

praised Prime Minister Sharon as “courageous” for unilaterally disengaging from Gaza. For its part, Israel has agreed to loosen trade restrictions for imports of Pakistani products. On Wednesday, President Musharraf shook hands with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon—something that would have been impossible even a year ago.

We are proud to be part of this historic drama. But tonight represents only a beginning of what we hope is a long process of dialogue and engagement. Organizations like ours have a continuing role to play, and we invite all of you here tonight to join with us. We would like to explore with President Musharraf opportunities to bring together Pakistani, American and Israeli citizens in a dialogue about our shared futures through a program of on-going exchanges and visits. The more our people interact with each other, the easier it will be for government leaders to act.

Let me share with you some personal information about our special guest. President Musharraf was born in Delhi in 1943. He spent his early years in Turkey, where his father served in the Pakistani Foreign Ministry. Beginning his military career in 1964, he rose through the ranks as a highly decorated soldier and officer, becoming head of the Armed Forces in 1998. The following year he assumed his country's political leadership. He is married and has a son and a daughter.

He is a critical ally and partner of the United States in fighting terrorism. Under his leadership, Pakistan's economy is growing, it is reducing friction with its Indian neighbor, and his country is increasing its presence on the international stage.

I must tell you many people expressed doubt that tonight would happen. The gap is too wide; the differences are too stark, they said. I am reminded of a famous passage from literature that describes the wide chasm which separates western and eastern cultures:

“Oh East is East and West is West and ne'er the twain shall meet.”

So it stands, engraved in conventional wisdom, as if decreed by heaven. But its author, Rudyard Kipling, who wrote as an Englishman in the Indian subcontinent—the land that includes modern day Pakistan—did not accept this insight as destiny. Instead, his poem continues:

“But there is neither East nor West,
Border nor breed nor birth,
When two strong men stand face to face
Tho' they come from the ends of the earth.”

These elegant words remind us that leadership and character are indispensable to the progress of Man. Mr. President, we thank you for being here with us tonight, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on how the cause of Enlightened Moderation will be carried forward.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my very great honor to introduce to you the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Honorable Pervez Musharraf.

CONGRATULATING NORTH RICHLAND HILLS SCHOOL NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Richland Hills School for being named a No Child Left Behind Blue Rib-

bon School of 2005. Only 31 schools in Texas will receive this award certificate.

The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels. Schools must make adequate yearly progress in reading, language arts and mathematics.

The No Child Left Behind Act is the bipartisan landmark education reform law designed to change the culture of America's schools by closing the achievement gap, offering more flexibility to States, giving parents more information and options and teaching students based on what works. Under the law's strong accountability provisions, States must describe how they will close the achievement gap and make sure all students, including those with disabilities, achieve academically.

I extend my sincere congratulations to North Richland Hills School for receiving this award. This school's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to us all.

HONORING JOSEPH GENCO UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE JOSEPH H. MASON AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary community service of Joseph Genco, a resident of Chautauqua County, City of Jamestown, upon receiving the Joseph H. Mason Award.

The award is given annually to a union member who demonstrates strong volunteer service to the community, and is selected by a committee of past winners. Mr. Genco was presented with this honor at the annual United Way Salute to Labor Dinner.

Joseph Genco, who is a Jamestown Police Department sergeant, has been the president of the Jamestown Kendall Club PBA since 2000, and a past secretary of the Chautauqua County Police Organization and Western New York Police Association. Genco also serves on the Board of Directors of Joint Neighborhood Project and was former secretary of PALMA, the Police and Latino Mediation Advisory committee.

Mr. Genco has donated countless hours towards improving his community. He is hard working, and dedicated. His leadership and generosity sets an example for us all. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

THE BURLINGTON LITERARY FESTIVAL HONORS KATHERINE PATERSON

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, Burlington, Vermont, as I know from my years as Mayor, is one of America's most livable cities. One of the primary reasons for its preeminence and livability is the vibrant arts scene in Vermont's largest city and in the surrounding region. Be-

it music, dance, theater or film, Burlington is and has been alive with creativity. The same is true for writing of all sorts, so we celebrate a notable moment when much of this writing was showcased at the first Burlington Literary Festival. I extend my congratulations on the inaugural Burlington Literary Festival, to its sponsors Burlington City Arts, Burlington Magazine and the Fletcher Free Library, to festival organizer Susan Weiss, and to the many, many writers who participated.

In particular, I want to highlight that the Festival was dedicated to Katherine Paterson of Barre, Vermont. She is, with all due apologies to Grace Paley and the extraordinary writers who attended the conference, the most honored of all contemporary Vermont authors, with not one but two National Book Awards, not one but two Newberry Medals—and the Hans Christian Anderson Medal as well!

When she writes for children, she takes their intellectual, ethical and political capacities with high seriousness. Social issues, international dimensions, and, if I am correct, a revisiting of the Bread and Roses strike in her next book: this is not escapist literature, but instead writing which draws its young readers into the world they live in, even as they encounter the remarkable characters and circumstances that enliven the domain of fiction.

But Katherine Paterson knows that life asks more of us than writing, important as writing surely is. She established the “Read to Live” program to bring books, story-telling and other activities to Venezuelan communities which had been damaged and devastated by massive flooding. That program was so successful in giving children a sense of community and hope that it has been a model for programs in Indonesia for children left homeless by the tsunami, and is serving as a template for programs that will help the children or New Orleans and other cities destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

We are proud to have Katherine Paterson living and working among us in Vermont, creating with the many other writers in attendance at the Burlington Literary Festival the imaginative fabric of American life. We wish her, and all, the very best as they continue to create in words both the America that is, and the America that can be.

SUPPORTING GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation honors Gold Star Mothers, I rise today to honor a Gold Star mother from Colorado. Everyone knows that teachers have a heart for kids. Marian Lutters from Burlington, Colorado, devoted much of her life to elementary students.

Before he left for Iraq, Mrs. Lutters' students were privileged to have her son Derrick come to her second grade classroom. He explained that he was going to Iraq as a soldier. He explained what the conflict was all about and what he wanted to accomplish. The young students were attentive and some of them later wrote letters to Derrick while he was in Iraq.

Sadly, Derrick Lutters lost his life in battle on May 1, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Derrick's death was a tragedy for his family and the entire community. Small towns are like that—they are like family and very close knit. Derrick's friends and former co-workers were devastated by the loss.

Marian Lutters expressed how proud the entire family was of her son, "He said he wanted to protect people and help establish a better way of life, especially for children." Her words aptly honor her son's ultimate sacrifice.

Mrs. Lutters is supported by the entire community, and it is my desire that she also feels the continued respect, admiration, and heartfelt sympathy from the Members of Congress and Americans across the country.

COMMEMORATING SEA OTTER
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Sea Otter Awareness Week, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. The support given by Defenders, Friends of the Sea Otter, the Otter Project, and the Ocean Conservancy to recover the Southern Sea Otter has raised public awareness and helped protect this important species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The study of southern sea otter populations provides much-needed information on ways to improve the health of coastal ecosystems. We already know sea otters play a critical role in maintaining healthy kelp beds along the California coast, an important habitat and nursery ground for some of the depleted West Coast rockfish stocks. Sea otter research has proven to be an effective method of monitoring toxins and diseases in the marine environment, both of which can affect the health of humans and other wildlife. These charismatic animals also bring significant tourism spending to central Californian coastal communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to hold Sea Otter Awareness Week this week as Congress moves to reauthorize arguably the bedrock of environmental laws, the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The dramatic turnaround realized by the once thought extinct southern sea otter is a result of two critical protection laws—the ESA and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the southern sea otter population grew from less than 100 otters in the 1930's to the present total of 2,800. Scientists maintain that it will take 3,100 otters to make a population stable enough to even consider removing them from the Endangered Species list. Unfortunately, threats from disease, exposure to environmental pollutants, and entrapment in fisheries gear are threatening the species' continued recovery. As reauthorization of the ESA moves forward this week in the House, I will fight to keep it strong enough to successfully overcome these threats to the Southern Sea Otter.

Many constituents in my District have an interest in, and are affected by, sea otter management. I introduced H.R. 2323, the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act, and work with my colleagues to secure fund-

ing in an effort to support the recovery of the population. The nonprofit environmental groups work with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, researchers, fishermen, and state and Federal agencies to recover the Southern Sea Otter, obtain increased research funds, and remove threats to this keystone species.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of the non-profit environmental organizations and other agencies and people who devote a tremendous effort to protect and recover the Southern Sea Otter. This week I join the people of my and other districts honoring Sea Otters and those people working to save them and restore their populations.

RECOGNIZING NICOLE CALAMUNCI
FOR HER OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary academic achievements of Nicole Calamunci, a resident of Chautauqua County, city of Jamestown, upon receiving the United States Academy Achievement Award.

Nicole was named a United States National Award winner in English. Fewer than 10 percent of all High School Students across America are given this prestigious honor. Nicole was nominated for this award by her Middle School English teacher.

Along with her academic achievements Nicole demonstrates a variety of other outstanding characteristics. She possesses leadership skills, an interest in multiple subjects, and a strong motivation to improve and learn new things. Nicole is also very enthusiastic, responsible, and has an excellent attitude.

Nicole is the daughter of John and Gioconda Calamunci of Jamestown, and attends Persell Middle School.

Ms. Calamunci is an exemplary and dedicated student, with much to offer. That is why Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this young lady.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAYS OF LEOPOLDO CASTRO CASTRO AND LUCIA CONTRERAS PEREZ

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th birthday celebration of Leopoldo Castro Castro and Lucia Contreras Perez, parents of Jesus V. Castro, a former resident of my Congressional District and an exchange student from Peru at Shaker Heights High School from 1965–1966.

Leopoldo Castro was born in Orcotuna, Peru, a small village in the Andes Mountains, on November 15, 1905. Although his parents were farmers without any formal education, Leopoldo managed to finish grade school, and with only that level of education, became a distinguished resident of Orcotuna. Leopoldo wanted to become a lawyer, but his family

could not afford his college education, nor were there any colleges in the region. But those hurdles did not hold him back. Leopoldo saved enough money to purchase a law book and taught himself the Peruvian legal code.

At age 20, he was appointed Justice of the Peace of the District of Orcotuna by the State Supreme Court, a position he held for over 50 years. His fair and thoughtful decisions as Justice of the Peace gained him the respect of his entire village.

Achieving what Leopoldo could not for lack of means, his son, Jesus V. Castro, and his grandson, Jorge E. Castro, attended college and law school and became attorneys. Jorge currently serves as Tax and Trade Counsel in my Washington, DC office.

Leopoldo's wife of over 70 years, Lucia Contreras Perez, also of Orcotuna, will turn 100 years of age March 2, 2006. They live happily in Lima, Peru with their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, next week their hometown of Orcotuna will honor the lives of Lucia and Leopoldo during the annual Saint Francis of Assisi traditional festivities. I wish Lucia and Leopoldo Godspeed as they celebrate their 100th birthday.

A SMALL BUT IMPORTANT STORY
FROM VERMONT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to tell you a story, and in so doing commend a wonderful grassroots project in northern Vermont. It is a small story and a simple one, but it says volumes about the generosity and support of the people of Vermont, and the care that the citizens of our nation as a whole extend to those who are bravely serving in our military forces.

Sharon Waterhouse, of Richford, Vermont decided to sew a Christmas stocking for her son, Josh, who is serving in Iraq with other members of the Vermont National Guard, and stuff it with small Christmas gifts. It immediately occurred to her that she could sew stockings for his whole unit, all 32 of his fellow Vermont National Guard members.

But Ms. Waterhouse didn't stop there. Since she loves to sew, she set a course to make 500 stockings, asking her aunt, Andrea Bowden, to help get donations to stuff them. Michelle Long of the Guard Family Readiness Group pitched in to arrange the shipping. The Richford Legion and CF's Diner chipped in by setting out donation jars to help buy supplies. And others have volunteered to help sew, including students from Enosburg High School, along with their teachers Jessica Leo and Kaye Mehaffey.

Sharon Waterhouse herself is sewing between 300 and 400 stockings, and with the help of other generous hands, she hopes to provide stockings for the entire Vermont Guard contingent—over 1400 soldiers—serving in Iraq.

There are moments when our brave men and women in uniform, facing daily dangers in Iraq which we can scarcely imagine, need to know that their nation understands the sacrifices they are willing to make on the Nation's