

American Hospital Association, who has announced that he will retire on January 1, 2007.

I have been privileged to know Dick Davidson for decades, since he headed the Maryland Hospital Association and I was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. During his 22 years as the first president of MHA, Dick believed strongly in the shared obligation between state government and hospitals to ensure that communities' health needs are met, and he put that belief into practice. MHA was a proactive partner with the Maryland state government in creating innovative approaches to issues of health care costs and quality, most notably the Health Services Cost Review Commission, and the MHA Quality Indicator (QI) Project, the largest national and international effort to measure and compare indicators of hospital performance. More than 1,900 health care organizations in the United States and abroad now participate in the QI Project. I am pleased to note that the tradition of collaboration established by Davidson continues at MHA today.

In 1991, Dick Davidson was named President of the American Hospital Association, which represents 4,800 hospitals and health systems throughout the nation. At AHA, he continued to foster the tenet that hospitals and the federal government could together create ways to better serve the health needs of their communities. He assembled what is often considered the finest team of policy professionals and advocates in Washington. Davidson's tenure will also be remembered for promoting diversity in health care leadership. In 1994, AHA founded the Institute for Diversity in Health Management to expand leadership opportunities for ethnically, culturally, and racially diverse individuals, and increase the number of these individuals entering and advancing in the field. Over the past decade, the Institute has awarded more than \$110,000 in scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students, and placed candidates in residencies and fellowships at health care organizations across the country.

Among health care providers, payers, analysts, and policymakers, there is strong consensus that Dick Davidson's leadership has contributed to the improvement of the quality of health care across America. For that, the health care community and, indeed, our nation are grateful.

I also want to congratulate Dick's wife Janet, who will undoubtedly be able to spend much more time with him beginning in 2007. Janet was herself a fixture in the Maryland state house for many years, having worked for current Senate President Mike Miller and former Senate President STENY HOYER, among other distinguished elected officials. I would ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing the entire Davidson family—including their three sons—Mike, Andy, and Rick—all the best as the Davidson era at the American Hospital Association draws to a close.

RECOGNIZING MR. LONNIE  
EUGENE ROARK

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of my uncle, Lonnie Eugene

Roark, who passed away on April 15, 2006 at the age of 84.

Mr. Roark was born on February 11, 1922 in Missouri and grew up in Oklahoma during the Great Depression. He later moved to California and spent most of his life in the community of La Puente.

Mr. Roark was a proud veteran of our armed forces. He was stationed in Brazil during World War II while serving in the U.S. Army and went on to serve in the Philippines and Hawai'i with the U.S. Air Force. Mr. Roark's service is commemorated in the book, *Fighting Men of Oklahoma*.

Mr. Roark was like a brother to my father, Raul Solis, and was my sister, Anna Solis', godfather. His acts of kindness and dedication have inspired me and many who know him. It is a true blessing to have been raised with a role model like Mr. Roark; it is not every day that we encounter a person filled with such generosity and love.

Mr. Roark was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. He is survived by his wife, 3 children, 4 grand children and 3 great-grand children. He will be truly missed.

HONORING THE LATE CHARLES  
WILLIAM ROGER

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a man who will long be remembered for his devotion to his family, church, community and nation. Charlie Roger of New Iberia, LA, died last month following heart complications he experienced during surgery.

A native of Lafayette and a resident of New Iberia for 15 years, Charlie was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. Following his military service, Charlie continued to exemplify the Marine code of "Semper Fidelis" by serving as an officer with the Lafayette Police Department, ultimately retiring as a Captain. I came to know Charlie through his most recent service as a Court Security Officer at the Federal Court House in Lafayette, where my office is located. I will always remember his smiling face as he walked the halls of the courthouse, keeping the building safe for my staff and the many other employees who worked there every day.

Outside of his public service, Charlie also worked as a limousine driver for Mary Ellen's Bridal Shop on weekends. He was also an exceptionally talented musician, and was well known for playing the drums in his own band, "Charlie Roger and the Lafayette Playboys," or playing the scrub board with "Kenny and the Heart Breakers." Most recently, Charlie was awarded the Cajun French Music Association "First New CD of the Year 2006 Award."

In his off time, Charlie enjoyed working out and weight lifting at Red Lerille's Health Club. He was a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Community in Broussard, and also remained a member of the Marine Corps League and Fraternal Order of Police Officers.

I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to

the memory of this outstanding public servant and in offering our deepest condolences to his wife, Debbie Picard Roger; his son Charles "C.J." Jude Roger; his sister Nelda Powell; and his brother Joseph Roger.

IN HONOR OF THE VOLUNTEERS  
OF SOUTHWEST HOUSING AND  
THE VILLAS OF REMOND COM-  
MUNITY IN DALLAS, TEXAS

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the generous volunteers of Southwest Housing and the Villas of Remond community in Dallas, Texas. While many volunteers in the DFW Metroplex are worthy of recognition during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, the Southwest Housing and the Villas of Remond Community have performed inspiring and commendable work through their many acts of volunteerism.

During the past year, these volunteers have served on hospitality, spiritual wellness and entertainment committees that make important decisions for their community. They have led Bible studies, exercise classes, hosted book clubs, and planned celebrations. Additionally, volunteers and residents not only shared the food and clothes with the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita evacuees, but also encouraged friends, fellow churchgoers and family members to do the same. Through their generous work they have experienced first-hand the ancient truth to give is better than to receive.

The Villas of Remond is a senior community for ages 60 and "better" that encourages its residents to live life to the fullest and share their love, laughter and wisdom with anyone in need. It is indeed an honor and privilege to have these exceptional volunteers supporting the Dallas community. I salute their leadership and look forward to hearing of their continued volunteer success stories that are so critical to the local community.

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY  
THE CUBAN-AMERICAN COMMU-  
NITY TO AID THE CHILDREN OF  
UKRAINE ON THE 20TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE CHERNOBYL  
TRAGEDY

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last December I had the honor to lead a Congressional delegation to Ukraine. The focus of the visit was to identify humanitarian initiatives that the Cuban-American community, that I am honored to represent, could undertake to help the "Orange Revolution" as it moved forward to address the most pressing needs of the Ukrainian people.

In the fall of 2005, Undersecretary of State Paula Dobbriansky was kind enough to arrange a meeting with the First Lady of Ukraine, Katerina Yushchenko. During that meeting the First Lady made clear that one of

President Viktor Yushchenko's priorities is to improve the healthcare system in Ukraine, and that she had established a foundation, known as Ukraine 3000, for the purpose of aiding hospitals in Ukraine by securing much needed medical equipment and medicines.

The delegation I led to Kiev in early December included Dr. Stephen Lipshultz, professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Miami School of Medicine, Dianne M. Kube, Chief Administrative Officer of the Community Oncology Alliance, Sylvia Irlondo, a respected Cuban-American leader and President of Mothers and Women Against Repression, and Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, President and Chairman of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund and Nadia Matkiwsky, a member of the Board of Directors. These two Ukrainian-Americans have spent the last 13 years tirelessly dedicated to helping the people of Ukraine.

As a result of our visits to various pediatric hospitals in Kiev and meetings with Ukrainian government officials, including President Viktor Yushchenko, and also Mrs. Yushchenko, we identified three initiatives that would be the focus of our work during the course of 2006, the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Tragedy. First, establishing a physician exchange program with the University of Miami's School of Medicine so that physicians in Ukraine could come to the United States to meet with their counterparts and establish links of communication on the latest medical techniques, procedures and medicines. This past January the first step was taken toward creating this exchange program; six of Ukraine's leading pediatric physicians attend a national pediatric conference in Miami hosted by the University of Miami's School of Medicine. Second, helping the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, a highly respected humanitarian organization led by Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky and Nadia Matkiwsky, to secure medical equipment and medicines for the 20th Anniversary Airlift that the U.S. State Department is coordinating. Children of Chernobyl have an impressive reputation in working to obtain medical equipment and medicines for the neediest hospitals in Ukraine. And another initiative identified by the group, is to bring children from Ukraine who are ill to vacation at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The first Ukrainian child, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Sylvia Irlondo, already spent five days visiting the "Magic Kingdom".

I commend the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund for their dedication over the years on behalf of the people of Ukraine, especially Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky who are the heart and soul of the organization. I am also truly optimistic regarding the relationship that has been forged between physicians at the University of Miami's School of Medicine and physicians from Ukraine, and I commend Dr. Stephen Lipshultz for spearheading this worthy endeavor. I also thank Dianne Kube for her sound guidance and the countless hours she has dedicated to work on these initiatives, and Sylvia Irlondo for her generosity and constant leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as we pass this resolution commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, I am honored to say that the community I represent is committed to doing all it can to help the noble people of Ukraine as they move forward on their new democratic course.

TO NAME THE MANASSAS POST OFFICE IN HONOR OF THE LATE HONORABLE HARRY J. PARRISH

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the legacy of the Honorable Harry J. Parrish by introducing legislation which would name the Manassas Post Office at 8801 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA 20110 the "Harry J. Parrish Post Office Building." Mr. Parrish was a member of the Virginia General Assembly and decorated World War II pilot from Manassas, Virginia, who passed away on March 28 at the age of 84.

Harry Parrish served over 50 years in elected office, including 13 terms in the Virginia House of Delegates and chairman of the Finance Committee since 2000, Manassas council member and mayor. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest serving member of the House of Delegates. During his 12 years as town councilman and 18 years as mayor, Harry helped guide the transformation of Manassas from a small Virginia town to a thriving, lively suburb. As a member of the House of Delegates, he was known for conducting himself in a bipartisan manner, putting Virginia first. I was proud to call Harry my friend. He was a true Virginia gentleman.

As a decorated World War II pilot, Harry was part of the British Royal Air Force. He flew C-47s over the Himalayas delivering supplies, weapons and other cargo, from India to China. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his valiant efforts. He served as a reservist in the Korean and Vietnam wars before retiring as a colonel.

Naming the post office on Sudley Road in Manassas in his honor is an appropriate reminder to the people of Manassas of Harry's dedication to public service.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. CARL W. RAFOTH

### HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rafoth of Augusta, GA on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on April 21, 2006. Carl and Hylda Rafoth were married on April 21, 1936, in Youngstown, OH. Carl supported his family of four children by working at the Islay Dairy Company in Youngstown. Since then, their family has grown significantly in size, as they now have 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Their family resides throughout the country in Georgia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, where their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren hold fast to the work ethic and patriotism instilled in them by these two fine Americans.

Carl's and Hylda's many decades together exemplify our American values concerning the institution of marriage. They are committed citizens, and even in their golden years, they

have never waned in actively serving their family, their country and their community in Augusta. Their service and dedication are a model for all Americans, and I come before the House with the hopes that they had a most memorable 70th anniversary.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

### HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2006*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Yom Hashoa is a day set aside on the Jewish calendar to recall with great reverence and respect the lives of the millions of victims of the Holocaust.

More than 60 years ago, a maniacal dictator rose to power in Europe, and darkness fell upon the earth. Through a doctrine of hatred and destruction, he slew blameless, pure and innocent, men, women and children. The Nazis were intent on performing a systematic annihilation of the Jewish people. Their brutal endeavor to commit genocide was no more evident than in their zeal for murdering children.

It is a heinous crime to destroy a people's past and to annihilate their future. One can only imagine the contributions to the world lost by this act of genocide, not only for our generation but for the future generations that will now never exist.

For the survivors, the Holocaust did not end with liberation. Like the marks on their arms, their lives were forever marked by this atrocity. Those who survived faced the enormous challenge of rebuilding their lives. Many succeeded, others did not, but all would remember the horror of the crimes that were perpetrated against them. Survivors who suffered this hell are a living testament to the depths of evil to which man can fall. We must never again allow such a monstrous crime by man to be committed again.

We read in Sefer Yeshayahu, the book of Isaiah:

In my house and within my walls, I shall give them a Yad Vashem—a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; an eternal, imperishable name will I give them.

On Thursday, in the United States Capitol Rotunda, we will observe Yom Hashoa. Through our observance, we create a human monument assuring that these innocent victims will not be forgotten. We here in the United States, the birthplace of Thomas Jefferson and Martin Luther King, are privileged to enjoy the greatest freedom known to man. We must never allow ourselves to take these freedoms for granted. We must never forget the genocide and human rights abuses that have occurred and, sadly, continue to occur around the world. We must not remain silent. We must dedicate ourselves to continuing to educate people around the globe about the horrors of the Holocaust. We must be eternally vigilant that such intolerance never happens again.

God full of mercy who dwells on high  
Grant perfect rest on the wings of Your Divine Presence

In the lofty heights of the holy and pure who  
shine as the brightness of the heavens