TRIBUTE TO DR. TOM BLACKWELL

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the great work of one of my constituents, Dr. Tom Blackwell. Dr. Blackwell is a credit to the medical community in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he serves as an emergency room physician and EMS specialist at Carolinas Medical Center. In early September, Dr. Blackwell and his team took their hospital on wheels—Carolinas MED—1—to Waveland, Mississippi to care for sick and injured Hurricane Katrina victims.

This mobile medical unit is a one-of-a-kind creation, originally devised by Dr. Blackwell to respond to terror attacks and other national disasters. Its two tractor trailers transform into a 14-bed hospital with operating facilities, radiology, and pharmacy support.

More than 350 doctors, nurses, and other North Carolina medical professionals spent about 2 months in Mississippi—caring for nearly 5,000 patients in a debris-strewn K-Mart parking lot. They bravely dealt with life-threatening injuries and other medical needs—from attending to heart attack patients to delivering babies.

Our mobile hospital workers were praised for their effectiveness in the Final Report of the Committee to Investigate the Response to Hurricane Katrina, released on February 15, 2006. Charlotteans and Carolinians alike can be very proud of their neighbors who participated in MED-1’s mission to the Gulf Coast, and I thank them for their outstanding service to fellow Americans in need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, due to unavoidable circumstances in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea to H. Con. Res. 322—Expressing the Sense of Congress regarding the contribution of the USO to the morale and welfare of our servicemen and women of our armed forces and their families; and Yea to S. 1989—the Holly A. Charette Post Office Designation Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. FREDDIE HART

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Freddie Hart, a well known Alabamian who will soon have a street dedicated to him in his honor on Friday, February 17, 2006.

Mr. Hart was born Fred Segrest on December 21, 1926 to sharecropper parents in Loachapoka, Alabama. He was later raised in Phenix City, Alabama. He taught himself to play the guitar at the age of five and only finished school past the second grade. He later pursued his musical interests by getting involved in bands, and landed his first recording contract with Capitol Records. In 1959, his first hit recording was “The Wall.” In 1971, his song “Easy Loving” went to number one on the charts, won two Grammys, and was named “Song of the Year” for 1971 and 1972 by The Country Music Association. In 1991, he was awarded the Governor’s Achievement Award, and in 2001 was inducted in the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

I am delighted Mr. Hart will soon be honored with this important recognition, and congratulate him for his many accomplishments. It is my honor to pay tribute to Mr. Hart today in the House, and wish him many more years of success.

HONORING THE UTAHNS COMPETING IN THE 2006 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. JIM MATHESON
OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, all Utahns have watched with pride and anticipation as the U.S. Olympic team began competing at the Torino Winter Olympic Games this month. I am especially proud of the Utah team on the track.

They are Alpine skiers Steve Nyman, Ted Ligety, and Erik Schlopy; Nordic skiers Brett Camerota; and Eric Camerota, Carl Swenson and Wendy Schuffenhauer; and Luge team member Presley. Utah is home to a long and distinguished tradition of winter sports. Names like Alf Engen and Steve Chin are two of the winter sports icons that have helped make Utah synonymous with skiing.

When Utah welcomed the world to the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, we showcased the greatest snow on earth and the finest hospitality. By building world-class winter sports venues, such as the Kearns Skating Oval and the Bear Hollow Bobaled and Luge track and Nordic ski jumps, Utah also became a vital link in our country’s support and training system for young athletes.

It has been said—and rightly so—that the Olympic Games are all about the athletes—about the gifted and dedicated men and women who display the drive, the courage and the integrity to represent America on the world athletic stage. With so much tension and trouble around the world today, it is heartening to see the best and the brightest from 80 nations coming together in peaceful competition, celebrating each other’s culture and contribution to their sport.

I would like to salute all the athletes, especially my fellow Utahns, who bring us this inspiring and heart-warming interval from the beauty of winter.