

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE
HONORABLE PETER I. BREEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter I. Breen for his service as a District Court Judge in the great State of Nevada.

Peter was born in Reno, Nevada, November 8, 1939. His mother, Gwendolyn (Ingram), was born in Sparks, Nevada, in 1908. His father, Peter, was born in Eureka, Nevada, in 1901, was District Judge of the Fifth Judicial District from 1956 to 1967. His grandfather, Peter Breen, was District Judge of the Third Judicial District from 1901–1923.

Peter was raised and educated in Goldfield and Tonopah, Nevada, where he graduated from Tonopah High School in 1956. He graduated from the University of Nevada in 1960 and the University of Santa Clara Law School in 1963.

Peter practiced law both in Reno and Carson City from 1963 to 1973. From 1967 to 1970 he served as Deputy Attorney General. Following that, he was a partner with Emerson J. Wilson in the firm of Wilson and Breen, Ltd. at the time of his appointment to the bench. Governor O'Callaghan made his appointment to fill the newly created Department Seven effective January 2, 1974. Peter has been elected six times to the post without opposition.

The Washoe County Courthouse Historical and Preservation Society was formed in June 1999 by Peter for the purpose of restoration and preservation of the historical courthouse and its history. The Society instituted the Flag Day Celebration in 2000 and holiday lighting of the courthouse, and they have become popular traditions. Peter continues to serve as the Society's President. A commemoration of the recently restored historical courtroom is to occur in 2006.

On July 1, 1999, Peter instituted a Probate Court in the District Court and presides over its operation.

Peter instituted the Washoe County Adult Drug Court on July 1, 1995. He also created and presides over a Diversion Court for criminal offenders whose crimes are attributable to drug addiction or alcoholism. He has participated at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and National Association of Drug Court Professionals in several programs concerning the Drug Court movement. In November 2001, he established the first Mental Health Court in Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Honorable Peter I. Breen on the floor of the House today.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY
CIVIC CLUB

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey Civic Club which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The Monterey Civic Club was founded in 1906 with the purpose of working to improve, beautify and promote the welfare of Monterey and help preserve its rich history. Looking back, I would like to applaud the work they have done over the past 100 years, and I look forward to the work they will continue to undertake in the next 100 years.

The Monterey Civic Club is located in the "House of the Four Winds", a historic adobe built in the 1830s by Thomas Oliver Larkin, the first and only American Consul to Alta California. This house has undergone many uses, including: a store under Governor Alvarado during the American occupation, headquarters for Secretary of State H.W. Halleck, and the location of the first Hall of Records for the State of California. The Monterey Civic Club bought this historic adobe in 1914 and restored it. Today, "The House of the Four Winds" is home to what is believed to be the oldest women's clubhouse in continuous use in the United States.

Since its inception, the Monterey Civic Club has undertaken several projects and donated thousands of dollars to local charities dedicated to improving the quality of life in Monterey. Among its accomplishments are: building a bridge over muddy Del Monte Avenue in 1907, participating in adobe tours, maintaining and preserving the historic "House of the Four Winds", and the paintings and articles of historical significance located therein. Another of the club's beneficial endeavors is the lively and traditional "El Baile de Los Cascarones," a pre-Lent "Cascarone Ball" held annually since 1939. The ticket sales from this traditional Spanish ball go to local charities and maintenance of the adobe.

Mr. Speaker, it is organizations like the Monterey Civic Club, with their dedication to preserving and improving the character of our local communities that make life unique in this vast and beautiful nation of ours. A distinct sense of identity is created by building upon local heritage, creating pride in the community. It is this sense of local pride that influences people to get involved in their communities, initiating the type of citizen service that our democracy depends on. The Monterey Civic Club's 100th anniversary is a commendable achievement, and I salute the club's numerous accomplishments.

EDITORIAL OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S
VISIT TO INDIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 2, 2006, The Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina, published the following editorial regarding President Bush's historic visit to India and the nuclear agreement between the United States and India.

HISTORIC RECONCILIATION WITH INDIA

President George W. Bush's whirlwind, five-day visit to South Asia is almost certain to have lasting significance. By visiting India, the world's largest democracy, and also making a previously unannounced stop in Afghanistan, one of the world's youngest developing democracies, the president continues to demonstrate his commitment to political freedom.

The embrace of India, after decades of strained relations, follows a five-year personal courtship by President Bush. It ranks as one of the president's most important diplomatic achievements. Its lasting success depends on maintaining the right balance in America's relationship with Pakistan, a vital strategic ally in the war against al-Qaida-led terrorism, and also with China. After three days in India, Mr. Bush flies on to Pakistan, the subcontinent's rival nuclear power and India's foe in three wars.

United States and Indian interests intersect in many areas: in the fight against Muslim terrorism; in promoting democracy through a joint Global Democracy Initiative and a new United Nations Democracy Fund; in combating threats to public health such as AIDS and pandemic flu; in developing new energy technologies, including nuclear energy; and in trade. Economic ties are strong. United States exports to India rose 30 percent in 2005, and despite the controversial outsourcing of American service jobs to India, the United States trade surplus with India was \$1.8 billion last year.

United States friendship with India also helps counterbalance China's rising economic and military power in the Asia region and keep the pressure on Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf to suppress Islamic fundamentalist movements. The administration's most controversial initiative towards India—a proposal to share peaceful nuclear technology with a nation that has not joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty—is moving forward. The president was conducting negotiations up to the last minute by telephone from Air Force One. If and when details are ironed out, and India opens its peaceful nuclear activities to international inspection, New Delhi will take its responsible place in the rank of the world's nuclear powers. That will place great pressure on Pakistan to follow suit.

The street demonstrations held to protest, peacefully, the president's visit, were mostly by Muslims. They served not only to underscore India's commitment to democracy, but also to emphasize by contrast the warm reception the president and first lady were given by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh,

• 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.

who broke with protocol to meet them at the airport.

Polls show that the vast majority of the Indian people welcome what Prime Minister Singh described as "an act of historic reconciliation." This visit is already being compared to Richard Nixon's breakthrough journey to Communist China. By forging a new era in United States relations with South Asia, the president continues to build a foreign policy legacy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARINE
LANCE CPL. JOHN JOSHUA
THORNTON, KILLED WHILE
SERVING HIS COUNTRY IN IRAQ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Lance Cpl. John Joshua Thornton, who was killed on Saturday, February 25, 2006, at the age of 22, while serving in Iraq. I recognize him today for his dedicated service to this country for the cause of freedom in a global community.

Throughout his life, Josh did everything 100 percent. As a child, he took over the role as head of the household, after his father, Robert, died in a work-related accident. He was always a great son, but became a man overnight. Josh always enjoyed weightlifting and martial arts, and by the age of 7, he received his first black belt. He loved to help people, and he taught at an after-school program for underprivileged youth. Josh was always very outgoing and brought joy to those who knew him.

It was Josh's dream to be a Marine since he was very little. In November 2004, he joined the Marine Corp, 2 years after graduating in the top of his class at Tolleson Union High School. Josh was assigned as a rifleman to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment and deployed to Iraq in September. As a Marine, he received the Combat Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Tragically, on Saturday, February 25, he died of wounds received during an enemy mortar attack while serving in Ramadi, Iraq.

Joshua is survived by his mother, Rachel, brother, Kyle, and sister, Brianna.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity I have today, to recognize and honor Lance Cpl. John Joshua Thornton in front of my colleagues on the floor of the House of Representatives. I have been a longtime friend with his great, great grandmother Nita Andrews and her recently deceased husband, Ed Andrews.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LEGACY
OF MR. AND MRS. BEN H. CARPENTER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Ben H. Car-

penter. Their lifelong dedication to improving lives and communities in North Texas will be sorely missed. Ben Carpenter passed last Friday, March 3, at his home in Dallas. His wife, Betty Dupree, followed him in death on Sunday, March 5.

Mr. Carpenter's vision and astuteness as a business leader helped shepherd Dallas into a new role as an international city in the latter part of the 20th century. He ran one of the country's largest insurance companies, Southland Life Insurance, which was founded by his father, John Carpenter and later became Southland Financial Corp., for 30 years. In 1959, he built the city's tallest skyscraper, the Southland Center, which is now the Adam's Mark Hotel.

Mr. Carpenter's greatest legacy is Los Colinas, one of the most successful real estate developments in the United States. In the early 1970s he launched a plan to turn his family ranch into a world class residential and commercial community. Las Colinas now houses some 12,000 acres of apartments, homes, hotels, shopping centers, and company headquarters. The community is home to 40 Fortune 500 Companies today, including ExxonMobil, Nokia, Microsoft, and Kimberly Clark.

Mr. Carpenter served his country during World War II as a volunteer in the Army. He was awarded a Silver Star for his heroics in the China-Burma-India theater. Upon his graduation from the University of Texas at Austin in 1948, he married this lifelong love, Betty Ann Dupree.

Mrs. Carpenter will also be remembered for her commitment to service and giving spirit. She served as an officer and board member in several charitable organizations, including the Child Guidance Center of Dallas and the Irving Community Hospital. An active Presbyterian, she and her husband donated land for the creation of two new Presbyterian churches in the Dallas area. They also funded the construction of the Carpenter Chapel at the Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.

Betty and Ben Carpenter were charitable contributors to multiple causes in North Texas. They provided land for the establishment of the Irving Arts Center and the Irving Community Hospital. Their generous gifts founded the Carpenter Family MBA Leadership Center and Carpenter Family MBA Leadership Endowment at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Ben H. and Betty Dupree Carpenter Endowment for Cardiovascular Research at the Heart, Lung, and Vascular Clinical Center of Excellence at St. Paul Hospital of Dallas.

Ben and Betty Carpenter's endeavors in both the business and service worlds have left an indelible mark on the city of Dallas and the state of Texas. I honor their lives and their legacy; North Texas would not be what it is today without their contributions.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TED HODGES OF SALLINA, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of

Ted Hodges, a high school student from Sallina, Kansas, who recently won the Kansas Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition. Ted's speech illustrates that our everyday activities are freedoms that should not be taken for granted. I would like to submit the text of his speech for the record to encourage the citizens of our Nation to cherish their freedoms.

HOW I DEMONSTRATE MY FREEDOM

I wake up, take a shower, get dressed, eat breakfast go to school I practice football, do my homework, talk with my family and friends, then go to bed. I go read the paper, go to church, watch TV. Each one of these simple, ordinary actions in itself seems mundane, but is actually a concrete expression of freedom that I enjoy daily. Going to school an indulgence? Attending church a privilege? Writing an essay a luxury? C'mon. Those are all things that we take for granted, right? They are things that I have to do!

In an address to Congress in 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt enumerated four freedoms that every American should expect and protect: freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom from fear, and freedom from want. To me, this is a tremendous ideal that America has been defined by throughout the years. I am the everyday beneficiary of these four freedoms.

Firstly, I express my freedom of speech by doing things such as writing letters to the editor of my local newspaper, posting web logs on the internet, and also encouraging school board members to change various policies. All of these things I can do without fear of retribution. I can peacefully demonstrate or agitate for change on any subject. I can read articles in newspapers, magazines, and websites that represent every viewpoint of the political spectrum. I can make my own contributions, find my own voice.

The next freedom mentioned by President Roosevelt—freedom of religion—also is present in my life. Every day I see different religions. Christianity or Judaism, Muslim or Hindu: each of these has a place in this great nation. Some larger, some smaller, all tolerated. And not promoted or encouraged by the state or in our schools. I am free to offer a prayer to the God that I worship at any time, anywhere. Whether it's being a crucifer for the last eight years during my church's Sunday services or leading the team prayer after a hard-fought football game, I have that freedom.

Another freedom, freedom from fear, is too found in our society. Personally, I have the freedom to sleep well at night knowing that our troops are working diligently not only to preserve our way of life, but to also bring that opportunity to many others. A day does not go by that we should not be extremely appreciative to those who have stepped into the line of fire to keep our nation free from fear. Laws that will govern and protect me and my family whether we are black or white, male or female, young or old.

Freedom from want: Where do I start? I have all the privileges that the wealthiest nation on earth can give me. A strong school, competent teachers, good roads, and reliable energy. A hot shower. Food that's safe. Freedom from want is something that we as Americans utilize every second of every day.

As I look back on Franklin D. Roosevelt's four freedoms I begin to wonder, "How can I show my appreciation and demonstrate my own commitment to freedom?" The answer is shown in many of my every day actions.

By taking advantage of every opportunity bestowed upon me: working diligently at school so that I can become a better informed citizen. By exercising my religious

freedom to worship God as I choose. By not being afraid to voice my opinion. By becoming an active member of my community—doing volunteer work, serving on boards. By paying taxes and holding the government accountable. By working to improve the way of life for my descendants. By registering for the selective service and being ready to serve our country. And by being a dedicated, informed voter.

Living within the confines and routines of a typical teenager's life, freedom might seem like a rare commodity. But the simple act of putting a pen to paper, of committing my voice to a recording for the Voice of Democracy audio essay profoundly represents the many freedoms I take for granted every day.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY BURRIS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Timothy Burris, who retired on January 3rd of this year, after 26 years of dedicated service to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, his last 8 years serving in the Laughlin Substation as Detective.

Tim began his career in 1979 as a patrol officer in Las Vegas, and started the Bicycle Patrol Unit there. He moved up to work in the Detective Bureau, an assignment he has maintained for the last 15 years. Tim also served on the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association and before joining Metro, he served 3 tours in Vietnam in the U.S. Navy as a crewman on the U.S.S. *Kawishiji*, affectionately referred to as the "Special K" by the crew.

Demonstrating that his job is something he does, not who he is, Timothy's fondest memories are not necessarily the ones from being on the force, but rather memories of his family. The detective has 3 sons that he is very proud of; Timothy, 30, a high school art and theater teacher; Matthew, 27, a member of Metro's Mounted Patrol Unit; and James, 12, a middle school student and promising young bow-hunter.

Tim has spent much of his career downplaying his efforts while serving on the force. When approached with a recommendation for an award or medal, with his typical humble demeanor he will tell you that he doesn't see the need for medals or honors. He feels that he is just doing his job. That unassuming attitude is exactly what makes Tim so loved and respected.

His fellow police officers describe him as a real professional and a long-time solid police officer of the highest caliber. His outstanding record shows that he is the go-to-guy on any difficult case. His knowledge and experience will be greatly missed in southern Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Timothy Burris on the floor of the House today. I congratulate him on a great career and wish him the best in retirement.

IN HONOR OF NOT THIS TIME VETS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Not This Time Vets, a Santa Cruz County organization dedicated to ensuring the well being of veterans, both from previous and current conflicts. The organization was created in response to the indifference and hostility Vietnam soldiers faced as part of the Nation's criticism of the war. A non-profit organization, Not This Time Vets is committed to honoring the service and sacrifices of veterans in Santa Cruz County as well as show appreciation for citizens currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world.

Not This Time Vets has demonstrated its appreciation to our veterans by drawing attention to their honorable service as well as advocating on their behalf in regard to preserving veterans' benefits and programs. For the estimated 18,000 veterans in Santa Cruz County, Not This Time Vets works to pay tribute to military service through organizing celebrations, informational events and advocating for effective veterans' support policies. On May 21, 2005, Not This Time Vets sponsored a parade in Santa Cruz, which drew an estimated crowd of 2,000 people. Those in attendance enthusiastically showed their support for veterans of all eras. While Americans may differ in their view of current and previous conflicts, we all need to honor the young men and woman serving this country, past and present. This is a universal point of agreement that Not This Time Vets keeps front and center.

Mr. Speaker, we know military service is a valuable and difficult sacrifice. Organizations like Not This Time Vets provide important services to our communities and veterans by providing a forum through which recognition, respect and appreciation can be demonstrated to those who have served our country. While no gesture could ever remove the scars inflicted by war, Not This Time Vets hopes to heal those physical and emotional wounds by publicly recognizing their service and bringing to light the tribulations they still endure. I applaud Not This Time Vets for the services they have provided to veterans in our community and their intentions to spread their message of healing and appreciation throughout the country.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF RICH DEVOS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard (Rich) DeVos, a great American business leader, on the special occasion of his 80th birthday. Rich co-founded Amway Corporation, a direct selling company, based on the principle of helping people live better lives. By providing individ-

uals around the world the opportunity to be entrepreneurs, Amway has become an industry leader, and is now a subsidiary of Alticor, Inc.—a Michigan-based company with international presence and annual sales of \$6.4 billion.

Now retired from the company, Rich serves as Chairman of the Orlando Magic, which he and his family acquired in 1991. Rich continues to be a source of inspiration and motivation to others by sharing accounts of his personal challenges and achievements through speaking engagements and writings. Remarkably, Rich did not stop upon reaching his American Dream, but rather continues to encourage others to believe in themselves and pursue their own dreams. Rich DeVos was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on March 4, 1926. He and his wife, Helen DeVos, have four children and fifteen grandchildren.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT GARY HOOD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Sergeant Gary Hood who retired on January 3, 2006, after 24 years of service on the force.

Sgt. Hood began his career with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) in 1976, after serving in the Air Force for 8 years. He was a crew member of the USAF Thunderbirds before leaving the service. At Metro, Sgt. Hood started as patrol officer and remained so by choice for 15 years. He also served in the Special Investigations and Concealed Weapons units for about 2 years and 6 years respectively. Sgt. Hood has been a sergeant for 14 years.

He and his wife, Sue, are the parents of two beautiful daughters, Christina, 26, and Erin, 21. They also have one granddaughter, Rhianna, 5. All are residents of Henderson, NV.

The more notorious cases that he was involved with during his career include the shooting of rapper Tupac Shakur and the violent fight between the rival Hells Angels and Mongol outlaw biker gangs during the Laughlin River Run in 2002. Three people were killed and 13 others were shot or stabbed in the confrontation.

Sgt. Hood received the 2002 Medal of Valor for his efforts in the shoot-out, the highest honor issued by the department. He also gives of himself by being a member of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board, a volunteer position. He can be described as a dedicated man, dedicated to the community, the police department and his family.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Sgt. Gary Hood on the floor of the House today. I congratulate him on his retirement. He has been an honorable and valuable public servant and he will be missed.

RECOGNIZING KATELYN SELOFF
OF CARROLLTON, TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Katelyn Seloff of Carrollton, Texas. Katelyn has been named one of the top youth volunteers in Texas for 2006 in the 11th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Katelyn Seloff, age 13, is an eighth-grader at DeWitt Perry Middle School in Carrollton, Texas. She created a peer tutoring program to provide students with academic help without the pressures of being tutored by a teacher. Katelyn recruited 21 students to volunteer as tutors. Together they provided regular tutoring sessions for 15 students in need of assistance. Her efforts led to her selection as a Distinguished Finalist in this year's Prudential Spirit of Community awards program.

Today I salute Katelyn for her impressive community service activities. It is encouraging to see outstanding young adults like her making significant contributions to their communities. I thank Katelyn for her dedication to volunteering; she is a great example of the high quality of the young people in our North Texas schools. I am proud to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF
PALCO, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Palco, Kansas for long-term efforts to sustain and revitalize their community.

Mayor Leo VonFeldt is proud to call this town of 235 people home. "Palco continues to grow," VonFeldt said. "The community has done a lot to keep going forward."

Over the last ten years, the citizens of Palco have taken action to ensure that their community continues to be home to another generation of Kansans.

In 1996, a USDA Rural Development grant was supplemented by \$125,000 of local dollars in order to complete an expansion of Kyser Machine Products. This effort provided six jobs to the local economy.

The development of Keller Motors/Petro Plus & Quality Collision Repair was completed in 1998. This half a million dollar project included a \$250,000 owner investment, \$200,000 in local contributions and Federal funding of \$50,000. The result of this shared investment is that 6 employees now provide area residents a full service gas station, 24 hour fuel access and auto collision service. The business has made a positive contribution to the community. The significance of that contribution was highlighted when owner Myron Keller was recognized as the 2004 National Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Keller said he was humbled by the award, which in his opinion belongs to the entire community.

"Our community recognizes that we can't just sit back. We must be pro-active and keep working hard for a better future," Keller said. "Nothing just happens in rural America. You have to make it happen."

In 2002, a dedicated effort was made to enhance local government services through construction of a new city building. The facility was funded by \$120,000 in local donations and includes a city office, ambulance service and fire department.

The following year, community food service availability was greatly improved when the Palco Community Development Corporation purchased and completely remodeled a local restaurant. The \$45,000 project has resulted in 6 day a week restaurant service. In addition, new ownership took over Palco's grocery store which preserved access to grocery service for local residents.

In 2004, an investment of \$132,000 from local and Federal sources resulted in the renovation and opening of the Palco Medical Clinic. The clinic provides residents with needed health care service. Also, Midwest Community Bank opened a facility in Palco which preserved local access to lending and investment opportunities. That same year, the city completed a two year community enhancement initiative. The \$2.2 million project established a home improvement program, a new sewer plant and construction of a new city street near the downtown area.

In the last decade, the citizens of Palco have leveraged more than \$3,250,000 of private, local and Federal investment into their community. Most recently, the town has taken on the task of developing a local day care facility. Community leaders hope to have the facility open by the fall of this year. According to Mayor VonFeldt this is just one more example of the community coming together to achieve a goal. "Citizens are willing to give of their time, energy and resources," VonFeldt said. "This is what makes Palco great."

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Palco are an example of how hard work, vision and community support can create just such an opportunity. Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Palco is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONSTABLE
PATRICK KETTERER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laughlin Town Constable Patrick Ketterer for his outstanding service to the community of Laughlin and his dedication to making that community a safer and more pleasant place in which to live and visit.

Patrick Ketterer has been a Laughlin resident since 1988, moving there from Rochester, Michigan. He serves in one of two elected positions in the Laughlin Township. He was initially appointed to the position to fill a va-

cancy and has since been reelected to the position four times. He is the longest serving elected official in Laughlin.

Along with serving as the town Constable, Patrick Ketterer has given countless hours of service to the community through volunteer work. Some of his activities include serving with the Metro Volunteer Police (MVPs), volunteering as a Homeland Security reserve officer and working for the local Community Emergency Response Team as Team Trainer. He is also a member of the Kiwanis and Lions clubs, as well as the American Legion Post 60. On January 10, 2006, He received the Citizen of the Year award for 2005 from the Laughlin Town Advisory Board.

To the children of Laughlin Patrick Ketterer is known simply as "Santa." Usually arriving at holiday events by police car, fire truck, or even a horse and buggy, he has thrilled the children of the community for years by playing the role of Santa Claus.

Mr. Speaker, It is a privilege to honor Patrick Ketterer for his community service in the great state of Nevada.

CONGRATULATING THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN TIMES ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Asian Pacific American Times on its upcoming 10th Anniversary celebration and to honor the important contributions this paper has made over the last decade. On March 25, 2006, the APA Times will celebrate a record of substantial achievement and growth among its readership.

The Asian Pacific American Times began with a narrower mission and title than it has today as the "Philippine American Times," focusing on issues relevant to Filipino-Americans living and working in Colorado. Over time the paper realized even greater potential to reach more Asian-American communities and it broadened its coverage and objectives accordingly. In March 2003, the Asian Pacific American Times became "The Voice of Asian Pacific Americans in the Rockies."

Reading the Asian Pacific American Times today, it is not uncommon to see datelines from locations as varied as Denver, Washington D.C., South Korea, Mongolia, China, and the Philippines. This breadth demonstrates the APA Times' dedication to reporting on a wide range of issues important to emerging Asian communities. In addition to substantive reporting and editing, it is important to recognize the APA Times' devotion to community involvement. Having won the Asian Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award in 2003 and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Social Responsibility Award in 2005, the APA Times shows a clear commitment beyond routine journalism to greater support of Asian-American communities and cultural awareness. From volunteering in programs to participating in commissions to organizing special events, the APA Times and its employees go above and beyond their laudable work as a press outlet to become public servants and community leaders.

For their accomplishments, service, and hard work, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the employees of the Asian Pacific American Times on their 10th Anniversary and their many journalistic achievements over the last decade. I look forward to reading their work and witnessing their accomplishments for another ten years and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Peace Corps as it reached its 45th anniversary on March 1, 2006. The Peace Corps is an outstanding organization that promotes peace through helping countless individuals who want to help build a better life for the community in which they serve.

Since the Peace Corps' inception in 1961, more than 182,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have been invited by 138 host countries to work in areas such as HIV/AIDS prevention, information technology, business development, education, and environmental preservation. The Peace Corps also works to empower people in various communities to take charge of their futures.

In addition to serving overseas, the Peace Corps' Crisis Corps Volunteers have helped their fellow Americans. In response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Peace Corps deployed approximately 272 Crisis Corps Volunteers to the Gulf Coast region to assist with hurricane response efforts, through an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This deployment of volunteers within the U.S. was an historic first for the Peace Corps.

I would like to take some time now to honor current Volunteers from my District who are working on the front lines of humanity: Christina M. Burke serving in Nicaragua, Lisa M. Droege serving in Honduras, Cibeles Garcia serving in Ghana, Jesse S. Lovegren serving in Cameroon, Timothy A. Markin serving in Thailand. By engaging in this meaningful work, these volunteers are making significant contributions to individuals and communities throughout the world. Their family and loved ones should be justifiably proud of their service to the Peace Corps and the extraordinary way they have changed and improved people's lives.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the 45th anniversary of the Peace Corps and its global mission towards world peace and humanitarian aid. The thousands of Volunteers serving overseas truly are representative of the honorable cause that defines the Peace Corps.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHIEF
WILLIAM TURK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief William Turk of the Boulder City

Police Department, who has retired after twenty years of dedicated service.

Bill began working for the Boulder City Police Department in 1986. He started as patrol officer and worked his way through the ranks as a Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and finally, as Chief of Police. Even though he was Chief of Police, he was always ready to serve as backup if needed. He learned this philosophy from the much larger Oklahoma City Police department where he served for ten years prior to coming to Boulder City. One night, he was responding to a call and requested another officer to assist him. When the dispatch said no units were available, he was stunned when the city's police chief himself showed up minutes later. The Chief had been listening to the radio traffic from his scanner at home.

Bill left Oklahoma City seeking a department where he could actually have time to solve problems he was called out to. Boulder City, with its low crime rate, fit the bill. Many officers have the belief they need to make as many arrests and citations as possible, but not Bill Turk. He believed in Community Policing. Boulder City residents would often notice pink slips on their cars, warning them of a parking violation, instead of tickets. Cars also received courtesy reminders if their doors were left unlocked. Once, several businesses were repeatedly complaining about kids leaving their bikes all over the sidewalk by a pizza parlor they frequented. The problem was the kids had no other place to put their bikes. Sitting behind the police station was a bike rack that never got used. The department donated the rack to the pizza parlor. Problem solved. These are just a few examples of how Bill worked hard not only to make the town safe but also to make it a better community.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Turk is a well-respected model of honesty and integrity. His career will stand as an example to all those who set forth to protect and serve. It is an honor to recognize him on the floor of the House and I wish him the best with retirement.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE,
CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF
LARRY BLEVINS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mrs. TAUSCHER and I, rise to pay tribute to Donald Lawrence Blevins who is retiring from Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 342 after a distinguished career including fifty years as a Steamfitter, four years as an Instructor, ten years as Director of Training, nine years as Business Representative and another eight years as Business Manager/Financial Secretary.

Larry Blevins was born April 10, 1937, in Arbuckle, California; two years later, his family relocated to the city of Tormey near the Union 76 oil refinery. It was here in December of 1954 that Larry first embarked on his career as a Steamfitter working as a permit hand for Fluor Maintenance on a two-week turnaround. Realizing his potential, Larry joined the Steamfitters Local 342 Apprentice Program in January of 1956 and four years later graduated from the Laney Tech Trade School in Oakland, California.

Upon graduation, Larry's first General Foremen's position came while working Travel Card out of the Chico Local in 1961 and 1962 at a Titan missile base. Larry's elevation to a supervisory position was a rare feat for a Travel Card worker and came as a direct result of his outstanding skill level and ability to learn quickly. Larry was further rewarded for his commitment to Local 342 and elected to the Apprentice Committee in the General Election of Officers on December 10, 1967.

In the early 1970's, Larry was encouraged by Brother Vern Gosney to start regularly attending Membership Meetings and become more involved with the organization and operation of the Local. Brothers Les Reed and Tom Irvin also worked closely with Larry and were the first to recommend that he begin teaching. He took all of this advice to heart and began regularly attending meetings and started taking night school classes to learn supervisory techniques and engineering skills. It wasn't long before Larry began instructing the Local 342 Apprenticeship Training Program and subsequently earned a Life Time Services Teaching Credential through the State of California.

Starting in 1977, Larry embarked on another career path and undertook the task of running the Training Center as Director of Training. It was during his ten years as Director that the school was expanded to accommodate larger classes of apprentices to help complete the many projects within the Local's jurisdiction. As the need for apprentices grew, Larry also oversaw the expansion of the Journeyman Training classes. These classes were designed to upgrade the skill levels of the Local's journeymen and keep them current with the industry's expanding technological advancements. Larry understood the need to stay on top of the changing industry and worked diligently to keep pace.

On December 11, 1988 in the General Election of Officers, Larry won a three-way race for Business Representative over Contra Costa County with more than 53% of the vote. While overseeing Contra Costa County, the Local worked major projects such as: the TKC Rebuild at Chevron in Richmond, the CoGeneration Power Plants throughout the area's refineries, major expansions throughout Chevron, and Clean Fuels projects at Chevron, Shell, Tosco and Unocal. Almost overnight Larry's jurisdiction went from just a couple hundred UA members to more than 2,000. Larry's skills helped ensure that the work was manned with qualified craftsmen and the jurisdiction of the Local was protected.

After three terms as Business Representative, Larry put in his bid for nomination to the Local's top position, Business Manager/Financial Secretary. On December 14, 1997, with the largest turnout for any election in Local's history, Larry was elected with 88% of the votes cast. The Membership's confidence in him was high enough in the General Election of Officers in 2000 and again in 2003 that he was reelected unopposed.

With Larry's leadership and the assistance of many dedicated members, Local 342 has one of the finest and most progressive training centers in the country. Larry also worked tirelessly as a Board of Trust member to stabilize the Health and Welfare Plan and amend the Master Labor Agreement to improve the conditions on the work site. Larry negotiated an increase in the Total Package that provides

funds for the Pension, the Health and Welfare plan. These advancements have not only helped to significantly improve working conditions; the language and monetary conditions were also greatly increased.

Larry has represented Local 342 countless times at conventions of the California State Pipe Trades Council, the United Association, the Western States Pipe Trades Council and the Western States Pipeline Conference. He's also served on the Executive Boards of these associations as well as the Contra Costa and Alameda County Building and Construction Trades Councils. In 2001, Larry was appointed by the UA General President to the prestigious Laws Committee at the UA Convention in Miami Beach, Florida. On October 26, 2001, Larry was honored as Labor Leader of the Year and recognized by the Contra Costa Central Labor Council, the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council and the California State Senate and Assembly for his service to the community and to working men and women.

Larry not only worked tirelessly for his brothers and sisters of organized labor, he also cultivated friendships within the community. Some of the community projects he has been a part of include, Camp Okizu, the building of the Shepard's Gate home for battered women, the Mother Wright Foundation and the Northern California Special Olympics.

Upon retirement Larry will now have more time to devote to his wife, Debbie, sons Donald and Keith, daughter Dorothy, stepchildren Derrick and Andrea, as well as grandchildren Stephanie, Marshall, Amber and Curtis.

As we wish Larry a fond farewell, we can rest assured that he has left Local 342 financially strong, cultivated a strong symbiotic relationship with the Local's contractors, and helped strengthen the ties with Sister Locals and other branches. Larry's honorable toil has helped cement a positive place within the community for the brothers and sisters of Local 342. We are all beneficiaries of his hard work and we salute his efforts. Cheers to a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRADY KOHN
FOUNDATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Brady Kohn Foundation and its founders, Carolyn and Andy Kohn. The Kohns began their foundation to honor a wonderful little boy, their son Brady, whose life on this earth was all too short. The work of this Foundation centers around the use of umbilical cord blood, a safe and painless way to retrieve valuable stem cells, which can be used to save the lives of many Americans. I welcome the initiative taken by the partnership of Christiana Care Hospital, the The Elie Katz Umbilical Cord Blood Program at Community Blood Services, and the Brady Kohn Foundation to publicly bank cord blood. This is the first step into truly cutting edge medical research.

I am very familiar with the dedication of The Brady Kohn Foundation's founding members. Carolyn and Andy have worked tirelessly to

achieve a partnership that would enable expectant mothers to have their umbilical cord blood publicly banked at no cost. The Brady Kohn Foundation will be the leader in education, awareness, and promotion of this project, inspiring expectant mothers to bank their cord blood in hopes of saving the lives of others. Christiana Care is an excellent choice for this project as they are home to approximately 7,000 deliveries per year. Of the cord blood collected, roughly 60 percent will be banked and used for medical procedures such as bone marrow transplants, while the other 40 percent will be used for research that has the potential to heal countless diseases in the future.

I recognize the struggle that the Kohns have gone through to reach their goal of providing a public umbilical cord banking system. I would like to thank Carolyn, Andy, and all those involved with this valuable project. I am certain the new public cord blood banking system will have a tremendous impact on many lives in my home state of Delaware and around the United States.

TRIBUTE TO MEDICALERT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize MedicAlert, a company founded by Dr. Marion and Chrissie Colling of Turlock, California in 1956. The MedicAlert system provides identification and medical information in emergencies, alerting emergency medical professionals to preexisting medical conditions such as diabetes, heart conditions, implanted devices, and allergies to medications.

MedicAlert utilizes identification bracelets and the E-Health Key, both of which are to be carried at all times in case of emergency. A 24-hour Emergency Response Center can be reached by calling a phone number on MedicAlert bracelets, allowing direct dialogue with nurses who have access to patients' Electronic Health Record. The emergency contact information available in those records helps make sure that patients' families are contacted in an emergency. MedicAlert provides free training pertaining to the use of MedicAlert bracelets and E-Health Keys for emergency response personnel and the public safety community.

Now in its 50th year, MedicAlert is endorsed by the American Red Cross, the National Institute of Health, the American College of Emergency Physicians and the American Pharmaceutical Association. Over 100,000 medical professionals recommend MedicAlert to their patients. MedicAlert currently receives 3,500 emergency calls a year. MedicAlert has grown to have affiliates in nine countries: Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Cyprus, Malaysia, Iceland, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

I am very proud to congratulate MedicAlert on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Over 80,000 people credit MedicAlert with having helped saved their lives in an emergency, and I wish this amazing organization many more years of growth, increased awareness, and success. Four million members worldwide un-

derstand the great importance of this organization and the immeasurable service it provides.

“WHITHER THE SIX PARTY
PROCESS?”

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, on September 19, 2005, China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea, and the U.S. signed a Joint Statement of principles under which North Korea committed to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs. In contrast to the hopes surrounding that pledge, the intervening 6 months have brought no substantive progress toward that end, and the Six Party process is beginning to appear moribund.

This circumstance is particularly regrettable because time is on no one's side. Every day of the status quo is another day for the North Korean regime to produce additional fissile material, and another day that the people of North Korea fall further behind the remarkable economic and social march of the rest of Asia. At the same time that the malfeasance of the North Korean government has brought us to this impasse, it remains in the interest of the U.S. to initiate additional dialogue, even if prospects for its success are uncertain.

Alternatively, to continue to maintain a reactive approach—such as placing unrealistic conditions on high-level contacts and other forms of meaningful engagement with the DPRK—cedes too much control to hard-liners in a regime that does not yet feel sufficient pressure or incentive to denuclearize.

We must continually test the intent of North Korea and not miss any opportunity for progress, however improbable. We are also obligated to consistently demonstrate to the other parties in the region that the intransigence impeding progress is not ours. Both of these priorities presuppose dialogue.

Because we control what we say, we ought not fear additional discussions or supplementary avenues of discussion. Conversation is never concession if one is speaking the truth, advancing the national interest.

At all levels of human interaction, including the international strategic level, there exists a significant psychological dimension: Between nations, as between people, the stronger party has greater strategic confidence and thus capacity to take the first conciliatory steps when intransigent differences arise. Given the enormity of the stakes at issue, it behooves the U.S. to take advantage of the greater flexibility we possess to creatively explore possibilities for resolving the challenges posed by North Korea.

One has the sense that due to understandable frustrations relative to past North Korean actions, including cheating on international commitments, the White House has given exceedingly constrained options to our negotiators. But clear-headedness about the nature of the North Korean regime should not cloud the mind about devising techniques and processes to overcome differences.

We have many assets, not the least of which is our professional diplomatic corps.

American professionalism is exemplified by Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who has developed a constructive relationship with all of the parties to the Six Party Talks, including North Korea. The case for sending him to Pyongyang to test the boundaries—and push the implementation—of the Joint Statement is compelling.

In particular, we should not be hesitant to begin considering the utility of negotiat[ing] a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula at an appropriate separate forum, as envisioned by the Joint Statement and the recent U.S.-ROK strategic dialogue. Taking the initiative to formally end the Korean War would underscore our peaceful intent in an unparalleled fashion, and remind the Korean people that the U.S. singularly and unequivocally supports the peaceful reunification of the Peninsula. There may be sequencing concerns but forging ahead on this aspect of the statement of principles may increase the willingness of the other parties to exert greater pressure to enforce its critical core—the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula—and provide North Korea greater psychological as well as strategic comfort to accede to concerns of the outside world.

While we speak directly to the North Korean delegation in Beijing at the Six Party Talks and have certain contacts with the North Korean ambassador to the United Nations, there is clearly a problem of communication between our two governments. Accordingly, it is time, perhaps with appropriate *quid pro quo*s, that we explore the feasibility of establishing liaison offices in our two capitals.

For the U.S. to continue to stand pat is to transfer initiative to others, indebting us to the diplomacy of countries that may have different interests, or simply ensconcing the status quo.

It's time for the U.S. to lead.

TRIBUTE TO FAITH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Capitol Heights, Maryland and Reverend Dr. Michael C. Turner, Sr. for their outstanding commitment to the community over the last fifteen years.

Their church home was purchased in May of 2000, and the dedication and cornerstone laying service was held on November 11, 2000. Since its inception the Church has baptized hundreds of new converts, provided structured Bible classes, established a strong and viable Youth Ministry, established mentoring and tutorial programs, and established a 10-week Summer Youth Enrichment Program.

I submit for the record the celebration of the Church's 15th Anniversary with the theme of "Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Stepping into the Future."

RECOGNIZING U.S. SPEED SKATING CHAMPION, JOEY CHEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize U.S. speed skating champion, Joey Cheek, who won Olympic gold on February 13 in the men's 500-meter speed skating event at the winter games in Torino, Italy. Mr. Cheek decided to donate \$25,000 in prize money to "Right to Play," an organization that will use the money to benefit refugees from the Darfur region of western Sudan by using sports to advance development, health, and peace.

Not only is Mr. Cheek an incredibly gifted athlete, he has shown tremendous generosity using his own glory to shed light on the atrocities being carried out by the Government of Sudan against its own people. As co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and having traveled to Sudan five times, I have no doubt that Mr. Cheek's donation will make a difference in the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Darfur.

I insert for the RECORD a State Department news release from February 16. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Joey Cheek for his remarkable accomplishments, on and off the ice.

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE AIR- MEN

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Tuskegee airmen. They sacrificed for a Nation they loved even when that love was not totally reciprocated. In 1941, the Army Air Force began a program to train African Americans as military pilots.

This was an era of segregation, when popular opinion was against training African Americans to become aviators, but the individuals of the Tuskegee experience showed the Nation and the world that they were equals. By overcoming many hardships, they cast aside the myths that had allowed segregation, inequity and injustice to prevail in society.

To break barriers, there is often one individual who will pave the way. The catalyst for African American aviation was Charles Alfred "Chief" Anderson. When first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, climbed into the back of Anderson's plane in 1941, a new chapter had begun for military aviation in America. His love for flying airplanes began at a young age and throughout his life gave wings to countless African American pilots.

In 1943, the Tuskegee airmen tasted combat for the first time. By World War II's end, the German Luftwaffe would know them as the "Red tailed Devils" and the American bombing crews would refer to them as the "Red Tail Angels." During the war, the four African

American fighter squadrons that made up the 332nd fighter group established their legitimacy with countless victories in the air. They also solidified a legacy of being highly disciplined and capable fighters by flying over 200 escort missions over Germany without ever losing a bomber to enemy fire.

For their service they were awarded high honors, including Distinguished Flying Crosses, Legions of Merit, Silver Stars, Purple Hearts, the Croix de Guerre, and the red star of Yugoslavia. A Distinguished Unit Citation was awarded to the 332nd fighter group for "outstanding performance and extraordinary heroism" in 1945.

The Tuskegee Airmen fought the Axis powers in Europe and racism at home. Their accomplishments spoke louder than words and provided evidence that led to the integration of our Nation's armed forces. It is important that we continue to acknowledge the sacrifices and service of these Americans who performed so admirably. The accomplishments of the brave Tuskegee Airmen will never be forgotten, and may they always remind us of the unlimited power of the human spirit.

HONORING LORRIE GRAVES, RE- BECCA McDUFF, AND JENNIFER PRATHER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, in the early 1990s the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards began a voluntary certification process for teachers who excel in the classroom and demonstrate an exceptional knowledge of their subject field. Nationwide, only 1.5 percent of teachers have been awarded this certificate. It's clearly quite an achievement to attain this level of mastery.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the three Seventh Congressional District teachers who have earned this distinction.

It is my privilege to congratulate and thank Lorrie Graves of Moore Elementary in Franklin, Rebecca McDuff of Grassland Elementary in Brentwood, and Jennifer Prather of Crosswind Elementary in Collierville for their hard work.

Each of these teachers has shown an incredible aptitude not only for teaching but for the specific area of study in which they specialize. They are improving the lives of their students, and we all thank them for their hard work.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2006 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several

members of the Fairfax County Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that are awarded to a public safety officer: the Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that I enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2006 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Police Department. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Master Police Officer James J. Greeves; Police Officer First Class Chris R. Musser; Officer Travis L. Tate; the Certificate of Valor: Officer Robert M. Bauer; Officer Connie E. Gerten; Police Officer First Class Timothy A. Judd; Officer Ryan A. Kaspar; Police Officer First Class Michael S. Lamper; Police Officer First Class Gregory McNiff; Officer Thomas E. Wilbert; the Bronze Medal: Police Officer First Class Keith J. Baker; Police Officer First Class Raymond E. Betts; Police Officer First Class Jonathan J. Bobel; Master Police Officer John D. Brocco; Police Officer First Class Sean M. Brodrick; Second Lieutenant Michael L. Connor; Master Police Officer Paul G. DeHaven; Officer Ryan L. Fisher; Police Officer First Class Edward F. Hanko; Officer Louis J. Marino; Officer Brandon C. McAleese; Master Police Officer Michael L. Mountjoy; Police Officer First Class Michael S. O'Brein; Master Police Officer John F. Pennington; Officer Anthony N. Taormina; Sergeant Paul Thompson; the Silver Medal: Police Officer First Class Anthony D. Erway; Police Officer First Class Lance T. Guckenberger; Officer Paul A. Meler.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

CONGRATULATING JOEL B. BULLARD, JR. FOR RECEIVING TIME MAGAZINE'S 2006 QUALITY DEALER AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Joel B. Bullard, Jr., President of Joe Bullard Cadillac-Hummer on the occasion of receiving the 2006 Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award.

Joe has been a vital member of the Mobile, Alabama, community all of his life. He began his career at his family's car dealership, Joe Bullard Oldsmobile, in 1972 and rose through the ranks to become dealer in 1980. Under his leadership, the dealership has expanded, and he recently opened a 6.5 acre Cadillac and Hummer business.

In addition to his professional successes, Joe has long been a supporter of community organizations. He serves as a trustee of the United Way of Southwest Alabama, and he is past chairman of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. He has also served as a director for the Mobile Kiwanis Club, the Federal Reserve Board of New Orleans, the Mobile Air-

port Authority, Mobile Economic Development Council, and the Mobile Community Foundation.

Joe's long-standing commitment to the community combined with his business successes led to this well-deserved nomination. He was one of only 66 automobile dealers, from more than 19,500 nationwide, nominated for the 37th annual award. The Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award is the most prestigious and highly coveted award for car dealers, and the recipients are among the nation's most successful auto dealers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to Joe for being named Time Magazine's 2006 Quality Dealer Award recipient and for his many professional achievements. I know his wife, Foncie, his two children, and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO HELPING THE HURTING, INC.

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, not-for-profit charitable organizations provide an essential service in meeting the needs of the down-trodden and forgotten of our nation. Today I rise to recognize the honorable service of one such organization from my district that supports many who have fallen through the cracks. This group, Helping the Hurting, Inc., is dedicated to providing free counseling to single mothers as well as abused women and children, many of whom do not have Medicare, Medicaid, or any other kind of insurance. This guidance has assisted thousands during their time of deepest need in circumstances ranging from substance abuse to marital hardships to managing personal finances. Helping the Hurting's aid goes beyond counseling services to offering a food bank, clothes closet, and even helping low-income individuals find ways to get their prescriptions at a lower cost through Patient Assistance Programs. The organization's founder Daniel Staats has helped many through his 17 years of service who felt forgotten by all those around them, and I salute his admirable sacrifice and dedication to those in need.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATIONS "GO RED FOR WOMEN" EFFORT IN FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, heart disease is the number one killer of women in the United States. The numbers are staggering. Each year heart disease claims the lives of more than 475,000 women and yet less than 15 percent of women know that this disease is a major threat to their health. Clearly education is critical to fighting this disease.

The American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" effort is a movement committed

to wiping out heart disease by educating women on steps they can do to reduce their risk.

On May 4, 2006 hundreds of women will be gathering in Franklin, Tennessee to show their support for the "Go Red for Women" campaign. I want to join them in speaking out on this issue and thank our community for focusing on this issue.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2006 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that are awarded to a public safety officer: the Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that I enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2006 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Apparatus Technician Cliff E. Sweeney; the Certificate of Valor: Lieutenant David P. Conrad; Firefighter Lawrence L. Ellison; Firefighter Kimberly A. Schoppa; Technician Jeffrey S. Seabright; Captain II Clayton Thompson; Lieutenant Chester E. Waters; the Bronze Medal: Firefighter Justin D. Childs; Lieutenant Gary C. Dize; Firefighter James P. Hobgood; Captain IVEMS Supervisor Lorenzo M. Thrower.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of the Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

CONGRATULATING DR. SAMUEL EICHOLO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Dr. Samuel Eichold on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

As a Marine, internist, University of South Alabama medical school professor, founder of Camp Seale Harris for diabetic children, and creator of the Mobile Medical Museum, Sam Eichold has dedicated his 90 years to helping others.

Dr. Sam has been active in Mobile's medical community throughout his life. It was at the age of 59 when he left his private practice to become a medical professor at the University of South Alabama, where he still keeps an office.

In 1989, Dr. Sam was named Mobilian of the Year. He has also devoted much of his time to Mobile's art community. He has even served as a board member of the Mobile Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Music Society, and the Mobile Opera Guild, among others. He was given a Greater Mobile Arts Award by the Mobile Arts Council in October, and an art gallery at Spring Hill College bears his name.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know Dr. Sam's colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of Mobile and the First Congressional District.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR
ENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITY

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the thousands of small businesses across the United States which, by definitional size, are classified as micro enterprises. More than one-half of the nation's economic engine is fueled by small businesses.

Micro enterprise embraces strategic economic development relative to the smallest of the businesses, generally with five employees or less. Once called "mom and pop" businesses, they no longer equate to the folksy moniker. In many cases across rural America, the micro enterprises become capital for human development and poverty alleviation. It is documented and recognized that micro enterprises create jobs, generate income, build assets and enhance interpersonal skills among its owners and their employees.

Micro enterprises utilize a valued conduit for financial training, business development and loans. Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) earn this designation through rigorous Department of Treasury standards. The CDFIs interface with the men and women who have a dream of owning and growing a small business; it is they who extend credit and become de facto partners in entrepreneurial enterprises throughout the land.

Micro enterprises and CDFIs also partner with foundations, community banks, regional banks, state economic development agencies, the Small Business Administration, the Federal Home Loan Bank and other like-missioned federal agencies such as the Appalachian Regional Commission. As traditional working capital is beyond the financial reach of many, a unique collaboration steers these business entities toward success and self-sufficiency.

The Association for Enterprise Opportunity strives to assist underserved entrepreneurs in starting, stabilizing and expanding businesses. As its national conference is held in May in Atlanta, the economic capital of the southeastern United States, I welcome them to my state.

The host of the national conference is the Georgia Micro Enterprise Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making a difference in the economic lives of Georgians. The conference will celebrate the vision of micro enterprise success, and we, as Members of Congress applaud that success and commend the myriad venturous fibers which make our nation's great economic quilt as strong as ever.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING LISA ROTEN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of Tennessee's exceptional teachers. Lisa Roten of Adamsville received the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award for our state in 2005. Her award is accompanied by a \$10,000 education grant for her school. I know that everyone at Adamsville Elementary School is thrilled for Lisa and proud of her achievement.

She has shown herself to be an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher while working with our sixth grade students. As a mom, I know the importance of a good teacher. Lisa clearly knows that nurturing the unique gifts in each of our kids is critical to education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lisa for her exceptional work.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2006
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that are awarded to a public safety officer: the Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that I enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2006 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Private First Class Nicole L. Arnett; Private First Class Laval L. Collins; Private First Class Clifton Cooley; Private First Class Michael D. Ford; Master Deputy Sheriff Marvin S. Johnston; Private First Class Thomas V. Kyle; Private/Deputy John J. Roth; Second Lieutenant Gregory E. Schossler; Deputy Ryan E. Tasse; the Certificate of Valor Award: Second Lieutenant Brian Johnston; Private First Class Teena M. Putman.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sher-

iff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL ON THEIR
2006 5A GIRLS' STATE INDOOR
TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor St. Paul's Episcopal School on their 2006 5A Girls' State Indoor Track and Field Championship.

Head Coach Jim Tate has led St. Paul's to 32 state championships. Since 1983, Coach Tate's teams have claimed 74 separate state team championships in track and cross-country. Twenty-five of his former athletes have gone on to compete at the collegiate level in either track or cross-country. In 1999, Coach Tate was selected as the national cross-country coach of the year.

The St. Paul's girls' cross-country team holds the national record for the longest consecutive state championship streak in the nation, winning the state championship for 16 consecutive years (1983-1998). This year's girls' team proved to be champions in their victory on February 4, 2006, at Celebration Arena in Priceville.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Paul's Episcopal School on a great season and their state championship. This school deserves public recognition for this great honor, and I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff.

St. Paul's Girls' Varsity Indoor Track Roster, Emily Bender 9th, Eleanor Brown 9th, Malise Collins 8th, Emily Collins 11th, Paige Cunningham 12th, Maggie DeLaney 12th, Sophie Eldred 8th, Norah Gufstason 8th, Margaret Harkness 7th, Angelica Howard 11th, Kayleigh Hudson 7th, Mary Carleton Johnston 10th, Hannah Jones 7th, Allison Kneip 11th, Allison Lerner 11th, Taylor Luckey 8th, Mary Win McCarthy 10th, Molly McGee 11th, Brenna McGee 10th, Jordan McMullan 11th, Coco Montgomery 7th, Kelsey Outlaw 7th, Hannah Samman 7th, Jeannie Schottgen 7th, Katelyn Simpson 12th, Mae Stimpson 10th, Ellie Stimpson 8th, Victoria Strange 8th, Nancy Taylor 9th, Summer Thomas 7th, Neal Tisher 9th, Sydneyjane Varmer 10th, Angel Watson 9th, Katherine White 7th, and Morgan Yeager 10th.

Coaching Staff: Head Coach: Jim Tate, Assistant Coaches: Kelli Etheredge, Lyndell Farmer, Erin Moore, and Bill Quina.

HONORING RHONDA KENNEDY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Rhonda

Kennedy. Rhonda was named Tennessee Principal of the Year in 2005.

We all know how important principals are to our communities. Anyone with children can tell you it's the principal who sets the tone for a school and the huge impact that has on the quality of education our kids receive. Rhonda has shown that she is innovative, energetic, and dedicated to our kids and we can't thank her enough for that.

Among her achievements is the successful implementation of a program to assist special needs students. Rhonda also created a "Learning Lab" to improve literacy skills at her school.

Principal Kennedy's work has helped improve achievement at her school and brought parents, students, and our teachers together.

HONORING DEWBERRY'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Dewberry Companies' 50th anniversary.

Dewberry was established as a small land design and survey practice on Friday, April 13, 1965, in Arlington, Virginia. Currently, Dewberry has more than 1,800 employees in 30 offices nationwide. The company has expanded from a small business to a nationwide company with over 1,800 employees and 30 offices. Dewberry provides an array of services, including civil engineering, surveying, design-build, environmental sciences, land development, security and homeland defense.

The company has assisted in major projects in the Northern Virginia area including the full planning and engineering of services for Kings Park (a residential community in Fairfax County), Tysons II, the Dulles Toll Road, and assisted with work for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Moreover, Dewberry has consulted for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development during presidential-declared disasters.

Dewberry has been a strong member of the community through various charitable and scholarship programs. An example would be the Dean Meyers Scholarship fund, named for a Dewberry engineer who tragically lost his life in the DC sniper attacks of 2002. This scholarship which is awarded annually to a civil engineering student from a rural Pennsylvania high school has grown to \$100,000. Dean Meyers was a civil engineer who worked for Dewberry until his tragic death in October of 2002 when he became a victim of the Washington, DC area sniper attacks. Dewberry has also donated \$20,000 to the victims of the tsunami and another \$20,000 to the victims of the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes.

The founder of Dewberry, Sidney O. Dewberry, has not only propelled the success of Dewberry, but has served in numerous positions within the community including the Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education, and the Commission on Transportation. Additionally, he has served as member of the Commission on Fiscal and Spending Priorities in Fairfax County, as chairman of the Arlington

County, Virginia Planning Commission, and as chairman of the Fairfax County, Virginia Engineering Standards Review Committee. Currently, Mr. Dewberry is the Rector of George Mason University Board of Visitors and part of the George Mason University Foundation Board of Trustees.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Dewberry on all of its contributions and accomplishments. They have served their community well, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in the applauding Dewberry's past accomplishments and in wishing the company continued success in the years to come.

HONORING RETIRED NEW YORK
STATE ASSEMBLYMAN RICHARD
J. KEANE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a tremendous sense of pleasure to honor the personal accomplishments and the long career in public service of a great elected leader and wonderful friend, former New York State Assemblyman Richard J. Keane.

Dick Keane is, as I said, a close friend of long standing. In point of fact, I succeeded Dick Keane as a member of the New York State Assembly in the 145th District. In all truthfulness I can say that no new member had a better mentor than I did.

Like me, Dick Keane is a lifelong—and tremendously proud—resident of South Buffalo, New York. A product of a large and politically prominent family in South Buffalo, Dick's career began protecting the public as a Buffalo Firefighter. From there, Dick went on to serve on the Erie County Board of Supervisors and was the first Democrat to serve as Chairman of its successor body, the Erie County Legislature. Dick was elected to a vacant seat in the State Assembly in 1976, and served in that seat proudly for 22 years.

But in Albany, Dick had two official duties that brought him great joy—his management of the Assembly's baseball team, and the Presidency of the American Irish Legislators Society of New York State, the latter being an organization in which I would later serve as Historian.

Each year, the American Irish Legislators Society of New York State honors one of its own, a former member of the State Legislature who made a significant contribution both to public service and, usually, to the Society itself. On Monday, March 13th, in Albany, NY, Dick Keane will be the Society's 2006 honoree. That that event, it will be my distinct honor to present Dick with a commemorative copy of these remarks and to join with my successor in the State Assembly, Assemblyman Mark Schroeder, in honoring Dick Keane's service to New York State and to his community.

Mr. Speaker, owing to my past service as Historian, I want to close with a bit of history. Ireland provided to the United States a number of wonderful gifts, but none more valuable than its people. Since the first days of landing on American soil, the Irish people have demonstrated a commitment to public service that

is unrivalled by any other ethnic group. From police and fire service to elective office, Irish Americans represent what is best about America—that if you work hard, play by the rules, love your family and your community and give as much as you can back to that community, the vaunted American Dream can be yours.

Dick Keane is a public official and a private citizen utterly worthy of that description and of the respect of those whose lives he made better for that service. It is my distinct honor to recognize him here today.

HONORING NANCY SANDERS
PETERSON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is always a privilege for me to rise and acknowledge outstanding Tennesseans. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Nancy Sanders Peterson, the president and CEO of Peterson Tool Co. Inc., for her contribution to our community in Tennessee.

Nancy has been recognized many times for her business success and she was recently inducted into the YWCA's Academy for Women of Achievement. This distinction honors women for their community leadership and Nancy is a wonderful addition.

She is a dedicated volunteer who has contributed her time and talents as a mentor for young women. Whether teaching money-management skills to Girl Scouts or speaking on university campuses, Peterson is a wonderful role model. And Nancy has counseled fellow female entrepreneurs on how to expand their businesses.

Congratulations and many thanks to Nancy Peterson for her unlimited energy and enthusiasm and her service to so many young women.

THE RETIREMENT OF U.S. MARINE
CORPS GUNNERY SERGEANT
LORENZO V. CHANCE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gunnery Sergeant Lorenzo V. Chance, who is retiring after more than 22 years of service in the United States Marine Corps.

Gunnery Sergeant Chance was raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina where he graduated from Cape Fear High School in 1983. He began his military career at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, where he attended basic training in 1984. His assignments included the MOS's of Rifleman, Administrative Chief, Drill Instructor, and Marksmanship Instructor.

Throughout his distinguished career, Gunnery Sergeant Chance has served in a wide variety of assignments in the Marine Corps including:

September 1984–1986—Administrative Clerk, HQMC Manpower Branch;

November 1986–December 1987—Embarkation NCO Marine Wing Headquarter Squadron—1 Okinawa, Japan;

January 1988–December 1991—HQMC Programs and Resources Division, Assistant Security Manager ensuring the personnel, physical, and information security of a division of 60 persons, hundreds of highly-sensitive documents, and equipment;

January 1992–June 1995—Military Entrance Processing Station Montgomery, AL, Processing Specialist, interviewing and processing thousands of applicants into the U.S. Armed Forces;

July 1995–November 1997—Paris Island, SC, Senior Drill Instructor Third RTBN, K Company and, Operations Chief/Acting First Sergeant, Support BN, Special Training Company, a direct impact in the “Making of Marines”;

December 1997–April 2002—HQMC PP&O, Current Operations Branch, Marine Corps Command Center where he served as an Assistant Watch; Team Chief, SNCOIC Marine Corps Exercises Employment Program, and Post 9/11 Crisis Action Team Operations Chief. During this period he was also assigned various other duties, including service as a Member of the Headquarters Marine Corps, Inspector General’s Readiness Assessment Team, responsibility for globally inspecting Marine Corps units for deployment capability and, in the 2000 Presidential Inaugural Committee, SNCOIC of the Street Cordon.

Finally, from May 2002 through November 2005, Gunnery Sergeant Chance served the 435 Members of both the 108th and 109th Congress as SNCOIC Marine Corps Congressional Liaison Office. He was also the Senior Enlisted service member to the U.S. House of Representatives during this period. During this period, Gunnery Sergeant Chance was responsible for directing, and organizing numerous congressional and staff delegations around the world. His attention to detail in making these very important trips logistically successful is noteworthy.

Gunnery Sergeant Chance has been very effective in carrying the Marine’s message to the halls of Congress. By his exemplary professional competence, sound judgment, and total dedication to duty, Gunnery Sergeant Chance has reflected great credit upon himself and has always upheld the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps. He has made a lasting contribution to the capability of today’s Marine Corps and has helped shape the future of tomorrow’s Corps.

His superior performance of his duties highlights more than 22 years of honorable and dedicated Marine Corps service. I know that my many colleagues who have come to know and rely on Gunnery Sergeant Chance extend to him our warmest thanks for his service and our best wishes for happiness and success in his future endeavors.

HONORING A GREAT AMERICAN—
THOMAS WADSWORTH LITTLEFIELD

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a constituent and respected businessman,

T. Jeffrey Littlefield, vice president of TRICARE North Region Operations for PGBA, LLC, will soon be joined by many members of his family in recognizing their patriarch, Thomas Wadsworth Littlefield, on the occasion of his 87th birthday, April 8.

The quote that his son Jeff recalls hearing his father say often is “this too shall pass.” In living by these words, Mr. Littlefield sought to give strength to his family when faced with challenges that seemed too great to bear. Like many of his generation, he knew firsthand the frequency and degree to which life could present great challenges.

It is the sad horror of human existence that there will always be evil leaders who would deprive others of life and liberty to satisfy their own zealous quest for corrupt power. Never was this more evident than during World War II.

Men such as Thomas Wadsworth Littlefield represent the very backbone of America—having sacrificed so much for the good of family, nation, and religious freedom—their collective actions singularly define them as our “Great-est Generation.”

When he joined battle and fought bravely in the last offensive against Japan while serving as a Private First Class in the U.S. Army’s 105th Infantry, H Company, at Okinawa, Japan, Mr. Littlefield faced threats and fears that most of us will, thankfully, never come to know. Like many American soldiers, his military service did not end there as he fought to defend liberty in numerous locations in and around Japan throughout World War II.

In living commemoration of the great Victory over Japan, known commonly as “VJ Day,” he named his second daughter, Vicki Jane Littlefield (“V.J.”) born in August of 1945, soon after Japan surrendered.

Not long after winning the peace, Mr. Littlefield returned to civilian life and worked to win the hearts and minds of faculty, parents and children as elementary school principal in the Weber County school district of Ogden, Utah. There, he labored for 30 years, laying the foundation for a new generation of American leaders; eventually retiring at age 65.

Before the war, Mr. Littlefield attended Weber State College (now Weber State University) in Ogden, where he led them to numerous victories as their football quarterback. Later, he attended Utah State University in Logan, Utah, where he received his educator’s degree.

An avid sports fan, he always enjoyed snow skiing, tennis and exploring the trails of Mount Ogden on his dirt bike several times a year.

Raised on a turkey farm in Morgan, Utah along with eight brothers and sisters, his mother, Kate Wadsworth Littlefield, helped to nurture leadership in their family by serving as an active Republican event organizer and as the first female United States Postmaster in Morgan County, Utah.

A faithful follower of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Mr. Littlefield was always active in church events and, together with his wife of 65 years this coming June, raised their family as Mormons. Thomas Wadsworth Littlefield and Myrtle Carrigan Littlefield have been blessed with nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. In August of this year, T. Jeffrey Littlefield and Tommy Starling will share another blessing, as this loving family will welcome grandchild number 10 into the world.

Throughout his life, Mr. Littlefield’s philosophy and outlook on life was to make sure that his children were raised with love and to instill in them the confidence, drive and an ambition to succeed. In so doing, it was his fervent hope to see his descendants achieve more than he could ever experience in his own life. A testament to his service, sacrifice and values, Mr. Littlefield will be joined by family members in presence and in spirit on April 8 to herald the celebration of his 87th birthday.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize, individually, the names of those so dear to this great American: Thomas Wadsworth Littlefield, Father; Myrtle Carrigan Littlefield, Mother; Joseph Littlefield, Paternal Grandfather; Kathryn Wadsworth Littlefield, Paternal Grandmother; Irvin Carrigan, Maternal Grandfather; Catherine Jones Carrigan, Maternal Grandmother; Patti Ann Fowers, Daughter; Norman George Fowers, Son-In-Law; Holly Fowers, Granddaughter; Heather Fowers Smedley, Granddaughter; Daren Smedley, Heather’s husband; Jonah Smedley, Great Grandson; Annabelle Smedley, Great Grandson; Nate Fowers, Grandson; Kaleb Fowers, Great Grandson; Mitch Fowers, Grandson; Vicki Jane Olson, Daughter; Brook Clyde Olson, Son-In-Law; Marci Olson Kiehl, Granddaughter; Sam Kiehl, Marci’s husband; Jake Kiehl, Great Grandson; Spencer Kiehl, Great Grandson; Alli Kiehl, Great Granddaughter; Kami Olson Howe, Granddaughter; Chad Howe, Kami’s husband; Conner Howe, Great Grandson; Hunter Howe, Great Grandson; Rylie Jo Howe, Great Granddaughter; Audri Ann Olson, Granddaughter; Jenni Olson, Granddaughter; Thomas Jeffrey Littlefield, Son; Thomas Brent Starling, Partner and future Son-In-Law; and Carrigan Shea Starling-Littlefield, if the latest addition to their family is a Granddaughter, or Hayden Thomas Starling-Littlefield, if the newborn is a Grandson.

War veteran, educator, father and grandfather, athlete, and loving husband, his life and service to our nation helped to forge a nation and spread Democracy the world over.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Thomas Wadsworth Littlefield and his extended family on the occasion of his 87th birthday.

HONORING MIKE WALKER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, all too often our local, State and Federal governments turn to tax increases rather than responsible budgeting in order to balance the bottom line.

In 1990, Mike Walker became city manager for Brentwood, TN, just after a property tax increase had been implemented. This was the last property tax increase in Brentwood. Mike has refused to use tax increases to balance the budget, instead he’s been a responsible steward of our tax dollars. It’s no wonder he was named City Manager of the Year by the Tennessee City Management Association. He’s done a great job.

With clear vision and detailed planning, Mike has increased the parkland in Brentwood

from 50 acres to 575 acres and he helped shepherd the construction of a new 43,500 square foot library.

Mike is a consummate professional and a talented leader. We all thank him for his work.

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the month of March is a time for us to officially recognize the essential role the American Red Cross plays in our communities. 2006 is a special year for the Red Cross, as we commemorate its 125th year of making our country safer, healthier and more secure. In honoring the national organization of the Red Cross, we must also recognize the local chapters that work tirelessly to achieve these goals, such as the Red Cross of Southern Maryland, now in its 80th year of service.

The Southern Maryland Red Cross, and the Nation, faced new challenges in 2005. The deadly tsunami in late 2004 tested the character and will of the international community, and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita uprooted families and communities. Throughout every trial we faced, the Red Cross was there to help ease suffering and aid recovery. These dedicated people were first in line to help families and individuals, friends and strangers.

The Southern Maryland Red Cross faced not only the national disasters of 2005, but ones that hit closer to home. The response they provided is a testament to the kindness of any American touched by tragedy. The citizens of Southern Maryland rolled up their sleeves to donate over 7,000 units of blood and gave donations to aid the victims of 200 house fires. They learned CPR, lifesaving skills, and first aid techniques. They volunteered their time, money and hearts to anyone who needed help. And they did not just aid their neighbors at home, but also those abroad, allowing over 200 military personnel to communicate with their families in Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the Southern Maryland Red Cross are no different from you or me. They have full time jobs, families, and responsibilities at home. What makes these Americans so extraordinary is that they have selflessly taken time out of their lives to help schools, workplaces, families, and any person who needs a hand. The Southern Maryland Chapter consists of 200 volunteers and donors, but it responds to the needs of a nation.

The Southern Maryland Red Cross brings aid and recovery, gives hope and comfort, and inspires Americans to reach out when help is needed. I feel assured knowing that the Southern Maryland Chapter is working every day to better the lives of my fellow Maryland residents. We must all do our part to recognize the vitality of the Red Cross and ensure that they are ready to help us respond to the challenges that lie ahead.

In honor of the Southern Maryland Chapter of the Red Cross, I would like to take this time to officially recognize March as American Red Cross Month. Whether it is a donation of time, money or courage, the American Red Cross is there for us. This March is a time to stand up and recognize their continued service.

I encourage all Americans to show their commitment to the Red Cross by donating money or volunteering their time at one of the many local chapters across the country.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST U.S.-KOREA STRATEGIC CONSULTATION FOR ALLIED PARTNERSHIP

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, when President George Bush traveled to South Korea late last year to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, Summit in Busan, he and President Moo-Hyun Roh agreed that while the strategic partnership and evolving security alliance between our two nations were "mutually beneficial," increased and more efficient communication were still required.

Against this backdrop, Presidents Bush and Roh agreed to launch a strategic dialogue called Strategic Consultation for Allied Partnership, SCAP, at the ministerial level for consultations on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. Currently, the U.S. only holds such consultations with Australia, Saudi Arabia and Japan.

The first of these meetings took place in Washington on January 19, 2006, when South Korea's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ki-Moon Ban, met with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. According to the State Department, among the key initiatives Secretary Rice and Foreign Minister Ban laid out as topics for continued discussion include: coordination of efforts to promote freedom, democratic institutions and human rights worldwide; strengthened cooperation on fighting terrorism and exerting common efforts for the observance and implementation of international security cooperation regimes for the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; coordination of efforts to develop comprehensive international strategies to fight transnational pandemic disease; maintaining a strong U.S.-ROK alliance to contribute to peace and stability in Northeast Asia; and developing common approaches to reinforcing peace and stability through multilateral peacekeeping and improved collaboration on crisis response and disaster management.

It is clearly evident that the shared agenda of the United States and South Korea is both broad and comprehensive. South Korea is one of our country's principal trading partners, with over \$72 billion in trade volume each year and the fifth-largest purchaser of U.S. agricultural products. In fact, on Thursday, February 2, 2006, the U.S. and Korea announced the launching of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement, FTA, which would represent, according to U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman, the "most commercially significant" free trade pact since NAFTA.

Moreover, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, during the 2004 calendar year, 627,000 South Koreans visited the United States for tourism and business travel, making Korea the fifth largest overseas market of tourists coming to our shores. As cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I am also well aware that Korea has made great progress in working to meet all the statutory

requirements for entry into the Visa Waiver Program, VWP.

The United States and South Korea also share a deep concern about regional stability and continued peace on the Korean Peninsula. At the same time, South Korea has been an important and indispensable ally in the global war on terror and in bringing peace, stability and democracy to Iraq. In fact, South Korea has deployed more troops in Iraq than any other country besides the United States and Great Britain.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons, the first Strategic Consultation for Allied Partnership was an important contribution to strengthen the U.S.-Korea bilateral relationship and expand the horizon of the alliance. I also commend Secretary Rice and Foreign Minister Ban on their pledge to continue sustaining the formative discussions as their joint efforts deserve our full recognition and support.

HONORING SERGEANT DENNIS KRAMER AND SPECIALIST JOSEPH DELAPP

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, America has always relied on the men and women of our Armed Services to keep us free. Quite simply, without them the greatest bastion of freedom on this planet would not exist. We can never thank them enough.

Today I ask my colleagues to honor two men who have served America with distinction.

Sergeant Dennis Kramer received the distinguished honor of Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for 2004.

Specialist Joseph Delapp was awarded the esteemed Soldier of the Year for 2004.

Sergeant Dennis Kramer of Baudette, Minnesota enlisted in May 2001 and is serving in the 1/187th Infantry Regiment at Fort Campbell as a reconnaissance squad leader. During Operation Enduring Freedom, he served as a rifleman in A Company of the 1/187 and upon redeployment he volunteered for the scout platoon where he served as a sniper and sniper section squad leader during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Joseph Delapp of Mayfield, Kentucky was awarded Battalion Soldier of the month in August 2004 and Brigade Soldier of the Year 2004. Formerly in D Company 2/327 Infantry, Delapp is now the Commanding General's Driver, and a Noncommissioned Officer. Delapp entered the Army on January 31, 2002 and was deployed in March 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served as a driver and a gunner.

Mr. Speaker, now we owe a debt of gratitude to these men and to their families. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding members of our military and thank them for their dedication to defending our country. God Bless the U.S. Armed Forces.

ACT COMMEMORATING THE LIFE:
OR LIFETIME INNOVATIONS OF
THOMAS EDISON

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1096, which commemorates the lifetime innovations of Thomas Edison.

This legislation will ensure the preservation of Thomas Edison's laboratory in New Jersey. Edison set a tremendous example for all Americans to follow, and, through this legislation, Americans of future generations will be able to learn from the lessons he taught us.

Before Thomas Edison opened his lab in New Jersey, he called Port Huron, Michigan, his hometown. That town has done a fine job in its own right to preserve the memory of Thomas Edison, and I am proud to represent it in the House.

In 2004, Port Huron rededicated the Edison Rock as part of the 125th Anniversary of the invention of the light bulb. The event featured the actor Mickey Rooney who starred in the 1940 movie "Young Tom Edison", which chronicled Tom's formative years.

I think the Edison Rock is a fitting tribute—not only because it is very big and very heavy—something like 62 tons—but because, like most rocks, it is very old.

That's significant.

In order to rank the importance of Thomas Edison's achievement of the first, practical light bulb you have to go back a long, long way—

In fact, you have to go back to the very beginning—to the Bible and the Book of Genesis, where it says: "And God said, let there be light—and there was light."

Of course, God meant there was sunlight—and don't get me wrong—that was a great start.

But the only problem with sunlight is that it lasts only when the sun is out.

It wasn't until thousands of years later when Thomas Edison said,—"Let there be light"—and finally we had light during the other half of the day.

The significance of this invention can never be exaggerated.

Electric light was the spark that ignited the Industrial Revolution and all the technological breakthroughs that followed.

America's work ethic is also part of Edison's extraordinary legacy. Although Edison was undoubtedly a genius, he never thought of himself as one. In fact, he always claimed that his inventions were the product of hard work. "Genius is one percent inspiration, 99 percent perspiration" was one of his most famous quotes.

Thomas Edison actually struggled for years and built more than 6,000 prototypes before he came up with the successful design for the light bulb.

He made us believe that through hard work, anything can be accomplished.

Edison gave us many gifts—the light bulb—the phonograph—the motion picture camera—as well as hundreds of other inventions that have shaped our modern world.

The phrase—"Good old American ingenuity" describes the "can-do" spirit of our nation—

our ability to take on any problem and come up with a solution.

Edison was the personification of American opportunity. He didn't grow up as a member of the privileged class.

He was just an average American, who through a lot of hard work and a little inspiration became one of the most famous and influential people in history.

And so he gave us many gifts—the light bulb, the phonograph, the motion picture camera as well as hundreds of other inventions that have shaped our modern world.

But possibly his greatest gift to us was his representation of the American spirit.

For when we think of Thomas Edison, we believe that anything is possible.

Edison's ability to take on the most difficult problems of mankind—and come up with an invention that could make everyone's life better is a source of American pride.

We believe that American know-how and American ingenuity are among the characteristics that make our nation great.

That's why I'm confident in our nation.

I'm confident in our ability to do whatever it takes to assure the safety of our nation and the success of liberty.

And it's our nation that continues to bring the light of liberty to the world.

And finally, we believe that you can grow up in Port Huron, Michigan—or thousands of other communities across America—and in everyone of them you have the opportunity to reach for greatness.

IN FAVOR OF THE SOLOMON
AMENDMENT SUPREME COURT
DECISION

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the March 6 Supreme Court Decision in favor of the Solomon Amendment. This decision brings resolution to a period of time in which students seeking military careers have been denied equal access to their career of choice due to the political climates and cultures of the institutions in which they receive their education.

My commendation goes to the United States Supreme Court's prudent action in siding with Congress to uphold this vital legislation. Even in this time of great sacrifice when our men and women in uniform are engaged in defeating the forces of tyranny and terror, some have neither masked nor disguised their loathing of the American military. A blatant disregard and violation of the basic principles of free speech and right to association has been demonstrated by these institutions. I feel it pertinent to add that Congress never asked for anything other than equal access for military recruiters. We simply ask the same access as that given to any other employer.

It has been argued that the less fortunate carry the burden of military service.

This decision of the Supreme Court in fact levels the playing field. It guarantees students at higher educational institutions have equal access to military service for our great nation. This decision could not have come at a more important time. Today's cultural tone places so much emphasis on receiving benefits rather

than on service to our country. A lack of military recruiters on campus would only continue to erode the consciousness of the people about the pride of military service and our obligation in defense of America. I would be remiss not to mention that such access to military recruiters is a cornerstone of our successful all-volunteer force.

Colleagues, our Constitutional obligation was clearly laid out. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution states, "that Congress shall have the power to . . . raise and support Armies, . . . to provide and maintain a Navy, . . . and to provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the Militia." I once again commend the Supreme Court in helping us uphold the Constitution of the United States of America.

REMEMBERING CALVIN RITCHIE
OF FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia and me to remember Calvin L. "Boots" Ritchie, a farmer and activist deeply committed to agriculture and his fellow farmers in Fauquier County, Virginia, who passed away on February 26.

Selected by the Fauquier Times-Democrat as "Citizen of the Year" in 1994, Boots will be remembered for his countless accomplishments, including co-founding People Helping People of Fauquier County, Inc., a local charity offering immediate help to residents of Fauquier struggling against natural disaster, illness, or sudden financial hardship.

We insert for the RECORD a Fauquier Times-Democrat obituary from February 28. A Fauquier native, Boots will be deeply missed by the people of the county, and at home by his family.

[From the Fauquier Times-Democrat, Feb. 28, 2006]

"BOOTS" SUCCUMBS TO CANCER

SOUTHERN FAUQUIER FARMER WAS OUTSPOKEN
ADVOCATE FOR AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION

Calvin L. "Boots" Ritchie, of Bealeton, one of Fauquier County's leading citizens for the past two decades and an active force behind a home-grown charitable organization, died at home on Feb. 27 after a long and valiant fight against cancer. He was 78.

A native son of Fauquier, Mr. Ritchie was born June 17, 1927 at Inglewood Farm, where he died.

He earned his unique nickname as a child, when he did his chores around the farm "wearing an adult-sized pair of gumboots that reached to his hips," recalled his sister, Hazel Bell, in a 1994 interview. "He was about 5 or 6 years old, and the name stuck."

He spent his entire life working in agriculture, first on the family farm and later, while engaged in custom farming. In the mid-1970s, he founded the Fauquier Grain Company.

Mr. Ritchie came to the general public's attention in 1978, when he was involved in the American Agriculture Movement.

The AAM sought 100 percent parity for farm products, and made their point by staging a memorable "Tractorcade" demonstration that passed through Fauquier into Washington, D.C.

"Our main agricultural export is grain, which is priced lower now than it was five

years ago," wrote Mr. Ritchie in a 1979 column in the Democrat. "No other industry could stay in business under these circumstances, and farmers cannot be expected to, either."

In later years, Mr. Ritchie became a driving force behind Fauquier County's purchase of development rights program.

However, it was a different crisis, far from Fauquier, that put Mr. Ritchie on a new path that would make a lasting difference for hundreds of people.

In the wake of the disaster in South Carolina caused by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Mr. Ritchie and several of his friends founded People Helping People of Fauquier County, Inc., a nonprofit corporation for the sole purpose of helping people struggling against natural disasters, illness or sudden financial hardship.

EDUCATION ADVOCATE

In the early 1990s—after a school bond referendum held to provide funding for a second high school failed—Mr. Ritchie became active in yet another arena.

Determined to see a second high school in southern Fauquier, Mr. Ritchie persistently lobbied the School Board and pushed for the needed school bond referendum. When Liberty High School at Bealeton opened in 1994—without the funding for a football stadium—he was at the forefront of the campaign, soliciting donations and selling raffle tickets to raise the money to get the stadium built.

After Mr. Ritchie and his friends on the Principal's Advisory Committee at Liberty raised \$100,000 for the stadium lights, the Board of Supervisors, then under the late Dave Mangum (Lee District), came up with the remaining \$250,000 to build it.

Due to Mr. Ritchie's efforts and his growing, positive influence in Fauquier County, he was recognized as the Fauquier Times-Democrat's Citizen of the Year for 1994.

His influence continued throughout his final years, and he often spoke out on issues that were important to him. A frequent contributor to the Democrat's opinion pages, Mr. Ritchie's last letter was published here on Jan. 25, 2006.

In it, he urged the Board of Supervisors to consider giving tax money to parents who wished to opt-out of the public schools and send their children to private or Christian schools.

"The movement would be so great that I doubt that we would have to build any more new public schools," he said. "The good news is that everyone wins."

Mr. Ritchie was a longtime, active member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church near Morrisville, where he served on the Building and Grounds Committee, as well as videographer for worship services.

According to his family, one of the highlights of Boots' life was being chosen to carry the Olympic Torch.

Mr. Ritchie is survived by his wife, Gail R. Ritchie; his sons, and Glenn C. Ritchie, all of Bealeton; and his daughters, Jennifer R. Krick of Bealeton and Helen R. Ritchie of Strasburg.

Also surviving are his step-sons, Edward C. Lynskey of Annandale and William E. Lynskey of Midland; and his stepdaughters, Linda L. Ashby and Karen L. Hughes, both of Bealeton; and his sisters, Hazel R. Bell of Drayden, Md., Jennalee R. McNally, Marie R. Lee and Peggy R. Dahany, all of Fredericksburg; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbur Early Ritchie and Ethel Barker Ritchie; a son, Jeff A. Ritchie; and his brothers, C. Hunter Ritchie, Claude Ritchie, and Charles Dwight Ritchie.

Funeral services and interment will be private. A public memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m. at the Liberty High School auditorium.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, P.O. Box 1095, Warrenton, VA 20188; People Helping People, P.O. Box 3108, Warrenton, VA 20188; or to Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 12714 Elk Run Road, Midland, VA 22728.

Online condolences may be made at <http://www.moserfuneralhome.com>.

HONORING JUSTICE CORNELIA CLARK

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I want to take a moment to recognize and honor Justice Cornelia Clark.

Justice Clark has been selected for a seat on the Tennessee Supreme Court where she will be only the 4th woman ever to serve. Her wealth of experience and insight will serve her well in this important role and we honor her for such a wonderful achievement.

Justice Clark's professional accomplishments are proof of her dedication to the judiciary. Since her graduation from Vanderbilt Law School in 1979, Justice Clark devoted herself to the law as a litigation attorney and later as an attorney for the city of Franklin. For 10 years, Justice Clark served as a Circuit Court Judge and most recently as the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Cornelia has shown a remarkable inquisitiveness and dedication to lifelong learning throughout her career. Prior to law school she earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Harvard University and worked as an educator. She served 10 years as an adjunct professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Law. Countless women have been inspired by her example and we all thank her for her work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Justice Clark and welcoming her to the bench of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA OLYMPIANS

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, the nation watched with pride and admiration as the United States Men's and Women's Olympic Curling teams competed at the XX Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy. I am proud to point out that both teams hail from Bemidji, Minnesota in the 7th Congressional District.

The city of Bemidji sent more athletes per capita to the 2006 Winter Olympics than any other town in America. The athletes on both Olympic Curling teams call the Bemidji Curling Club their home. One of the premier curling clubs in the United States, the Bemidji Curling Club has captured more than 50 state and na-

tional titles in its outstanding 71-year history. The Club will also host the U.S. World Team Trials from March 4th through 12th. For curlers and curling fans Bemidji is the place to be.

The sport of curling dates to 16th century Scotland where games were played during winter on frozen ponds, lochs and marshes. Curling's popularity spread during the 19th century to many nations in Europe, as well as to the United States, New Zealand, and Canada. It is now played in over 35 countries throughout the world.

Both of the U.S. Olympic Curling teams from Bemidji faced tough competition from the very best teams the world has to offer. With the world watching they demonstrated their skills on one of sport's grandest stages and brought honor and praise to themselves and Members of the Women's team were Cassie Johnson, Jamie Johnson, Jessica Schultz, Maureen Brunt, Courtney George and Coach Neil Doese. The Men's team consisted of Pete Fenson, Shawn Rojeski, Joe Polo, John Shuster, Scott Baird and Coach Bob Fenson.

Both teams exhibited their skill, their mastery of strategic play and the ability to precisely execute when the pressure was on. This combination of skill and determination helped the Men's team to bring home the Bronze Medal for the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the great achievement of all these fine athletes. The commitment to excellence, sportsmanship and honor that they displayed while representing the United States will long be a source of pride for all Minnesotans, especially those who call Bemidji, Minnesota their home.

HONORING DIXON GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dixon Grove Baptist Church on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Dixon Grove Baptist Church has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to its surrounding community and the state of Georgia.

The late Reverend John Arthur Dixon founded Dixon Grove Baptist Church in 1956 and declared that the church would be built by faith. Reverend James E. Harris assumed leadership of the church in 1979. As a result of their combined leadership and vision the church rose from its humble beginnings in a schoolhouse with a congregation of fewer than 50 members to a multi-acre facility that accommodates the 600 members that attend the church today.

Reverend James E. Harris continues to uphold the vision and mission set by Reverend John Arthur Dixon of adhering to Biblical principles while improving the lives of people in the community. Reverend James E. Harris demonstrated his leadership through community, civic, and religious involvement by accepting my request to represent the 13th congressional district at the White House Conference on Aging in December of 2005.

Through faith in God and commitment to service, church ministries expanded under

Reverend James E. Harris to include: Family Counseling and a Youth Christian Basketball League to reach the youth of the Clayton County community. After the most devastating natural disaster in the history of the United States struck in 2005, Dixon Grove Baptist Church responded to the needs of evacuees by providing assistance through its Community Food and Clothing Co-operative.

Please join me in honoring Dixon Grove Baptist Church and Reverend James E. Harris for their commitment to Jesus Christ's example of faith and giving. It is my sincere hope that the ministry and work of Dixon Grove Baptist Church prospers for another 50 years.

CAPUANO PROVIDES LEADERSHIP ON DARFUR

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, no crisis confronting the world is as grave as that in Darfur, Sudan, where genocide is a tragic fact. America's failure to act more vigorously in this regard is a grave error. It is true that there are other nations, including many in Africa—which bear some of the blame. But we must not let the inaction of others become a justification for our own failure to take steps that we know to be morally necessary to save lives. My colleague from Massachusetts, (Mr. CAPUANO), on his return from a trip to Darfur led by the gentlewoman from California, the Democratic Leader, wrote a forceful article in the Boston Herald for March 7th making the case for much firmer action by the U.S. and others in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, given the moral imperative of action, I hope all of our colleagues will agree with the gentleman from Massachusetts who writes that "I urge the President to fully support the U.N. peacekeeping mission and put the full weight of the U.S. military behind it. More troops, with a mandate to protect civilians, are desperately needed. . . . If the U.N. cannot meet this timetable, we must strengthen the AU force and provide additional civilian support."

Mr. Speaker, at a time when people compete with each other to stress the importance of the moral element in politics, our colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) has struck a clear note on one of the overriding moral issues of our time, and I join him in calling on the President and the rest of us to take prompt action.

U.S. MUST WORK TO HALT DARFUR GENOCIDE
(By Michael Capuano)

We look back on the Holocaust and wonder how the world stood by while 6 million Jews were slaughtered. Never again, we pledged. Yet in 1994, 1 million Rwandans were massacred. Afterward, we declared it genocide and pledged never again. Many leaders later expressed deep regret over our inaction.

In 2003, our attention was drawn to Darfur, Sudan, where innocent civilians were being murdered, enslaved, raped and driven from their homes. We declared it genocide, but failed to act, again.

Since 2003, more than 400,000 people have been murdered in Darfur and 2 million more displaced. I just returned from Sudan, on a trip led by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

In Al Fashir, Darfur, we met with relief workers, traveled to Internally Displaced Persons camps and spoke with African Union (AU) personnel. This reinforced my conviction that genocide is still occurring, the government of Sudan is responsible and not enough is being done.

We also met with Sudanese government officials who claimed the suffering in Darfur was exaggerated. There were skirmishes over water and grazing rights, they said, but nothing to concern outsiders. They admitted funding the Janjaweed, the militias who attack civilians, yet vehemently denied genocide is occurring. Everyone else we spoke with, AU personnel and relief workers, recognize they are witnessing genocide.

There are 7,700 AU personnel on the ground. However, they don't have a mandate to protect civilians and lack sufficient resources. Without a drastic troop increase and outside logistical assistance, the AU will continue struggling. AU officials told us they need more support and are planning for the involvement of a United Nations force. But the government of Sudan, the perpetrators of the genocide, rejects U.N. involvement.

I have persistently called for the protection of civilians and an end to the violence. Attempts to address this crisis legislatively have faced resistance. I have tried to introduce amendments to a State Department bill and a Foreign Operations bill, authorizing the president to use all necessary means to stop the genocide. These amendments were blocked.

President Bush and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan recently discussed a U.N. peacekeeping force for Darfur. The president has publicly called for the doubling of peacekeepers. I urge the president to fully support a U.N. peacekeeping mission and put the full weight of the U.S. military behind it. More troops, with a mandate to protect civilians, are desperately needed and must arrive in the next couple of months. If the U.N. cannot meet this timetable, we must strengthen the AU force and provide additional civilian support.

President Bush recently said America was first to recognize the genocide in Darfur. He said, "Our country was the first country to call what was taking place a genocide, which matters—words matter."

Actions matter more. It's time to back our words up with action. Time is running out.

HONORING JOHN ROSS, DR. JENNIFER STEWART-WRIGHT, AND RAY BELL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to acknowledge the achievements of Tennesseans who have made a tremendous contribution to our community.

Savannah resident John Ross has committed a great deal of energy to the conservation of our state's wildlife and natural resources. In recognition of this work, he has been named 2004 Land Conservationist of the Year. John's passionate advocacy work and his effort to educate others on this issue are a great example to the community, and I want to thank him for his involvement.

Dr. Jennifer Stewart-Wright of Fairview was honored by the Harpeth River Watershed with the River Steward Award for her active work

on multiple restoration projects and her efforts as a professor at Tennessee State University. Dr. Stewart-Wright has made this a family affair with the assistance of her children, Selah and Jesse, who share their mom's passion for revitalizing and protecting our waterways.

Mr. Ray Bell of Franklin has been awarded the Lane W. Adams Quality of Life Award for his years of service to helping those diagnosed with cancer. A cancer survivor himself, Ray has dedicated countless hours not only to cancer patients but to their families as well. Ray's compassion and commitment are incredibly inspiring and a blessing for those facing this disease. We all thank him for his work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, thanking and congratulating these outstanding Tennesseans for making a difference in their communities.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER'S CELEBRATING 20 YEARS CREATING SUCCESSFUL WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES 1986-2006 CELEBRATING THE PAST CHALLENGING THE FUTURE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) is a nationally recognized nonprofit women's business assistance organization, devoted to providing services and programs that support and accelerate women's business ownership and strengthen the impact of women on the economy.

The year 2006 marks the beginning of the third decade of the WBDC's successful commitment to meeting the needs of women entrepreneurs for greater opportunities in business ownership. Founded in 1986 by S. Carol Dougal and Hedy M. Ratner, more than 50,000 women in Illinois have benefited from its programs and services including counseling, entrepreneurial training, child care business development, strengthening of emerging businesses, Latina Initiative providing business development programs in Spanish in economically disadvantaged communities, certification and business opportunities for women's business enterprises and financial assistance and loan packaging.

The WBDC has worked for 20 years to economically empower women and their families, striving to influence the larger political and economic environment in a way that encourages and supports women's economic empowerment and minority business development.

The WBDC has affected the national women's business landscape helping to establish women's business assistance centers in six states. Now there are over 10.6 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., employing over 19.1 million workers, and over 350,000 of those businesses are in Illinois. Minority-owned businesses are growing faster than all firms, and 1 in 5 women-owned firms in the U.S. is owned by a woman of color. Women-owned businesses nationally generate over \$2.46 trillion in sales.

In 2006 the Women's Business Development Center celebrates its 20th anniversary.

As the Center moves into its third decade of service to women business owners and outstanding advocacy for the strengthening and support of minority and women owned businesses, I am proud to recognize its impressive achievements.

HONORING THE 2005 FOOTBALL SEASON OF THE LIVINGSTON ACADEMY WILDCATS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the championship season of the Livingston Academy Wildcats. The Wildcats won their first state football championship at the Class 3A Blue Cross Bowl in December.

Residents of Overton County, Tennessee, can be proud of their Wildcats. The team fought against the odds as they went into the playoffs as the Number 4 seed in Region 2-3A with a 5-5 record. They impressively defeated four region champions on their way to the state football championship.

Early in the championship game, the Wildcats held a 21-0 lead over David Lipscomb. Showing great skill and determination, the Wildcats left MTSU's Floyd Stadium as victors with a 28-13 win over their competitor.

This group of Wildcats was the first football team in the school's history to advance past the quarterfinals. In addition, they became only the second team from the Upper Cumberland to win the state title.

I commend the Wildcats and their head coach, Matt Eldridge, for a wonderful season and an outstanding championship win. Danny McCoin, Bobby Gore, Bruce Lamb, Grant Swallows, David Clouse and Dale Flatt serve as the team's assistant coaches. Gary Ledbetter is Livingston Academy's principal.

I congratulate all the talented members of the 2005 3A State Champion Wildcats: Jake Peterman, Jonathan Sullivan, Clint Cooper, Jamie Cravens, Levi Holt, Josh Simpson, Joe Reynolds, Wilson Cates, Mike Jones-Larue, Cody Waddey, Dustin Looper, Josh Carwile, John Michael Stephens, Jonathan McGill, John Cody Brown, Vincent Woodruff, Drew Cannon, Steven Morgan, Jamey Vaughn, Josh Huit, Colton Hummel, Seth Melton, Kevin Scott, Jordan Bailey, Jake Reeder, Gary Massengille, Josh Coffee, Kiefer Smith, Tyler Livingston, Sam Nelson, Jeremiah Jackson, Terrance Melton, David Petry, Cody Shokoui, Blake Moon, Beau Massengille, Curtis Beaty, Levi Cobble, Volby Loftis, Brad Pendergraft, Ryan Bowman, Jesse Cole, Wade Ford, Josh Looper, Bobby Perdue, Jacob Coffee, Ethan Livingston, John Willeford, Robert Holt, David Ledbetter, Justin Gore, Ryan Duke, Jonathan Preece and Jacob Collins.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUNSHINE IN MONETARY POLICY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Sunshine in Monetary Policy Act, which re-

quires the Federal Reserve to resume reporting the monetary measure known as M3. M3 consists of M1 (M1 is currency in circulation plus travelers' checks, demand deposits, Negotiable Order of Withdrawal (NOW) accounts, and similar interest-earning checking account balances) plus M2 (M2 is M1 plus household holdings of savings deposits, small time deposits, and retail money market mutual funds balances except for balances held in IRA and Keogh accounts) plus institutional money market mutual fund balances and managed liabilities of deposits consisting of large time deposits, repurchase agreements, and Eurodollars.

The Federal Reserve Board has recently announced it will stop reporting M3, thus depriving Congress and the American people of the most comprehensive measure of the money supply. The cessation of Federal Reserve's weekly M3 report will make it more difficult for policymakers, economists, investors, and the general public to learn the true rate of inflation. As Nobel laureate Milton Friedman famously said, "inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon." Therefore, having access to a comprehensive measure of the money supply like M3 is a vital tool for those seeking to track inflation. Thorsten Polleit, honorary professor at HFB-Business School of Finance and Management, in his article "Why Money Supply Matters" posted on the Ludwig von Mises Institute's website mises.org, examined the relationship between changes in the money supply and inflation and concluded that "money supply signals might actually be far more important for inflation—even in the short-term—than current central bank practice suggests," thus demonstrating the importance of the M3 aggregate.

The Federal Reserve Board has claimed neither policymakers nor the Federal Reserve staff closely track M3. Even if M3 is not used by Federal Reserve Board economists or legislators, many financial services professionals whose livelihoods depend on their ability to obtain accurate information about the money supply rely on M3. For example, my office has been contacted by a professional money manager complaining that the Federal Reserve Board's discontinuing M3 reports will make it difficult for him to do his job.

Whatever lack of interest policymakers are currently displaying in M3 is no doubt related to the mistaken perception that the Federal Reserve Board has finally figured out how to effectively manage a fiat currency. This illusion exists largely because the effects of the Fed's inflationary policies are concentrated in malinvestments in specific sectors of the economy, leading to "bubbles" such as the one that occurred in the stock market in the late nineties and the bubble that many believe is occurring in the current real estate market. When monetary inflation is reflected in sector-specific bubbles, it is easier to pretend that the bubbles are caused by problems specific to those sectors, instead of reflecting the problems inherent in a fiat currency system. Once the damage to our economy done by our reliance on fiat currency becomes clear, I am certain that policymakers will once again take more interest in M3.

Economists and others who are following M3 have become increasingly concerned

about inflation because last year the rate of M3 rose almost twice as fast as other monetary aggregates. This suggests that the inflation picture is not as rosy as the Federal Reserve would like Congress and the American people to believe. Discontinuing reporting the monetary aggregate that provides the best evidence that the Federal Reserve Board has not conquered inflation suggests to many people that the government is trying to conceal information about the true state of the economy from the American people. Brad Conrad, a professor of investing who has also worked with IBM, CDC, and Amdahl, spoke for many when he said, "It [the discontinuance of M3] is unsettling. It detracts from the transparency the Fed preaches and adds to the suspicion that the Fed wants to hide anything showing money growth high enough to fuel inflation..."

Discontinuing reporting M3 will only save 0.00000699% of the Federal Reserve Board's yearly budget. This savings hardly seems to justify depriving the American people of an important measurement of money supply, especially since Congress has tasked the Federal Reserve Board with reporting on monetary aggregates. Discontinuing reporting M3 may not be a violation of the letter of the Federal Reserve Board's statutory duty, but it is a violation of the spirit of the congressional command that the Federal Reserve Board ensure the American public is fully informed about the effects of monetary policy.

Mr. Speaker, knowledge of the money supply is one of the keys to understanding the state of the economy. The least the American people should expect from the Federal Reserve Board is complete and accurate information regarding the money supply. I urge my colleagues to ensure that the American people can obtain that information by cosponsoring the Sunshine in Monetary Policy Act.

HONORING McDONALD AND ROSETTA CRAIG

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to honor McDonald Craig, the owner of a Tennessee Century Farm in Linden, Tennessee. On Christmas Day in 1871, Craig's great-grandparents, Tapp and Amy, purchased the 110 acre farm. Tapp and Amy Craig, freed from slavery after the Civil War, were the first African-Americans to buy property in Perry County.

The Craig family has owned and farmed this land in Perry County for more than 130 years. As a farmer and musician, Craig has not only maintained his family's legacy, but he has also made a name for himself as a country musician performing at local festivals and fairs.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing McDonald, his wife Rosetta, and their family for contributing so much to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBIN KELLY
SHEARES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Robin Kelly Sheares, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. Robin Sheares was born in Harlem to the late Gloria and Herman Sheares. At the tender age of 6, her family moved to Bedford-Stuyvesant and ever since she has been a member of the Brooklyn community.

A proud graduate of the public school system, Robin has been an attorney for nearly 20 years. She is experienced in housing, criminal and civil law. In her nearly 20 years as an attorney, she has been an administrative law judge, an instructor, and an arbitrator. She is active in Brooklyn, working with community-based organizations, religious institutions, and youth mentoring groups.

Robin Kelly Sheares is an active member of the Wayside Baptist Church and her Block Association. At Wayside, she works closely with the Sunday School and Youth Ministry. Robin's other memberships include, but are not limited to, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and the Brownstoners of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc.

Robin has been dedicated to the Noel Pointer Foundation and the New York Road Runner's Club. Robin is often called upon as a guest lecturer and Career Day speaker. She has even addressed students at her alma maters, Public School 309 and Junior High School 57. Although, Robin has no biological children, she has nurtured a number of youth and is a strong advocate for children and parents rights as evident by her work with the Brownstoners's Education Task Force and her alma maters: Brooklyn Technical High School and Ithaca College.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Robin Kelly Sheares, as she offers her talents and community services for the good of our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, Robin Kelly Sheares's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN
HAWTHORNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mary Ann Hawthorne, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Born, raised and entirely educated in the State of New York, Mary Ann Hawthorne has found a unique way to give back to her State's education system. Ms. Hawthorne earned her bachelors in education from Bernard Baruch

College in New York City in 1972. During her first 2 years as a teacher, Ms. Hawthorne simultaneously worked her way through graduate school and earned a masters in business education from Long Island University. Four years later Ms. Hawthorne received her professional diploma and masters of science in administration and supervision of education.

Deeply committed to the education of New York's youth, Ms. Hawthorne worked as a teacher, an assistant principal, and a principal. Today Ms. Hawthorne is the community superintendent for District 11 as well as local instructional superintendent for Region 2.

Ms. Hawthorne has acted as a wonderful role model to children and fellow educators alike. Ms. Hawthorne's achievements in education are endless. In September 2001 Ms. Hawthorne was selected by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to serve as an assessor for new principals. In January 2003, President Bush and Secretary of Education Rod Paige at the White House honored her when she was picked to be part of a panel of the top eight principals in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Hawthorne is a product of the New York education system and a true inspiration to the community around her. She continues to work to improve education in New York and for that I ask that we recognize and give thanks to Mary Ann Hawthorne for her wonderful contribution to our community.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
MUST PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN
HAITI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to articulate how crucial it is for the international community to reach out to Haiti and help President-elect Rene Preval achieve his many goals for the impoverished Nation that is Haiti and to enter into the RECORD an editorial appearing in the New York CaribNews appealing for greater international involvement in the country.

Preval's election represents what could be a potential turning point in the history of Haiti which has been marred by corruption, military intervention, violence and a stifling of the will of the people. Having served as president in the 1990s, Preval is the only elected president to have served out a full four-year term without being overthrown. In the elections held last month, Preval was clearly the choice of the masses with more than half of votes cast in his favor—leading his nearest rival, Leslie Manigat, a former president, who received only 12 percent of votes.

So far, the international community has acted on behalf of the Haitian people—urging the country's Electoral Council to declare Preval the winner and preventing further violence from spilling out through the entire country. By doing so, the will of the Haitian electorate was respected and protected.

Now it up to the United States to step in and assist Preval in establishing his government. The government of the United States must act fast to secure the results and also begin providing humanitarian, economic and

other forms of aid that President-elect Preval will need to build and sustain a viable government. I also urge that the transitional government of Haiti to actively engage in the transfer of power to Preval.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in calling on all the great nations of the international community to actively assist Haiti during its momentous transition to a democratically elected government.

[From the New York CaribNews, Feb. 28, 2006]

HAITI HAS A CHANCE TO MOVE FORWARD
(Editorial)

"The international community must show the Haitian people that it is sincere about ending their suffering."

U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, one of the strongest and most consistent voices on Capitol Hill when it comes to articulating Caribbean causes was right on the money as he summarized the Haitian situation. His call on the world's leading nations and many developing states to move swiftly to improve the economic and social conditions in what is the Western Hemisphere's poorest nations couldn't have come at a better time.

His plea to the United Nations, Washington, Paris, Ottawa, Berlin, Brasilia, Santiago and other capitals which say they have a keen interest in what happens in the French-speaking Republic that's next door to the Dominican Republic was voiced a few days after Rene' Preval had been declared the winner in the February 7th presidential elections.

If the same international community had previously shown the resolve to end the Haitian nightmare that it demonstrated last week to end the election stalemate, the world's oldest Black Republic would have been spared the pain and trauma it has endured for decades.

By stepping in and forcing the incompetent and politically bias Electoral Council to declare Preval the winner, the countries with the resources and the influence to halt the slide into anarchy avoided more spilling of blood and paved the way for the will of 2.2 million Haitian voters to be recognized.

That it took eight days after the election to count the votes and announce a winner was clear evidence of an attempt by a handful of people, backed by the powerful business and political elite to stop Preval, a former protégé of ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide, from taking office after the people had made a clear choice.

Some 33 candidates had faced the electorate but Preval was the only one with widespread national support, especially in the urban slums of Port-au-Prince. That was seen in the fact that his nearest rival, Leslie Manigat, a former President, had received only 12 percent of the votes cast.

Early in the count, Preval had secured a resounding 61 percent but mysteriously, his share of the votes cast began to decline, so much so that by the time 90 percent of the ballots had been tabulated he had only 48.7 percent, less than two percent short of the 50 per cent plus one vote needed to escape a run-off.

Obviously, the Council and Preval opponents were manipulating the process by invalidating almost 150,000 votes, many of them from the poorest areas of the country. They claimed that the spoilt or blank votes which represented about seven percent of the total had to be counted, never mind that it was difficult to understand how so many Haitians who had waited in line for hours, traveled long distances or who had endured all kinds of hardship in order to select their president would then turn around and turn

in blank ballots. It just didn't make sense. Several people believed most of the blank votes were simply stuffed into the ballot boxes to defraud Preval.

Added to such election woes, almost 10 per cent of the tally sheets disappeared and several supporters found thousands of burned ballots smoldering in a garbage dump in Port-au-Prince.

The suspicions of fraud and the delay in announcing a winner triggered pro-Preval demonstrations that virtually shut down the capital and raised the real fair that riots would turn deadly.

The problem in the Caribbean country is that it doesn't have a tradition of electoral politics and its fledgling democratic institutions are weak. The judiciary is far from being independent and the security forces are untrained and often heavy-handed. To add to such woes, the powerful elite isn't concerned about the widespread poverty and illiteracy. Instead, it is committed to furthering its nest at the expense of progress and peace.

What the country needs the most is a government committed to economic and social progress. Such an administration would need all of the help it can get from both inside and outside of the country. Now that Preval has demonstrated that he has the people's support through relatively free and fair elections, the international community must step forward and live up to its responsibility providing the much promised but never delivered massive financial and technical support.

At the same time Preval, who is the only elected President to have served out a full four-year term without being overthrown, must reach out to his opponents in a meaningful fashion in order to be able to deliver on his election promises.

Just as important, the Haitian Diaspora in North America must back the government and help to keep it focused on its key task, and that is to lift the nation out of deep poverty and despair.

A TRIBUTE TO PRISCILLA A.
WOOTEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, a community is only as great as those individuals who perform exemplary service on its behalf, whether through unique achievement in professional endeavors or simply through a lifetime of good citizenship. The Honorable Priscilla A. Wooten is one of the most distinguished members of our community and is most deserving of this tribute.

Priscilla Wooten, a devoted mother, grandmother, and community leader, has lived in the East New York community for over 50 years. Ms. Wooten was a dedicated employee of the New York City Board of Education for many years. From January 1982 through January 2002 she served on the New York City Council. She has also served as Chairperson of the Education Committee and as a member of the Finance, Health, and Elections Committees.

Additionally, she also found time to serve on such boards as the Commission on Students of African Descent, the New York Collaborative for Excellence, the NAACP and others too numerous to mention.

Ms. Wooten is a Deaconess of the Greater Bright Light Missionary Baptist Church and

has spent countless hours sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, and being a friend to the friendless. She is a woman who dared to be different.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of her life-long commitment to the people of New York, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to bestow upon Priscilla A. Wooten this honor with the highest respect and esteem.

NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the 16th annual National Sportsmanship Day, which is celebrated today around the world.

National Sportsmanship Day raises awareness about issues relating to sportsmanship and ethics in athletics as well as daily life. Athletic competition can teach students, coaches, and parents valuable lessons that can be applied on and off the field. With increased pressure to succeed placed upon today's athletes and students, the importance of ethics, honesty and fair play have never been more necessary.

Given the heightened demand for accomplishment in today's society, the idea of participation and fitness in many aspects of sport is often lost. Forgetting this important basis of athletic competition, students often are forced to maintain a 'win at all costs' mentality. Each year, the Institute for International Sport, based in my district in Kingston, Rhode Island, provides the opportunity to counter these notions through meaningful dialogue among school administrators, coaches, teachers, and students on the subject of ethics, fair play and sportsmanship.

The 16th annual National Sportsmanship Day strives to foster sportsmanship through the defeat of gamesmanship, the practice of ethically dubious methods to gain an objective. Through activities and discussions, more than 13,000 schools throughout the United States and around the world will participate in these events to spread honest athletics.

Each year, National Sportsmanship Day recognizes a number of athletes who offer a tribute to their respective sport and enhance their skills with their desire to play fairly. This year, the Institute for International Sport has selected their Sports Ethics Fellows from a number of players, coaches, and school administrators at the high school level. With both their simultaneous pursuit of academic and athletic excellence, they model and promote the virtues of the student-athlete in the truest sense.

I hope that my colleagues can join with me on this day in celebrating and promoting the continued success of National Sportsmanship Day. With its moral, ethical and fitness components, today's activities can promote a healthy and more active community amongst our nation's youth, and support a team oriented future for our country of sports enthusiasts.

A TRIBUTE TO EVELYN CRUZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Evelyn Cruz, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Evelyn Cruz was born and raised in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. One of four children and the only daughter, she attended Transfiguration School where she learned at an early age the value of community service. Her Puerto Rican working-class parents, Luis and Graciela, instilled in Evelyn the value of hard work, dedication, and respect for others. As the granddaughter of activist grandparents, she learned how to advocate and fight for fairness in housing, healthcare, education and community services.

Evelyn has dedicated most of her life toward the betterment of her community. During her high school years, she was vice-president of her sophomore class and a member of several school clubs. In 1977, she was elected one of the youngest representatives on the then NYC Area Policy Board, where she reviewed budget proposals, participated in public hearings and allocated community development funding to local community based organizations. At the age of 16, she was the youngest recording secretary elected to serve on the 90th Precinct Community Council where she served for several terms. Years later, she was elected and served as the President of the Precinct Council.

In the 1980s, during New York City's drugs and AIDS epidemics, Evelyn organized her community and led the fight to reclaim her neighborhood streets and parks from drug dealers. As the co-founder of the March Against Drugs, Inc., she organized annual anti-drug community marches and drug prevention fairs for more than 10 years.

While attending John Jay College part-time and working full-time at Merrill Lynch for a successful mother and daughter financial consultant team, Evelyn gained valuable experience in client-relations, the financial markets, and real estate.

Evelyn has been profiled in NY's Newsday, El Diario La Prensa, The New York Times, and Talk Radio. She enjoys sports and is a three-time MVP softball player, women's handball champ and a great paddleball player. Some her favorite books are Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *100 Years of Solitude*, Ayn Rand's *Anthem*, and George Orwell's *1984*.

Evelyn is passionate about public service and her work in the community. In 1992, she left the private sector and joined the congressional staff of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez.

Evelyn's work in the community has shaped her into a leader, an advocate, and an instrument for social change. She hopes to continue to share her knowledge and experience with her neighbors in the hopes of ongoing change and improvement—and looks forward to a bright future for the borough she calls home—Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Evelyn Cruz, as she offers her talents and community services for the good of our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, Evelyn Cruz's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

DANA REEVE

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dana Reeve, who lost her battle to cancer yesterday at the age of 44.

Like her husband, Christopher, Dana will be remembered for her resilience and courage in the face of adversity.

Dana stood by her husband as he fought for his life, working as a tireless advocate for increased funding to find the key to reversing paralysis.

Through the Christopher Reeve Foundation they created together, Chris and Dana moved the science forward and brought hope to 2 million paralyzed Americans and their families.

After Christopher's death in 2004, Dana skillfully led the foundation where she established Quality of Life initiatives to improve the day-to-day lives of paralyzed people. She founded the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center.

Though her life was much too short, Dana left an indelible mark on this world. Her grace and personal strength are an inspiration to us all.

A TRIBUTE TO ESTER E. WATERMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ester E. Waterman, a distin-

guished member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Ester E. Waterman is the daughter of Joseph and Mavis Waterman. Ms. Waterman was born in Trinidad W.I. and spent her childhood in San Fernando, Trinidad. In 1970, Ms. Waterman migrated to the United States where she attended Erasmus High School. Upon high school graduation, Ms. Waterman was accepted to New York University. A tireless and devoted undergraduate, Ms. Waterman worked her way through college and graduated with a degree in Computer Science. Her professional experience includes American Express, Alexander & Alexander Benefit Services and AON Consulting Company.

Today Ester E. Waterman is an active community resident of Brooklyn, New York and an inspiration to those around her. She is deeply committed to her love for children and learning. In 1998 Ms. Waterman fulfilled her community's need for a childcare service when she established "Loving Arms Learning Day Care Center."

Community members and leaders alike have praised Ms. Waterman's work. The Caribbean American International Child Care Network Inc. & United Family Services Inc. recognized Ms. Waterman in 2002 for her work and dedication to children. In 2004 Council Member Leroy Comrie awarded Ms. Waterman with the New York City Council Citation for Child Care and in 2005 Senator Nick Perry presented her with the New York State Assembly Certificate of Merit.

Mr. Speaker. Ms. Waterman continues to dedicate her time to the people and children of Brooklyn. She has truly made a strong positive impact on the community and for that I ask that we recognize and give thanks to Ester E. Waterman for her wonderful contribution to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO JULIA L. JAMES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Julia L. James, a distinguished

member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Julia L. James is an active community resident of Brooklyn, New York. Over the past several years, she has devoted her time and energies to improving the quality of life in her community. Ms. James is a member of New York City Community Board No. 17, where she serves as the chair of the Social Services Committee. She also serves on the boards of Beulah Community Housing Development Corporation and the Wyckoff Museum Advisory Board. Ms. James was also invited to serve on the board of Protestant Board of Guardians, Inc., a 40-year-old organization. For 8 years, Ms. James contributed her talents and abilities to the community as a member of Community School Board No. 18, including her tenure as a past president.

Julia L. James is the daughter of Rev. Henry R. and Ruth James and was born on the Island of the Commonwealth of Dominica. Ms. James is a Certified Public Accountant, licensed in the State of New York, and a Certified Management Accountant. She earned her undergraduate degree from Baruch College and her graduate degree from the Leonard Stern School of Business at New York University. Her professional experience includes Ernst & Young and Deloitte.

Ms. James is an active member of the Beulah Church of the Nazarene where she serves as a musician. She was instrumental in the creation of the Church's Housing Development Corporation, which seeks to encourage home ownership among members and community residents.

Ms. James has worked actively on the political campaigns of many individuals seeking to improve the quality of life for Brooklyn residents. With the help of God, Julia L. James strives to be a "woman who dares to be different."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Julia L. James, as she offers her talents to our local communities.