many great things, but perhaps the most important was raising her wonderful family of 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you in joining me to celebrate the life of Wilma Bane Woodruff. Her life has been a great influence to many people in Pennsylvania and across the country.