Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act. More than 150 local police and sheriff's departments have requested this legislation and I am pleased that the committee is considering it.

A few years ago, Congress enacted legislation to tighten Federal law and close some loopholes that had been exploited in the past. Among these was the historic, but often abbreviated as the Paisano. This newspaper was founded in 1980 and serves as the voice of San Antonio and South Texas. It is published by the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and is distributed to the UTSA community.

In recent years, we have seen a marked increase in the number of animal fighting arrests in communities across the country. Local police and sheriffs are increasingly concerned about animal fighting and its impact on the community. Animal cruelty is not only a problem in areas where animal fighting is prevalent, but it also affects the safety and well-being of all community members. Illegal gambling, drug traffic, and acts of human violence.

There are concerns that cockfighting spreads diseases that jeopardize poultry flocks and even public health. In California, we experienced this firsthand, where cockfighting had spread to communities outside the state and has caused devastating consequences to many of our poultry producers.

If Congress finishes the job and helps State and local law enforcement officials who have requested stronger Federal laws to rid animal fighting from communities that do not want it.

TRIBUTE TO THE PAISANO 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Paisano, the student newspaper at the University of Texas at San Antonio, UTSA. The Paisano is the oldest independent student newspaper in the State of Texas. In January 1981, the first issues of the Paisano were distributed to the UTSA community. A quarter of a century later, the Paisano often publishes 7,000 to 10,000 issues a week for the downtown and 1,600 campuses.

Paisano UTSA is a young school, student enterprises like the Paisano were important in creating a sense of community. Other schools have longer histories but few have more school pride. Students know that the Paisano is their forum to celebrate their college years and examine the community and world.

Put simply, students run the paper. They write the stories, sell the advertising, and create budgets for the paper. But they receive neither college credit nor compensation from the university for their efforts. Yet, the invaluable experience of running a business has compensated them far more than a paycheck ever could.

Through the Paisano Educational Trust, dedicated students, faculty, and staff publish the publication, including rent, equipment, utilities, and printing costs are funded through advertising revenues. Countless hours of student work have kept this paper operating.

Many of the former student staff who now serve San Antonio and South Texas in numerous capacities. They are school teachers, writers, journalists, editors, accountants, lawyers, website creators, hotel managers, and environmental researchers. Over these last 25 years, they have helped transform San Antonio into the vibrant city praised for greater things on the verge of the 21st century.

The founders knew that a free press was essential to democracy as a medium for free expression. The Paisano allows students to voice their concerns and to articulate their disquietude. This newspaper has provided a forum for students to participate in the give-and-take exchange of ideas vital to an academic institution and our society.

As UTSA continues its transformation into a flagship university, I expect that the Paisano will continue to spread the richness and diversity of the student body and South Texas. Today, I celebrate their first 25 years and wish them many more.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JIM BEATTY

HON. MARYLIN N. MUSGRAVE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions and life-time achievements of Mr. Jim Beatty. He is an outstanding member of his community who has shown dedication through his endless service and volunteer efforts.

After graduating from Adams State College in Alamosa, CO, he served in the Air Force as an intelligence officer during the Korean war. Following his service in the military, Mr. Beatty used the G.I. bill to attend law school at the University of Colorado.

Soon after receiving his law degree, Mr. Beatty became senior partner at the Fisher & Beatty law office. Mr. Beatty also became very involved in the Fort Collins community. He was a member of the Fort Collins Junior Chamber of Commerce and, at age 35, was youngest president of the Rotary Club. He was also actively involved in the Fort Collins PTA and coached Little League. Mr. Beatty frequently volunteered his legal services to local service clubs and organizations.

Mr. Beatty has been actively involved in State and local politics. In the 1960's and 1970's, he served as a precinct committee person and secured every Republican in his precinct to vote.

In 1980, Mr. Beatty was elected to the Colorado State Senate, where he served until 1988. During his time in the State Senate, Mr. Beatty proved himself to be an intelligent and effective legislator and served as chair or vice-chair of eight legislative committees, including the Judiciary, Finance, Legal Affairs, Appropriations, and Joint Budget committees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Mr. Beatty in Congress and I am very grateful for his unfailing and prolific service to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many contributions and achievements of Mr. Jim Beatty.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAEDGEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring an important anniversary to my colleagues' attention. My elementary school, Maedgen Elementary School, in Lubbock, TX, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Maedgen first opened in the spring of 1955 and has been educating Lubbock's youngest citizens ever since. The school was named in honor of Charles Ernest Maedgen—1882–1964—an early resident of Lubbock who had a strong interest in the community and in education.

I am proud to be a Maedgen alumnus and am looking forward to attending the anniversary celebration on February 24, 2006. I have many fond memories of my elementary school years. Mrs. Dunn, my first grade teacher, had a big influence on my life. I particularly remember a chart she placed in the front of the classroom to teach reading. Mrs. Dunn, using that chart, unlocked the world of reading for me. I also have memories of Mr. Ford, my principal. Some days I think I spent as much time in his office as he did.

Many things have changed in our world and in education over the past 50 years. Teaching methods have changed, and technology that we never could have imagined 50 years ago now plays a big role in students' education. For example, computers, instead of charts, are used to teach reading now. I am pleased that Maedgen Elementary School is still serving the Lubbock community by teaching our children and giving them the tools to build a successful life. Congratulations to all who have worked over the past 50 years teaching and serving Lubbock children at Maedgen, and best wishes for much success to all future students, teachers and administrators.

SALUTING JAMES P. HOFFA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute James P. Hoffa, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Mr. Hoffa has spent the past 47 years in diligent and loyal service to the Teamsters Union and workers across the country.

Sworn in at the age of 18 by his father, James has been a member of the Teamsters Union since 1959. He learned early in his life the importance of workers' rights and leadership, and joined his father on picket lines as a young boy.

Since taking office in March of 1999, Mr. Hoffa has been rebuilding the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and has become a leader in the move to modernize the union while at the same time fighting for the rights of workers.