EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO THE THOMAS JEFFERSON GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM, BROOKLYN, NY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Thomas Jefferson Girls' basketball team, champions of the class B division of the Public School Athletic League of New York City. In one year, under the direction of head coach Calvin Young and assistant coach Unique Nelson, the ''Lady Orange Wave'' excelled to a regular season record of 15 wins and only 3 losses, while going undefeated with five more victories in the city playoffs.

I want to especially recognize the work of superintendent Varleton McDonald and principal Michael A. Alexander, who have worked hard to infuse excellence, respect and accountability not only in athletics programs, but in academic departments as well. In addition, coaches Young and Nelson have instilled a ''team first'' approach and a tough regimen of discipline and ''no excuses'' that has led to the team's current success.

However, academics have not taken a backseat. To the contrary, in an era when sports achievements have sometimes replaced excellence in English, math, science and other academic areas, the coaches have demanded a high level of academic performance from team members. Long after the last shot has been taken and the last ball dribbled, the members of the 2006 ''Lady Orange Wave'' will benefit from the leadership, love and guidance given to them by their coaches, teachers and administrators at Thomas Jefferson. I truly hope that in the days to come, the members of the 2006 ''Lady Orange Wave'' will build upon their experiences in basketball and their days at Thomas Jefferson.

Mr. Speaker, in this spirit, I believe that the accomplishments of the 2006 ''Lady Orange Wave,'' the work of their coaches, teachers and administrators, are truly worthy of our recognition here today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CENTRAL MISSOURI EAGLES YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate Central Missouri Eagles Youth Hockey Association of Jefferson City, Missouri. The Eagles have been named a winner of the 2006 ''Honoring the Game Award,'' by the Positive Coaching Alliance at Stanford University.

The ''Honoring the Game Award'' recognizes youth sports programs that ''strive to win, but also strive to help their players develop skills that will serve them throughout their lifetimes.'' The Positive Coaching Alliance, a leading national youth sports organization, chose the Eagles as one of three national winners from among seven finalists. The Eagles are the only program in the Midwest—and the only youth hockey program in the nation—to be honored.

The Eagles were honored for their positive coaching methods and for the community service projects completed by each of their four teams. This year, the Eagles' pee wee team (11–12 year-olds) collected 500 stuffed animals and 130 backpacks for the abused and neglected children in Jefferson City's Michael Prenger Family Center and the Cole Family County Court. The mite and squirt teams (5–10 year-olds) collected more than 300 canned goods for Jefferson City's food bank, the Samaritan Center. The high school varsity team collected more than 400 stuffed animals for the sick and injured children at the University of Missouri-Columbia Children's Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating the Central Missouri Eagles Youth Hockey Association on their accomplishments and thanking them for their dedication to helping others.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDA CLACK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 8th, the Flint Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated will present Representative Brenda Clack with the Sojourner Truth Award at the 45th annual luncheon in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Founded in 1935 the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated seeks to provide a forum for the development of women in the business community and professions. The members come together to provide a place for the exchange of ideas and to encourage new entrepreneurs to succeed in their dreams. They embody the sentiments expressed by Sojourner Truth before the 1851 Women's Rights Convention, ''If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back and get it rightside up again.''

At the annual luncheon, the Flint Club honors a member of the community that has exemplified the commitment to the ideals of the association and the persevering spirit of Sojourner Truth. This year the Flint Club has chosen Michigan State Representative Brenda Clack to receive this prestigious award.

Brenda moved to Michigan after attending Tennessee State University. She quickly made her mark in the Flint community through her involvement with the NAACP, Urban League, the United Teachers of Flint, the Michigan Education Association, and as a member of Vernon Chapel AME Church. A lifelong educator, she spent 32 years teaching History and Economics in the Flint Public School System before being elected to public office.

In 1995 she was selected as Michigan's Economic Teacher of the Year, the following year she received the Flint Optimist's Outstanding Achievement in Education Award and she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa's Hall of Fame. Elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2002, Brenda serves the constituents of the 34th House District. Besides serving on several House Standing Committees, she founded the ''Flint Speaks Out Against Violence'' task force and was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to serve with the National Governors Association Policy Academy. Brenda's community involvement is highlighted by her work mentoring students, celebrating grandparents raising their grandchildren, and collecting blankets for the needy. Brenda is married to Floyd Clack, a former State Representative and former Genesee County Commissioner. She is mother to Michael and Mia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the accomplishments of Representative Brenda Clack as she is honored for her kinship and inspiration to the Flint area.

HONORING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE (NPS)

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of an outstanding individual, Martha Cheely Brown, as she concludes her distinguished work as Chairman of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). The National Panhellenic Conference is the association of 26 women's college fraternities. NPC member organizations are found on 620 college and university campuses nationwide and more than 3.8 million women nationwide are alumnae of one of the 26 fraternities that comprise the NPC. Since 2003, Martha has led the over 3.8 million NPC members in having their voices heard through a ''Speak Up For Sororities'' program she implemented. As Chairman, Martha consistently dedicated herself to furthering the NPC's core values of ''helping women grow, give, lead and succeed.''

Martha Cheely Brown was a graduate of the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, where she served as chapter president of her Delta Gamma Sorority. As an alumna, she has served as Delta Gamma's national convention Chairman, National Panhellenic Conference

Delegate, and a member of the Delta Gamma International Board of Directors. As NPC College Panhellenics Committee Chairman, she worked with the 630 College Panhellenics in the United States and Canada.

Martha Cheely Brown's service and leadership were recognized by her alma mater in 2004 when she was awarded the University of North Texas Outstanding Alumna Award; by Delta Gamma Sorority with an Honorary Fellowship; and by the National Panhellenic Conference with a well-deserved citation celebrating her achievements as the 2003–2005 National Panhellenic Conference Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the exemplary service that Martha Cheely Brown has given to the over 3.8 million members of NPC. The National Panhellenic Conference is a better organization because of her dedication, commitment, and determination to improve the lives of women of the NPC.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATENTS DEPEND ON QUALITY ACT OF 2006

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I join Representative BOUCHER in introducing the Patents Depend on Quality Act of 2006 (PDQ Act). Introduction of this legislation follows a series of hearings conducted by the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property which ascertained that the current patent system is flawed. Over the course of the last 4 years, there have been numerous attempts to define the challenges of the patent system today. For example, the Patent and Trademark Office developed their Twenty-First Century Strategic Plan, not much later the Federal Trade Commission released a report entitled ''To Promote Innovation: The Proper Balance of Competition and Patent Law and Policy,'' The National Research Council published a compilation of articles entitled ''A Patent System for the 21st Century,'' and two economists authored a critique of patent law in a book titled Innovation and Its Discontents. These accounts make a number of recommendations for increasing patent quality and ensuring that patent protection promotes, rather than inhibits, economic growth and scientific progress. Consistent with the goals and recommendations of those reports, the PDQ Act contains a number of provisions designed to improve patent quality, deter abusive practices by unscrupulous patent holders, and provide meaningful, low-cost alternatives to litigation for challenging the patent validity.

Past attempts at achieving more comprehensive patent reform have met with resistance and recently have resulted in a call for additional hearings. However, the call for legislative action is loud. The New York Times has noted, ''[s]omething has gone very wrong with the United States patent system.'' The Financial Times has stated, ''[i]t is time to restore the balance of power in U.S. patent law.'' Therefore, today, we are introducing a narrowly tailored bill to address some of the more urgent concerns.

I firmly believe that robust patent protection promotes innovation. However, I also believe that the patent system is strongest, and that incentives for innovation are greatest, when patents protect only those patents that are truly inventive. When functioning properly, the patent system should encourage and enable inventors to push the boundaries of knowledge and possibility. If the patent system allows questionable patents to be issued and does not provide adequate safeguards against patent abuses, the system may stifle innovation and interfere with competitive market forces.

This bill represents our latest perspectives in an ongoing discussion about legislative solutions to patent quality concerns and patent litigation abuses. We have considered the multitude of comments received on prior patent bills. We acknowledge that the problems are difficult and, as yet, without agreed-upon solutions. It is clear, however, that introduction and movement of legislation, not necessarily additional hearings, will focus and advance the discussion. It is also clear that the problems with the patent system have been exacerbated by a decrease in patent quality and an increase in litigation abuses. With or without consensus, Congress must act soon to address these problems.

Thus, we introduce this bill with the intent of propelling the debate forward in the 109th Congress.

The bill contains a number of initiatives designed to improve patent quality and limit litigation abuses, thereby ensuring that patents are positive forces in the marketplace. I will highlight a number of them below.

Section 2 creates a post-grant opposition procedure. In certain limited circumstances, opposition allows parties to challenge a granted patent through an expeditious and less costly alternative to litigation. In addition, Section 2 provides a severely needed fix for the inter-partes re-examination procedure, which provides third parties a limited opportunity to request that the PTO Director re-examine an issued patent. The current limitations on the inter-partes re-examination process restricts its utility so drastically that it has been employed only a handful of times. Section 2 increases the utility of this re-examination process by relaxing its estoppel provisions. Further, it expands the scope of the re-examination procedure to include redress for all patent applications regardless of when filed. In addition, Section 2 contains a limitation on use of inter-partes re-examination procedure as a ''second bite at the apple'' after district court litigation. Other provisions in this bill, such as the second window in the post-grant opposition proceeding, will sufficiently address the quality problem in patents which have already issued.

Sections 3 and 4 permit patent examiners to consider certain materials within a limited time frame submitted by third parties regarding a pending patent application. Allowing such third party submissions will increase the likelihood that examiners are cognizant of the most relevant ''prior art,'' thereby constituting a front-end solution for strengthening patent quality.

Section 6 addresses the unfair incentives currently existing for patent holders who indiscriminately issue licensing letters. Patent holders frequently assert that another party is using a patented invention and for a fee, offer to grant a license for such use. Current law does little to dissuade patent holders from mailing such licensing letters. Frequently these letters are vague and fail to identify the patent being infringed and the manner of infringement. In fact, the law tacitly promotes this strategy since a recipient, upon notice of the letter, may be liable for treble damages as a willful infringer. Section 6 addresses this situation by ensuring that recipients of licensing letters will not be exposed to liability for willful infringement unless the letter specifically states the acts of infringement and identifies each particular claim and each product that the patent owners believe have been infringed.

Section 8 is designed to address the negative effect on innovation created by patent ''trolls.'' We have learned of countless situations in which patent holders, making no effort to commercialize their inventions, lurk in the shadows until another party has invested substantial resources in a business or product that may infringe on the unutilized invention. The patent troll then steps out of the shadows and demands that the alleged infringer pay a significant licensing fee to avoid an infringement suit. The alleged infringer often feels compelled to pay almost any price named by the patent troll because, under current law, a permanent injunction issues automatically upon a finding of infringement. The threat of a permanent injunction would, in turn, cause the alleged infringer to lose the substantial investment made in the allegedly infringing business or product.

While we may question their motives, we do not question the right of patent trolls to sue for patent infringement, to obtain damages, and to seek a permanent injunction. However, the issuance of a permanent injunction should not be granted automatically upon a finding of infringement. Rather, when deciding whether to issue a permanent injunction, courts should have the discretion to weigh all the equities in order to prevent the violation of a patent right. That requires balancing the inventor's exclusive right designed to provide the incentive and reward for invention and those equities which may be necessary for the public interest, such as whether the patent troll has ''unclean hands,'' the failure to commercialize the patented invention, the social utility of the infringing activity, the loss of invested resources by the infringer and, of course, the quality of the patent. After weighing the equities, the court may still decide to issue a permanent injunction, but at least the court will have ensured that the injunction serves the public interest. Section 8 accomplishes this goal.

When considering these provisions together, we believe that this bill provides reform necessary for the patent system to achieve its primary goal of promoting innovation. As the New York Times has pointed out, ''[t]here is legislation in the House to address th[e] issue[s], and it needs to be taken up.'' We hope introduction of this bill will facilitate the necessary movement of patent reform legislation.

I would especially like to thank Congressman BOUCHER with whom I have been working on patent reform for the past few years even before the issue was en vogue. Also deserving of thanks are the many constitutional scholars, policy advocates, private parties, and government agencies that continue to contribute their time, thoughts, and drafting talents to this effort. I am pleased that, finally, at least a consensus has emerged among the various collaborators in support of the basic ''post-grant opposition'' approach embodied in the legislation. This bill is the latest iteration of a process we started over 5 years ago.

Though we developed this bill in a highly collaborative and deliberative manner, I do not want to suggest that it is a ''perfect'' solution. Thus, I remain open to suggestions for amending the language to improve its efficacy or rectify any unintended consequences.

As I have said previously, ''The bottom line is this: there should be no question that the U.S. patent system produces high quality patents. Since questions have been raised about whether this is the case, the responsibility of Congress is to take a close look at the functioning of the patent system.'' High patent quality is essential to continued innovation. Litigation abuses, especially those which thrive on low quality patents, impede the promotion of the progress of science and the useful arts. Thus, we must act quickly during the 109th Congress to maintain the integrity of the patent system.

HONORING GREENVILLE'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICE OFFICER, WILLIE CARSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an African American pioneer, Willie Carson, Greenville's first African-American police officer. I submit the following article by Bill Johnson of the Delta Democrat Times.

GREENVILLE—ANOTHER DELTA PIONEER HAS PASSED

Willie Carson, the first African-American police officer in Greenville, died Friday evening. He was 86 years old.

Carson forged the way for other black law enforcement officers to follow in the early 1950s, working as a beat officer on Nelson Street.

''Those were some really rough days back then,'' said his wife of 20 years, Delilah Carson. She recalled some of the many stories told by her husband of his early experiences in uniform from their Fairview Extended home.

''At that particular time, a lot of blacks were killing each other on Nelson. Back then, it was not so much with guns but knives and their fists,'' she said. ''It was a real war zone out there at the time.

''C.A. Hollinsworth was the chief at that time. And he knew that changes were coming and a new day was ahead,'' she reflected.

''Winchester Davis was very instrumental in helping Willie get on the force. Willie played guitar for Davis' band, and they traveled a lot. He knew Willie had a family with children and needed a good job with benefits, and made a way for him.''

Carson took his oath to uphold the law, and he made sure that everyone on his beat abided by the law.

He was smooth and quiet in manner but when necessary made a firm stand.

''A lot of people have come up to him over the years and thanked him for changing their lives.'' Carson said. ''If need be, he could get down and dirty right along with them. And sometimes it was necessary.''

While rumors abounded about the reasons Carson was given the Nelson Street beat, she was told by Willie that it was a matter of support.

''Hollinsworth knew that if anything went down on the Nelson Street beat, someone would speak up for Willie and give support for him. But remember, this was the early '50s still, and not many whites were going to go against another white person's word if they were arrested by a colored officer. So it was the best choice for the times,'' Carson said.

Willie Carson was also really good friends with former police chief and mayor, William Burnley. They spent a lot of time together and even called each other brother.

''They had a very unique relationship,'' Delilah recalled.

Joe Tinsley, a long-time Nelson Street business owner, also recalled Carson's tenure on the beat. ''He was a true pioneer in police work, being a black man back in those days,'' Tinsely said from his barber shop on the corner of Nelson and Edison. ''And boy what a heck of a guitar player.''

Tinsley recalled Carson as a hard-working man who always had several jobs along with playing his guitar for a variety of bands, including Ike Turner, Winchester Davis, Big Joe, and others.

''He had a rocky road those early years, with the name calling and all. But he broke through the ice and opened the door for all black law enforcement officers to follow,'' Tinsley said. ''And as time went on, Carson was very much respected. They wouldn't raise any hell or cuss around Officer Carson. It was tough on him, but he was the right man for the job and he made it work.''

Carson is remembered by his family as a good husband, father and provider who loved his family and children; a man who believed in being in line with the law.

He was the type of fellow who was known for a good joke and appreciated a better one. He was the go-to guy during the boycotts at Mississippi Valley State College in 1969, where he served as chief of campus police, telling his men, ''We are here to protect these students and the faculty. And that's what I expect you to do.''

There were no major injuries on his watch, even when meeting face to face and at odds with members of the Black Panthers organization.

Carson was also the first black housing inspector in Greenville, and served as the grand marshal of the 2003 Christmas Parade.

In later years, Carson served with the Washington County Sheriffs Department from 1989 until his retirement in 2000.

He was never a bitter man and was considered rather jolly and outgoing.

''He tried to find the best in even a bad situation,'' Delilah said, adding that he would often tell his children, ''Sometimes you can't get around a problem, but you can always make good choices.''

Officer Willie Carson's career and faithful service to the community is a testament to his character. Carson's first probably will not be noted in history books, but it is his service and men and women of similar character that has paved the way for other outstanding African Americans to outfit our public services. It is with great honor, I recognize Officer Willie Carson, a true pioneer.

A TRIBUTE TO FLOR MARINA PRIETO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Flor Marina Prieto and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Flor Marina Prieto was born in Bogota, Colombia, into a typical middle class Colombian family. Ms. Prieto's father was Captain of the National Police and her mother worked, mainly at home, as an art decorator making very beautiful artificial and natural flower arrangements. Ms. Prieto's mother chose Flor Marina's name because of her love for flowers and her father's passion for the sea. Ms. Prieto's was comprised of school and home surrounded with plenty of love.

Ms. Prieto graduated as a secretary in Bogota, Colombia and soon after came to the United States. As a hobby, she attended ballet classes and had the opportunity to perform as an amateur ballerina. Soon after taking her marriage vows, Ms. Prieto's had her best treasure, her lovely daughter Jacqueline.

Ms. Prieto foresaw the importance and impact of computers in education. In order to learn about this and to earn some money so that she could pay for her college career, she worked as representative of a Colombian Computer Company in the United States. She traveled several times to Europe searching for specialized software to be sold in South America.

Later, she created her own small company M&B Computer Export because at the time it was a good business to sell computers and peripherals outside the United States. Several years later, she decided she was ready to start college to study Psychology. Ms. Prieto studied at St. John's University and graduated in May of 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Ms. Prieto was so enthralled with this field that she decided to continue her studies in graduate school. She studied at St. John's University as well for a graduate degree in Bilingual School Counseling. Ms. Prieto graduated in June of 2000 with a Master of Science in Education. In addition, upon graduation, she was awarded with honors, the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence.

Ms. Prieto is currently working as a Bilingual Counselor at Eastwood School, P.S. 95. She is very pleased and fulfilled with her role as a counselor. She is very happy to work with children. Ms. Prieto feels her job is very rewarding because she is able to witness how a child's life can change or improve with her help. It is very satisfying to know that one can make a difference in a child's life. Ms. Prieto's main objective was to graduate as a counselor and then use this knowledge to help educate special children. This dream is now a beautiful reality.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this body, in recognition of her life and efforts, should pay tribute to Ms. Flor Marina Prieto.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SAM HYATT AS BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION KIDS' CAUCUS ESSAY FINALIST

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise before you today to recognize a sixth grade boy in the Second Congressional District of Maryland, Master Sam Hyatt. He was named as a finalist in the Box Tops for Education Kids' Caucus Essay contest. Sam

wrote an essay for the General Mills sponsored organization on parental involvement in schools. His school, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Day School in Lutherville, MD, was awarded a grant of one thousand dollars because of his achievement.

By using the topic provided, Sam carefully crafted an essay to explain how he would improve parental involvement in schools if he were principal for a day. He recommends parents volunteer their time by speaking to the students about their area of expertise. For example, he mentions how someone in the health profession came to the school and taught the students a lesson in that subject. He also suggests parents come into the classroom to relate their personal experiences to whatever subject is being taught that day.

Sam's essay is extremely motivational. It proves that school-aged children are interested in their families, and would like more opportunities to learn from them. He suggests teachers assign activities that involve parents, making learning fun for both the student and the parent. Sam provides an example of the previous year when he was given an assignment to learn about rocks. He was only able to find a small variety of rocks in his neighborhood so, as a result, his parents needed to take him to other locations to complete the task. I believe that education is one of the most important gifts we can give our children and it must begin in the home.

It is critical to arm our children with the best skills possible to ensure their success in life. They acquire these skills through practice both in the home and at school. It is very important to keep the lines of communication open between parents and school officials. Sam offers an idea of ''Principal Coffees'' where parents and administrators are given the opportunity to discuss what is happening in the school. He also recommends administrator and parent meetings via chat room discussions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to recognize the achievement of essay winner Master Sam Hyatt. He should be commended for his outstanding efforts.

IN HONOR OF THE GREGORY FAMILY AS THEY RECEIVE THE TREE OF LIFE AWARD

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gregory Family as they receive the Tree of Life humanitarian award on April 30th, 2006 from the Jewish National Fund.

The Jewish National Fund has bestowed its prestigious Tree of Life award annually since 1981. Recipients of this honor are chosen on the basis of outstanding community involvement, professional leadership and humanitarian service.

The Tree of Life award was named to symbolize the Jewish National Fund's efforts to reclaim and develop the land of Israel from barren and uninhabitable land into a land of lush green forests and fields, productive farmlands and varied tourism and recreation facilities.

Members of the Gregory Family receiving the award include the late Ted Gregory, his wife Matula and their children and spouses, Tom and Pam; Dean and Hedy; Evan and Terry; and Vickie. This talented and generous family is behind one of Cincinnati's most notable treasures, The Montgomery Inn Restaurants. These award-winning restaurants are known not only in our own region, but across the nation.

Ted Gregory and his wife Matula worked hard to build their business and instill a strong work ethic and sense of charity in their children. Ted often said, ''Give until it hurts, then give a little more.'' This belief, combined with a strong work ethic, is no doubt the recipe to the Gregory Family's success.

As the Gregory's success has steadily grown over the years, so too has their mission to give back to others. Some of their beneficiaries include the Bob Hope House, The Free Store Food Bank, The Down Syndrome Association, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, One Way Farm and countless others.

The family also established the Montgomery Inn Invitational, which has raised more than $500,000. These funds have benefited the Jewish Federation, the Uriah P. Levy Jewish Chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy, the United Negro College Fund, the Billy Barty Foundation, and scholarships benefiting many area youth.

Today, Ted and Matula's children continue to carry on the family's charitable legacy. The four Gregory children graduated from Sycamore High School, where they recently endowed a state-of-the-art fitness center bearing the name of their parents.

The Gregory Family will donate the proceeds from this year's Tree of Life dinner to the Jewish National Fund Therapeutic Riding Consortium Endowment for Israel.

In addition to four children, Ted and Matula have eight grandchildren.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate the Gregory Family on receiving the Tree of Life humanitarian award.

A TRIBUTE TO BURNETTA ROSE LEE GRAVES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Burnetta Rose Lee Graves, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

Burnetta is a native of Brooklyn, New York and the daughter of Helena and the late Abel Lee Graves both of Wilmington, N.C. She attended the public schools in Brooklyn, N.Y. for her formative education and graduated from George W. Wingate H.S. After attending Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan, she embarked on an entrepreneurial career as a clothing designer for 13 years.

Burnetta is an active member of both the Brooklyn and Queens communities; her political affiliations include: Women's Caucus for Congressman EDOLPHUS ''ED'' TOWNS; Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club of St. Albans, N.Y.; and the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club of Kings County Inc. Additionally, while working for Philip Morris USA, the company aided Burnetta's community affiliation in various areas of New York.

Bumetta has always been an active member of her church, St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Harlem USA. While there she was president of the Young Adult Club for 4 years and served as a Trustee for 3 years. In 1997, she was drawn to St. Paul Community Baptist Church in East New, Brooklyn, N.Y. because of the interactive relationship that the church has with the community. As a member of the Baby Dedication Ministry and various activities of the church, she has numerous opportunities to reach out to the community at large.

Working for the Rochdale Village Community Center in Jamaica, N.Y. enables Burnetta to teach children ages 5–12 the art of quilt making. To this day the quilts are still displayed in the front entrance of the center.

In 2002 she joined the staff of Congressman ED TOWNS as a Special Assistant and Ecumenical Liaison. In that role she deals with all faith-based organizations in the 10th Congressional District of Brooklyn, N.Y. She also assists constituents in housing concerns and other issues. Burnetta's current project is ''Adopt A School'' working with Health-based organizations to insure better health care standards for the community.

Mr. Speaker, Burnetta Rose Lee Graves' selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING DANIEL FIGUEROA FOR HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Daniel Figueroa, who has set an example to all, through community involvement, selfless dedication and tireless compassion for the community.

To his community he is known as a pioneer, and as someone who never forgot his roots, to his coworkers he is known for his diligence and exemplary work ethic. Detective Sergeant Daniel Figueroa is not only an outstanding member of the department but also an outstanding member of his community.

Daniel Figueroa has been a member of the Buffalo Police Department for 35 years. It is also important to note that officer Figueroa was one of the first Hispanic-Latino officers in Buffalo, NY.

Aside from his duty in law enforcement he also served as an Army paratrooper during the Vietnam War.

Officer Figueroa has also been recognized for is service working undercover for the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Stories and memories of his work while in the department have changed lives and inspired others. A prime example of officer Figueroa's dedicated service occurred in 1970 when on patrol at the Erie Basin Marina; he noticed a crowd of people and saw a man in the water. Without hesitation, he jumped in to rescue the drowning man. He learned later that the man he had rescued was trying to commit suicide, eventually the man contacted officer Figueroa to thank him

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize

Daniel Figueroa for his dedication, honorable service and his daily commitment to making western New York a safer place, and guaranteeing a better tomorrow.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by my colleagues Representatives KIRK and LARSEN. They are to be commended for drawing attention to the importance of student exchange and language education programs, particularly related to Chinese and Arabic. In the 21st century world, China and the Middle East are critically important.

I share their support for language and culture education programs to help equip today's young people for the global marketplace. I was pleased to be able to help bring Japanese and Chinese language programs to the Fairfax County Public School system in northern Virginia. During the early 1980s Japan was the primary United States competitor. In an effort to understand how to help United States businesses remain competitive in an expanding global economy, especially with Japan, I wrote to the top 500 U.S. companies asking for their feedback.

The overwhelming response was that U.S. businesses were having difficulty finding qualified people who spoke Japanese and understood that culture. It became clear that the younger generation of Americans who would be the business leaders of tomorrow needed the training to compete with Japan. To help enlarge the pool of fluent Japanese speakers and broaden understanding of the Japanese culture, I worked with the U.S. Department of Education to establish language immersion programs in northern Virginia in 1988.

As a result, Floris, Fox Mill and Great Falls Elementary schools, all in the Fairfax County Public School system, began offering Japanese immersion programs. In these programs, students spend half the school day in their subjects learning to converse in Japanese and the other half in English. I insert for the RECORD excerpts from my congressional newsletters from 1988 announcing the launch of the Japanese language immersion program.

Today, the United States' main global competitor is no longer Japan. China has assumed that position. As we did in the 1980s with Japanese language immersion, we need to replicate today with the Chinese language. The Chinese program will expand and build upon the success of the Japanese immersion program, which helped America counter the serious competition it faced from Japan. In addition to having the opportunity to improve academic performance, students also will have the chance to learn a language that will equip them to compete in the global economy. With one-quarter of the world's population living in China, it is imperative that America's rising business leaders learn the Chinese language and culture.

Studies have shown that students who participate in language immersion programs do well academically. This amendment highlights a critical area in preparing our young people—as Tom Friedman so aptly put it in his best-selling book "The World is Flat"—to develop language skills to help our country meet the challenge being posed by China and India.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Kirk/Larsen amendment and thank the gentlemen for their good work on highlighting this important issue.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY KEY TO COMPETITIVENESS

Our national trade deficit has caused deserved concern. We must not only make sure that American companies are on a level playing field with their foreign competitors, but also provide that American companies are equipped to compete in the international marketplace. The key to this is the education and training of our young people.

We must educate our young people in the languages and cultures of other nations, so that in the future American businesses are able to market products abroad and negotiate with foreign counterparts.

I have been pleased to work with our local school systems to expand the foreign language courses offered. The language of Japan, which has the largest trade surplus with the United States of any of our trading partners, is now offered at many of our area high schools. In addition, if a recently submitted grant application to the Department of Education is approved, Japanese, Spanish, and French may soon be taught to kindergarten students in some local schools.

These youngsters who are able to study the languages and cultures of other peoples of the world will be the business leaders of tomorrow, negotiating and devising strategies to sell American products all over the world.

EDUCATION GRANT FOCUSES ON FUTURE LEADERS

The U.S, Department of Education recently awarded a $175,000 grant to George Mason University to begin a foreign language immersion program in Fairfax and Arlington counties public elementary schools.

I was pleased to have worked with local school and GMU officials in support of this program which would be one of the first of its kind in the country to focus on kindergarten students for intensive training in Japanese, Spanish and French.

Under the program, six kindergarten teachers and six first grade teachers would be trained in language instruction and assigned to selected classes in participating schools.

Students participating in the program would spend up to one half of each school day being taught the target language.

I sought funding for this program because of my concern about U.S. competitiveness abroad and the need to prepare our future business leaders on how to deal with an increasingly international marketplace.

I have corresponded with leaders in the U.S. business community including the chief executive officers of many of the top U.S. companies doing business in Japan and business school deans. Most agree that American students must be exposed to the language and culture of other countries from the earliest possible age in order to remain competitive in the international marketplace.

In addition, training in foreign languages helps students to improve their verbal and intellectual capacities and encourages interest in other cultures.

While Fairfax and Arlington counties schools have expressed interest in implementing this innovative effort, a firm commitment has not been made as yet. I am hopeful, however, that the local schools will take advantage of this opportunity to assist our area's young people.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to join Chairmen HYDE and GALLEGLY, Mr. LANTOS and others in commemorating the Chernobyl disaster, a tragic event that has left a legacy of pain and suffering felt by the people of Ukraine and Belarus to this day. I welcome this resolution and especially its emphasis on encouraging national and international health organizations to focus their research on the public health consequences of Chernobyl.

As Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I can recall the Commission hearing I chaired on the 10th anniversary of Chernobyl, at which witnesses, including then Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak offered compelling testimony addressing the health and demographic consequences of the world's worst nuclear disaster. I am pleased to inform colleagues that on the 25th of this month the Helsinki Commission will hold a hearing commemorating Chernobyl. I am pleased that Ukrainian Ambassador Shamshur has accepted my invitation to testify along with health experts and others.

Madam Speaker, as a strong advocate of the health of all children, including the unborn, Chernobyl is of special concern.

In Ukraine and Belarus, there is growing evidence of a steep increase in birth defects, especially an alarming 4-fold increase in spina bifida that has been documented by the Ukrainian-American Association for the Prevention of Birth Defects. Many other forms of birth defects have doubled since Chernobyl, including cataracts, deformed limbs and fingers, and cleft palates. Recent Israeli-Ukrainian studies have shown that children born to Chernobyl liquidators have a 7-fold increase in chromosome damage as compared to their siblings born prior to the Chernobyl disaster.

Last year, I authored language that was included in the State Department Authorization Act authorizing funding for assistance to improve maternal and prenatal care, especially for the purpose of helping prevent birth defects and pregnancy complications. The monies would be for individuals in the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine involved in the cleanup of the region affected by the Chernobyl disaster. We need to make sure that Chernobyl health studies and efforts to prevent birth defects through the distribution of folic acid and better prenatal care receive sufficient funding. These are funding priorities that I will continue to pursue.

Madam Speaker, the public health research community was caught off guard by the massive 80-fold increase in thyroid cancer among Chernobyl children in Belarus in 1993, and the

world community needs to remain vigilant for other forms of cancer that may begin to emerge now that the 20-year latency period has ended.

We need to remember that the half-life of radioactive cesium is 30 years. Thousands of children are still being exposed to dangerously high levels of radionuclides in contaminated areas of southern Belarus and northern Ukraine, as well as far-flung areas in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe that also suffered from radioactive fallout. There is still much that remains to be done to overcome the devastating effects of Chernobyl, and it is important for the international community—both governments and nongovernmental organizations—to remember that Chernobyl is not just a Ukrainian, Belarusian or Russian problem. The fallout will require continued international attention and commitment.

I also want to take this opportunity to commend the work of nongovernmental organizations that devote considerable time and effort in helping the victims of Chernobyl. One such organization is the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, which has worked tirelessly to provide state-of-the-art medical technology, physician training and humanitarian aid to give Ukrainian children a fighting chance to overcome cancer and leukemia.

Finally, I welcome the resolution's support for continued U.S. assistance to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, the Shelter Implementation Plan, and other efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. We need to do everything possible to protect people and the environment from the large quantity of radioactive remains of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant even as we work to assist the victims of the world's worst nuclear disaster.

IN RECOGNITION OF AVONDALE CUB SCOUT PACK 67

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the young men of Avondale Pack 67 in Alexander City, Alabama, and also to den leader Laurie Carter for their work to preserve the memory of the crew of an Air Force aircraft which was lost in their community over a decade ago.

April 17 marks the 11th anniversary of the crash of an Air Force C–21 jet which was en route from Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland to Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. The C–21 was transporting eight personnel including Air Force Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, the Honorable Clark G. Fiester, and Major General Glenn A. Profitt, II, when it suffered mechanical problems. The plane attempted to land at T.C. Russell Field in Alexander City.

Tragically, the aircraft lost altitude and went down in a wooded area south of the airport, taking the lives of all aboard. A statement released from the Secretary of the Air Force at the time noted that, ''Two of the Air Force's senior leaders were on board the plane.''

The families of the victims of that tragedy left a small memorial on the site of the crash to remember their loved ones. But the site, which is heavily wooded, was grown over until the scouts of Pack 67 intervened. On March 18 the scouts of Pack 67, hiked to the site of the memorial, cleared the brush and trimmed the trees that had covered it. They placed small U.S. flags for each of the eight Air Force personnel who lost their lives that day in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally salute the young men of Pack 67 and their leader, Laurie Carter, for not only doing a good deed, but for honoring the memory of these fallen heroes. We can all learn from the example of these community-spirited scouts.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. FRANCES STURGIS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great individual and community leader, Mrs. Frances Sturgis, and to thank her for her contributions to the greater Waco Community, Texas and the country. On April 8, 2006 Mrs. Sturgis will be joined by friends and supporters to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Keep Waco Beautiful, which Mrs. Sturgis started in 1980.

Mrs. Sturgis began alone working to clean up and beautify Waco. Her vision and work has grown the small Beautification Committee of Waco into Keep Waco Beautiful, one of the most successful beautification groups in the country. From humble beginnings Mrs. Sturgis has guided Keep Waco Beautiful to where it is today, over 11,000 volunteers in an established and well recognized institution in the Waco Community. She was also instrumental in the founding of Keep McLennan County Beautiful and has served the State of Texas as President of Keep Texas Beautiful.

One cannot travel anywhere in Waco, Texas without seeing the legacy of Frances Sturgis. From Indian Springs Park and Heritage Square to Miss Nellie's Pretty Place and University Parks Drive the impact of her contributions to our community are evident. Over the past 25 years Keep Waco Beautiful has spearheaded over one hundred environmental and beautification projects in the Greater Waco community, and established numerous programs that have become an annual part of the lives of the citizens of Waco.

Mrs. Sturgis's service has reflected her deep commitment to the community and has indeed made Waco, Texas a cleaner, healthier, safer and more beautiful place to live and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Mrs. Frances Sturgis and offer my heartfelt appreciation for a life dedicated to service of the community.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN BORLAUG

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual whose contributions have unquestionably made the world a far better place. Through a career in scientific research that has spanned half a century, Dr. Norman Borlaug has distinguished himself and is in a class of his own.

Dr. Borlaug grew up on a farm in Cresco, Iowa, and attended the University of Minnesota in my home state where he went on to earn his doctorate in plant pathology in 1942.

In 1944 Dr. Borlaug participated in a project to boost wheat production that began in Mexico and spread as far as India and Pakistan. This project sparked the Green Revolution that literally saved hundreds of millions of lives. In recognition of these efforts, Dr. Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. To this day, he is the only person to have received the Award in either the agriculture or food production fields.

Since then, Dr. Borlaug continued in his work throughout Africa, where maize, sorghum and wheat yields have experienced significant increases, helping to curb starvation and malnutrition.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Minnesotans, I would like to congratulate Dr. Borlaug on his distinguished career and remarkable contributions. His legacy and service will continue to benefit our society for generations to come.

I would like to thank my good friend Representative TOM LATHAM of Iowa for his leadership on this matter.

A TRIBUTE TO PENNY LYNDELLA WILLOUGHBY-PARKER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Penny Lyndella Willoughby-Parker. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

Penny was born in Farmville, North Carolina. However, since age 9 Penny has resided in New York City. Since childhood, Penny has been a person that has strived to live by God's golden rule of ''Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You.'' Penny's genuine love and concern for people as a whole, but especially those that were less fortunate than her inspired Penny to work with people living with mental illness.

Penny worked at Manhattan Psychiatric Center for 13 years, specializing in Psychiatric Rehabilitation. In this capacity, Penny helped to prepare people to successfully return to their family, friends and society to live productive lives.

Oftentimes while reading her patients' charts, Penny would learn that their problems began when they were children. As Penny sat at her desk reading the charts she would often become filled with sadness and say, ''Oh God! I wish I had met Jane or John when they were children. Perhaps I could have helped them with their various problems and prevented them from ending up in a mental institution.''

God heard Penny's sighs! God saw Penny's tears! And He has Anointed and Appointed her to teach Wisdom to his children. Penny's Mission Statement from God is ''to train up a child according to Proverbs 22:6 and to help all children to fully develop Spiritually, Academically, Socially and Culturally which is exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond what is called ''Average''.

Penny is the proud mother of two sons, Chinyelu and Cory, but God has given her as He did Abraham and Sarah, innumerable sons and daughters that are spread throughout the world. You will never hear Penny say she did anything special or take credit for the overwhelming successful outcomes of her students' achievements whom she affectionately refers to as her ''Power Angels''. But, you will hear Penny say, ''To God Be the Glory!!!''

Mr. Speaker, Penny Lyndella Willoughby-Parker's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her worthy of our recognition today.

PATIENT ASSISTANCE DAY: HELPING LOW INCOME AMERICANS GET THE HEALTH CARE THEY NEED

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patient Assistance Day. Today, millions of Americans lack health insurance and cannot access medicines that they need to treat their illnesses. While the government looks for practical ways to help the 45 million uninsured citizens, there are private-sector programs in place that are helping millions of Americans.

One such program is the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), a national clearinghouse that links uninsured and underinsured people to patient assistance programs that offer drugs for free or nearly free. America's pharmaceutical research companies, along with 1,300 community and patient organizations, launched the PPA in April 2005. Since then, the PPA has helped more than 1.8 million patients, but millions more stand to benefit.

As the PPA commemorates its 1-year anniversary on April 5, 2006, it will celebrate the first annual Patient Assistance Day, which will include educational activities throughout the country designed to raise awareness of and help educate the public about patient assistance programs.

This private-sector program has been successful in helping uninsured Americans get the medicines they need. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the work of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance and observing April 5th as Patient Assistance Day.

PROCLAIMING APRIL 5, 2006 PATIENT ASSISTANCE DAY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a program that I have brought to my district many of times to help my constituents access affordable drugs.

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) is a national clearinghouse that links uninsured and underinsured people to patient assistant programs that offer drugs for free or nearly free. America's pharmaceutical research companies, along with 1,300 community and patient organizations launched the PPA in April 2005 and have since helped almost 2 million patients, including over 48,000 in my home state of Louisiana.

Today, the PPA commemorates its 1-year anniversary (April 5, 2006), and with that celebration, the first annual Patient Assistance Day.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize this significant achievement of the PPA in addressing the uninsured issue by meeting a real need of patients everywhere. I applaud the efforts of biopharmaceutical research companies, health care providers, patient advocacy organizations, and community groups all across the United States. The PPA has visited the 7th Congressional District to provide information at many of my town hall meetings, as well as other health events. The response to their presence has been overwhelming. I am committed to helping my constituents and all Americans in need access life-saving medicines. In that spirit, I ask my colleagues to join me today in proclaiming'' April 5, Patient Assistance Day. Surely, millions more stand to benefit from this program and we should do our part in helping to connect patients in need.

I also submit for the RECORD a success story about the PPA's effort in Southwest Louisiana.

[From the Southwest Daily News, Feb. 15, 2006]

(By Mary Ann Dutton)

Help is Here Express is a traveling education center sponsored by America's Pharmaceutical Research Companies, in partnership with the Calcasieu Community Clinic and the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families. The bright orange bus rolled into Sulphur on Tuesday to educate uninsured and underinsured patients about prescription assistance. Originally scheduled to be at Sulphur City Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., the staff said they would stay until everyone was helped.

Help is Here Express is part of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance, a growing national program that brings prescription assistance to the uninsured and underinsured. According to Partners for Prescription Assistance (PPA) Consultant Cheron Brylski, the PPA was birthed by former Louisiana Congressman Billy Tauzin. While battling cancer, Tauzin realized that he would not have survived without the drugs used in his treatment. Understanding that many cancer patients are unable to afford the drugs that could help them, Tauzin made it a personal goal to get an assistance program started.

''The Partnership for Prescription Assistance is changing thousands of lives everyday,'' said PhRMA President and CEO Tauzin. ''No one is helped by a medicine that sits on the shelf and is out of reach financially. The Partnership for Prescription Assistance is matching the people of Louisiana who are uninsured or underinsured to patient assistance programs that may help them get the medicines they need for free or nearly free. We will keep coming back to Louisiana as long as there are people who need our help.''

The Help is Here Express was developed as a way to take the Partnership for Prescription Assistance program on the road, bringing help directly to the people who need it most. In Louisiana alone there have been 26,218 searches and 16,842 matches through the use of the computer terminals and mobile telephones on the bus.

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America spokesman Jeff Trewhitt said the Help is Here Express offers help to anyone who is having trouble affording their prescription medicine. Since its launch last April in Baton Rouge, the program has matched more than 1.3 million patients nationally, and more than 44,000 right here in Louisiana.

''There are millions of patients who qualify for assistance and don't know about the program,'' said Trewhitt. ''There are 475 patient assistance plans so we are bringing our education program to reach and inform the masses.''

If you were unable to visit the Help is Here Express yesterday, the same services are available by telephone or on the internet. ''Many prefer the privacy of their own home,'' said Trewhitt. ''This is possible by calling 1–888–4PPA–NOW (1–888–477–2669) or the user-friendly website www.pparxla.org.'' Trewhitt suggested that applicants have the names of current medicines available when calling.

An interesting tidbit shared by Trewhitt is that the Help is Here Express bus used to be the touring bus of country singers Brooks and Dunn.

The Help is Here Express is scheduled to be in Lafayette at the Acadiana Outreach Center, 2125 S. Buchanan Street on Feb. 16th at 9:30 a.m.

IN HONOR OF CALEB FOOTE LAW PROFESSOR AND PACIFIST ORGANIZER

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor one of America's great teachers and scholars of law and an inspirational figure for everyone who believes in the creative spirit of non-violence, Mr. Caleb Foote, who passed away on March 4, 2006.

Caleb Foote began his life journey in Massachusetts. He was born in Cambridge in 1917, graduated from Harvard in 1939, and earned his master's degree in 1941. He was raised on Quaker beliefs and held deep principles that rejected the use of violence. During the period of World War II he was sent to prison for those beliefs when he refused to serve in the military or to perform alternative service in support of war. After completing his prison sentence, he spoke out against the internment of Japanese-Americans, working with photographer Dorothy Lange to produce a pamphlet on the subject in 1943. He was forced to serve a second term in prison for continuing to refuse the draft, but he was pardoned by no one less than President Harry S. Truman.

In the 1950s, Mr. Foote went back to college and earned his law degree. For the remainder of his career, he taught law and became a leading champion for the rights of the poor, the young, minorities, and the disenfranchised within the criminal justice system. Even after he retired, he continued his research and exposed the failures of the juvenile justice system in California.

America has lost a champion of justice and a man of principle. I extend my condolences to all the members of Caleb Foote's family and his community of friends, who knew him not as a symbol, but as a husband, a father, a grandfather, a friend, and a colleague.

I submit for the RECORD the April 3, 2006 article from the New York Times describing Caleb Foote's life and achievements.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 3, 2006]

CALEB FOOTE, LAW PROFESSOR AND PACIFIST ORGANIZER, 88, DIES

(By Douglas Martin)

Caleb Foote, whose moral sense influenced him to go to prison for refusing to do even noncombatant work in World War II, then led him to become a law professor known for advocacy of criminal rights, died on March 4 at a hospital in Santa Rosa, California. He was 88.

The cause was a blood infection, said his daughter, Heather Foote.

Mr. Foote was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on March 26, 1917. He graduated in 1939 from Harvard, where he was managing editor of The Harvard Crimson, and earned a master's degree in economics in 1941.

The Quaker faith of his mother drew him to pacifism, and he was hired that year by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a pacifist organization, to open its Northern California office. His draft board had denied his request for conscientious objector status in 1940, deciding that his religious argument for the status was based more on humanist principles than on theology.

Mr. Foote then refused an order to report to a camp to perform alternative service, and as a result in 1943 he was convicted for violations of the Selective Service Act.

''Only by my refusal to obey this order can I uphold my belief that evil must be opposed not by violence but by the creation of goodwill throughout the world,'' Mr. Foote said in an interview with The Associated Press.

He served six months at a federal prison camp, then resumed his work with the fellowship, spending much of his time speaking out against the internment of Japanese-Americans. In 1943, he helped produce a pamphlet on the subject, titled ''Outcasts,'' with the photographer Dorothea Lange.

In 1945, Mr. Foote was again sentenced for draft law violations and served a year at a federal penitentiary. He was pardoned by President Harry S. Truman. From 1948 to 1950, Mr. Foote was executive director of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors.

He then decided to go to law school, inspired by the desire to address the racial and economic inequalities he had witnessed in the criminal justice system, his daughter said. In 1953, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he was managing editor of the law review.

The next year, he became a professor at the University of Nebraska College of Law. He persuaded a federal judge to reverse the conviction of an American Indian man whose lawyer had been incompetent. At a law school convention in New York in 1954, Mr. Foote called for the strengthening of civil remedies for false arrest.

In 1956, he moved to Penn's law school, where he led a student team that studied New York City's bail system and recommended changes. He became a leader in bail reform, and, in 1966, his book, ''Studies on Bail'' was published. He argued that the bail system was biased against the poor and an unfair burden on falsely accused defendants. He even argued that bail was inherently unconstitutional.

In 1965, Mr. Foote became a professor at the Boalt School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, where he specialized in family and criminal law.

In 1968, after student protests rocked Berkeley, he was a co-chairman of an investigative committee that recommended changes that included giving the campus autonomy from the rest of California's university system.

He retired in 1987 and moved to Point Reyes Station in Marin County, California, where he became active in local conservation efforts and lived until his death.

In 1993, he did a study for the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco showing that the corrections department's share of state expenditures had grown to 8.2 percent from 3.9 percent over the past 10 years, while higher education's part had fallen to 9.3 percent from 14.4 percent.

Besides his daughter, of Washington, Mr. Foote is survived by his wife of 63 years, the former Hope Stephens; their sons, Robert Foote of Copper Hill, Virginia; Andrew Eliot Foote of Los Angeles; Ethan Foote of Santa Rosa; and David Foote of Volcano, Hawaii; and four grandchildren.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET: SACRIFICING SERVICES VITAL TO WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, the budget the House will debate tomorrow will keep us on the same irresponsible and unsustainable path that America has been traveling for the past 5 years. As a consequence of massive tax cuts, this budget continues to run dangerous fiscal deficits . . . while under-investing in programs vital to developing future generations of Americans.

For instance, the President's budget freezes funding for Head Start. As a result 19,000 children will have to be cut from Head Start next year. When I was home in my district, I toured the Nedra Court & Whispering Pines Head Start programs. They offer comprehensive child development programs vital to women's economic well-being and the ability of their children to succeed in school.

I understand we are in a tight fiscal situation and we need to be realistic. But we need to start making smarter spending decisions—like ensuring children succeed in school and that parents have the resources to support them.

Yes, we need to be making tough choices, but not on the backs of women and future generations.

TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY KAHANE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeffrey Kahane, a man who has filled the world with beautiful music and a beautiful philosophy, bringing them to young and old through both performance and education. His inspiration and motivation came as a result of one of history's most sombre times.

At age 17, Jeffrey Kahane's mother and her brother were sent by their parents from Germany to the United States to escape the growing Holocaust. Her ship docked in New Orleans, but on the same day a second ship, the *Saint Louis*, was turned away from Miami. That was the cursed "Ship of Fools," and all of its passengers were forced to return to Germany and were annihilated. As a new American, and as Lore Kahane grew older, she remained always sensitive to her good fortune, and she determined to raise her children to enrich America, its people and its culture.

For son Jeffrey, music is the means by which he fulfills his mother's mission. Soon after graduation from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, he made his debut as a classical concert pianist at Carnegie Hall in 1983. He has become one of the best in the nation, appearing as soloist with great American, English, Austrian, and Spanish orchestras. Yo Yo Ma, Hilary Hahn and many famed performers have recorded with Jeffrey, as have many orchestras.

He made his conducting debut in 1988, and that has become a major joy to him and to his legions of admirers. A born educator, he brings to an audience not only magnificent music, but also fascinating and significant stories about the music and its composers. A particular goal for him is to educate and inspire youths who then become the audiences and the performers of tomorrow.

He has been creative director of the Los Angeles Chamber Music Orchestra for many years. For the past 10 years, he also has conducted the Santa Rosa Symphony Orchestra. During that time, he has built the orchestra into one of the outstanding regional symphonies in the nation. He also is Artistic Director of the Green Farm Music Festival in Sonoma County.

His outreach to this community has been unique. For example, he took his vision to the Fine Arts department of Santa Rosa High School and explained the meaning behind two great works—Benjamin Britten's War Requiem and Michael Tippett's Child of Our Time. Over many months, he worked with and inspired students and their teachers to create ballets, plays, art work, etc. that expressed the deep philosophies of these musical works. Then, on the nights when the two works were performed on stage, the students performed their creations and displayed their art work in the concert hall lobby.

This is just one example of his using music for messages that address great wrongs to humanity: war, poverty and, yes, the Holocaust. It has been actions such as these that have led to Maestro Kahane's being so well-loved and well-respected by his community.

Now he is leaving Santa Rosa to become Musical Director of the Colorado Symphony in Denver. He has promised to return frequently and play for Santa Rosans, many of whom he has educated to understand and love classical music. In the months and years to come, Denver will come to enjoy and respect this amazing performer and admirable human being.

We salute Jeffrey Kahane for his continuing contribution not only to entertainment but to knowledge and caring for the wonders of music as an expression of the best of humanity by young and older Americans and citizens of many countries.

And we bestow high gratitude to Lore Kahane, his mother, who brought light out of the darkness of the Holocaust by encouraging a son to make this world a better place with music.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I would like to clarify a statement I made on the floor at one point on March 29, 2006 during debate on a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4297. In quoting the statistics on the percentage of taxpayers with capital gain and dividend income that have incomes below $100,000; the correct statistic is that nearly 60 percent of taxpayers receiving capital gain or dividend income have incomes of $100,000 or less. Even though I did correctly state this statistic during the debate, the statistic was initially mischaracterized.

The correct statistic can be derived from a document provided by the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation. This document can be found on their web site. It is document number JCX–50–05 titled ''Present Law and Background Information on Certain Expiring Tax Provisions.'' The data on the income distribution of taxpayers who receive capital gain and dividend income can be found on pages 6 and 7.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHELE NOEL-ADOLPHE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Michele Noel-Adolphe and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the Brooklyn community.

Michele Noel-Adolphe is founder and president of Brooklyn Institute for Children (BIC), where she has worked since 1992. BIC has developed into one of the foremost early childhood facilities in Brooklyn and Ms. Noel-Adolphe has emerged as a leader in the education and civic communities of Brooklyn.

After graduating from the State University of New York (FIT) with a degree in Management and International Trade and Long Island University with a Master's of Social Science degree, Ms. Noel-Adolphe entered the field of education as a NYC high school teacher—and later as Executive Director of The Performing Arts Teen Center. In this capacity, Ms. Noel-Adolphe was responsible for designing and implementing numerous after-school programs in Brooklyn that combined the academic needs of youths and their artistic talents.

Ms. Noel-Adolphe is a proud graduate of Erasmus Hall High School. She is a major contributor to and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Sharing Hearts Network, Inc., a nonprofit charitable organization recently founded to respond to the deterioration of the standard of living of poor children in Haiti.

Additionally, Ms. Noel-Adolphe is an active member of numerous professional and civic associations. Among them are: the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce; The Caribbean-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI); the National Black Women Health Association; the National Association for Women Executive and the Association for School Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). Ms. Noel-Adolphe and her family including her 2 young daughters reside in South Midwood.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Michele Noel-Adolphe, as she offers her talents for the betterment of our local and international communities.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF VASILIOS ''BILL'' KAVADIAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Vasilios ''Bill'' Kavadias, owner and manager of the Greek Taverna Restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue, for his 41 years of service to the Capitol Hill community. For 41 years, Bill has opened his doors to thousands of Members of Congress, Senators, Capitol Hill residents and visitors.

Bill arrived from the Greek Island of Kefalonia on the USS *Independence* on December 30, 1956, with his brother. Soon after his arrival, Bill met and married his wife, Ifigenia. Two years later in 1965 around the same time Bill was starting his new business, the couple gave birth to their one and only child, Gregory.

Starting Taverna with his brother in 1965, rocky times would soon befall on him. But being the man that Bill is, he would not allow the initial shortcomings interfere with his desire to succeed. Changing the menu 3 times in 10 years to meet customers' requests, Bill and his brother noticed that people really enjoyed Greek food, and in 1977, Taverna went all Greek. From here on, Bill turned Taverna into a culinary palace it is today. Even though he would insist that it was his customers who made it happen, we all know that it was Bill who transformed his modest establishment into the symbol it is today. Along the way, he befriended many people including former Speakers of the House Tipper O'Neil and Newt Gingrich. Among the many other Members of Congress that frequent this iconic restaurant, Bill has warmly served the President of Brazil, former presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, the Greek Ambassador during the Reagan years and Secretary of State Madeline Albright to name a few.

I had the pleasure of meeting Bill about 10 years ago shortly after I was elected to Congress. Day after day, I would make my way to his extraordinary establishment and each and every time, Bill was there to greet me. Over time, he and I forged a remarkable friendship that I am so grateful for. Taverna is like my home, but it would not be so without Bill. I am saddened by his retirement but am very thankful for the time I have had with him.

Aside from his business accomplishments, Bill always made sure that he devoted his heart, mind and time to his surrounding community, his customers and his family. This was made evident when many of his friends and long-time customers showed up on the Thursday before his retirement to pay him homage.

This man is truly one to be honored and emulated as he has touched the hearts of so many of his customers and friends during his time at Taverna. His immense kindness and overwhelming generosity is something that is not often seen in today's society. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family as he embarks on his new path. And like everything else Bill has done, I am certain that he will be enormously successful.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Vasilios ''Bill'' Kavadias, whose dedication and 41 years of service to his customers and community will be missed, but never forgotten.

MORE WATER AND MORE ENERGY ACT OF 2006

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the ''More Water and More Energy Act of 2006.''

My bill deals with the issue of ''produced water,'' the saline water generated in the production of oil. For every barrel of oil produced, approximately 10 barrels of saline water is generated. This country generates over 5 billion gallons of produced water per day.

While sometimes this water can be and is used for agriculture or other purposes, most often it has been handled as a waste and reinjected. But as we expand our development of fossil energy resources to meet our increasing demand for energy, we are also increasing the volume of water produced in the development process. And given the increasing demand for fresh water supplies in many areas of the country—especially in the West—it makes sense to consider how this produced water could supplement our limited fresh water resources.

I'm glad that this issue is beginning to engage so many around the country as they realize the potential benefits of produced water. Just this week, the Colorado Water Resources Research Institute is hosting a ''Produced Water Workshop'' to discuss ''Energy & Water—How Can We Get Both for the Price of One?''

In my opinion, few topics could be more timely or important, not only for Colorado but for our country.

That's why I'm introducing the More Water and More Energy Act—to facilitate the use of produced water for irrigation and other purposes, including municipal and industrial uses. The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior (through the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S.G.S.) to carry out a study to identify the technical, economic, environmental, legal, and other obstacles to increasing the extent to which produced water can be used for such purposes.

In addition, it would authorize federal grants to assist in the development of facilities to demonstrate the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of processes to increase the extent to which produce water can be recovered and made suitable for use for such purposes.

Developing beneficial uses for produced water could reduce the costs of oil and gas development, while also easing demand for water—especially in the West—by alleviating drought conditions and providing water for agriculture, industry, and other uses. Energy and water are two of our most important resources—so it makes sense to pursue ways to produce more of both. I believe my bill is a step in this direction.

Here is a brief outline of the bill's provisions:

Section One—provides a short title (''More Water and Energy Act of 2006''), sets forth findings, and states the bill's purpose, ''to facilitate the use of produced water for irrigation and other purposes and to demonstrate ways to accomplish that result.''

Section Two—provides definitions of key terms used in the legislation.

Section Three—authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey, to conduct a study to identify the technical, economic, environmental, legal, and other obstacles to increasing the use of produced water for irrigation and other purposes and the legislative, administrative, and other actions that could reduce or eliminate these obstacles. The study is to be done in consultation with the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and appropriate Governors and local officials, and the Interior Department will be required to seek the advice of experts and comments and suggestions from the public. Results of the study are to be reported to Congress within a year after enactment of the legislation.

Section Four—authorizes and directs (subject to the availability of appropriated funds) the Interior Department to award grants to assist in developing facilities to demonstrate the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of processes to increase the use of produced water for irrigation, municipal or industrial uses, or for other purposes. No more than one such project is to be in a State of the Upper Basin of the Colorado River (i.e. Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming), no more than one is to be in either Arizona or Nevada, and no more than one is to be in California. Grants are to be for a maximum of $1 million, and can pay for no more than half the cost of any project. Grants cannot be used for operation or maintenance of a project.

Section Five—authorizes appropriations to implement the legislation, including up to $5 million for grants authorized by section 4.

THE BUDGET THAT HURTS WOMEN

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mrs. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, women live longer and have more health problems associated with aging. They also tend to have less retirement income, which affects their ability to deal with rising health and energy costs. As a result of these factors, the cuts proposed by this budget will affect women especially hard.

This budget would cut Federal healthcare programs aimed at those who need them the most. The burden for covering those who would otherwise be uninsured would be pushed to State and local governments who simply do not have the resources to provide adequate healthcare coverage.

The proposed budget cuts Medicaid spending by $17.2 billion over the next 5 years, through shifting costs to beneficiaries and to State governments as well as cutting payments to healthcare providers.

This budget will force those who rely on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to accept cuts in benefits or require State and local governments to raise taxes to pay for these new responsibilities.

Medicaid is the vehicle for seniors to pay for long-term care and I fear that these proposed cuts will force many nursing homes and other facilities out of business because of their reliance on Medicaid reimbursements.

Long Island has already seen hospitals close their doors because of cuts in Medicaid reimbursements. We cannot afford to have nursing homes suffer the same fate.

The budget also proposes cutting the Medicaid reimbursements for generic drugs by $1.3 billion, school-based services by $3.6 billion, and funding for the disabled by $1.2 billion.

I am committed to fighting these cuts. This budget places the burden for the Federal Government's fiscal irresponsibility on our children, seniors, and the disabled. I will work with my colleagues to restore funding to these critical healthcare programs.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WILLING THE 2006 NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recount a story of hard work and dedication, a story of perseverance in the face of daunting odds, a story of achieving what once seemed impossible. In short, Mr. Speaker, I want to recount a story of how the University of Maryland Women's Basketball Team defied all expectations to claim the 2006 NCAA Basketball championship. Go Terps!

Mr. Speaker, this is a David and Goliath story. Duke has performed well in the NCAA tournament, having reached the Final Four in three out of the last five seasons. The team's starting line-up consists of numerous seniors, including 6-foot-7 center Alison Bales. The Terps, by contrast, have never competed in a national title game. The Terps' starting line-up has no seniors and two freshmen, including 5-foot-7 guard Kristi Toliver.

Mr. Speaker, last night's game was the stuff of legends. The more experienced Duke took immediate control of the game, and built a 13-point lead with less than 15 minutes left in the game. Rather than succumb to frustration, the Terps patiently chipped away at the lead, with tough baskets from forward Laura Harper and freshman Marissa Coleman. With just seconds left in regulation, the Terps managed to cut the deficit to three points, setting the stage for the game's electrifying conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, with 6.1 seconds left, Toliver dribbled around two screens and then nailed an audacious 3-pointer right over Bales. The shot capped the Terps' 13-point comeback and sent the game into overtime, where the team sealed its stunning 78–75 victory with confident free throws from Kristi Toliver and Marissa Coleman.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations to each of the members of the Terps Women's Basketball Team for their outstanding performance last night and all season long. The members of the 2005–2006 Maryland Terps championship team are: Charmaine Carr, Marissa Coleman, Shay Doron, Kalika France, Laura Harper, Crystal Langhorne, Christie Marrone, Ashleigh Newman, Aurelie Noirez, Jade Perry, Angel Ross, Kristi Toliver, and Sa'de Wiley-Gatewood.

The fact that 5 players on the team averaged more than 10 points per game this season exemplifies the Terps' selfless and team-oriented approach to the game. Last night's performance exemplifies their ability to play with grace under pressure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations to Coach Brenda Frese who, in only her fourth season as head coach, guided this splendid team to last night's remarkable victory. I also want to extend my congratulations to Assistant Coaches Jeff Walz, Erica Floyd, and Joanna Bernabei, as well as to Director of Basketball Operations, Mark Pearson.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not put other collegiate sports teams on notice for the future: Fear the turtle!

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF REVEREND RALPH EMERSON LEACH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Reverend Ralph Emerson Leach, devoted husband, father, grandfather, United States Veteran, prolific journalist, spiritual leader, social activist, and friend and mentor to countless people, across the southwest and far beyond.

Reverend Leach was born and raised in Massachusetts. He attended the University of Texas School of Journalism until WWII interrupted his studies. In 1943, he joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in the Yunnan Province of China. After 3 years of decorated service, he was honorably discharged. In 1947, Reverend Leach and his wife, Gloria, were married. He began his editorial and reporting career, working at a series of newspapers throughout Texas and Arkansas. As News Editor of the Arkansas Gazette in the mid-50s, Reverend Leach was a frontrunner in exposing the injustice of racism by working on a series of articles that highlighted the historic Central High School integration crisis. The Gazette was later awarded the Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of this benchmark event in the civil rights movement.

Personally moved by the racial intolerance that he witnessed overseas and at home, Reverend Leach ended his career in journalism and began building a spiritual ministry that existed to raise the poor and struggling out of the shadows of poverty and hopelessness, and to free the soul of our Nation from the chains of human injustice. He graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, was ordained into the Episcopal ministry, and became firmly entrenched in the civil rights movement. Reverend Leach's work led him to collaborate with

our Nation's foremost heroes in the civil rights crusade, including the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Reverend Leach also served as the Manpower Director with Total Action Against Poverty (TAP). Even in his later years, Reverend Leach's dedication as a grassroots activist was as energized and focused as ever, and is reflected in his contribution and leadership within grassroots political campaigns, including my own.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, remembrance and gratitude to Reverend Ralph Emerson Leach, whose life was defined by his steadfast commitment to his family and by his limitless passion to make his community, our Nation and our world, a better place. I extend my deepest condolences to his daughters and their spouses: Laura and Don, Rebecca and William, Naomi and Paul; to his son and his fiancee, Stephen and Sally; to his grandchildren, extended family members and many friends. His kindness, integrity, gentle guidance and service to others has made a difference in my life and in the lives of countless families and individuals, and he will be remembered always.

INTRODUCTION OF ROYALTY-IN-KIND FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act. This bill is intended to make it possible for the Department of the Interior to implement a provision in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that was intended to provide a new way to assist low-income people to heat or cool their homes.

For several years before 2005, the Department of the Interior had authority to develop "royalty-in-kind" arrangements under which companies developing federal oil could meet their required royalty payments by providing oil instead of cash. The Energy Policy Act expanded this provision to apply to natural-gas developers as well, and also added new authority for Interior to grant a preference to low-income consumers when disposing of natural gas it obtained under such an arrangement.

While this Energy Policy Act provision does not specifically reference the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), its implementation could benefit that program.

LIHEAP is intended to help low-income Americans pay for their heating and cooling costs. However, at current funding levels this critically important program serves less than 15 percent of those who qualify for it. Implementing the Energy Policy Act provision to grant a preference to low-income consumers would supplement LIHEAP funding and expand the amount of energy assistance available to the poor.

Last September, I joined my colleagues from Colorado in writing a letter to Interior Secretary Gail Norton asking her to consider beginning implementation of the new provision through a pilot program in Colorado. In the letter, we emphasized the importance of helping this country's most vulnerable citizens, who are increasingly hard hit by rising energy costs.

In a reply to my office, the Interior Department responded that the Interior Department's lawyers had reviewed the Energy Policy Act provision and had concluded that as it now stands it could not be implemented because the current law "does not provide the Department with the authority or discretion to receive less than fair market value for the royalty gas or oil."

My bill is intended to correct the legal deficiencies in the provision as enacted to make it possible for the Interior Department to implement the program. In developing the legislation, my staff has reviewed the Interior Department's legal opinion and has consulted with the Interior Department's lawyers and with other legal experts. Based on that review, I think enactment of my bill will resolve the legal problems cited by the Interior Department and will enable the program to go forward.

Spring may be upon us, but hot summer temperatures and another winter are just months away. I believe the Energy Policy Act provision to help low-income consumers is an innovative tool that must be allowed to work. The Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act would make this possible. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to support energy assistance for this nation's most vulnerable residents.

Here is a brief outline of the bill:

Section One—provides a short title ("Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act of 2006").

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the importance of LIHEAP and the intent of the relevant provisions of law regarding payment of royalties-in-kind and the conclusion of the Interior Department that the provision of the 2005 Energy Policy Act intended to allow use of royalties-in-kind to benefit low-income consumers cannot be implemented. This section also states the bill's purpose, which is to amend that part of the Energy Policy Act in order to make it possible for it to be implemented in order to assist low-income people to meet their energy needs.

Section Three—amends the relevant provision (Section 342(j)) of the Energy Policy Act by—

(1) adding explicit authority for the Interior Department to sell royalty-in-kind oil or gas for as little as half its fair market value in implementing that part of the Energy Policy Act under an agreement that the purchaser will be required to provide an appropriate amount of resources to a Federal low-income energy assistance program;

(2) clarifying that such a sale at a discounted price will be deemed to comply with the Anti-deficiency Act; and

(3) authorizing the Interior Department to issue rules and enter into agreements that are considered appropriate in order to implement that part of the Energy Policy Act.

These changes are specifically designed to correct the legal deficiencies that the Interior Department has determined currently make it impossible for it to implement this part of the Energy Policy Act.

MCKEESPORT TIGERS WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the McKeesport Tigers on their 2005 PIAA Class AAAA state football championship.

The Tigers' 49–10 victory over the Bethlehem Liberty Hurricanes was one of the most outstanding performances ever in a state title game. I want my colleagues to know just how proud I am of their talent, hard work, and determination. They are an outstanding example of the many admirable qualities possessed by the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

McKeesport's second-ever state title capped off one of the greatest and most memorable postseason runs in Western Pennsylvania sports history. Their victory was indeed a team effort under the superb direction of coach George Smith, but there were several individuals who rose to the challenge and pulled through in the crunch. Quarterback Dan Kopolovich ran for three touchdowns and passed for a fourth. His teammate, running back Warren Waite, was able to gain over 100 yards and added yet another score. On the Tigers' defensive team, Travis McBride earned great distinction by returning an interception for a score. These athletes' outstanding performances, ably supported by those of their teammates, resulted in one of the largest margins of victory in the state title game's history.

I applaud the Tigers for their impressive display of teamwork and perseverance. They have truly demonstrated the quintessential characteristics of Western Pennsylvanians in their run to the championship.

I want to extend my warmest congratulations to the Tigers, Coach Smith, and the entire McKeesport School District and wish them all the best of luck in the future and hope for much continued success.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 609, the College Access and Opportunity Act. H.R. 609 reauthorizes the Higher Education Act (HEA), including all discretionary programs under the HEA, such as Federal student financial aid programs, teacher training programs, and programs that provide aid to institutions of higher education serving minority populations. Reauthorizing the HEA provided the House with an excellent opportunity to invest in our Nation's future by making college more accessible and affordable. Unfortunately, H.R. 609 does not provide the investment in higher education

necessary to make college more affordable and to ensure our Nation's future economic competitiveness and prosperity.

HEA reauthorization bills typically include all mandatory and discretionary programs in the HEA, and H.R. 609, as reported by the House Education and Workforce Committee, included both mandatory and discretionary programs. The recently enacted Deficit Reduction Act (P.L. 109–171) reauthorized the mandatory Federal student loan programs, but cut Federal student aid programs by $12.7 billion—the largest cut ever in the Federal student loan program.

Specifically, P.L. 109–171 doubles the origination fee for students getting Direct Loans from an effective 1.5 percent to 3 percent in 2006. Additionally, P.L. 109–171 requires lenders to collect a 1 percent fee on Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) that may come directly from students' pockets or the lenders' own operating expenses. P.L. 109–171 also increases the fixed rate on parent loans to 8.5 percent (Under current law, beginning in July 2006 parent loans would have a fixed rate of 7.9 percent). Finally, P.L. 109–171 eliminates all mandatory spending for administration of all higher education programs, which shows a savings of $2.2 billion; however, the only way these savings can occur is if Congress chooses not to appropriate this money—which could jeopardize not only student loan programs, but also programs like Pell Grants, TRIO, and Work Study programs.

H.R. 609 presented the House with an opportunity to correct these misguided increases in fees and rates on students and their families. Unfortunately, the House approved a rule for consideration of H.R. 609, which prohibited amendments from being offered addressing the fee and rate increases for students and their families.

Additionally, while H.R. 609 authorizes a maximum Pell Grant scholarship award of $6,000, the bill does not include any mandatory spending increases for Pell Grant funding, which will ensure that the amount actually appropriated remains frozen. For instance, the Bush Administration's FY 2007 budget proposes to freeze maximum Pell Grant scholarship award at $4,050, where it has been held since 2003. This is troubling because, during this same period, the average tuition and fees at a four-year public college have risen by $1,393. Further, when adjusted for inflation, the maximum Pell Grant award is actually worth $900 less than the maximum scholarship 30 years ago.

I instead supported the Miller-Kildee-Scott-Davis-Grijalva substitute amendment that boosts college opportunities and makes college more affordable. Specifically, this legislation would offer the 3.4 percent fixed interest rate to students who take out subsidized loans between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007, which would lower the cost of college by $2.4 billion for students and their families. This amendment would have also repealed the single holder rule, which requires student borrowers to consolidate their loans with their existing lender. Under the substitute amendment, the borrower could choose which lender he or she wished to use to consolidate loans. Additionally, this substitute amendment would have provided loan forgiveness for nurses, highly qualified teachers in bilingual and low-income communities, librarians, first responders, and other public servants.

With our Nation is facing increasing competition from rising economic powers, such as China and India, it is more important that ever that Congress work to improve the accessibility and affordability of a college education. Funding for higher education is an investment, not a cost, which will produce an educated, talented workforce to ensure our nation's future economic competitiveness and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT RICHARD A. BOETTCHER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotism and self sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Richard A. Boettcher of Greeley, Colorado because of his service to our country during World War II.

Boettcher was drafted into the U.S. Army his senior year of high school in 1945 and sent to Ft. Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas for basic training. At first, his training focused on fighting the Germans in Europe, but when the European war ended, he was transferred to Camp Maxey, Texas. This camp trained soldiers to fight the Japanese in house-to-house combat in anticipation of a ground invasion of Japan.

After his training was completed, he was shipped to the Pacific with the intent to join up in Okinawa with an infantry division known as ''Timber Wolf.'' This group had fought in Europe and had been sent to Okinawa to invade Japan. Yet shortly before Boettcher arrived, President Harry Truman ordered the dropping of two atomic bombs, and Japan surrendered shortly thereafter.

Instead of fighting his way into Japan, Boettcher became part of the occupation force. He worked in an office position and was responsible for preparing payroll for over 500 military personnel using a small Royal typewriter. In rank he started as a Private 1st Class and rose to Staff Sergeant in less than one year. He returned home to Lincoln, Nebraska in October of 1946.

Boettcher attended the University of Nebraska for two years and then transferred to the University of Northern Colorado to complete his education. He continued to serve his country as a member of the Colorado Nation Guard and received a commission in 1953.

After owning a business for 46 years, Boettcher retired in Greeley, Colorado with his wife Irene of 58 years. Boettcher has three children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Mr. Boettcher and the other men and women who have given so much for our freedom. Like so many other members of his generation, Mr. Boettcher set aside his ambitions in service to our nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude, sincere appreciation, and utmost respect for the patriotic service of Mr. Richard A. Boettcher.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ERMA ORA JAMES BYRD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Erma Ora Byrd, loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and dear friend and mentor to many. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for the people of West Virginia, whom she served with the highest level of commitment, concern, integrity and honor.

The daughter of a coal miner, Mrs. Byrd remained deeply connected to the foundation of her childhood—one based on family, faith and community. Whether greeting kings at state dinners or meeting with neighbors at the town hall, Mrs. Byrd reflected a certain grace, kindness and warmth. She shied away from the harsh glare of politics, preferring instead to focus on family and close friends, gently inspiring and teaching by example. Mrs. Byrd and Senator ROBERT BYRD were married for 68 years. They met in grade school and married at the tender age of 19.

Together, they raised two daughters, Mona and Marjorie. Mrs. Byrd's limitless love for her daughters, grandchildren and great-children extended to every child in West Virginia, upon whose behalf she advocated. Though awards and accolades held no significance to her, Mrs. Byrd's outreach and advocacy work has been honored numerous times. Both West Virginia University and Marshall University have established academic scholarship programs in her name.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Erma Ora James Byrd. I extend my deepest condolences to her husband, United States Senator ROBERT BYRD; to her daughters, Mona Carole Byrd Fatemi and Marjorie Ellen Byrd Moore; to her sons-in-law, Mohammed Fatemi and Jon Moore; and to her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family members and many friends. Mrs. Byrd's boundless love for her family, friends and for the people of West Virginia will be remembered always.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DENNIS REYNOLDS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, dedicated family man, proud Oregonian, outdoorsman, and a good friend of mine, Judge Dennis Reynolds. Over the last decade, Judge Reynolds has played a significant role in shaping the future of Grant County. Today, as the Judge approaches retirement from elected public service, we thank him for his years of dedication and recognize the numerous contributions he has made during his 12 years in office.

Mr. Speaker, people in my part of the country have a long and rich heritage of being caring stewards of the land and responsible managers of the environment. This is a way of life

that Judge Reynolds has embraced, from his days working in the lumber industry through his many years of unselfish public service. Judge Reynolds has never given up on his belief that to be an Oregonian is to love the land and to treat it with great respect.

The Judge has worked tirelessly at the local level to promote and support good stewardship and sound policies that protect our communities and our precious forests from the threats of catastrophic wildfire, windstorms, and bug infestation. In a county where the majority of its land is in public ownership, it is imperative that county officials and local leaders have a strong working relationship with State and Federal Government. People in all levels of government have appreciated Dennis' polite and straightforward approach. During his tenure, Judge Reynolds has been an effective leader, steadfastly advocating for the wellbeing of all rural communities by promoting an effective use of natural resources that recognizes not only the economic value, but also the social value of a productive environment.

Mr. Speaker, as Grant County's chief executive, he has led the county through tough financial times, overseeing essential projects that have improved the way of life for those who reside in this beautiful Blue Mountain region of Oregon. These projects include the construction of a new county health services center, a new criminal justice center, a remodel of the Grant County Courthouse, a new facility to house the Grant County Road Department, and a new building for the fairgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, although these projects of bricks and mortar and concrete and steel will benefit Grant County for many years to come, Judge Reynolds' real impact has been how he has treated his fellow man and the heart with which he has approached every task. Dennis has cared deeply about the people he has so ably served.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Reynolds' distinguished accomplishments are well known throughout Oregon. However, those who know Dennis know that he would list his most rewarding accomplishments as marrying his wife Julie and together raising their three sons, Percy, Beau, and Jake. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Judge Dennis Reynolds, a man of vision, a man of heart, and a man of service.

RECOGNIZING COACH GENO AURIEMMA UPON HIS SELECTION TO THE NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to recognize a man who has long been one of Connecticut's, and America's, great sports treasures.

For 21 seasons Geno Auriemma has coached the University of Connecticut's Lady Huskies Basketball team. During that time he has led the Huskies to 5 national championships. His teams have compiled an incredible record of 589 wins with only 116 losses. In his tenure as head coach the team has gone to the Final Four eight times and achieved two perfect seasons—that is an NCAA record for consecutive wins. He is the only coach to take a team to 5 straight Final Fours. For the 2002–03 season Coach Auriemma was named the Big East Coach of the Year as well as the United States Basketball Writer's Association Women's Basketball Coach of the Year; he was also named Coach of the Year by the Associated Press.

His leadership, his personal integrity and his deep commitment to his players, both on and off the court, has now earned him the ultimate recognition that his sport can bestow. This year Coach Geno Auriemma will be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. He is a first-time candidate, which makes this honor all the more a special.

The personal story of Coach Auriemma is inspirational. It is truly an American story. Born in Naples, Italy, his family was poor. At the age of 7 Geno arrived in this country unable to speak English. But he grew up to achieve the American Dream.

His rise from poor Italian immigrant to one of the most successful coaches in college history stands as an example of what happens when hard work coupled with an indomitable spirit meets opportunity.

In 1985, while assistant coach at Virginia, Coach Auriemma was offered the head coach position with the University of Connecticut Lady Huskies. He had long desired such an opportunity. Now, at that time UConn's Lady Huskies had no great tradition of winning and no significant fan base. In their 11 year history, the Lady Huskies had compiled only 1 winning season. But the coach had a vision and he took the job. He set goals for himself and for his team and within a few years the Lady Huskies were a rising force.

Through hard work, a profound understanding of his sport and the ability to motivate his players in such a way that they draw the best that is within them, Coach Auriemma has transformed the Lady Huskies into a force to be reckoned with on the court. UConn fans across Connecticut and the United States look forward every year to cheering on the Huskies and they know they're going to see a top team that is prepared and ready for Showtime.

But the real lesson to be learned from the Huskies is that winning does not begin on the court. Winning begins in the preparation, both mental and physical. That is a lesson all great coaches teach their players and it is a lesson all great athletes understand. And it is something that all winners throughout our society know. To prepare for a game or a test, to get ready for a challenge or a certain moment—that is what winning is about.

For more than 20 seasons Coach Auriemma has been a winner and he has communicated what it takes to achieve to the athletes that have gone through his program. The fact that those players have all gone on to attain success long after they left UConn is a testament to their mentor—Coach Geno Auriemma.

Congratulations, coach, and thanks for 21 wonderful seasons. We look forward to the next 21.

AVASTIN, A PHARMACEUTICAL USED ON CANCER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I sent the attached letter in support of compulsory licensing for Avastin on February 21, 2006.

FEBRUARY 21, 2006.

MIKE LEAVITT,
Secretary; Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY LEAVITT: I request that you issue a compulsory license for Avastin in order to bring the price under control and to send a clear signal to the pharmaceutical industry that price gouging will not be tolerated.

As you know, the New York Times reported on February 15, 2006 that Roche and Genentech plan to charge $100,000 for a year's supply of Avastin to late stage lung and breast cancer victims. This represents a price increase over the already astronomical $50,000 price tag for its current use for colon cancer. These exorbitant prices bear little on the cost of production, which is ''a fraction of what Genentech charges for it.''

Roche and Genentech's pricing decisions will force many cancer victims to choose between extending their lives and leaving their family a burden of irreconcilable debt. In fact, the Times reports that some are already opting for less life for cost reasons. Furthermore, the poorest and sickest among us will be the most likely to refuse the treatment. Even those patients with insurance are not protected because the copays are likely to approximate $1000 per month for Avastin alone, to say nothing of the cost of chemotherapy pharmaceuticals that often accompany it.

Pricing schemes like these will have ripple effects. They will make it easier for other companies with similar drugs to charge higher prices. Insurance companies will pass on much of the cost, accelerating already out of control health care costs. If the trend of this legal price gouging proceeds unchecked, Medicare's own future is imperiled, especially in the absence of the ability to negotiate prices with drug manufacturers.

In the past, the pharmaceutical industry's excuse for charging substantially higher prices for their drugs as compared to the cost of generics in the U.S. has been that they needed to recover their research and development costs. But Roche and Genentech cited a different reason: it is what they can get away with charging. '''As we look at Avastin and Herceptin pricing, right now the health economics hold up, and therefore I don't see any reason to be touching them,' said William M. Burns, the chief executive of Roche's pharmaceutical division and a member of Genentech's board.''

Roche and Genentech have the legal latitude to act in this way through the patent system, which gives pharmaceutical companies a monopoly on drugs they bring to market. But it is not an absolute, unchecked right to extort.

You have the authority to issue a compulsory license. Doing so would allow other manufacturers to compete with Roche/Genentech and therefore drastically lower the price of Avastin. Roche and Genentech would be guaranteed ''reasonable and entire compensation'' as required by law (28 USC 1498). A compulsory license would also send a clear signal to the pharmaceutical industry that abuse of the patent system, especially when at the expense of health, will not be tolerated.

I look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

IN HONOR OF LOVIS CLARISA HOWELL DOWNING

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Lovis Clarisa Howell Downing of Hoxie, AR, a fine businesswoman, a friend, a devoted family member, and someone who spent her entire life trying to make others happy.

Lovis was born in Imboden on September 12, 1912. She grew up during World War I and the Great Depression, accepted a job as a school teacher, and eventually became the longtime owner of the Flower Basket in Walnut Ridge, AR, until she retired at the age of 79. Lovis also helped her father-in-law, Terrell Henry Downing, run the Downing's Ice Cream Parlor and Grocery from the mid 1930s until the 1950s.

In addition to being a hard worker, Lovis was an active member of the Hoxie Methodist Church and the Hoxie Hooking Club. She was known for her service to the community, and was a frequent volunteer in church and civic activities.

Lovis and her husband Brooks Downing have one son, Terrell Henry Downing, II, of Hoxie, and two daughters, Dr. Suzanne Gibbard and Dr. Frances Hunter of Jonesboro. They also have nine grandchildren, Kyle Downing of Fayetteville, Amy West of Jonesboro, Jason Willett of Jonesboro, Felicia Willett of Memphis, Mike Deloache and Scott Hunter, Jr., of Jonesboro, Lisa Melton of Houston, TX, Kelley Pillizzi of Libertyville, IL, and David Gibbard of Memphis, and six great grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lovis Clarisa Howell for 93 years of achievement and contributions to her community. She opened her home to so many during her life, and will be remembered as a wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend, and a fine American.

WOMEN AND THE BUSH BUDGET

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, as in previous years, President Bush has proposed a budget that would harm women and girls across the country.

At a time when over two-thirds of low-income elderly people are women and 56 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are women, the President has proposed substantial cuts in Medicare, food stamps, and food delivery programs.

On top of the $22 billion cut in Medicare that was passed by this Republican-led Congress and the President in February, the Bush budget calls for $105 billion more in cuts over the next ten years.

The President's budget also would eliminate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program which serves 420,000 seniors and 50,000 women and children with nutritious food packages, often delivered to their homes.

Replacing this home delivery food program with food stamps is not the solution, as most people on the program are elderly and in need of home delivered food to survive and maintain their health. Moreover, many people now on the food delivery program do not qualify for food stamps for various reasons. That does not mean they are not in need of home delivered food.

Even if we assumed food stamps were the answer for this group of seniors, women, and children, the Bush budget could cause 300,000 Americans to lose their food stamp benefits.

The problems with the Bush budget do not end with cuts in Medicare, food stamps, and food delivery programs. Bush also intends to cut programs that have helped women and girls succeed in education and the workforce.

In 1973, the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) was introduced by a champion for women, the late Representative Patsy Mink. For more than 30 years, WEEA has funded hundreds of programs to expose girls to careers traditionally dominated by men, develop teaching strategies for math and science that engage girls, and to help schools comply with Title IX.

At a time when the President is touting the need for a greater emphasis on science and math education, his budget would eliminate WEEA, along with $664 million in Federal Perkins Loan funds, just 2 months after Congressional Republicans cut college aid by $12 billion.

This comes at a time when only 21 percent of master's degrees in engineering are awarded to women. The statistics are even worse for women of color. Of engineering master's degrees awarded to women, only 11 percent go to Asian-American women, 4 percent go to African-American women, and less than 4 percent go to Latinas. It seems that the President's ''competitiveness agenda'' does not apply to women.

Furthermore, instead of closing the wage gap, the Bush budget would increase the gap by eliminating Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations program (WANO), which provides grants to employers to help recruit, train and retrain women in non-traditional, well-paying jobs.

Statistics show that women in WANO were 47 percent more likely to enter a high-paying, technical occupation than women who were not a part of the program.

Bush would eliminate this program at a time when women still earn less than men—on average 76 cents to every dollar that a man earns. Moreover, in high-paying, high-technology jobs, women who hold Ph.D.s in computer science and engineering earn $9,000 less than men.

Women in the workforce faced with a wage gap and great need for child-care assistance would be turned away by the Bush budget.

Since the beginning of the Bush Administration, 250,000 children have lost their child-care assistance. Bush would continue that trend by freezing funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant for the fifth year in a row. At this rate, 400,000 more children will lose their child-care assistance in the next 5 years, creating a situation where 25 percent less children receive this assistance than did in 2000.

The Bush budget would also leave behind women who end up in violent situations, cutting $19.5 million in Violence Against Women programs and completely zeroing-out funding for new programs authorized by this Congress last year in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005.

From birth to old age and in their most vulnerable periods in life, the Bush budget would leave women and girls behind. I join my fellow members of the Women's Caucus today to call on Congress to reverse the harmful effects of the Bush's proposed budget on women and girls.

PROCLAIMING APRIL 5, 2006 PATIENT ASSISTANCE DAY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that affects millions of Americans-affordable medications. Millions of Americans lack health insurance and cannot access these vital innovations. While the government looks for sensible ways to help the 45 million uninsured citizens there are private-sector programs in place that are helping millions of Americans no matter where you live.

One program I have shared with my constituents is the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA). The PPA is a national clearinghouse that links uninsured and underinsured people to patient assistant programs that offer drugs for free or nearly free. America's pharmaceutical research companies, along with 1,300 community and patient organizations launched the PPA in April 2005 and have since helped more than 1.9 million patients. Given the rising cost of prescription drugs, any attempts made by the private sector to alleviate the burdensome costs should be applauded.

It is refreshing that this private-sector program has been so successful and committed to helping Americans in need access life-saving medicines. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in proclaiming April 5 ''Patient Assistance Day'' and do their part on this day to inform their constituents about the great service the PPA provides to Americans in need.

I have also included a statement from the Partnership for Prescription Assistance about ''Patient Assistance Day'' and an article from the Charlotte Observer that discusses the PPA's many successes in North Carolina.

[From the Charlotte Observer, Mar. 21, 2006]

PARTNERSHIP FOR PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE LAUNCHES NATIONAL ''PATIENT ASSISTANCE DAY'' CELEBRATION ON APRIL 5, 2006

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), a national program sponsored by America's pharmaceutical research companies to help patients in need access prescription medicines will commemorate its one-year anniversary by launching the first annual ''Patient Assistance Day'' on April 5, 2006 and announcing a major enhancement to the program. The celebration will consist of educational activities across the country to raise awareness of and help educate the public about patient assistance programs. The PPA has

helped nearly 2 million patients to date, but millions more can benefit.

''The PPA is an overwhelming success'' said Billy Tauzin, President and CEO of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. ''But our job isn't done. We are declaring April 5 'Patient Assistance Day'—a day when all Americans can join with us to help patients in need.''

Through a toll-free number (1–888–4PPA–NOW) and user-friendly Web site (*www.pparx.org*), the PPA provides a single point of access to more than 475 public and private patient assistance programs that could provide help on more than 2,500 medicines, including a wide range of generic medicines.

''We are calling on all Americans to help us spread the word,'' said Montel Williams. Emmy award-winning TV talk show host and National PPA Spokesman. ''All of us know someone who needs assistance. Help could be as close as a single phone call to our toll free number.''

More than 1,300 national and local organizations, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, the National Urban League, United Way of America, Easter Seals and the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, have partnered with America's pharmaceutical companies to make the PPA a success.

For additional information on patient assistance programs that may meet their needs, patients should call toll-free 1–888–4PP A–NOW (1–888–477–2669) to speak with a trained specialist or visit www.pparx.org.

NEW PROGRAM WILL HELP UNINSURED GET CHEAPER PRESCRIPTIONS

(By Valerie Bauman)

AUG. 2, 2005.—North Carolina residents who must struggle with the decision of whether to pay their rent, feed their families or buy much-needed medications now have a new option.

A partnership of doctors, pharmaceutical companies, patient advocates and other health-care providers launched a program Tuesday designed to help the uninsured and underinsured obtain medicine at a lower cost.

Members of the group assess patients' eligibility for public and private prescription assistance and gives them options from among more than 475 programs around the country. Sorting through the information can be daunting and time-consuming for many sick or disabled people.

The North Carolina chapter of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance will help doctors and patients access the programs and figure out which will provide the most financial relief.

''It's wonderful. It's like a single place to go to,'' said Linda Woodall, an advocate for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society of North Carolina. ''Before you would have to apply to the different drug companies (for financial assistance), and for people with MS especially, it's important that you stay on the medicine.''

People seeking help can either call a toll-free number or go to a Web site for assistance. After patients answer a few questions a list of programs will be provided to them with a minimum of effort or paperwork.

A TRIBUTE AND COMMEMORATIVE STAMP TO HONOR SUGAR RAY ROBINSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a tribute to the legendary six-time world champion boxer Sugar Ray Robinson and to recognize the issuance of the Sugar Ray Robinson commemorative stamp.

Although this charismatic boxer was born Walker Smith, Jr., he is best remembered as ''Sugar'' Ray Robinson. Born on May 3, 1921 in Ailey, GA, his parents moved the family to New York when Sugar Ray was a teenager to escape the prevalent prejudice in the South. It was there, in a Harlem gym, that he was first introduced to boxing. Sugar Ray visited the gym frequently, using a borrowed Amateur Athletic Union boxing card of a friend. The friend's name, incidentally, was Ray Robinson.

His natural talent in the ring began to draw attention, and soon crowds gathered to watch Sugar Ray perform. When future coach George Gainford watched him box for the first time, Gainford commented that the young boxer's style and fluid motions were ''sweet as sugar.'' Others agreed, and the nickname stuck. After winning the New York Golden Gloves championship in 1940, 19–year-old Sugar Ray turned pro and never looked back. By 1946, Sugar Ray was the world welterweight champion. His reign included a 91 fight winning-streak. He held the title for 5 years, and then moved onto acquiring the world middleweight title, which he held five times between the years 1951–1960. A dominant force in the boxing ring for two decades, Sugar Ray was 38 when he won his last middleweight title.

In the mid–1960s, Sugar Ray exited the ring gracefully.

Sugar Ray's record was 128–1–2 with 84 knockouts at the pinnacle of his career. Amazingly, in over 200 fights, Sugar Ray was never physically knocked out; though he did receive one technical KO. Altogether, he amassed 109 KOs, and finished with a record of 175–19–6 with two no-decisions. World champion Muhammad Ali called him ''the king, the master, my idol'' In 1997, The Ring magazine named Sugar Ray ''pound for pound, the best boxer of all time.'' In 1999, the Associated Press named him both the greatest welterweight and middleweight boxer of the century.

Sugar Ray Robinson passed away on April 12, 1989.

Mr. Speaker, Sugar Ray Robinson is a true legend. I am very pleased to pay tribute to his legacy and also pleased to acknowledge the issuance of a commemorative stamp in his honor scheduled to be unveiled on April 7, 2006.

IN APPRECIATION OF DR. GLEN FENTER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to one of my great friends, Dr. Glen Fenter, President of Mid-South Community College, and the vision behind the economic renaissance converging in Arkansas' Delta. Glen is a true leader, who has accomplished more over the past decade than most will accomplish in a lifetime.

As a graduate of Hendrix College with an Ed.D. from the University of Arkansas, Glen is committed to bringing educational opportunities to some of Arkansas' poorest counties. A former principal of West Memphis High School, Glen accepted the challenge in 1992 to establish a new community college in Crittenden County. After securing local funding, and working with architects and board members to develop a master plan for $40 million of renovations, construction, and equipment, Glen led MidSouth Community College toward accreditation in 1998.

Glen's vision has not only enhanced the quality of education in Arkansas' Delta, but made a considerable impact on the surrounding business community. Since Glen accepted the position of President at Mid-South Community College, automobile companies have begun to notice the great possibilities in the region. They watched Glen secure millions of dollars for workforce training programs at the college, and they are excited at the possibility of working with highly skilled graduates prepared for careers in the automobile industry.

Thanks to the tireless commitment of Glen and his staff at Mid-South Community College, the Arkansas Delta has transformed into a place full of economic opportunity. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in thanking Glen for his selfless work on behalf of all the residents in our community. We are fortunate to have such a strong leader, a true friend, and a great American working to improve the quality of life in Arkansas.

IN HONOR OF JEAN BURNS SLATER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible career of one of my constituents, Jean Burns Slater, of Hollister. Jean is retiring as superintendent of San Benito High School after a 34-year career in education. I believe that education is critical to the strength of our Nation. The children who are in our schools now will be leading our country before we know it. I am grateful to Jean for her hard work in this department.

In Jean's 3½ years as superintendent of San Benito High School, she has made great improvements to the district and kept a strong focus on the well-being of her students. She has improved the lines of communication between the district, staff, students and the community. She has brought about the introduction of a leadership team and a superintendent's advisory council for parents who choose to take an active role in their children's education. She understands that the people in the community need to have a voice in the education of their youth, and she is confident that this has been achieved in her district.

In addition to this, Jean has worked with the board of trustees to improve the health of her

students through the introduction of a new wellness policy which includes strict dietary reform. Reform such as this throughout the district will not only help to curb the growing childhood obesity rate, but will also help to improve the performance of students in the classroom. I believe the central coast is an ideal area for the implementation of a policy of this type. We produce an abundance of fresh produce within our district and if students are eating what we are growing right here at home, complying with these new regulations will be a simple, healthy undertaking.

I commend Jean on her contributions to her district and her tireless efforts to improve the quality of life for the children who are the future of our country.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of tolerant, effective, comprehensive immigration reform.

Half a million people, if not a million people, marched peacefully in Los Angeles to let the Senate know that enforcement and border protection-only approach will not solve our broken immigration system. 300,000 people in Chicago, 40,000 in Washington, DC, and 20,000 in Milwaukee and Phoenix marched to defend the hopes and dreams of immigrant families. Nearly 40,000 students across Southern California, including students at several schools in my district, marched for the rights of immigrants.

I urge my colleagues in this body and in the Senate to listen to the message which reverberated across the country and support a tolerant and effective immigration policy. We need effective legislation that strikes the right balance between national security and reforming our current immigration system.

This should include a path to permanency for the millions of law-abiding and taxpaying immigrants who call the United States home. It should reduce the long lines in the family immigration system to promote family unity and include measures to control the future flow of immigrants by providing them with legal avenues to live and work in the United States.

Several proposals under consideration by Congress have a different approach. Rather than fixing the broken immigration system, they worsen the myriad of enforcement only measures which have already been tried and which have failed.

For example, between 1990 and 2000 the size of the border patrol tripled, yet the number of undocumented immigrants increased. Between 1999 and 2004, the number of border agents in the Tucson, Arizona sector of the border increased by 56 percent, while the number of arrests increased by only 4 percent.

This enforcement only approach has done nothing to protect our Nation's security. It merely encourages immigrants to cross in remote areas where it is more difficult to be caught and where they are more likely to die. We must secure our borders. We need to know who is crossing our borders and living and working in our country for our national security. But, enforcement alone will not accomplish this goal.

I hope the U.S. Senate follows the lead of its Judiciary Committee and adopts legislation that will truly reform the system and enhance our Nation's security.

I am pleased that the bill approved by the Committee includes the DREAM Act. As a member of the California Assembly, I authored the first bill to allow in-state tuition for outstanding California students.

Immigrant families are an important part of our social fabric and our economy. Undocumented workers contribute as much as $7 billion a year into the Social Security system yet do not collect benefits. They fill an increasing share of jobs in labor-scarce regions and fill the types of jobs native workers often shun.

Immigrants and their families serve and sacrifice as members of our Nation's Armed Forces. There are more than 35,000 people defending our Nation who are not U.S. citizens, and another 28,806 members of the military who have become U.S. citizens since the events of 9–11. Since September 11, 73 servicemembers have been granted posthumous citizenship. One of them, Francisco Martinez Flores of Duarte, was a constituent of mine. Their sacrifice is no less important to our country because of their immigration status. Undocumented immigrants are our neighbors, co-workers, fellow worshipers, and friends. Many of them want to stay in America and become full-fledged members of our society.

President Bush said "Immigration is an important topic. . . . We need to maintain our perspective. . . . At its core, immigration is a sign of a confident and successful nation." I hope the Senate keeps this in mind and does not let itself be influenced by the demagogues in our media and in Congress.

As the proud daughter of immigrants, I value America's history of treasuring the contributions that immigrants have made to America. For generations, immigrants all over the World have been welcomed by the Statue of Liberty's message: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, . . ." We should not forget that our ancestors struggled and yearned for the American dream as much as immigrants do today.

Today, I was pleased to join the Progressive Caucus in sending a letter to the Senate asking for real and comprehensive immigration reform. I urge my colleagues to adopt legislation which provides a real solution for our broken immigration system and reject enforcement-only proposals.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF GEORGE EDWIN 'JETTY' STEEL

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of George Edwin 'Jetty' Steel, a dedicated lawyer and longstanding pillar of the Nashville, Arkansas, legal community and Howard County. He passed away on March 3, 2006, at the age of 89. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

Jetty was born in Ashdown, Arkansas, on August 16, 1916. After graduating from Nashville High School, he attended Hendrix College and received a law degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Jetty then began an impressive 67-year legal career in Nashville, where he served as the City Attorney of Nashville, Prosecuting Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Arkansas, and a partner of Steel and Steel Law Firm.

Jetty's commitment went far beyond the legal community; he led a life of public service by offering unwavering support for institutions throughout Nashville. He served on the Arkansas State Police Commission for 19 years, Board of Directors of First National Bank in Nashville for 20 years, Board of Directors of Diamond State Bank, Board of Directors of Nashville Federal Savings and Loan Association for 33 years, Board of Directors of the Bank of Glenwood and Board of Directors of the University of Arkansas Alumni Association. He was also a member of the Arkansas State Racing Commission and a member of First United Methodist Church in Nashville.

Jetty will be remembered for his lifetime of dedication to his community. While he may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on in the hearts he touched throughout Nashville. My deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences are with his son, George Steel; his daughter, Donna Kay Steel Yeargan; his grandchildren, George, Linsley, Ashley, and Nate; his great-grandchildren; and to all those who knew and counted him as a friend.

IN HONOR OF NEWSPAPER OWNER CONE MAGIE

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Cone Magie of Cabot, Arkansas, a great journalist and businessman who devoted his entire life to public service. As an owner of five newspapers, Magi provided reliable and trustworthy news to Central Arkansas for more than 50 years.

Magi's love of the newspaper business began as a young boy when he delivered papers for the Arkansas Gazette. He went on to serve as editor of the England High School newspaper, published a newsletter during his service in World War II, and upon leaving the service, studied journalism at the University of Arkansas. Magi took his first reporting job at the Madison County Record and eventually traveled to Washington, DC where he published a newsletter for the Arkansas and Iowa Farm Bureaus.

After mastering reporting, Magi bought the Cabot Star-Herald in 1955 and eventually added four other newspapers to his company, Magie Enterprises, Inc. His other newspapers include the Carlisle Independent, the Lonoke Democrat, the Sherwood Voice, and the Jacksonville Patriot. Magi served as president of the Arkansas Press Association in 1967 and frequently testified before the Arkansas Legislature on issues impacting the media. Magi and his wife, Betty, were inducted into the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville's Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism Hall of Honor in 2005 for their significant contributions to Arkansas' newspaper industry.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cone Magie for a lifetime of achievement in journalism. His work informed thousands of citizens on local and international issues and inspired an active citizenry in central Arkansas. He will be remembered by many as a devoted businessman, a friend, and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO SUE AND GERALD TREECE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, every year thousands upon thousands of people give their time, money and dedication to others. Never is there a more shining example of volunteerism than my personal friends, Sue and Gerald Treece. Sue and Jerry Treece have been married for 35 years. They have 2 wonderful children, Justin and Trisha who grew up with my four kids. The Treece's have made a name for themselves throughout their community. They come from West Texas and have solid Texas values. They are both Texas educators and they are completely committed to serving the people around them. It is for this reason that they are being honored by the Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum.

Sue Treece taught junior high students for eleven years and currently volunteers with multiple organizations in her community. She loves Texas and is a tremendous Texas history teacher. She goes to Texas historical sites with her kids to get a first hand knowledge of our state. She has been on the Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum board for more than 10 years. In 1999 she received the Volunteer of the Year award. Sue truly has a passion for service as she is active in the Alpha Chi Omega Alumna Sorority Philanthropies, Bammel Church of Christ, and the Houston Bar Association Women's Auxiliary. Sue has held board positions with the Montgomery County Women's Council of Organizations, National Charity League, Northland Christian School, and Grogan's Point Residents' Association. In all this, Sue has been a constant companion to her mother who suffered a long time with illness. Sue is a mother, wife and a daughter.

Gerald Treece is the Dean of Students at South Texas College of Law and has been a Professor of Law for thirty-two years. He knows as much about Constitutional Law as our founders but he and I have a long relationship of debating that sacred document. He valiantly served our country during the Vietnam War, earning a Silver Star and the Purple Heart for his bravery during battle. In addition, Jerry served as a special advisor to the Reagan Administration, and more recently he served as a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. Jerry Treece has been recognized by the American Bar Association and awarded their Silver Key and Outstanding Professor Awards. He has also been honored by the Texas Senate and in 2003 he was awarded their Award for Service to Legal Education in Texas. In 2005, he was named Rotarian of the Year for his service to the Houston community. Jerry consistently has his moot court team go to the nationals, having won the National Championship several times, defeating such law schools as Harvard, Yale and Princeton, making those Ivy League Law Schools wonder, "Who are those students from the South Texas School of Law?"

Mr. Speaker, my home state of Texas is blessed with some of the kindest and most generous people on earth. Sue and Gerald Treece are shining examples of the best of this group. They are a remarkable couple and they deserve our appreciation and thanks for the ways they have truly made a difference in the lives of those in their community. By giving of their time and lending their hands, the Treece's change lives and lift people up. I am honored to have known them on a personal level and call them my friends and I am honored to join their community and the Cypress-Woodlands Junior Forum in honoring them today. They are great Americans and great Texans, and "the salt of the Earth."

That's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE ON RECEIVING THE 2005 UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE DISTINGUISHED SMALL DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S HONORARY AWARD

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of the District of Hawaii United States Marshals Service, recipients of the 2005 USMS Distinguished Small District Director's Honorary Award.

Last year, the District successfully accommodated significant workload and productivity increases in law enforcement and prisoner supervisions functions. The District was also exceptionally busy in ensuring the security of our federal judiciary, where proceedings of late have been highly charged.

The District also continued its highly successful partnership with other federal, state, and local law enforcement entities through the Hawaii Fugitive Task Force, a unit of the Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area that focuses on the arrest of dangerous fugitives wanted on federal and state felony warrants for drug-related crimes.

For his work on the Hawaii Fugitive Task Force, Criminal Investigator/Deputy United States Marshal Glenn Ferreira received the Hawaii Federal Top Cop Award by the Hawaii State Law Enforcement Officers Association. This award is significant for the District as it is the first time, in its fifty year history, that the association has recognized a member of the United States Marshals Service.

I would like to extend a sincere mahalo (thank you) to Mark "Dutch" Hanohano, United States Marshal for the District of Hawaii, and to our District's eighteen Deputy Marshals for their service and contributions to our state and our country. I would also like to thank all our United States Marshals that work daily to keep our communities and our nation safe.

Mahalo, and aloha.

HONORING DR. CAROLINE L. LATTIMORE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Dr. Caroline L. Lattimore of Durham, North Carolina, for her leadership in the community, in the state of North Carolina, and nationally. A well-respected Associate Academic Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Terry Sanford Public Policy Institute at Duke University, Dr. Lattimore is also the 15th Mid-Atlantic Regional Director for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. As many of my colleagues know, Alpha Kappa Alpha is the nation's oldest Greek-letter organization for African-American women, with more than 170,000 members worldwide.

For the last 4 years, Dr. Lattimore has led the Mid-Atlantic Region, which consists of chapters in my state of North Carolina and in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She will chair the 53rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in Crystal City, VA on April 13–16, 2006. The Regional Conference will be the culmination of her four year tenure as Regional Director.

Dr. Lattimore's tenure as Regional Director has been one of intense activity, as she has almost single-handedly raised the visibility of the Sorority throughout the region. Specifically, Mr. Speaker, she has been the driving force behind the Sorority's programs to promote educational excellence among K–12 and college students, particularly women and minorities; provide leadership development for the next generation of community leaders; support a myriad of community service programs; and encourage volunteerism. In addition, Dr. Lattimore is a founding member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Education Advancement Fund and an architect of the Sorority's registration of more than 200,000 new voters over the last few years. The basis for all of these endeavors has been Dr. Lattimore's commitment to education.

Mr. Speaker, her work with the Sorority, in educational circles, and in the community have earned Dr. Lattimore numerous awards and accolades. Among them are: Ford Foundation National Fellowship; National Council of Negro Women—Woman of the Year in Leadership Roles; YWCA Women of Achievement Outstanding Woman Award; NAACP Freedom Fund Outstanding Service Award; and the J.C. Penny Golden Rule Volunteer Service Award, to name a few. She was also the Alpha Kappa Alpha International Representative to the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

In every aspect of her service to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Dr. Lattimore has been a dynamic and inspirational leader. She lives her motto for this Regional Conference: Alpha Kappa Alpha Spirit: Preserving Our Legacy.

As her representative in the United States Congress, I am proud to salute Dr. Caroline L. Lattimore for her accomplishments. I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring her.

IN APPRECIATION OF DOUG SIMS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to one of my good friends, Mr. Doug Sims, a great leader in agriculture and the cooperative movement in America. Doug will retire from his post as Chief Executive Officer of CoBank this June after serving farmers, ranchers, farm cooperatives and rural communities for nearly 37 years. This will mark the end of a very successful career, and a very successful period in CoBank's history.

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Doug Sims for many years. As a farmer and a farm cooperative member, I know CoBank has always been there for the cooperatives that serve farmers and the rural communities in which they live. I have worked with Doug on a variety of important issues during my time in Federal office, both in the Executive branch, and now in Congress. Like others who have had the pleasure to work with Doug, I always found these efforts to be collaborative, professional efforts at building consensus to benefit cooperatives, rural communities, and the farm families that depend on them for their livelihoods and quality of life.

Doug has steered CoBank through a long list of challenges since joining CoBank in 1988 as president and chief operating officer. Doug's success came from a long history of experience in the Farm Credit System, beginning as a credit analyst for the St. Louis Bank for Cooperatives in 1969. From this humble post, Doug rose to be president and chief operating officer of the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis.

While serving at the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis, Doug acted as a key advocate for farmers, cooperatives, and the Farm Credit System, working with Congress and the Administration on critical legislation to protect the system from the agricultural economic and credit crises of the late 1980s. That far-reaching legislation paved the way for the modernization of the Farm Credit System, which has allowed the System to prosper and grow into the nation's largest single lender to agriculture and rural America, with over $135 billion in assets.

Doug guided CoBank to new heights during his tenure with the company. Under his watch, CoBank nearly tripled its assets to $34 billion and enhanced its services to agricultural cooperatives, rural electric cooperatives, rural telecommunications companies, and agricultural exporters. When the financial services' competitive landscape became increasingly challenging, Doug successfully oversaw mergers, opened overseas offices, and nurtured CoBank into a highly respected financial services company domestically and internationally.

Doug's service extends beyond CoBank's interests. He has served as Chairman of many other important organizations, including the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, the Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership at the University of Missouri, and Lutheran Family Services of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, these are all impressive achievements for an individual who began his education studying agriculture at the University of Illinois. But beyond all of these important accomplishments, what I admire most about Doug is his humble and inclusive leadership style. He is truly a leader who encourages teamwork, seeks to build consensus, bestows credit on those around him, and is not afraid to take responsibility when a leader is needed. I believe it is Doug's integrity that has made him a sought after participant and speaker for organizations ranging from the World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland to the FarmHouse Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri.

While I am confident CoBank and the Farm Credit System will miss Doug's daily contributions, his leadership has established a strong foundation that will help these institutions continue to successfully support agriculture and rural America.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to know and work with Doug Sims for many years. I know that many of my colleagues will join me in wishing Doug and his wife Nancy many years of happiness, new challenges, and contributions in the years ahead.

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S WORKING GROUP BUDGET

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, violence against women is on the rise in this country. Sadly, young women have increasingly become victims of violence and domestic abuse in episodes on college campuses and in communities across America.

One-third of teens report some form of abuse in their romantic relationships.

Forty percent of teenage girls report knowing a peer who has been hit by a boyfriend.

These are our daughters, our sisters, our friends and our neighbors.

The idea that our society is still struggling to cope with such violence is simply unacceptable. We must do more.

Yet the Republican majority's budget resolution mirrors the President's budget suggestion to cut funding for Violence Against Women Programs by $19.5 million dollars—cutting the very programs that prevent domestic violence and aid survivors.

These programs are our first line of defense for battered women across the country—and too often, sadly—our last line of defense.

It is time to get our fiscal house and priorities in order. We must carefully consider the message we send to domestic violence survivors by cutting funding intended as a lifeline in their most vulnerable hour.

HONORING LULA TAYLOR, TONY TERESI AND JANE FAGERSTROM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lula Taylor, Tony Teresi and Jane Fagerstrom for their nearly 50 years of combined service in the Chautauqua County Legislature. .

Lula Taylor is the first woman of color to be elected to a county leadership position. She was the district eleven representative for 13 years. Within the legislature and in the community Lula could always be found sitting on or serving as the chair of many committees. As a result of her positive attitude and desire to better her community, Lula had broken down so many barriers. It is truly remarkable what one woman can accomplish a positive outlook and a hardworking spirit. I commend Lula for her numerous years of hard work, dedication, service, leadership, and for her love of the people of Chautauqua County.

Tony Teresi has been a staple in the County Legislature for 16 years as a representative of district thirteen. Mr. Teresi has served as the chair and an active member of many committees within the legislature. Tony brought something to the legislature that is hard to replace. That being his level head, ability to reason, honor, strong work ethic and never ending dedication. He truly knows the meaning of leadership and cooperation. Throughout his tenure in the legislature he worked hard to accomplish the plan to share services with other municipalities. His legacy no doubt will remain in the legislature for many years to come.

Jane Fagerstrom was the first and only female chair of the Chautauqua County Legislature. That alone speaks volumes for her strong work ethic and desire to better her community. Jane has been involved with county government since 1972 but served in the Legislature for 12 years. She served on and was the chair of many committees within the legislature. I commend Jane for her lifetime devoted to public service. She has truly demonstrated a love and devotion to her community.

Lula, Tony and Jane have all shown great dedication and excellence in their work and to their community, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor them today.

ON WORLD HEALTH DAY: WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of World Health Day: Working Together for Health.

The main focus for this year's celebration is to address the crisis in the health workforce. Health workers are the very heart of the health system, providing care to those in need. While we are facing a nationwide shortage of health workers, we are not alone. There isn't a country in the world that is immune to the problem. Emphasis needs to be placed on solving the crisis.

With more than 100 years of experience, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has been working hard to improve health and living standards in the Western Hemisphere. Recognized by the United Nations, PAHO's office in El Paso serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization. PAHO works hard to improve health to vulnerable groups that include mothers and children, workers, the poor, the elderly, and refugees and displaced persons.

Established in 1943, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association (USMBHA) has helped promote a better understanding of health needs

and problems. I applaud the efforts of the USMBHA for their leadership in the area of public health in the border region and their work fostering communication between both countries as we work together on common health Issues.

This week, back in my home district of El Paso, Texas, the Pan American Health Organization and the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association will be sponsoring a health forum celebrating the work of promotoras and promotores from the El Paso del Norte region, which includes Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua. The event will celebrate the dignity and value of those who work hard everyday for health, and I am here today to help them in this important celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting World Health Day 2006: Working Together for Health, and I thank PAHO and the USMBHA for all their tireless efforts in support of better healthcare for the people of my community, the U.S.-Mexico border region, and the Americas.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS FOR MRS. JOHNNIE VOGT

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Johnnie Vogt on the occasion of her 85th birthday. Johnnie Vogt was born Johnnie Campbell on April 21, 1921 in White Deer, Texas. She lived there until 1931 when her family moved to Canyon so that she along with her brothers and sisters could eventually go to college.

Mrs. Vogt attended school at West Texas State Teachers College, now known as West Texas A&M University. Upon graduation, she moved to El Paso, Texas where she taught school before enlisting in the Army in 1943. Mrs. Vogt served in the Army from 1943 to 1945, receiving her basic training in Georgia. She was also stationed in Iowa and Illinois. While in Illinois, she was one of a group of eight trained to become physical therapy aides for the Army. She served in that capacity until her discharge from the Army.

In 1946, Mrs. Vogt moved to Denver, Colorado and taught a basic course in finance at Lowry Air Force Base. When those courses were no longer being offered, she moved to San Bernardino, California in 1947 and taught school.

Mrs. Vogt subsequently returned to Texas and settled in Amarillo where she ran a nursery from her home. Her love of children, coupled with her teaching experience, led to the directorship of the nursery and nursery school at Northwest Texas Hospital. Upon completion in 1956 of courses in special education, Mrs. Vogt brought her new specialty to the Amarillo Public School System. She then moved to Dalhart, Texas for a brief period of time where she taught English at the junior high school.

In 1960, Mrs. Vogt returned to Amarillo, resuming her Special Ed teaching, first at Bowie Junior High School until 1970, then at Caprock High School until retiring in 1981. Her commitment to children and dedication as an educator were evident by the extent to which she worked with students and the community, teaching life skills, preparation for entering the workforce, and building relationships within the community to ensure job placement upon graduation.

Mrs. Vogt has been active in her church, First Christian Church of Amarillo, teaching Sunday school to both adult singles and couples for over 20 years. She also sings with the Seniors Happy Timers and has been part of the bell choir.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Vogt is blessed with a wonderful, loving family. Mrs. Vogt's husband, Leo, and her daughters, Trudi, Patti, Sandy, and Linda and their families are justifiably proud of her. Her daughter Trudi is one of the outstanding public servants who serve the House and the Nation in the Office of the Clerk. And I suspect she learned the importance of service from her mother. Whether it be in the military, in teaching, in her church and community service, or in looking after her family, Mrs. Vogt has served others. It is in stories like hers that America's greatness and goodness can be seen.

I join her family in wishing her a very happy 85th birthday.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important legislation, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

The people of this troubled region have experienced almost unimaginable suffering. As many as 400,000 people have already lost their lives and two million more have been forced from their homes. The House of Representatives, along with the Senate and the Administration, have long acknowledged that the crimes being committed in Darfur amount to genocide.

Last month the House voted to provide $271 million for peacekeeping in Darfur and another $228 million in humanitarian aid as part of the Supplemental Appropriations bill. This funding is a welcome and necessary step in the right direction. Today we take another step with the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

This legislation directs the President to take a number of steps to stop the genocide in Darfur. This includes providing assistance to an expanded African Union force in Darfur, advocating a NATO role in stopping the violence, pushing for an additional United Nations Security Council Resolution regarding Darfur, and freezing the assets of those responsible for acts of genocide.

I am pleased that this legislation emphasizes a multilateral approach. The entire international community has a responsibility to work together to stop these crimes against humanity, and the bill before us makes clear that we expect the President to work with our allies to stop the killing in Darfur.

The United States and the international community must do far more to break the cycle of violence and hunger that grips Darfur. In a word, we must put real resources and diplomacy into solving the problem. This legislation advances these goals, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, our consideration today of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act is long overdue, but it is more timely and urgent than ever.

It has been nearly two years since this House recognized the atrocities in Darfur as genocide. In that time we have offered aid to refugees and support for peacekeeping activities. However, this is the first real legislative effort to enhance the U.S. response to this crisis. While I am pleased that we are acting, we should and could have done more sooner.

H.R. 3127, authorizes tough sanctions against individuals responsible for the war crimes committed in Darfur. It imposes an embargo on Sudanese cargo ships and oil tankers, and strengthens the military arms embargo against the Sudanese government.

The legislation will substantially improve our ability to provide protection for the more than 2 million vulnerable civilians displaced by the conflict. Specifically, it calls on NATO to expand and reinforce the African Union Mission in Sudan. It also advocates an initiative now underway at the Security Council to transition the African Union force into a UN sponsored peacekeeping operation.

Sadly, as a recent Security Council assessment shows, the dire situation in Darfur is only deteriorating further. Relief organizations are being denied entry, supplies are being cut off and humanitarian missions are being attacked. Civilian populations and refugee camps remain unprotected and the murderous rampages of Jangaweed militias continue unchecked. There is little progress in peace negotiations.

The transition to a UN led peacekeeping mission with greater resources and an expanded mandate is the only hope for improving the situation on the ground. Passage today of H.R. 3127 will add momentum to this effort.

An end to the conflict in Darfur cannot be achieved without strong US leadership. We have a moral responsibility to intervene.

I want to give credit to the activists across the country who have been the leading voices commanding our attention to this crisis. In classrooms, campuses, synagogues, churches, and communities across America there are so many who are deeply committed to making sure that those suffering in Darfur are not forgotten. At the end of the month, thousands will rally in Washington to call greater attention to the cause.

I am especially proud that the University of California recently joined more than a dozen colleges around the country in divesting from companies that do business in Sudan. Similar efforts are being considered by a number of state legislatures and private pension plans. Congress and the Department of Treasury should lend their support to these efforts.

Let us pledge that today is a new beginning in our fight for justice for the people of Darfur.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate the faculty, staff, students and alumni of California State University, San Bernardino for 40 years of success in providing top-quality education for one of the most diverse student bodies in the nation.

I was a proud new member of my hometown school board in 1965 when state officials recognized the need for higher education in the Inland Empire and opened California State College at San Bernardino with 293 students and 93 faculty and staff members. The coverage area for the college was 27,000 square miles, taking in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. The first graduating class in 1967 was 59 students.

Since that quiet start, our local college has become one of the fastest-growing in the state. More than 16,400 students now attend and 3,500 graduate each year—more than 55,000 over the past 40 years. The college became California State University, San Bernardino in 1984.

California's higher education system is still considered one of the finest in the world, and the state university system produces 51 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded by all public and private institutions in the state. The university system has calculated that the increased education level and earning power brought to our economy by these graduates is $25 billion a year. CSUSB alone is calculated to provide $500 million in expenditures annually and supports 10,000 jobs in our region through the ripple effects of salaries, construction, purchases and student spending.

The university now has five academic colleges, offering more than 70 degrees and certificates. The College of Education consistently ranks among the top CSU campuses that produce credentialed teachers, and many programs have gained national recognition. The university's Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship has been recognized among the nation's best by Entrepreneur Magazine.

CSUSB has had three dynamic presidents: John Pfau, Anthony Evans and Albert Karnig, the current president. I have enjoyed working closely with Presidents Evans and Karnig during my time in Washington. The university has utilized a number of small federal investments to create many successful programs, including the Water Resources Institute, the entrepreneurship center and a wide-ranging distance-learning program for the Department of Defense.

The university has been especially successful in partnering with local governments and community groups to improve the quality of life in San Bernardino County, and its student body is considered one of the most diverse in the state system—in fact, there is no majority ethnic group on campus.

In recent years, there have been many signs of a rapidly maturing educational institution: Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum has a regional reputation for cultural contribution; Coussoulis Arena is the largest facility of its kind in the Inland Empire; and a permanent branch campus has been established in the rapidly-growing Coachella Valley.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that in the past 40 years, California State University, San Bernardino has become one of the most important institutions in the Inland Empire, and a huge contributor to our state's economic future. Please join me in congratulating its faculty, staff and students for their past and future success.

RE: DELPHI BANKRUPTCY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, few communities have suffered more from the decimation of the American manufacturing sector than Western New York.

In the Buffalo of my youth, any person willing to work hard enough could make a decent living for his or her family at one of our great industrial plants. It is no secret that those days are gone. Factories have closed, health care benefits have been dropped, wages have fallen and pensions are in trouble. Competition for remaining jobs is intense and those lucky enough to have a job live in constant fear that it will be outsourced or that their wages, health insurance or pension benefits will be cut.

One of the last bastions of good-paying manufacturing jobs in Western New York is the auto industry. Over 9,000 workers in my congressional district are employed at the Delphi plant in Lockport, the American Axle facilities which supply General Motors in Tonawanda and Cheektowaga, and the Ford Stamping Plant in Woodlawn.

So far, we have been lucky—as bad as things look now, they could be much worse, The Ford Stamping Plant was spared in the first round of plant closings Ford announced in January. And the Lockport plant will be one of the few to survive the recently announced Delphi closings. However, there will not be much relief for the Delphi workers in New York and elsewhere, because of unconscionable actions taken by the company in bankruptcy proceedings.

Delphi has asked the bankruptcy court to slash wages, jobs, healthcare and retirement benefits by voiding the collective bargaining agreements that were negotiated between the company and its workers. Such disregard for the collective bargaining process is incomprehensible in light of the fact that Delphi was recently able to come to an agreement with the United Auto Workers on an attrition program to save costs. Rather than flouting the collective bargaining agreements, Delphi should have re-engaged its workers in a good-faith manner to find a solution together.

If the bankruptcy court cancels the current contracts it will have devastating effects not only on the workers who rightfully relied on those agreements, but also on General Motors itself. This is a risky and unnecessary gamble Delphi is taking, and the economic health of thousands of families hangs in the balance.

I strongly urge Delphi to reconsider its ill-advised request to cancel its contracts and to engage its workers in a constructive, good-faith manner that respects the collective bargaining process and the workers who depend on it.

H.R. 4882, THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER DEADLINE ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4882, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Deadline Enforcement Act.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was created to honor the more than 58,000 men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam conflict. Since its creation, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has been the most visited memorial in our Nation's capitol, with about 4,000,000 visitors each year.

As a Vietnam veteran, I have experienced the horrors of war and witnessed the sacrifice of the men and women who served honorably in Vietnam. The proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center will allow future generations to better understand the Vietnam Conflict through exhibits and facilitated tours, and honoring those that have fallen in the line of duty.

It is time for Congress to enforce a deadline so that there is no further delay in the construction of the Visitor Center. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this very worthwhile bill.

CHILDRESS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Childress Regional Medical Center, in Childress, Texas, on being named one of the top 100 hospitals in the nation by a healthcare information and analysis company.

The ability to provide quality heath care in rural regions of our Nation continues to face numerous challenges. Today, citizens who live in rural areas often travel hours to receive medical care, and facilities often experience difficulties in attracting and keeping health care providers.

For over 25 years Childress Regional Medical Center has served as a leading example of a full service rural health care facility. Its mission is to provide personalized, efficient, high quality healthcare services for all patients and their families and to serve as a center where physicians and qualified healthcare providers can practice under high technical standards in a productive, professional environment.

Graded on clinical excellence, responsiveness to the community, operating efficiency and financial heath, Childress Regional Medical Center proves quality healthcare can be provided close to home for many in North Texas.

I am glad that the work and dedication by the staff of Childress Regional Medical Center

has been recognized, and I hope their example will continue to help bring quality medical care to rural communities like Childress.

MANUFACTURING IN THE UNITED STATES FACES CHALLENGE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, since January 2001, the United States has lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs. As a result, manufacturing states have seven of the ten highest unemployment rates in the country. But manufacturing affects us all, not just those workers who are directly engaged in manufacturing, because manufacturing has the largest employment ''ripple effect'' of any U.S. industry. During President Clinton's administration, when manufacturing was growing and thriving, private sector job growth was 22 percent. Under the current administration, it's an anemic 2.4 percent. Manufacturing is also responsible for nearly two-thirds of all private sector research and development.

Manufacturing in the United States faces serious challenges in the global marketplace, as our manufacturers compete with companies who get the benefit of a healthy workforce without having to shoulder the rising cost of health care, deal with skyrocketing energy costs, and often face an unlevel playing field when they sell their goods. Instead of standing up for manufacturing and the men and women it employs, the Bush administration continues to sit on its hands as the manufacturing jobs crisis worsens. The workers who are harmed by that inaction deserve to be heard. Tonight, I'd like to read testimony several Michigan workers submitted to us about how the manufacturing jobs crisis is affecting them.

Sherry Lowell of Grand Blanc, MI writes:

''For the past 27 years, I have worked as a Journeyman Toolmaker for GM/Delphi in Flint, MI. My marvelous experience as a tradesman began when I was 30 years old. At the Flint East site, I was the 7th female to graduate as a tradesman. . . .

''For almost three decades, I believed that I was an integral part of the team with the goal of producing products with first time quality at a profit. The wages that I earned were appreciated and getting dirty and greasy were part and parcel of my job as a toolmaker. I have fulfilled my promise to the corporation for the past 27 years to faithfully come to work, work hard at work despite cold (45 degrees) and hot (103 degrees) and dirty environments, and buy GM/AC products.

''The promise of a defined-benefit pension was very important to me. Furthermore, financial planning for my old age has been threatened by corporate raiders of pension funds and the possibility of Social Security benefits ceasing. I would appreciate Congressional efforts to support the men and women of manufacturing skilled trades and production in protecting the pensions they were promised.''

Patricia Neal of Clinton Township, MI writes:

''I have been a UAW member and a GM employee for 28 years. I live in Clinton Township, MI. At some point in time nearly every UAW represented auto worker in America has had to hear, that we are 'over paid and under worked'. Every headline that screams out to the public, pointing a scolding finger at UAW represented auto workers, is not only demoralizing and degrading it is downright deceiving. . . .

''We, UAW workers, make the products put before us, we drive the fork trucks, we stand on the steel plated or concrete floors, we tighten the nuts and bolts, we handle the machines, we breath the toxic fumes but we do not make the decisions. We do the work. We want to see GM make a profit, we want GM healthy.''

Charles McCray of Southgate, MI writes:

''I am a 54 year old retired hourly worker after 30 years of service. I have worked hard for GM and the UAW. I have always purchased GM products over the years. I want GM to keep their promise to me with the contract I signed when I retired. I retired and gave up my position to another worker to pay taxes and make a good wage.

''With the possible problem at GM if I were to lose any pay what-so-ever I'd be in a tight spot. Where does all the money come from to even bury me when the time comes. We have never lived beyond our means at all. We have been able to pay for college for our 2 children, have a small home paid for. There is a small savings for future use after 62 years of age. With our monthly retirement we do OK but most do not. I have already gone out and have taken another job just because I am not sure what is going to happen at GM.''

I hope President Bush and my colleagues in the House will hear these workers and the millions like them, and will begin work on a real agenda to preserve and expand our manufacturing sector and the quality products and jobs it produces.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOBS CREATION INCENTIVE ACT OF 2006

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a very important piece of legislation to address a very serious problem.

Because of the policies put in place by this Congress and this Administration, our country has prospered and enjoyed continual economic successes. More than 2 million jobs have been created nationally in the last year and our national unemployment rate is down to 4.8 percent. In the last quarter alone, our GDP grew by 1.7 percent.

However, my home state of Michigan has not yet seen this success. Our state economy continues to struggle, our manufacturing base is in serious jeopardy and our unemployment rate of 6.6 percent is one of the highest in the nation. The troubles of the auto industry—Michigan's largest employer—have forced layoffs, downsizing and cutbacks.

Workers in my state are losing their jobs, and our unemployed face multiple challenges and impending statistical disadvantages.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am introducing this legislation today. My bill, the Job Creation Incentive Act, will help businesses in Michigan and across this country create more jobs.

Simply put, my bill will generate jobs by giving small businesses tax incentives for every new employee they hire.

It is a well known fact that collectively, small businesses are the number one employer in our Nation. When we encourage these small businesses to expand their payrolls and hire more employees, we not only create jobs but we also promote business development and growth.

My bill will give companies with 100 employees or less a tax credit for every new employee they hire. The credit will be equal to 5 percent of the new employee's salary, up to $2,500 maximum, and the new employee must have been on the payroll for at least 960 hours—the equivalent of a full-time position for six months. If companies create multiple jobs, they can receive multiple credits up to a total of 25 percent of their tax liability for the year.

I know that tax incentives are not the complete answer to all of our economic problems in the state of Michigan. We still must work continually to find solutions to solve the problems within our manufacturing base and bring relief to our businesses and our workers.

I also know that for some of us it may be difficult to understand that while America's economy is doing so well nationally, there are still areas where more help is greatly needed. My district is one of those areas.

The Job Creation Incentive Act will help our small businesses through these tough times and will allow them to do what they do best—innovate, drive economic growth, compete in the domestic and global marketplace, and create more jobs for American workers.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time to speak on behalf of my bill, the Job Creation Incentive Act. I respectfully request the support of my colleagues for this important piece of legislation to ensure the future success of Michigan's economy and job growth across the country.

IN SUPPORT OF THE EASTERN SIERRA RURAL HERITAGE AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I take pleasure in introducing the Eastern Sierra Rural Heritage and Economic Enhancement Act.

As you are aware, I am fortunate enough to claim the majority of California's Eastern Sierra Mountains as part of my district. My legislation will protect some of the most pristine land in California for the enjoyment of my constituents in the 25th District, and the visitors we welcome to the Eastern Sierra's each year.

My legislation calls for three wilderness additions: the Hoover Wilderness Addition, the Emigrant Wilderness Addition, and the Amargosa Wild and Scenic River Addition. The Hoover Wilderness Addition rests in between Yosemite National Park, the existing Hoover Wilderness, and the Emigrant Wilderness, and designates 39,680 acres of 11,000 foot mountain peaks, glacial valleys, alpine lakes, and conifer forests as protected wilderness area. The Emigrant Wilderness addition lies adjacent to the existing Emigrant Wilderness, and claims two miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. The Amargosa Wild and Scenic River Addition designates a 24-mile stretch of river as protected, and divides the section into three parts: wild, scenic, and recreational.

Given the popularity of these areas, it is necessary to find a compromise between protection of the land and local wildlife, and recreational sport. This legislation provides such a compromise, affording land for recreation and preservation. Preserving wilderness areas for future generations is imperative, and I am pleased to present this bill as an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is the result of a great deal of compromise, cooperation, and support. Assistance from the Mono County Board of Supervisors which claims the Hoover and Emigrant Wilderness Addition, and the Inyo County Board of Supervisors which claims the Amargosa River Addition has been vital to the introduction of this legislation. This bill required compromise and cooperation between the local environmental community and the Bureau of Land Management, and I am pleased with the agreement that has been reached by both parties. Support from Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN and BARBARA BOXER, as well as my constituents in the 25th District make it a distinct pleasure to introduce this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support the Eastern Sierra Rural Heritage and Economic Enhancement Act.

CECIL D. ANDRUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House to a most important lesson in civic virtue.

We hear much today about the shortcomings of our education system, about a growing sense of frustration and despair on the part of students, parents and policy makers. Today I have the honor and privilege of telling you about a success story that we all can celebrate.

The heroes in this story are fifth graders at Cecil D. Andrus Elementary School in Meridian, Idaho. I recently received almost 30 letters from these young Americans requesting that I do whatever I could to stop Congress from removing funds that pay for the "We the People . . ." civic education program at schools throughout America. Mr. Speaker, these students are to be congratulated and encouraged to continue participating in the process of our government, to fully realize their potential as citizens of our great nation.

I also congratulate their teacher, Heidi Fry and their principal, Barbara Horn, whose dedication and example have worked their magic with these students.

The "We the People . . ." program is funded through the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress. It was established in 1987 under the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

Letter upon letter from the students at Andrus Elementary related stories about lessons they had learned through the "We the People . . ." program—visionary quotations from the Founding Fathers and the Framers of the Constitution, the history of the documents that became our blueprints for freedom, and how leaders of the founding generation knew that survival of our new American Republic would require each successive generation to learn and embrace the value, price and responsibility of living in a free country.

No greater testament could exist to the value of this educational program than the words of these young people, Mr. Speaker. No more compelling argument could be made for its continued existence in our schools. I therefore gave them my word I would do what I could to restore the funding.

As a side note, the namesake of the school those children attend—Cecil D. Andrus—was Secretary of the Interior during the Carter administration and four times was elected governor of the great state of Idaho. I served with Governor Andrus as Lieutenant Governor during his third and forth terms. He was a leader who put great store in the value of educating Idaho's young people to prepare them for shouldering the responsibility of freedom and the stewardship of our human and natural resources. He also placed great importance on people meaning what they say and keeping their word—especially those in positions of public trust.

In closing I should like to add the names of these students to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that one day in the not-too-distant future, when citizens of Idaho and this Nation are reviewing the background of their generation's leaders, I'm confident these names will surely be among them.

Elaine Beech, Natalie Bowman, Steven Bowman, Ashley Charles, Nicole Covell, Madisson Cutbirth, Alejandro Delaloza, Cole DeSilvia, Joneya Dunn, Amber French, Talia Johnson, Corey Kerensky, Joseph Koetter, Jordan Lee, Brian Luke, Taylor McQuiston, Summer Moffet, JT Moore, Brianna Pantell, Courtney Paul, Dillon Pierce, Zach Poralla, Rhett Suciu, Eric Swider, Jakob Thompson, Lindsay Williams, and Chanel Zeko.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all my colleagues to recognize the value of the "We the People . . ." program and help me restore the funding. Let's keep our word to these Idaho students, and to the generations of American students yet to come.

NIDIS BILL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to create a National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). Our nation is unfortunately very aware of the damage droughts bring to our citizens. In my home state of Texas, the wheat crops have been decimated by drought conditions, producing the worst ratings in 20 years. My own home district in northeast Texas is experiencing the most severe damage statewide from the drought. In Missouri, farm ponds have been drying up in record numbers, and in Oklahoma, the wheat crop rated 58% poor to very poor. Droughts cause between $6 billion and $8 billion a year in direct estimated losses to the U.S. economy, and they have devastating impacts on our society.

While we cannot stop nature, we can do a better job predicting, monitoring, and mitigating this problem. Our nation needs a comprehensive drought information system that enables our local, state, and national leaders to be more proactive in their approach to droughts. This bill establishes an integrated system and designates NOAA as the lead agency. NOAA will coordinate with local, state, and federal entities to create a comprehensive network of drought information and provide decision-makers with the best tools to manage our resources. NOAA will do this by building a national drought monitoring and forecasting system, create a drought early warning system, provide an interactive drought information delivery system, and designate mechanisms for improved interaction with the public.

This NIDIS initiative will hopefully improve our analysis of conditions, provide us with more accurate seasonal forecasts, and equip us with a better understanding of climate interactions that produce droughts. I would like to encourage Members to join me in supporting this vital and important initiative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, because of official business in Colorado, I was not able to be present yesterday for three votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll call No. 82, H.J. Res. 81—Providing for the appointment of Phillip Frost as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—I would have voted "yes."

Roll call No. 83, H. Res. 703—Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and supporting continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant—I would have voted "yes."

Roll call No. 84, H. Res. 744—Expressing support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland and support for continued police reform in Northern Ireland as a critical element in the peace process—I would have voted "yes."

THE OCCASION OF THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide. April 24th will be the 91st anniversary of this human tragedy.

From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the first genocide of the 20th century. This was clearly one of the world's greatest tragedies—the deliberate and systematic Ottoman annihilation of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

Furthermore, another 500,000 refugees fled and escaped to various points around the

world—effectively eliminating the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

From these ashes arose hope and promise in 1991—and I was blessed to see it. I was one of the four international observers from the United States Congress to monitor Armenia's independence referendum. I went to the communities in the northern part of Armenia, and I watched in awe as 95 percent of the people over the age of 18 went out and voted.

The Armenian people had been denied freedom for so many years and, clearly, they were very excited about this new opportunity. Almost no one stayed home. They were all out in the streets going to the polling places. I watched in amazement as people stood in line for hours to get into these small polling places and vote.

Then, after they voted, the other interesting thing was that they did not go home. They had brought covered dishes with them, and all of these polling places had little banquets afterward to celebrate what had just happened.

What a great thrill it was to join them the next day in the streets of Yerevan when they were celebrating their great victory. Ninety-eight percent of the people who voted cast their ballots in favor of independence. It was a wonderful experience to be there with them when they danced and sang and shouted, 'Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan'—Long live free and independent Armenia! That should be the cry of freedom-loving people everywhere.

HONORING REGINA MARIE CATANISE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Regina Marie Catanise who peacefully passed from this earth on Tuesday, April 4, 2006, at the age of 84.

The wife of the late Raymond Catanise, Mrs. Catanise, affectionately known as ''Gina,'' was a cherished member of her community of Waterloo, NY, and was loved by one and all who knew her.

Survived by her three children, her son the Reverend Joseph Catanise, her daughter Candi Catanise, and her other son, Richard, Gina is also survived by two sisters, two brothers, four grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

I take this moment to honor Gina Catanise, Mr. Speaker, because of the closeness felt to her by my friend, Richard Catanise. Richard spoke to me very often about his family in general and about Gina in particular. While I know today that Richard and his entire family's loss is great, I know, Mr. Speaker, that the entire Catanise family knows and understands the depths of the love felt for them by their mother, Gina.

I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me the opportunity to honor the memory of a great New Yorker, a woman who gave of herself to family, friends and community throughout her life. I am pleased that these remarks will remain a permanent part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in perpetuity, so that generations to come may reflect upon the life and contributions to family and community made by Regina ''Gina'' Catanise. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN WHEELER, CALIFORNIAN SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Mr. John Wheeler of Carmel, California. Next week, Mr. Wheeler will be honored as the Small Business Person of the Year for California.

Mr. Wheeler has succeeded through ingenuity and hard work to turn Peninsula Pure Water, Inc., into a very successful business in 8 short years. With the help of a Small Business Administration-backed loan, Mr. Wheeler bought a bottled water company in 1998 with just 50 customer accounts and 70 daily local deliveries and grew the operation into a business with 24,000 customers, and a net income of $275,000. Beyond his resourcefulness and sheer determination, Mr. Wheeler has shown himself to be a model employer, personally training all new hires and offering to pay half of their tuition costs if they attend college.

Small businesses continue to be the engine of both the Californian and U.S. economies. The success of entrepreneurial businessman like Mr. Wheeler reminds everyone that the American dream is still alive and well. I again congratulate Mr. Wheeler on his well-deserved award as the Californian Small Business Person of the year and wish him much success as he continues to expand Peninsula Pure Water, Inc.

INTRODUCTION OF ''FAIRNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN REORGANIZATIONS ACT OF 2006''

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the ''Fairness and Accountability in Reorganizations Act of 2006,'' legislation designed to protect the rights of workers during corporate bankruptcy proceedings which give greater weight to large corporations and the executives who run them.

Many recent corporate bankruptcy filings, including that of the Delphi Corporation, have come under fire for the extravagant bonus packages they reserve for executives while regular workers are forced to accept drastic pay cuts or even job losses. We need legislation to ensure that workers and retirees receive the fair treatment they have earned when their company is facing bankruptcy.

The Fairness and Accountability in Reorganizations Act of 2006 would guarantee that workers are treated more fairly by limiting executive compensation deals and requiring corporations to provide a more accurate picture of their holdings before attempting to modify collective bargaining agreements or promised health benefits during reorganizations. More specifically, this simple and effective legislation would:

Require any executive bonus package to be approved by the bankruptcy court for any corporation undergoing or connected to a bankruptcy reorganization plan.

Consider the debtor company's foreign assets when determining whether or not a company can modify its existing collective bargaining agreement. Some international corporations that are struggling domestically use their losses at home to justify breaking contracts with American workers while their overall company is still thriving.

Require the bankruptcy court to take into account the debtor company's foreign assets when determining whether or not to modify the company's retiree health benefits.

Require that its provisions apply to any chapter 11 bankruptcy case, filed or pending on or after October 1, 2005.

Congress has gone to great lengths to grant advantages to creditors and big business over ordinary Americans. It is time that we include the interest of working families in the bankruptcy law. My legislation would therefore add a small measure of fairness to a playing field that is overwhelmingly tilted against workers.

A TRIBUTE TO PLAINS COTTON GROWERS

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to honor an organization based in the 19th district of Texas that has played a vital role in West Texas for half a century.

In 1956, a group of West Texas cotton farmers and agricultural businesses came together to form Plains Cotton Growers. Today, PCG represents cotton growers in 41 counties throughout the High Plains and Panhandle of Texas. These growers produce nearly 20 percent of the nation's cotton crop each year. In the 50 years since its creation, PCG has attained a much-deserved reputation as an organization that producers can trust and rely upon for a wide range of services and information. Under the leadership of presidents from W.O. Fortenberry to Rickey Bearden, PCG has promoted regional cotton interests, served as a resource for cutting-edge agricultural research, and provided its members with information on important legislative matters.

If there is an issue in Congress affecting cotton farmers, then Plains Cotton Growers is on top of it. PCG provides the invaluable service of informing its members on agricultural policy being debated in the Capitols in both Washington, DC and Austin, Texas. PCG also ensures that its members have a voice in both Capitols as it keeps legislators abreast of the views and concerns of farmers.

To the staff and members of Plains Cotton Growers: Congratulations on your 50th anniversary and thank you for your service to the people of West Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the National Science Foundation Scholars Program Act to support students who wish to be scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians.

Although not every student in America needs to become a scientist, technician, engineer, or a mathematician, those who are headed that way need our support for what they contribute to the long term economic health of our nation. This merit-based financial support gives consideration to financial need and to the goal of supporting underrepresented groups as defined in the Equality in Science and Engineering Act.

The United States needs to improve our technical and scientific workforce for the success of our nation in the unfolding global knowledge economy. Although we still educate many foreign students in our graduate science, technology, and engineering, and mathematics departments across the nation, we no longer keep these talented, well-trained individuals here; they want to return to their home.

We must create and retain our highly-skilled, well-trained scientific and technical work force here rather than be dependent on work abroad.

Increases in tuition at colleges and universities in the United States have outpaced inflation for the past two decades. The increases are especially large at public 4-year colleges. The NSF Scholars program would serve as a real inducement to students who would augment our highly-skilled, highly technical work force.

As we move to a global knowledge economy, Juan Enriquez gives us warning for the future of our nation: ''In a borderless world . . . those who do not educate . . . and keep their citizens . . . will lose most intellectual wars.''

I hope we choose instead to educate our citizens and maintain our strength and competitiveness through the NSF Scholars Program Act.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF COALINGA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Coalinga on the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

The birth of the city of Coalinga dates back to the late 1800s, when the mining industry was booming in developing communities across the country. Rich in oil and flourishing in production, the city established several major oil production supplies. With the expansion of the industry, Coalinga oil workers embarked on a campaign to enhance workers rights, improve working conditions for oil producers and create a better community for fellow community members. A glorious and monumental day for Coalinga came on April 3, 1906, when the small town was incorporated into Fresno County.

Still, the city of Coalinga encountered other obstacles, such as a severe economic decline in 1909. After the economic setback, residents struggled to obtain rights to clean and reliable water supply. Due to the lack of flowing surface water and highly mineralized ground water, water in the city of Coalinga was deemed unsafe for drinking. It was not until 1972 that the State water system granted the city of Coalinga its first delivery of San Luis Canal water.

On May 2, 1983, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck the small community, which virtually destroyed what took almost a century to build. Fortunately, this catastrophe did not deter the strong community; residents and businesses locked arms and carried on to rebuild their city, to rebuild their home.

Despite the perils that the city of Coalinga experienced, there were many successes that ushered further advancement. At one point in time, Coalinga paid approximately one-fourth of the entire tax burdens for Fresno County. The city prides itself in being the birthplace for the award-winning A&W Root Beer formula, home of the first junior high school in Fresno County and West Hills Community College. Today, the city ranks as one of the most independent communities in the San Joaquin Valley and champions itself in providing residents with a competent municipal library system, recreation and parks system, water supply and hospital systems.

The history of this city further demonstrates that it is only by embracing the importance of community, cooperation and shared vision can such success be achieved. I am honored to stand and shine a spotlight on the city of Coalinga, as they celebrate a century of pride and progress.

IN HONOR OF ADRIENNE JONES

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Adrienne Jones, who was awarded the 2006 New Castle County Delaware Chamber of Commerce's William V. Roth, Jr. Citizenship Award. The late Senator Roth would have been extremely proud to see the award which bears his name go to such a deserving individual.

Adrienne has been described by her guidance counselor at A.I. DuPont High School in Wilmington, Delaware as ''scholarly, mature, focused and friendly.'' Senator Roth conducted his business in a focused manner but always went about it in a friendly way. This is why he was able to do so much for so many people across our great nation.

Adrienne has exhibited an excellent academic record in her high school studies. She possesses an outstanding work ethic and selected a quite rigorous college-preparatory curriculum including three advanced placement courses and eleven honors level courses. She also committed to the study of two foreign languages, Spanish and Latin. By the time she graduates, Adrienne will have completed seven years of foreign language study.

While maintaining a full study schedule, Adrienne finds significant time to contribute to her community. Senator Roth was well known in Delaware for his tireless work on behalf of his constituents. Adrienne has earned this award by dedicating herself to community organizations such as the A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children, the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, and the Delaware Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Board.

I congratulate and thank Adrienne for all she has contributed to the State of Delaware. She is an exemplary citizen and a proud American. Senator Roth would have been extremely pleased with the work Adrienne has done to help her fellow Delawareans, just as I am today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LILIAM LUJAN HICKEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Liliam Lujan Hickey who through her extensive and diversified experiences, has established herself as a successful small business owner, effective motivator, and professional, specifically in the Hispanic-American community. Through her ardent desire to serve others, she has been personally and extensively involved in promoting educational programs in Las Vegas, as well as the entire state of Nevada. She will be honored on April 19th, at the formal dedication of Liliam Lujan Hickey Elementary School, which was named in her honor.

In the business world, Liliam has truly made a name for herself. She is owner and chief executive officer of Lujan development, a property management firm. In 1980, she formed L H System International, a business consulting and sales company with customized training for professionals.

Although born in Havana, Cuba, Liliam has resided in Las Vegas, Nevada for over thirty-six years. As a resident of Nevada, her list of achievements and volunteer service is impressive. Liliam established Career Day for high school students, which has awarded over $300,000 in scholarships to hundreds of needy Hispanic students. She also served as cofounder and president of the Classroom on Wheels, a program which has facilitated educational, medical, and dental services to disadvantaged preschool children.

Liliam was director for the Congressional Award Council of Nevada and co-chaired the Southern Nevada BEST Coalition, a non-profit organization working towards a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle in Las Vegas schools and communities. She also served as chairperson of the Urban Emphasis Committee for the Boy Scouts of America.

She is co-founder, past president, and board member of the Latin Chamber of Commerce. She was one of only two professionals selected from Nevada to attend the White House Hispanic Leadership Reception held by

President and Mrs. Clinton. Hispanic leaders throughout the United States were invited to attend this reception.

The Governor of Nevada appointed Liliam to serve on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday commission. She also served on the Job Training Coordinating Council and the United States Governor's Workforce Development Board. She is an active member of the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce and the Clark County Fair Advisory Council.

Her efforts for the State of Nevada have been recognized through numerous awards. She received the Outstanding Hispanic Award from the Latin Chamber of Commerce. Liliam was named as one of the Women of Achievement in Government and Politics by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. She was also identified by the Nevada 125th Anniversary Commission as one of the women who have played a significant role in making Nevada what it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Liliam Lujan Hickey on the floor of the House today. She is an outstanding example of service and hard work not only to the Hispanic-American community but to all southern Nevadans.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REVISING THE NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, it has become necessary to introduce a bill that is necessary for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to function as Congress intended. Federal law requires that judges of the Superior Court and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Article I Courts, to be nominated by the President and approved by the Senate. This bill, which is the companion bill to S. 2068 introduced by Senator SUSAN COLLINS, will increase the number of Superior Court judges by 3 to 61 in order to allow the Superior Court to function at the 58 judge level approved by Congress. However, after the establishment of the new Family Court Division, the Superior Court was temporarily increased by three in order to assist the transition because Congress wanted to assure a full complement of family court judges. However, no permanent authorization reflecting the changes was approved. Consequently, as judges have retired or otherwise moved on, the President has continued to make nominations to fill each judge's seat. With no authorization for the necessary number of authorized judges, an unintended anomaly has resulted in Presidential nominations but no actual vacancies because the court is short three judges. Because as many as nearly 2 years occur after the Senate approval, lawyers are increasingly unwilling to give up their practices to apply for judgeships on the Superior Court, the trial court of jurisdiction for all criminal and civil matters in the District of Columbia. The 15–18 month pipeline for confirming new judges has presented the court with some serious concerns. With such a long waiting period, private and solo practitioners, for example, who are among the best qualified, are significantly deterred, and the court loses judicial talent that would otherwise be available.

The present anomaly has forced the Superior Court to use senior or retired judges inappropriately. Because they are retired, senior judges take on particular cases or a full calendar temporarily, for up to a year. However, inasmuch as confirmed active or permanent judges often cannot be immediately seated, there is no judge to maintain the court's 2 calendars, one for criminal court and the other for temporary restraining orders and warrants. Consequently, several senior judges have taken on this indispensable duty since 2003. While senior judges, of course, take on cases, they do so at their discretion. It should never be the case that senior judges perform an important regular and vital function of the court for years at a time.

I ask that this bill be approved to remedy this problem in the D.C. court system that results entirely from congressional action.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Congressional Teacher Award Program Act, establishing the Congressional Teacher Award.

This is a moment for Congress to raise the level of respect for teaching across the nation. Although we cannot legislate that the nation respect teachers for all the hard work that they do day in and day out for the future of our nation, Congress can use its leadership to take a role in the cultural change required at this time.

This act creates a bi-partisan, bi-cameral Task Force to determine a nonprofit entity to establish and operate the Congressional Teacher Award. This award would be given each academic year to highly-qualified, hard-working teachers who change the lives of students in each congressional district of the United States, including the district of a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to Congress. As funds raised by the nonprofit entity allow, awardees would also receive a scholarship to attend a professional development opportunity of their choosing.

The teachers receiving the award must be certified, have been teaching for 5 consecutive years in a public or private school elementary or secondary school, and demonstrate a commitment of service to his or her school, maintain high standards for students, and incorporate multiculturalism, technology, interdisciplinary studies, student relevance, and current issues in lessons, classroom activities, and special presentations. An application with letters of recommendation would be required.

Each Member of Congress would get to celebrate a teacher in his or her district each year. This continued focus on excellent teaching will work to raise the level of respect for teaching in America. Henry Booker Adams said, ''A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.''

Congress does have influence; people and nations take their lead from us, and it is time that we lead the celebration of those who helped us reach this professional level—our teachers.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEONARD HALL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leonard Hall of Armona, California who will be celebrating his 100th birthday on April 24, 2006.

Mr. Hall was born in 1906 to parents Clarence R. Leonard and Ida Mae Hall. Leonard learned at a young age the daily routine of life on a farm. When he was in his early twenties, Leonard began farming on his own. Soon his business grew to include a dairy and he also raised and sold cattle. Mr. Hall successfully ran his business for about 80 years.

Leonard Hall once stated, ''I think everyone should give back something to the community where they lived. How else are we going to keep our memories alive?'' These were not words without substance—Mr. Hall is a great advocate for his hometown and has financially supported several important projects within Kings County.

In remembrance of his wife Katherine, he gave financial support to the Burris Park Museum in Hanford. The museum recognized the gracious gift by dedicating the new wing of the museum in her name. The Hanford Carnegie Museum also benefited from Mr. Hall's generous donations. With his help the institution was able to install a new foundation and also introduce the original Beacon Oil office as an historical exhibit.

Perhaps the most poignant of his contributions is the funding he provided to help restore the Grangeville Church, which is known as the first church of Kings County. For Mr. Hall, the renovation was not just for the purpose of historical preservation but it was a way for him to honor the memory of his parents, who were wed there at the turn of the century.

Leonard Hall's generosity is his way of saying thank you for all the wonderful memories. During this momentous occasion of Leonard Hall's 100th birthday, I would like to wish to him and his family all the best. I would also like to extend, on behalf of the residents of Kings County, heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for Mr. Hall's generosity that has helped preserve the past for the generations of the future.

IN HONOR OF DONALD R. KIRTLEY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Donald Kirtley, who was awarded the 2006 New Castle County Delaware Chamber of Commerce's Wallace M. Johnson Community Service Award. Over the past 7 decades, Don

has been committed to providing better opportunities for children, improving healthcare, and expanding access to the arts for so many in the community.

Don donates his time to a variety of organizations in the State of Delaware, including a 20 year affiliation with the Boys and Girls Club and a 25 year affiliation with the Grand Opera House. He has been on the United Way of Delaware's Campaign Committee numerous times and is a founding member and chairman of the board of the Arts Consortium of Delaware. His resume is truly amazing and all Delawareans are thankful for Don's service.

A telling quote comes from Julie Van Blarcom, Chairwoman of the Arts Consortium of Delaware, who said "He's an old-fashioned, committed volunteer." Don contributes countless hours to different causes and makes every organization he is involved with a top priority.

Currently, Don is in his 2nd year as the chairman of the board of the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF), an umbrella organization that oversees many of the community service organizations in Delaware.

I congratulate and thank Don for all of his contributions to the State of Delaware. He is an exemplary citizen and a proud American. I am pleased to call Don a friend and am impressed by his dedication to the causes in which he so strongly believes. Thank you, Don, for all you have done and continue to do for people of our State.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE NEVADA CANCER INSTITUTE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nevada Cancer Institute and their team of dedicated professionals who are committed to advancing the frontiers of knowledge of cancer through research and providing world-class cancer services to Nevadans and people throughout the Southwest. The facility opened late summer 2005, and this month the new John Robert Murren Research Wing will be dedicated.

It is the overarching goal of the Nevada Cancer Institute to become a National Cancer Institute Designated Comprehensive Cancer Care Center. Facilities awarded this designation not only must perform first-rate research and exceptional patient care, but they must also demonstrate that the close integration of research and clinical efforts fosters an environment that stimulates new discoveries, and translates these discoveries quickly into better care to patients. Research in the area of cancer control and programs in community outreach and education are also essential for comprehensive status. With the opening of a new research wing and implementation of groundbreaking methods of prevention, detection and treatment of cancer, the Institute is well on its way to receiving this honor.

Designated by the State Legislature as the official Cancer Institute for the State of Nevada, the Nevada Cancer Institute is a collaborative, statewide effort involving concerned citizens, the oncology community, academic leaders, legislators, corporations, healthcare advocates, and cancer patients and their families. The Institute is wholly committed to offering the residents of Nevada a facility that offers the most current and most advanced cancer treatment options.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Nevada Cancer Institute on the floor of the House today. I commend them for their efforts in fighting cancer and wish them the best with their new research wing.

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, during a conference of October 7, 2005, titled "Torture and the War on Terrorism" Case Western Reserve University School of Law facilitated discussions with legal scholars from across the country focused on international law. The conference culminated in adoption of The Cleveland Principles, which express the view that acts of torture should never be used or justified as a tool of the Global War on Terror.

International law establishes a normative framework to advance international peace and security. The reciprocity of international law protects Americans abroad as well as individuals within the control of our government. I commend Case Western Reserve University School of Law for its leadership on this issue and I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, The Cleveland Principles.

THE CLEVELAND PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ON THE DETENTION AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH "THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR"

INTRODUCTION

In the context of revelations about the mistreatment of detainees at U.S. detention centers in Guantanamo Bay, Iraq, and Afghanistan; the practice of "irregular rendition" as a means of outsourcing torture; the existence of US-created "black sites" where "ghost detainees" are interrogated abroad; and the content of the leaked "White House Torture memos"—the Cleveland Principles were adopted by the undersigned experts who took part in the "Torture and the War on Terror" Conference at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 7, 2005. The Principles have been endorsed by the numerous other experts whose names are also listed below. The undersigned include current and former high-ranking government, military, and international organization officials, prominent academics, and leading practitioners in the field—representing all ends of the political spectrum. The Principles are intended as a clear restatement, written in plain English, of the fundamental international legal rules that apply to the treatment of persons in connection with the so-called "Global War on Terror." The goal was to produce a text that would be easy for the American public, members of the military, and members of Congress to understand—a text that would unambiguously spell out that in the context of the Global War on Terror, there is no law-free zone, torture can never be justified; outsourcing torture is unlawful; and that government personnel may be criminally liable for involvement in acts of torture.

THE CLEVELAND PRINCIPLES

Principle 1: With respect to the "Global War on Terror," there is no law-free zone.

International Law (which includes International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, and International Criminal Law) applies to all contexts and persons in the "Global War on Terror."

The "Global War on Terror" is not in its entirety an armed conflict. When, and for so long as, the "Global War on Terror" does manifest itself in armed conflict, the rights of persons detained and the obligations of detaining authorities, are governed by International Humanitarian Law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions.

International Human Rights Law, including the Convention Against Torture and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, also applies to situations of armed conflict, to the extent that its provisions are not inconsistent with applicable international humanitarian law.

Whenever persons are detained outside the factual framework of armed conflict, international humanitarian law is not applicable and international human rights law, including the Convention Against Torture and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, applies instead.

Principle 2: Whenever there is any doubt about whether an individual apprehended in the Global War on Terror is entitled to Prisoner of War status, the decision must be made on a case-by-case basis by a competent tribunal.

Persons who do not qualify for POW status under the Third Geneva Convention are still entitled to humane treatment and the other applicable guarantees of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In addition, such persons must not be subject to acts of torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, in accordance with the Torture Convention.

Principle 3: Nothing in the "Global War on Terror" can justify violating the prohibition on committing acts of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Interrogation in the context of the "Global War on Terror," whether conducted by military personnel or intelligence agents, and whether conducted inside or outside of the State's territory, must never cross the boundaries of humane treatment.

Principle 4: Use of so-called "irregular rendition" as a means of outsourcing torture to third countries is unlawful.

No person acting as an agent of a government may participate in the transfer of any person to any country for interrogation where there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would be in danger of being subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Diplomatic assurances from the receiving State that the person will not be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment are not a sufficient basis upon which it may be determined that such treatment or punishment will not be imposed, where the receiving State has demonstrated a history of engaging in such treatment.

Principle 5: Governments and Government personnel are obligated to strictly adhere to the international law applicable to the "Global War on Terror" as set forth in the above principles.

States are responsible under international law for violations of these principles committed by the Government's personnel or agents, or by private parties exercising traditional government functions with the Government's acquiescence, whether the act occurs in the territory of the State or outside the territory of the State.

Persons who breach or order violations of these principles, or who aid and abet the breach of these principles, or who fail to punish subordinates who have committed breaches of these principles, may face individual criminal liability at home and/or in foreign or international courts.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the passage of H.R. 3127, The Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006. As I was regretfully absent at the time of this vote, I now take the opportunity to affirm my resolute support of this act.

''The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.'' These words, spoken by Thomas Jefferson, come to mind as I consider the current situation in Darfur, Sudan. In a conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people, displaced and left millions hungry, the United States can remain idle no longer. I stand with my colleagues in the House in support of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act and would have voted for the resolution if I had been present.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Scholarship Database Act to create a one-stop Web portal of scholarships, grants, fellowships, and other forms of financial aid for the students wishing to study science, technology, engineering, or mathematics disciplines.

Yes, there are many websites in existence that inform students about federal financial aid or students pay for a service to locate other scholarship opportunities. However, none seems to meet the needs of a wide range of students across the country. We grapple with what to do for our nation's future in terms of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students, the least we can do is ease the burden of finding financial aid. In a time of fiscal responsibility, this is an affordable way to enable our workforce of tomorrow to be highly skilled and well educated.

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship Database would give a complete list of scholarships, fellowships, and other programs of financial assistance from all public and private sources for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics postsecondary and post-graduate level study.

First generation students would greatly benefit from such a database that would separate the information according to disciplines of study, level of study, and assistance based on gender, ethnicity, or other characteristics.

When one is the first person in your family to consider going to college one often has very little guidance on how to proceed with the entire college application process, of which financial aid is one piece. If a student does not immediately or easily find financial assistance they may at first see their dream of a college degree in a STEM field shattered. We can ease this with the one-stop Web portal of STEM financial aid.

As we move forward, this Web portal can expand to meet the needs of our nation, and it can serve as a model for other disciplines to follow suit.

IN HONOR OF CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor California's County Agricultural Commissioners. Agriculture is California's No. 1 industry. In 2004 the fertile soils of California supported over 350 different crops, which were valued at over $37.5 billion and shipped throughout the United States and foreign countries. Weather, water and good farmers are some of the major factors contributing to California's bountiful crops. One other prime factor in California's agricultural success has been the presence of California Agricultural Commissioners.

California County Agricultural Commissioners will celebrate their first 125 years during their annual convention in May 2006, in San Luis Obispo, CA. No other State in the United States has the Agricultural Commissioners system, which has been in existence in California since 1881. It is fitting that the California Agricultural Commissioners be recognized and honored for their contributions to the well being of California and to our Nation.

As prescribed by State Law, the County Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for the local administration of State wide enforcement programs that promote and protect the agricultural industry of the State. In addition this commission is dedicated to protecting public health, safety and welfare. In fulfilling this responsibility, the primary objective of the County Agricultural Commissioner is to maintain a viable system of production and delivery of an abundant supply of wholesome food and fiber to domestic and export consumers. Each agricultural commissioner adheres to the following policies in order to maintain the integrity of the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

The first and foremost policy is to ensure the protection of California's agricultural resources and the environment in manner that will result in the greatest long-term benefit to all. One of the primary ways the commission protects agricultural resources, the environment and public health is by supporting beneficial legislation as well as preserving local determination. The Commissioner seeks to insure that all interagency and joint policies provide adequate flexibility to accommodate local concerns and resources.

The County Agricultural Commissioner recognizes the need to protect the agriculture industry from the introduction and spread of damaging pests. Therefore, it encourages and promotes the suppression of pests through biological, cultural, mechanical and chemical methods. However, the Commissioner has always been cognizant of the effects of harmful pesticides and has adamantly enforced all laws and regulations that provide for the appropriate, safe and efficient use of pesticides.

The Commissioner protects both businesses and consumers. The consumers are protected from fraud and deception and are assured marketing equity among producers and among shippers in the distribution of fruits, nuts, vegetables, eggs and honey by the uniform enforcement of quality standards. The Commissioner's Office also encourages the development of alternate disposal methods for substandard commodities to prevent waste.

The Agricultural Commissioners are today enforcing legislation of the basic quarantine sections that have stood for over 115 years. It has been the enforcement of these quarantine laws that has helped to keep California agriculture free from biological pollution caused by invasive insect and plant diseases found in other parts of the world.

The work of the Agricultural Commissioners is to be commended as their presence, dedication, knowledge, professionalism and hard work, has insured an adequate food supply for millions of people and a healthy economy for the State of California. Our Nation's residents as well as citizens of other nations are the beneficiaries of an amazing supply of agricultural products grown throughout the year in California. California, her farmers and Agricultural Commissioners can be proud of the first 125 years of service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. GEORGE SHERMAN (RET.)

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Lt. Col. George Sherman (Ret.) who will be celebrating his 80th birthday on April 17, 2006.

A distinguished member of the Las Vegas community, Lt. Col. George Sherman (Ret.) has dedicated his life to being a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather, achieving a brilliant career in the United States Army Air Corp-Air Force, and serving as a respected leader in his community.

In the early 1940's, while serving in the Army Air Corp-Air Force, Lt. Col. George Sherman (Ret.) earned the distinct honor of becoming one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Throughout his 22 year service in the United States Military, Lt. Col. George Sherman (Ret.) served as Aircraft Commander, Launch and Control Training Officer, and Chief of Ordnance Safety. Furthermore, while serving, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from the University of Illinois; and after retiring from the military in 1971, Lt. Col. George Sherman (Ret.) received a Masters of Arts in Public Administration.

Over his distinguished life, Lt. Col. George Sherman (Ret.) has shown a passion for aviation and community service. He was awarded the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor of the Boy Scouts of America; he was a member

of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, an organization that promotes minority brotherhood and leadership; he continues his connection to the Tuskegee Airmen Inc., represented on several occasions in the Las Vegas Sun and Review Journal newspapers; and has held memberships in Negro Aviation International (NAI), the Dadailians, and served on the Board of Directors of the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce. Today, Lt. Col. George Sherman (Ret.) remains active in the pursuit of minority youth achievement in aviation, while maintaining his commitment of volunteer work within the Clark County community.

Mr. Speaker, It is an honor to recognize Lt. Col. George Sherman on the floor of the House today. I thank him for his services to this country and congratulate him on a wonderful eighty years.

TRIBUTE TO THE HAITIAN EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF MIAMI

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church of Miami on the occasion of the blessing of its new Sanctuary.

On Sunday, April 9, 2006, the Reverend David Eugene will lead the members of his congregation to celebrate this milestone of the Church, which sits in the heart of my District's North Dade community.

Founded in August 1980, this Church has unselfishly committed its ministry of bringing the message of salvation to newly-arrived Haitian immigrants. Part of its stewardship is an ongoing teaching component and counseling service that helps meet the needs of immigrant families as they strive to adapt to a new culture. It has also defined its outreach effort as to bring the ''whole gospel to the whole man,'' striving to empower the members of its congregation with their spiritual, emotional, mental and relational well-being, and to draw closer to other communities. Consistent with this philosophy of ministry, this Church has embarked on and supported many community projects to improve the quality of life of underprivileged Haitian children in the Miami-Dade community, and in Haiti as well.

Since its establishment 26 years ago, the prime focus of Church members has been the construction of a sanctuary where people of all races and cultural backgrounds can come together to worship. On its appointed hour at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, this cherished dream will come to fruition when members of this Congregation will join their voices to those of many prominent members and supporters of this community to inaugurate this long-awaited sanctuary and give thanks to all those who have labored long and hard to ensure that this day would come.

Reverend Eugene has spearheaded not only a spiritual rejuvenation of the members of his Church, but he has also made magnificent strides in ensuring that their commitment to the mandate of the Gospel is defined by its outreach efforts to provide free and reduced-price daycare services to the children in the community, along with an after-school program for low-income families, dropout prevention, computer literacy and acculturation classes, voters' education and registration. It has also established free student tutorials, substance-abuse prevention counseling, along with counseling for dysfunctional families, parenting skills, and regular seminars on cultural diversity.

I am confident that this Church will continue to serve as an unerring instrument for good by evoking in us the centrality of God in our daily lives, conscious of the fact that mandate of our faith must define our charity, understanding and compassion for those who could least fend for themselves.

With the consecration of its Sanctuary on its 26th year of establishment, the Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church of Miami symbolizes a magnificent legacy for the perseverance and resilience of our Haitian community. I join Reverend Eugene and his congregation in celebrating this historic event. My genuine pride in sharing their friendship is only exceeded by my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for all that they have done to help the people of our community.

INCREASING AWARENESS OF KIDNEY DISEASE IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, as Congress recognizes National Minority Health Month, I join my colleagues, Congresswoman Christensen and Congressman Jefferson to increase awareness about the devastating effects of kidney disease on the African American community.

Both kidney failure and its precursor, Chronic Kidney Disease, CKD, disproportionately affect African Americans. Although only about 13 percent of the U.S. population, African Americans make up 32 percent of the patients treated for kidney failure. The American Heart Association reports that African Americans have a 4.2 times greater rate of kidney failure than white Americans. The Congressional Black Caucus is especially concerned about the growing prevalence of kidney disease because of this disproportionate impact.

Mr. Speaker, the leading causes of kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure, both of which also disproportionately affect African Americans. Diabetes occurs at twice the rate in the African American community than it does with Caucasians. High blood pressure affects 1 out of every 3 African American adults. According to the American Heart Association, the prevalence of hypertension in the African American community is among the highest in the world.

Mr. Speaker, African Americans are four times more likely to develop kidney failure than Caucasians. African Americans make up 12 percent of the population but account for 30 percent of people with kidney failure. Diabetes and high blood pressure account for about 70 percent of kidney failure in African Americans. A recent National Kidney Disease Education Program, NKDEP, survey of African Americans found that only 17 percent named kidney disease as a consequence of diabetes, and only eight percent named it as a consequence of high blood pressure. African American males ages 22–44 are 20 times more likely to develop kidney failure due to high blood pressure than Caucasian males in the same age group. Forty-five percent of African American men with kidney failure received late referrals to nephrologists. In some cases people were not aware they had a problem until they needed dialysis.

We must continue our strong support of the efforts of the kidney care community to meet the needs of these patients. We must fund education programs to raise awareness of the disease within the African American community. We must ensure that Medicare treats those who care for patients with kidney disease the same way it treats all other groups of providers—this means enacting an annual update mechanism to recognize inflation and other increases related to caring for these patients. Without equitable reimbursement, it will be difficult for the community to continue to meet the needs of the ever-growing patient population.

Supporting educational programs and high quality care not only improves quality of life for patients, but also reduces the cost to the overburdened Medicare program. Preventing kidney failure and improving care will result in substantial savings for the government. In addition, if treated early, individuals with kidney disease will experience an improved quality of life and be able to maintain more daily life activities, including keeping their jobs.

My colleagues and I applaud the efforts to increase awareness about this important issue and to show support for Americans living with kidney disease. We must act now to help Americans learn more about this deadly disease and how to prevent its development and progression to kidney failure.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DAVE PETERSON

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Dave Peterson, of Overland Park, Kansas, who died on March 20th. Dave was born March 31, 1951, to Harold and Josephine (Lewis) Peterson. He was a lifelong resident of the Kansas City area and married Cindy Peterson, with whom he had two daughters: Erica and Andrea Peterson, all of Overland Park. He is also survived by his sister Pat Higgins and brothers Harold Peterson, Jr., and John Peterson.

Dave Peterson was a member of United Auto Workers Local 31 since he began working at General Motors in 1976. He became the President of the local in 2002, a position he held until the time of his death. He was also the President of the Kansas State CAP Council, the AFL–CIO Tri-County Labor Council, was a past member of the executive board of the Wyandotte County United Way and was involved in numerous charity organizations throughout the community. He formerly served as an executive board member of the Kansas AFL–CIO. Dave worked at the GM-Fairfax facility in Kansas City, Kansas, for 30 years, starting on the production line and then going

through an apprenticeship program to become a skilled tradesman.

Mr. Speaker, the details of his life do not paint the full picture of the personality and influence that Dave Peterson brought to bear in the Kansas City metropolitan area. As Kevin O'Neill, the publisher of the Labor Beacon said in his paper's obituary concerning Dave: "Whenever I thought of Dave Peterson, I thought of passion. The man was full of passion. That is what made him a great leader. That is what made him a great man." As Garry Kemp, Business Manager for the Greater Kansas City Building Trades said, in the same article, "All who knew him will acknowledge that he wasn't bashful whenever he spoke, publicly or privately, regarding the working people and their equal rights to obtain an economically fair and just livelihood from the services rendered." Dave Peterson was a friend, neighbor and advisor of mine. His enthusiasm, integrity and dedication to the public interest will be sorely missed by all of us in public service in the Kansas City metro area. I echo the sentiments expressed on the Kansas Democratic Party's Web site concerning the passing of Dave Peterson: "Dave was a well-reasoned and common sense advisor to government and business leaders across the state. He was an active, passionate and vocal Democrat who never hesitated to tell anyone how he felt, and that he was proud to be a Democrat. Dave's leadership and dedication will be missed."

While Dave and I did not agree on every policy issue that came before Congress, I respected his counsel and welcomed his advice. Our community is richer for his having been among us and we are poorer today because we have lost him. Mr. Speaker, I include with this statement the obituary regarding Dave Peterson that was published in the Kansas City Star:

DAVE PETERSON, PRESIDENT OF UAW LOCAL, DIES AT 54

[From the Kansas City Star, Mar. 23, 2006]

(By Randolph Heaster)

Dave Peterson, a prominent local union leader, died Monday. He was 54.

Peterson became president of United Auto Workers Local 31 in 2002 and served as its recording secretary before that. He was also president of the AFL–CIO Tri-County Labor Council of Eastern Kansas.

Peterson's activism on behalf of causes supported by organized labor was well known among community and civic leaders. He and Local 31, which represents workers at the General Motors Fairfax assembly plant, also were active in United Way fundraising in Wyandotte County.

He put Local 31 on the map in the political arena and in the labor movement in general, said Jeff Manning, Local 31 vice president. He touched a lot of people, and he was always involved in charitable causes.

Peterson was one of the principal organizers of last year's Labor Day parade, the first in Kansas City in 13 years. He thought such a tradition was sorely needed to reinvigorate a labor movement that was still recovering from the setbacks of the 2004 elections.

We're looking for something to rally around, he said at the time. If we don't come together and show some solidarity, we're all going to wind up losing.

Peterson regularly attended a monthly breakfast meeting between union officials and local media members. That was where Gordon Clark said he got to know Peterson better and began working with him on various issues.

Dave was one of the best labor leaders that I've known, and I've looked up to him the last few years for guidance and leadership, said Clark, president of Transport Workers Union Local 530, which represents American Airlines workers. I was proud to know him. Clark said Peterson was quick to volunteer his time for training or teaching forums on matters affecting organized labor.

He always made the Local 31 union hall available for whoever needed a bigger space, Clark said.

Peterson worked at the Fairfax plant for 30 years. He survived a 21-month layoff when GM eliminated a second shift in the early 1980s. Peterson was president when GM decided to invest $500 million in the Fairfax plant to build the new Chevrolet Malibu. With a new Saturn passenger car also expected to come on line this year, the Fairfax plant survived GM's decision last fall to close several plants in an effort to become profitable.

After years of suffering through temporary shutdowns from slow sales in the 1980s and 1990s, the Fairfax plant's 3,000 employees have had steady work and overtime since the Malibu's introduction three years ago. But Peterson continued to warn the public about the trend among U.S. corporations to eliminate high-paying domestic jobs and opening plants in countries with cheap labor.

He was definitely a working man's friend, Manning said. If you worked hard, he believed you should be rewarded for that. He will be greatly missed.

ACCELERATING THE CREATION OF TEACHERS OF INFLUENCE FOR OUR NATION (ACTION) ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Accelerating the Creation of Teachers of Influence for Our Nation (ACTION) Act, a bill that creates highly qualified science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers for elementary and secondary classrooms across America.

The ACTION Act has two separate pieces. Through the scholarship portion we create teachers with a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics degree with teacher certification to raise scientific literacy and teach critical thinking, two necessary skills for our citizenry in the 21st century. Each student receiving this scholarship would have a teaching service requirement and if it is not fulfilled the scholarship reverts to a student loan. Students can also obtain their Masters in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or education.

The competitive renewal university grants encourage universities or a consortium of universities to create these programs, thus augmenting the pool of potential institutions for these scholarship recipients to attend.

Recently Maine declared that they are retiring more science and mathematics teachers than are being produced by colleges and universities. The National Science Board Science and Engineering Indicators 2006 states that "out-of-field teaching (as measured by either lacking a certificate or a college major or minor in the assigned teaching) field is common. A maximum of twenty-eight percent of high school mathematics and science teachers lacked full certification in their teaching field in academic 2002."

As the global economy of the 21st century unfolds, scientific and engineering occupations are expected to continue to grow more rapidly than occupations in general. Out future workforce must be literate and fluent in both the technical and the scientific arenas. The decisions facing our Nation will also require these skills, as we move into uncharted waters with such topics as STEM cell research, nanotechnology, high-tech manufacturing, aerospace engineering, and biotechnology. Right now our 15-year-old students score below the international average on the Program for International Student Assessment which measures students' abilities to apply scientific and mathematical concepts and skills.

It is time to take action and make changes necessary for the future of our Nation, and move the ACTION Act forward.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ST. ROSE HOSPITAL-SAN MARTIN CAMPUS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the St. Rose Hospital and their team of dedicated professionals who are committed to providing compassionate, high-quality, affordable health services. Moreover, St. Rose Hospital has a proud history of service to the communities of Nevada.

It is the principal goal of St. Rose Hospital to provide a health care ministry distinguished by excellent quality and committed to expanding access to medical care to deprived individuals. This mission is complemented by numerous community outreach programs, sponsored by the hospital, designed to assist those in need and improve the quality of life. Furthermore, St. Rose Hospital has a strong tradition of establishing programs to assist eligible uninsured patients gain access to government funded insurance programs, advancing their goal to help those individuals' access preventative and ongoing care beyond an emergency or acute health care need.

St. Rose Hospital is dedicated to promoting the wholeness of body, mind and spirit in the Dominican tradition of working with others to improve the health status of the community, and does so by providing premium health care services through team work and innovation. Their professional staff members reach out to patients, their families, and those in need outside of the hospitals, while their services focus on the healing concept of physical restoration of the body and the healing of the mind and soul.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize St. Rose Hospital on the floor of the House today. I commend them for their efforts to provide high-quality health care and improve the quality of life of the community, and I wish them the best in continuing their mission.