

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JONATHAN M. NELSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jonathan M. Nelson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jonathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jonathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jonathan M. Nelson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A NEW GUN ARGUMENT—MAYORS TURN THE POLITICAL ISSUE TO SAVING LIVES

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg for taking the initiative of bringing the issue of gun violence to the forefront. This is truly an important topic for discussion. Mayor Bloomberg is aware of the many problems caused by gun violence and he knows first hand the commitment needed to adequately address it.

Mayor Bloomberg knows just how serious this issue has become in major cities across America. As a result, just this past week, he called for a conference in New York City of a few big city mayors in what was labeled “national leadership in the war on gun violence”. Gun violence in many of our nation’s cities is on the rise, and will continue to be if no serious action is taken. Mayor Bloomberg feels that since neither the White House nor Congress has taken any real steps toward addressing the issue, it must fall to state and local governments to handle.

I want to stress the fact that this responsibility should not fall solely on state and local governments, but equally on us in the Congress. Congress needs to see what can be done to assist those in our home districts dealing with gun violence. Have we forgotten about them? We should be able to provide our cities with any type of assistance that they need, especially on an issue so vital.

Congress needs to reinstate the assault weapons ban act of 1994 which sadly expired in September of 2004. Allowing this law to expire does not show our resolve on gun trafficking and I believe that it renders us irrelevant. Mayor Bloomberg is a Republican and has teamed up with Democratic mayors in particular Mayor Menino of Boston and has in essence left the partisanship at the door for the sake of the people they were elected to serve.

Mayor Bloomberg and Mayor Thomas Menino of Boston have made the case that this is in no way an attack on the culture of hunting, a sport practiced by many in this country. However, they realize that “it’s a difference in how guns are used”. In rural areas, guns are used for collection and hunting, but in inner cities, guns are “used almost entirely to threatened or kill other human beings”.

I enter into the RECORD the opinion editorial by E.J. Dionne, Jr. published by the Washington Post for the new insight it presented and acknowledgment of various big city mayors for the efforts to control guns. The mayors are leading the way toward stronger gun control and we must find ways to support this growing movement.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 28, 2006]

A NEW GUN ARGUMENT—MAYORS TURN THE POLITICAL ISSUE TO SAVING LIVES

(By E.J. Dionne, Jr.)

NEW YORK.—Have you noticed that Washington politicians have given up on thinking about new solutions to gun violence? New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has noticed, and he’s angry. Good for him.

Bloomberg is a Republican, if hardly a partisan sort, and it may take a Republican to restart a debate that many Democrats have fled after a careful examination of the electoral map—and years of exhaustion from demagoguery on the issue.

Teaming up with Boston’s Democratic mayor, Thomas Menino, Bloomberg brought 13 other big-city mayors together here on Tuesday to call for “national leadership in the war on gun violence.”

“If the leadership won’t come from Congress or come from the White House, then it has to come from us,” said Bloomberg.

The mayors, Menino said, do not want to meddle with the rights of hunters. They are concerned about the trafficking of illegal guns and the powerlessness of individual cities to enforce their own weapons laws because of loopholes in federal rules and because criminals can easily obtain weapons in jurisdictions with looser regulations.

Our dysfunctional political system has become especially dysfunctional on gun violence. The National Rifle Association regularly says that we don’t need new laws and should simply enforce the regulations on the books. But if many of the existing laws are unenforceable, that statement is meaningless.

Opponents of even modest gun regulation win the upper hand rhetorically by invoking two words: freedom and elitism. None of us is really free, the argument goes, unless all of us have essentially unfettered access to

weapons, and any new gun laws are seen as leading down a slippery slope to a total ban on gun ownership. Supporters of gun regulations are always cast as metropolitan high-brows lacking in respect for the way of life of law-abiding country folks.

At a structural level, Congress has a deep bias in favor of the rural point of view because the Senate is stacked in favor of rural states. Idaho, Wyoming and Montana have two senators each, and so do California, New York and Illinois.

According to the latest Census Bureau estimates, the six senators from those three rural states represent 2,874,060 people. The six from the three states that include big urban and suburban populations represent 68,150,148 people. By these figures, you might calculate the rough odds against gun regulations at 24 to 1.

Changing the political argument is easier than changing the Senate. Mayors—joined soon, Menino hopes, by suburban county executives—are the right people to start the work.

Yes, there is a cultural difference between big cities and rural areas, but it’s a difference in how guns are used. Rural people treasure their guns mostly for hunting and recreation, and as collectors. In inner cities, guns—especially handguns—are used almost entirely to threaten or kill other human beings.

“There are neighborhoods where if you say ‘duck,’ people get out of the way because they’re worried they’ll be shot,” Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett said in an interview. “But there are other parts of the country where if you say ‘duck,’ people will grab their rifles to go duck hunting.”

We desperately need a new politics of gun regulation in which law-abiding gun owners see the fight for tougher laws not as a form of disrespect for their culture but as an acknowledgment that if our gun rules are an unenforceable hodgepodge, illegal guns will inevitably get into the hands of kids and criminals in the cities and suburbs.

“I’m fighting for freedom, too,” said Barrett. “I’m fighting for the freedom of a grandma to sit on her front porch and not get hit when there’s a drive-by shooting. I’m fighting for the freedom of kids to play in the park without being caught in a cross-fire.”

The mayors have to act for another reason: Democrats have lost their nerve on the gun issue. Barrett traces this to the passage of the assault weapons ban in 1994. (Congress let it expire in September 2004.) Many Democrats who supported the ban were defeated in that fall’s election.

“So Democrats who might be inclined to do something are now inclined to stay away from the issue,” said Barrett, a Democratic member of Congress at the time. “And most Republicans aren’t inclined to do anything at all.”

Railing against this state of affairs is useless. Better that a savvy group of mayors takes the lead in the difficult struggle to change the underlying politics by reminding Americans that this issue is about saving the lives of innocent kids—and of grandmas in their rocking chairs.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CONGRATULATING ALMA BERLOT WHO WAS SELECTED AS "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE WYOMING VALLEY WOMAN'S CLUB

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Alma Berlot of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, who was chosen as Woman of the Year by the Wyoming Valley Woman's Club for the year 2006.

Mrs. Berlot is affectionately known as the coal miner's daughter because of the dedicated work she did to spearhead the drive to place a statue of a coal miner at the intersection of East Main Street and Kosciuszko Street in Nanticoke. Mrs. Berlot did that to immortalize the sacrifices made by her father and thousands of other mine workers who labored deep underground in often dangerous conditions to support their families and to invigorate the regional economy.

Mrs. Berlot is now working to get a postage stamp that will honor the coal miners for their courage and bravery.

Mrs. Berlot's father, Ed Salvatore, lost his life in the mines. Her mother, Elizabeth Tulli, was killed in a car crash by a drunken driver. In tribute to her parents, Mrs. Berlot subsequently organized a talented group of children and young adults who entertain at nursing homes, veteran's gatherings, etc. The group is called "Make Someone Happy."

Over the years, Mrs. Berlot has received many awards from two State hospitals for her work with the mentally challenged and also the Special Olympics.

Mrs. Berlot is married to Alvin Berlot and the couple has four children: Dr. Alvin Berlot, Attorney Melissa McCafferty, Gina Bunchalk, RNBSRN and Madonna Trombetta, RN.

The Wyoming Valley Woman's Club gives its "Woman of the Year" award annually to a worthy woman for her outstanding contributions to the Wyoming Valley. The selection committee is composed of past award winners including Doris J. Merrill, chairperson, Nanticoke; Anna Cervenak, Kingston; Rose Marie Panzitta, Wilkes-Barre; Judith Ellis, College Misericordia; Rose Mary Sigmund, Luzerne; Martha Elko, Kingston and Ann MacFarland, president, Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Berlot on the occasion of this outstanding achievement. Mrs. Berlot's devotion to community service is well known and it is fitting that she should receive this award.

COMMENDING NETTIE PAULSON

**HON. GIL GUTKNECHT**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ms. Nettie Paulson of New Ulm, Minnesota, for her service to the Gillette Children's Hospital and her dedication to making the patients more comfortable as a member of the Friends of Gillette group.

The Friends of Gillette are volunteers devoted to the children being treated at the Gillette Children's Hospital and their families. The Friends of Gillette have raised more than \$2 million in medical assistance for families and they also donate items, such as knitted quilts and hats, to patients in an effort to bring comfort and warmth to the patient's hospital stay.

Ms. Nettie Paulson's dedication to the children and families of Gillette Children's Hospital has been felt for over 50 years. Through the Friends of Gillette program, Ms. Paulson has now donated 1,000 of her hand-made quilts to Gillette patients over the years. She has touched the lives and hearts of thousands of children and their families with her constant kindness.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Paulson is a great example of one who is willing to share her talents to help those in need. I commend Ms. Nettie Paulson for her decades of service to the children and families of Gillette Children's Hospital.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF HOSPITAL CORPSMAN THIRD CLASS VICTOR L. LEWIS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of United States Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Victor L. Lewis, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Combat Team 2, Marines Expeditionary Forces, upon his recognition by the United States Navy with a Bronze Star Medal for his heroic actions while serving in Iraq on April 4, 2005.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Victor L. Lewis is a firefighter in Cleveland, Ohio. His courage and conviction exceeded his excellent training and experience as a firefighter, when his platoon came under fire last year. During a mission in Haqlnayah, Iraq to locate an enemy weapons cache, Hospital Corpsman Third Class Victor L. Lewis and his platoon came under attack by a well-coordinated enemy ambush. The platoon was bombarded by heavy machinegun fire, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. When a fellow Marine fell wounded, Corpsman Lewis ran forty meters through heavy gunfire, administered first aid and moved him to safety.

When a second Marine was wounded, Hospital Corpsman Third Class Victor L. Lewis ran to his aid, again through the smoke and blast of heavy gunfire, rendered first aid, then lifted him up and carried him to safety. His efforts to save the lives of others while placing his own life in grave danger reflects courage and heroism of the highest level.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to Hospital Corpsman Third Class Victor L. Lewis, whose bravery and unwavering devotion to the members of his platoon will forever stand as a testament to the spirit and strength of the human heart to face down fear and run through the fires of war to save the lives of his friends. Our community and our Nation will be forever grateful.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER K. WILLIAMS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher K. Williams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his Troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher K. Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

STOP THE GENOCIDE IN THE DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, April 30, 2006, hundreds of thousands of Americans gathered in cities across the U.S. to rally to stop the murder, end the suffering and call for action to stop the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

As many as 400,000 children, men and women have been murdered in Darfur by the Janjaweed militia with direct support from the Government of Sudan. More than 2 million people have been displaced both inside Sudan as well as into the neighboring nation of Chad. Villages have been burned, rape and sexual violence has been used as a terrorist weapon against women and girls. The terror, horror, and evil perpetrated in Darfur is an ulcer on humanity that must be treated immediately. If not, the terrorist tactics used by the Janjaweed and their state sponsors will be a model for rogue nations and their non-state allies in every corner of the world. Ending the genocide in Darfur, providing on-going humanitarian assistance and protection to the victims, and bringing the perpetrators—both the Janjaweed terrorists and their government sponsors—to justice requires the U.S. and the world to act. Action is what citizens across our country are calling for.

I attended the rally in St. Paul, MN and I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of the organizations that worked hard to sponsor the rally and raise awareness regarding an international issue that speaks to our very humanity. It was a rainy day but those in attendance had warm hearts and their presence was a reflection of the fact that we are a free people—free from the fear, the misery and the horror facing our brothers and sisters in Sudan and Chad. Their calls to ensure that Congress, the White House and the world are held accountable for allowing the killing in Darfur to

continue were heard and I hope these voices continue to speak out for action until the day arrives when peace in Darfur triumphs over violence.

We must have the courage of our convictions to stop the genocide in Darfur—this is a test of our humanity and we are failing the test. I have had the privilege to travel twice to Darfur—to meet with the survivors of the genocide in January 2005 and again in January 2006. The women and children I spoke with have escaped the killing but continue to suffer and struggle for survival. Their courage is an inspiration and it humbles me. And, as a citizen of the richest, most powerful nation on earth, it is shameful to meet survivors of genocide and know we are watching as this horror continues.

It is shameful to know that for 3 years the U.S. and other free nations around the world have not had the political courage or the military will to stop the mass murder. World leaders continue to say “genocide, never again,” and yet the genocide continues. The murder and rapes continue. The terrorism and ethnic cleansing continues. The genocide by starvation and disease continues. Darfur is a horror the world knows about, a horror we all watch on television. So why are our leaders not acting to end the genocide?

I am outraged to say that one reason the world is not acting is because governments are collaborating with the perpetrators of genocide. China wants Sudan’s oil and therefore the genocide in Darfur does not concern them. They stand in the way of the United Nations Security Council taking strong action to end the violence.

The U.S. government rightly condemns the genocide. But on April 28, 2006, the Bush administration released its annual report on terrorism and commended, that’s right, commended, the Government of Sudan. Let me quote from this official report, “Sudan continued to take significant steps to cooperate in the global war on terror.”

Excuse me President Bush, the victims of bombs, bullets, machetes, and rapes, the victims burned alive, are these citizens of Sudan, these victims of genocide, not also the victims of terrorism? The Government of Sudan is officially designated a state sponsor of terrorism by the U.S. Department of State. Why is the U.S. cooperating with a government committing genocide?

We should all be outraged that our government is cooperating with the Government of Sudan as it sponsors terrorism and commits genocide against its own citizens.

Unfortunately, this counterterrorism collaboration with the terrorist Khartoum regime is not new. On May 12, 2005, in a hearing before the House International Relations Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Non-proliferation, I had the opportunity to question the Honorable Philip D. Zelikow, Counselor, U.S. Department of State, who testified regarding the release of last year’s Country Reports on Terrorism. The following exchange from that hearing is insightful for Americans who believe ending genocide in Darfur is not separate from the war on terrorism. Yet it appears that the genocide does not deter the U.S. intelligence community’s ability and desire to collaborate in the shadows with the regime in Sudan.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, I had some questions that I had pre-

pared. They are based on a statement that was made in the testimony about Libya and Sudan, offering significant cooperation in the war on terrorism, therefore, they were being given kudos for having improved their behavior. I found this offensive and outrageous. Is the janjaweed militia committing acts of terrorism in Sudan? The answer is yes, unless you want to argue that they are not. Are they a terrorist organization? Yes. Is the janjaweed including excursions into Chad out of Sudan as part of their war on terrorism? The answer would be yes. Is Sudan a state sponsor of terrorism when they send in airplanes and helicopter gun ships to murder women and children? The answer would be yes.

Our country has used the term genocide in what is going on in Sudan. We just spent \$4 million providing relief to the victims of genocide in Darfur. Up to 300,000 people have been murdered in Sudan, with two million displaced refugees, and yet we are giving them glowing reports for cooperating in the war on terrorism. I think we do need a definition, because other than that, we are being hypocrites in this room, talking about fighting the war on terrorism.

Mr. ZELIKOW. Congresswoman, I am sympathetic to your concern. We have spent a lot of time in the last few weeks and months actually working on the problems of Darfur and the North-South Peace Accords and trying to get help to combat just the kinds of horrific depredations that so trouble you. They trouble us, too.

Question: Is Sudan a state sponsor of terrorism? Yes, and it is so designated by the United States Government. Question: Do we regard the acts committed by the janjaweed militia as terroristic? Yes, we do. And therefore, we believe that action including forceful, violent action needs to be directed by the international community to curb those abuses and mitigate the suffering that they have caused.

The problem that we confront, the dilemma that we confront, is, in fact, in the intelligence world; in the netherworld where a lot of counterterrorism work goes on, Sudan actually—one part of the Sudanese Government actually has done a number of cooperative things with us in that world. And so then you have to figure out how do you acknowledge that fact, which has helped us, and it has helped us with people who are targeting us outside of Sudan. How do you acknowledge that fact without appearing to turn a blind eye to the horrors that so trouble you and trouble us? And that is the dilemma that we are trying to balance and that is why I have approached your question the way I have.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Well, I am very concerned when we have government officials saying that they are cooperating on the war on terrorism. Whose war on terrorism? I am very concerned about the safety of Americans. I take an oath of office to protect that. I take it very seriously, but we also have human rights hearings and try to hold ourselves up to a high standard and we slip and fall down sometimes. But when we are saying, well, because they are with us on the war on terrorism against who we are fighting with, we are going to say that they are moving forward on the war on terrorism, when horrific acts that are state-sponsored are taking place. I think at a minimum, if you are going to describe what is going on in Sudan, it would only be respectful to the people who have been murdered and displaced, to recognize in the same breath that there are significant problems out there. And then the question becomes, whose side are we on?

Mr. ZELIKOW. Right, no, it is a fair point—

Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to look for excuses that allow our government to collabo-

rate with a nation that is complicit in murdering hundreds of thousands of its own citizens. The hour is late, people continue to die, but it is still not too late for action in Darfur that will save lives and bring peace. We don’t need more words and feigned gestures of concern. A superpower’s impotence in the face of genocide is a signal to every dictator, terrorist and militia leader who seeks power or wealth through murder and mayhem that the U.S. will condemn with words, but take no action to stop the cleansing of entire families, villages and entire regions of a country.

It is time for the world, including the United States, to stop watching this horrific genocide and start using our collective political will and military power to protect lives. Americans care deeply about human rights, human dignity and our brother and sisters in Sudan. We must commit ourselves to hold our government accountable to act to end this genocide. Laws are important, but they are only words if there is no action.

The time is now for action—action to stop the killing, start the healing and ensure justice is achieved for the people of Darfur.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE’S WOMEN’S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE NJCAA DIVISION III NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to congratulate the members of the outstanding women’s soccer team at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) who have recently won the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III National Championship. What an honor!

This team of 14 women from Greater Springfield beat colleges from New Jersey, Maryland, and finally Texas to achieve this title. Two of the championship games went beyond overtime into penalty kicks, and the game was won by STCC on the last penalty kick.

These young women have distinguished themselves and made all of us in Western Massachusetts so very proud of them. Their athletic talent and skill, and their qualities of courage, determination, teamwork, and leadership are among those that America holds highest. Each has demonstrated the qualities of teamwork in achieving this honor, and today I would like to honor them by inserting their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to forever be recorded in history: Christa Blair, Sarah Levesque, Crystal Dube, Jess Luszc, Hillary Flanders, Le Nguyen, Monica Gunn, Jackie Peloquin, Nora Healy, Chrissy Pikula, Stefiny Knight, Lindsey Pobiegllo, Marianne Laford, and Kara Trzasko.

Congratulations also to the outstanding coaching staff: Head Coach Bob Fuqua, Assistant Coach Brewster Renn, as well as former Head Coach Martino Naglieri and Assistant Jim LaPlante for bringing this team together and achieving this national title. I would also like to make a special note of the contributions of STCC Athletic Director J. Vincent

Grassetti, and his predecessor Willie Manzi for their efforts in building such a fine athletics program.

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
LADY RAMS 2005 WOMEN'S SOCCER ROSTER

The NJCAA Division III National Champions, November 13, 2005, in Herkimer, NY, against Cedar Valley College of Dallas, Texas.

Sarah Levesque, goalkeeper, Ludlow High School.

Christa Blair, forward, Gateway Regional High School.

Stefiny Knight, midfielder, Ludlow High School.

Crystal Dube, midfielder, South Hadley High School.

Marianne Laford, defense/midfield, Springfield Central High School.

Kara Trzasko, defense, Gateway Regional High School.

Nora Healy, forward, Chicopee High School.

Chrissy Pikula, defense/midfield, High School of Science & Technology.

Jess Luszcz, midfielder, Ludlow High School.

Le Nguyen, defense, High School of Science & Technology.

Lindsey Pobjeglo, midfield/forward, Palmer High School.

Jackie Peloquin, defense, Chicopee High School.

Monica Gunn, midfielder, Palmer High School.

Hillary Flanders, forward, Sabis International Charter School.

Head Coach: Bob Fuqua.

Assistant Coach: Brewster Renn.

Athletics Director: J. Vincent Grassetti.

#### TRIBUTE TO TERESA SHOCKLEY

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate second grade teacher Teresa Shockley, who received the Missouri State Teacher's Association (MSTA) Southwest Region Elementary Educator of the Year award.

On April 10, 2006, Mrs. Shockley received the award for the southwest region of Missouri for her innovation in the classroom. Mrs. Shockley teaches using hands-on lessons three to five times a week. Currently, her students are growing tadpoles and plants and preparing for a musical. She also has the children in her class create mini-economies, in which the students set up counties, cities, and city councils.

Mrs. Shockley has been teaching for twelve years, the last three of which she has taught second grade at Conway, Missouri's Ezard Elementary School. After she graduated from Conway High School in 1989, she attended Southwest Missouri State University. Mrs. Shockley earned her Master's degree from Southwest Baptist University while teaching fifth grade at Joel E. Barber School near Lebanon, Missouri. She has written various grants including, "Time Travel Through Literature," and "Consumers in Training." She also stays active in the community through her involvement in the Community Teacher's Association and the Professional Development Committee at Ezard Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating

Mrs. Teresa Shockley and in thanking her for her commitment to education.

#### TEXAS MADD CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, as you know, April 23–29 was designated as "National Crime Victims' Rights Week." In conjunction with crime victims' rights week, the Texas Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, MADD, held a statewide candlelight vigil on Monday, April 24, 2006, in Austin, Texas. I had the privilege to attend, as well as speak, at the vigil. The candlelight vigil was held to recognize, remember, and honor all of the victims of crime, throughout the Great State of Texas. It is only fitting that we pay tribute the Texas Chapter of MADD for their dedication and commitment to educating, preventing, and ending drunk driving, and its devastating consequences, in Texas and throughout the United States.

The National MADD Organization was established in 1980 by Candy Lightner, whose 13 year old daughter, Cari, was struck and killed by a drunk driver, while she was walking to a school carnival. All of MADD's 10 presidents have been victims and/or lost a loved one to a drunk driver. MADD's current president, Glynn Birch became the first male president of the organization in 2005. Since its inception, MADD has grown from a single chapter to nearly 600 chapters nationwide, with the number of supporters in the millions. MADD has been responsible for raising the federal drinking age to 21 years of age, lowering the legal threshold for intoxicated driving to .08, launching countless public service and media ad campaigns alerting teens to the dangers of drinking and driving, and celebrating its 25th Anniversary with the theme—"MADD Celebrates Life."

The Texas Chapter of MADD has been recognized for its efforts throughout the state in promoting the goals and principals of the National MADD Organization. The Texas MADD was the recipient of the 2002 Heart of MADD Award—honoring Texas' efforts in building strong victim service programs and outreach to victims of drunk driving crime. The Texas MADD has also been recognized by the National MADD organization for their work regarding their efforts to combat underage drinking in Texas, passing the .08 blood alcohol concentration in the Texas State Legislation, and for their contribution to a video for teens showcasing the danger of teenage alcohol consumption. The Texas Chapter of MADD has also supported countless pieces of Texas state legislation which protects its fellow Texans from drunk drivers, as well as making sure the offenders are adequately punished.

The Texas Chapter of MADD, as well as the National MADD Organization, has made it their mission to protect our roadways and educate our citizens to the negative consequences of drunk driving. They are also responsible for caring for the victims from these senseless acts of violence, to ensure their voices are heard and not forgotten. The Texas Chapter of MADD truly deserves this recognition. That's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW  
SCHANUEL FOR ACHIEVING THE  
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Schanuel, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Schanuel for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### A WAVE'S FIRST STRIKE

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgment of a recent opinion editorial in the Washington Post and an editorial in the New York Times which called for comprehensive immigration reform and the fair treatment of undocumented immigrants in this country. It is clear to me that this is only the beginning and that much more is coming.

On May 1st there was a Latino national strike in which tens of thousands of people did not show up for work in support of their cause. Strikes took place in cities such as New York, Chicago, Denver, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. Millions are taking to the streets to make sure that their voices are heard.

They want to make Americans nationwide understand that they are not here to harm anyone, but to work and support their families alike. These are people with values like our own and who also share our ethics of working hard to support oneself. Many in this country are not willing to take the necessary time to assess the struggle that immigrant families go through. Why is it that their contributions to our society are often ignored while their exploitation goes unnoticed? These are the people that make our meals, trim our hedges and construct our buildings, yet will we continue to regard them forever as second-class citizens? We must no longer continue on this dangerous path.

The op ed in the Washington Post noted that, "something important is happening—something that goes beyond the debate on Capitol Hill about immigration reform", and that statement has never been more valid than now. There is a serious desire of immigrants to become members of our community, through hard work and patriotism, fundamental principles we all hold close to our hearts. The goal of this government should not be to erect barriers that hinder people from contributing

and achieving the American Dream, but to help those who seek our assistance so that they can become productive members of our society.

We must take decisive action to ensure a fair and equitable immigration policy. We must make it so that no one in this country feels like a second-class citizen. We must make it so that everyone has a equal footing for advance and prosper. This movement should be a way to bring our minority communities together, especially the African American community. We should see this as an opportunity to help others who have experienced something we all have in common, discrimination.

I enter into the RECORD, these opinion editorials by Eugene Robinson and the New York Times editorial for their different perspectives on such a controversial topic. This is truly an issue that has started to divide our country instead of unite it. We must come to this issue of immigration with a clearer view, one that does not include our cultural biases and hatred for those different than ourselves. The editorial asks if the message has sunken in yet with the American people. We are hearing their message and I hope that it starts to sink in.

[From the New York Times, May 2, 2006]

#### A WAVE'S FIRST STRIKE

(By Eugene Robinson)

The construction sites I drove past on my way to work yesterday were abnormally quiet, almost tranquil, without the usual bustle of organized chaos. Every once in a while, a crane indolently traced its arc; every once in a while, a truck arrived or departed. But the basic activity involved in putting up an office building—picking stuff up and carrying it from here, where the crane or the trucks left it, to there, where it's needed—went largely undone.

In Washington's Mount Pleasant neighborhood, long a magnet for Latino immigrants, it felt almost like a Sunday morning. Few people were out and about, and only about half the local businesses were open. On the padlocked doors of a pharmacy, a dental clinic, a barbershop, a wire transfer office where immigrants send money home to their families, and other offices were taped identical fliers, with a notice in Spanish and English: "We will be closed on Monday May 1st in support of the Latino national strike."

Two middle-aged women who identified themselves as Maria and Sonia (neither would give a last name) strolled past, pointing out all the closed businesses. "This action is a good idea, a very good idea, because we have to support all the people who are here without papers," said Maria, who, like her friend, is from El Salvador. "We came here to work hard, not to harm anyone. Salvadorans are hard workers. We're not criminals."

All morning local Spanish-language radio hummed with urgent news and advice. There would be a demonstration in the afternoon at Malcolm X Park. This was to be a day of peaceful solidarity. No one should jeopardize his or her job; if you have to go to work, join the demonstration later.

It's too early to judge the impact of yesterday's nationwide "Day Without Immigrants" protest, but it's past time to recognize that something important is happening—something that goes beyond the debate on Capitol Hill about immigration reform. At this point it's harder to say just what this nascent Latino movement is than to point out what it is not. It's certainly not a monolith. There has been spirited internal debate, for example, over "Nuestro Himno," the Spanish-lan-

guage version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" that was released by an all-star chorus of Latino recording artists last week. Some heard a genuine expression of patriotism; others heard an unnecessary and unwise provocation.

Maybe it was neither. Maybe "Nuestro Himno" was a step in forging and tempering a stronger pan-Latino identity and political consciousness. Black people have skin color as a factor to unite us; Latinos, who can be of any race, have Spanish.

But let me be clear: We can also say that the movement whose birth we are witnessing is not a clone or even a descendant of the civil rights movement that won for African Americans our place in this society. There's just no way to compare a group of people whose ancestors were brought here in chains, forced to work as slaves and then systematically classified as second-class citizens for more than a century with another group of people, however hard-working or well-meaning, who came to the United States voluntarily.

That said, I am convinced that the nation's two biggest minorities are natural allies, not rivals, and that a crucial task over the coming months and years will be to find ways for African Americans and Latinos to work together. Our histories may be different, but we have at least one big thing—discrimination—in common.

For the two groups to fight over low-skilled, low-wage jobs would be a tragic waste of time and effort. The issue is how both African Americans and Latinos can claim a fair share of this nation's vast wealth and opportunity, not how we can wrestle the scraps from one another. The issue is who gets to occupy the corner office during working hours, not who gets to clean it at night.

Congress may do something reasonable on immigration, giving the estimated 12 million people already here without papers a chance to become citizens or legal residents, but there's no guarantee. It may be that there's no common ground among the president, the House and the Senate—at least not in an election year. But if you take the long view, I'm not sure that Capitol Hill is where the real news is happening.

Yesterday the news was happening at construction sites, where it was demonstrated that steel, lumber and glass will not move from here to there on their own.

[From the Washington Post, May 2, 2006]

#### THEY ARE AMERICA

Warnings of a crippling immigrant boycott did not come true yesterday. The economy survived. But what may not survive—we hope—is people's willful misunderstanding of the nature of the immigrant-rights movement.

The worst among our citizens and politicians are eager to depict illegal immigrants as criminals, potential terrorists and alien invaders. But what we saw yesterday, in huge, peaceful rallies in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago, Denver, New York, Atlanta and other cities, were regular people: the same types of assimilation-minded moms, dads and children we wistfully romanticize on holidays devoted to, say, St. Patrick and Columbus.

If these extraordinarily positive events were a protest of anything, it was the idea of the immigrant as temporary and unwelcome guest worker. The marches flew in the face of theories that undocumented workers want nothing but to labor unnoticed and separate from the nation that employs them to make its meals, trim its hedges and slaughter its beef.

These immigrants, weary of silent servitude, are speaking up and asking for some-

thing simple: a chance to work to become citizens, with all the obligations and opportunities that go with it.

Our lawmakers, to their discredit, have erected barriers within barriers, created legal hurdles and bureaucratic hoops, and dangled the opportunity for lowly guest-worker status without the citizenship to go with it. It is an invitation to create a society with a permanent underclass deprived of any ladder to something better. It is a path to creating a different, and lower, vision of our country and ourselves.

It is not only the border-obsessed Minutemen who should be shamed by yesterday's joyous outpouring. Lawmakers who have stymied comprehensive immigration reform with stalemated name-calling and cold electoral calculation should listen up. A silent, shadow population is speaking with one voice. The message, aimed at Washington but something the whole country should hear, is clear: We are America. We want to join you.

It's a simple message. It should be sinking in by now.

### HONORING THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Ascension Church in Mocanaqua, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, as parishioners prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their church's founding on June 11.

In May of 1906, a group of Slovak men formulated plans to raise funds and build a church to accommodate the needs of their families and neighbors.

Land was purchased and the cornerstone was laid in October, 1906. The church was formally dedicated in October, 1907, by the Most Rev. Michael J. Hoban, then bishop of the Scranton Catholic Diocese. He was assisted by Right Rev. John S. Sobota, Rev. Matthew Jankola and Rev. Joseph Murgas. The church cemetery was purchased and blessed in 1915.

Monsignor Sobota, then pastor at St. Joseph's Church, Nanticoke, served the Church of the Ascension from 1907 to 1926 when Rev. Daniel Gregga was named the first resident pastor. Parishioners bought a lot and built a rectory which was replaced by a new rectory in 1930.

Other pastors who served the Church of the Ascension include Rev. Andrew Sporinsky, Rev. Andrew Liktov, Rev. Joseph Gavenda, Rev. Aloysius Baloga, Rev. Michael Krupar, Rev. Joseph Podskoc, Rev. Cyril Frankovich, Rev. Stephen Yaneka, Rev. John Zipay, Rev. John Fabian, Rev. Edward Liptock, Rev. Stephen Medwick, Rev. Louis Garbacik, Rev. Francis Skitzki, Msgr. John Balberchak, Rev. Carl Prushinski, Rev. Gerald McGlone, Rev. Thomas Skotek, Rev. Michael Zipay, Rev. Anthony Generose and Rev. Joseph Kakareka.

Over the years, the parish properties have seen many improvements and expansions. In 1999, the church underwent major renovation. Central air conditioning was installed, the

sanctuary was disassembled and rebuilt, new carpeting was laid, the church was rewired, pews were renovated, the church interior was repainted and handicapped access was made available.

In the latest restructuring in 2005, the Church of the Ascension now shares its pastor, Rev. Kakareka, with two other nearby parishes.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the parishioners of the Church of the Ascension, both past and present, for their fortitude and devotion that has resulted in the continuous existence of a proud parish for the past century. It is the faith, integrity and dedication of people like those who belong to the Church of the Ascension that has contributed to making this Nation great. And we are thankful to them for that wonderful gift.

CONGRATULATING STEVEN  
BENSON

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Steven Benson of Owatonna, Minnesota on receiving the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This award was established in 1983 by an Act of Congress and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation. The award recognizes teachers who are both role models for colleagues and encourage talented individuals to become and remain teachers. Outstanding math and science educators are nominated each year from the United States and four other jurisdictions. Teachers may be nominated by faculty, students, parents or members of the community. After advancing through an intense selection process at both state and national levels, the final winners are announced by the President of the United States.

Mr. Steven Benson has proven himself as a dedicated and outstanding educator. Mr. Benson believes in making his math classes more relevant to everyday life to generate greater interest in his students and encourage their success. By creating a personal connection to the content, Mr. Benson shows students how math significantly affects and influences their hobbies, activities, and future plans. For this commitment to his profession and to his students, Mr. Benson will receive The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching—the highest honor a teacher of mathematics or science can receive.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Steven Benson for receiving the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Quality math teachers, like Mr. Benson, inspire our students' inquisitive nature to explore new challenges, innovative career paths, and the future of ideas. His steadfast professionalism and abilities in the classroom are a standard for which all educators should aim.

IN HONOR OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nation of Greece on its triumphant 185th anniversary of winning independence. Throughout its glorious history, Greece has proven to be an inspiration to the United States and to nations around the world.

The birthplace and cradle of democracy, Greece's long history of promoting the ideals of justice and freedom now serves as a standard against which we measure all other nations. The legacy of antiquity is still felt throughout the streets of Athens today. It was the ancient Greeks who first realized that the right of self-governance was an essential foundation of any civilized society. Although such principles seem elementary today, their ideas were revolutionary in their own time. We cannot discount the influence that ancient Greece has had on our Nation.

In the founding of our Nation, Greece served as a model by which the framers of the constitution structured our government. After helping to author our Constitution, Thomas Jefferson referred to Greece as "the light, which led us out of Gothic darkness." That same light, still shining from the distant memories of ancient Greece, guides our Nation today.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the nation of Greece, on the 185th anniversary of their independence. Much like our own Fourth of July, Greek Independence Day is a time for people to come together and celebrate a shared vision. For the past six years, the organizers of the Greek Independence Day Committee have worked to create a wonderful community and family event that is enjoyed and shared by Clevelanders of all ethnic backgrounds. This year, it is important for all Americans to remember the history of independence and to remember where the roots of our Nation originate. It is a time to honor all people who join in the struggle for liberty and justice.

RECOGNIZING JOEL R. HERNDON  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joel R. Herndon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joel R. Herndon for his accom-

plishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH ST.  
PAUL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS'  
HOCKEY PROGRAM

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the South St. Paul High School Girls' Hockey Program—the 2006 Minnesota State Class A Champions! With this win, South St. Paul finished the season 22–6–1.

In an exciting 3–2 overtime win, the Packers' won their fourth State title in five years. In fact, this year marks the Packers' eighth appearance at the State tournament, which is a record for the South St. Paul Girls' Hockey Program. I am confident that these young women will continue to reach for new challenges and break old records.

As an alumna of South St. Paul High School, it is exciting to see how far women's athletics has come. These young women played and won their championship on the same ice that the men's National Hockey League plays. Young women today have greatly benefited from the landmark legislation that, among other provisions, ensures equality in athletics for female athletes—Title IX. Because of Title IX young women today have more opportunities—to practice, to play, to win championships—than the women of earlier generations.

Over the past 30 years, many doors have opened for women and girls in this country, and we must continue to ensure that our sisters are offered equal athletic opportunities at all levels of their abilities. As the mother of a young woman who has participated in athletics, I am proud to see that this law has enabled more young women to participate in the athletic activities that young men have enjoyed for so many years.

Congratulations Packers! I join with the residents of South St. Paul in their celebration of your success and look forward to the celebration of future successes!

SINAI TEMPLE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize on the House floor that 2006 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Sinai Temple in Springfield, Massachusetts. I congratulate the members and leaders of the temple for the important role it plays in the Jewish community throughout the Springfield area. I hope the spiritual services and community cohesion the temple brings to its members will continue well into the future. I would like to insert into the RECORD a brief history of the Sinai Temple that honors its founders and leaders throughout the years.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SINAI TEMPLE

Sinai Temple began in 1931 when newlyweds Samuel and Helen Simons decided that

Springfield, Massachusetts needed an alternative to the Orthodox and Conservative synagogues in the area. The last major congregation to have been founded in the community was Temple Beth El, which came into being in 1910. Although Sam Simons had grown up in Springfield without a Reform presence, Helen had grown up in a large Reform congregation in West Hartford. She and Sam wanted to bring that kind of religious opportunity to Springfield.

Services began in individual homes. After that a home was purchased on Sumner Avenue and remodeled to serve as home for the growing congregation. During the beginning years of the congregation, Rabbis David Eichhorn, Judah Cohn, and Hershel Levin led the congregation. Then, with the arrival of Rabbi Herman Elliot Snyder in 1947, a building drive led to the purchase of land at what was then the "outskirts" of Springfield. Ground was broken for the building Sinai now occupies on August 15, 1949. The building at 1100 Dickinson Street was completed in 1950. Not too long after that, the other Jewish institutions of Springfield followed Sinai so that they are now familiar landmarks at the Dickinson Street/Converse Street intersection: The Jewish Community Center, Jewish Geriatric Services, Heritage Academy plus Temple Beth El and Congregation Bnai Jacob.

Rabbi Snyder's era, from 1947 to 1970, saw the congregation grow from 100 families to 450 families. With that growth came a Religious School, Hebrew and Bar/Bat Mitzvah instruction, a Cantor and choir, a well stocked library, and a commitment to community.

When Rabbi Snyder became Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Bernard Cohen guided the congregation through a year of transition. He was followed by Rabbi Stanley Davids (1971-1977), Rabbi Howard Kaplansky (1977-1983), and Rabbi Bernard Bloomstone (1983-1988). In 1979, Emily Sleeper Mekler came to the congregation as Cantor.

In 1988, Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro arrived in our community. Rabbi Shapiro brought enthusiasm, a can-do spirit, along with a heartfelt traditional way of embracing Judaism, tzedakah, Torah, and social action. Rabbi Shapiro has overseen the beautification of the Temple; the establishment of a second endowment fund; the enrichment of our Religious School and the expansion of our social action programming. The Rabbi is also devoted to Torah Study and offers a weekly Shabbat morning class. During the Rabbi's tenure at Sinai, many innovations have also taken place in the style of our worship.

Sinai Temple has also been blessed with excellent lay leadership, both male and female. Throughout the years, each president and his or her Board of Trustees have contributed much to the tenor and health of the Temple.

We hope you'll want to learn more about Sinai. Call us, please. We are eager to welcome you into our community.

#### TRIBUTE TO BURTON HOFFMAN

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Burton Hoffman of Nevada, Missouri. Born on August 7, 1903, Mr. Hoffman celebrates his 103rd birthday this year.

Mr. Hoffman has lived a very full and productive life. He married his late wife in 1925

and remained devoted to her until her death in 1999. He was a long-time employee of Farm and Home Savings and Loan in Nevada, Missouri. Mr. Hoffman joined Osage Lodge 303 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in February 1934 and was raised to the level of Master Mason on April 20, 1934. He is also a member of the Elks lodge. In 2004, Mr. Hoffman was presented with a 70-year pin from the Missouri Grand Master, Stanley Thompson, and he was honored by the Elks in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Mr. Burton Hoffman all the best in the days to come.

#### ELAINE STOLTE

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, there are thousands of individuals who make it their life's work to help our Nation's most vulnerable victims—our kids. One of the best is my dear friend, Elaine Stolte. I have known Elaine for what seems like forever. She was my District Court Coordinator for 17 years while I was a judge in Harris County, Texas. Throughout all of these years, I have watched Elaine crusade tirelessly for children who have been subjected to the worst circumstances of sexual abuse and help them to cope, recover, and prosecute the offenders. Due to Elaine's dedication to child victims, she was recently awarded the "Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy" by the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus on April 21, 2006. For this reason, Elaine is being recognized.

Elaine Stolte is the Executive Director of the Children's Assessment Center (CAC) in Houston, Texas. The Center was established in 1991 to protect and serve sexually abused children in a professional, compassionate, and coordinated manner. Elaine began serving as the Executive Director of the CAC in August of 2001, after previously serving for a year as the CAC's Assistant Director.

Elaine's primary duties require the management of the CAC, which is a collaboration of 35 partner agencies that include Federal, State, and city staff, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations. She has worked vigorously with numerous criminal justice, medical, educational, and government practitioners in creating policy initiatives, and raising community awareness, on child sexual abuse. She has also been instrumental in training the practitioners of the role and necessity of the CAC.

Elaine has not only dedicated her professional time to victim advocacy, but is involved in many community programs as well. She has been a conference presenter for the National Children's Alliance, a graduate of the FBI's Citizen Academy, a member of the Federal Review Team for the Department of Family and Protective Services, is on the Board of Directors for the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas—State Chapter, a mentor with the CAC Texas Mentor Program, the appointed commissioner for the Joint City/County Commission on Children, is on the Board of Directors for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is the CAC representative for the Harris County (TX) Chil-

dren's Protective Services, is an executive representative for the Harris County (TX) Youth and Family Services Division, a member of the Harris County (TX) Child Fatality Review Team, a member of the Child Abuse Task Force, an administrative chair of the CAC Partner Council, a member of the Child Sexual Abuse Review Team, a member of the Mayor's Victim's Memorial Committee, and a lifetime member of the Friends of the CAC. These are just a portion of the organizations privileged to have Elaine participate in; the list goes on and on.

On April 21, 2006, Elaine was awarded the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus' "Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy." The award honors the memory of Ed Stout; the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, MO, one of the Nation's three oldest victim assistance organizations, who died in 2005 following a 30+ year career of inspiring crime victims and those who serve them. The recipient of the award is a professional or volunteer whose effects directly benefit victims and survivors of crime. The award recognizes innovations in victim assistance and crime victim services in the areas of program development, public, or agency policy development, community and public awareness, and collaboration among community, and justice-based organizations that serve victims of crime.

Elaine's achievements with the CAC and in the community far surpass these qualifications. As Founder of the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus, I had the honor of presenting her with this award. Elaine's innovation, determination, and compassion for the CAC, and for its child victims, are inspirations to us all and makes her one of the best child advocates in the Nation. I am truly blessed to consider her one of my dearest friends and to provide her the recognition she deserves.

That's just the way it is.

#### RECOGNIZING DANIEL EDWARD ESHNAUR FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Edward Eshnaur, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Edward Eshnaur for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**CHRISTENSEN URGES MANAGED HEALTH CARE EXECUTIVES TO HELP CLOSE DISPARITY GAP**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article submitted by the Congressional Black Caucus entitled "Christensen Urges Managed Health Care Execs to Help Close Disparity Gap" which addresses the disparities in health care as experienced by minorities in this country.

On April 20, 2006, during the Capitol Summit: Politics in Healthcare event, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, in her role as the chairperson for the Congressional Black Caucus's Health Braintrust, addressed a group of managed health care executives to discuss the challenges facing health care organizations. Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN focused on the disparities in care for all ethnic minorities in this country.

As you will see as you read the submission, there are many challenges to overcome to ensure quality health care for all Americans. Ms. CHRISTENSEN's statements are not all inclusive; they actually touch on the tip of the iceberg. We need to engage in much more dialog to keep this issue in the forefront and to make sure these messages reach not only corporate executives but everyone, particularly those who can directly affect a more positive outcome.

To quote member CHRISTENSEN: "Lack of insurance and the resulting poor health undermines everyone else's health care." I strongly agree that progress can be made through reinforcement of prevention and comprehensive care initiatives. We must all do our part to ensure that "wellness is within the reach of everyone living in this country."

**CHRISTENSEN URGES MANAGED HEALTH CARE EXECUTIVES TO HELP CLOSE DISPARITIES GAP**

(April 20, 2006—Washington, D.C.)—Joining the efforts to reduce disparities in health care should be the business of all businesses big and small, according to Congresswoman DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN, who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus's Health Braintrust. Christensen addressed a gathering of managed health care executives on Thursday afternoon at the Capitol Summit: Politics in Healthcare event where executives examined and discussed the challenges facing healthcare organizations today including persistent disparities in the care that ethnic minorities receive in this country. "Businesses can help to reduce their costs if they launch efforts to reduce and eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities," Christensen said. "When employees receive inadequate or lower quality health care, costs are assumed by companies and businesses in increased rates of absenteeism or being sick at work, which results in lower rates of productivity, as well as in increased health care costs."

Christensen applauded the group for including the issue of health disparities on their agenda. "I am hopeful that your interest and the pressures that you are under regarding the provision of health care and its increasing costs will be the impetus for the change we need not just to heal our minority populations but the entire country," she said. "Industry is coming to realize ahead of policy makers that early detection and management of some chronic and acute condi-

tions may reduce the amount of health care needed and improve quality of life and improve outcomes." Christensen commended some businesses that have "looked at health disparities among your own employees and the costs of care and are beginning to institute programs to improve both their health and your costs."

Christensen said that it should be a matter of conscience that "in the richest, most technologically advanced and supposed humanitarian country in the world . . . there are an estimated 100,000 annual preventable, premature, excess deaths in African Americans." Similar statistics exist in the Hispanic, Native American and Asian and Pacific Islander communities. "For years politicians, community activists, advocates and organizations have been calling for an appropriate response to such devastating but preventable disease, disability and death in communities of color," she said. "We have argued on the humanity of it, on the right and God-fearing thing to do."

Christensen pointed to the role that underinsurance and underinsurance play in the persistence of health disparities and the effect that it has had on the wider community. She pointed to the fact that many communities, including her district of the U.S. Virgin Islands have struggled to determine the fairest way to provide coverage for employees in businesses large and small. "Lack of insurance and (the) resulting poor health undermines everyone else's healthcare," she said, emphasizing that it is only through "prevention and comprehensive care for which providers are adequately compensated that the rising cost of health care will be controlled and reduced." She urged the executives to "use their corporate influence" to ensure that "wellness is within the reach of everyone living in this country."

Other speakers on the Summit's agenda included former Secretary of State Colin Powell, former Senator John Breaux, author Glenn Hubbard and members of the McGlaughlin Group.

(For more information contact Monique C. Watson at 202-226-7973 or Britt Weinstock at 202-226-7974)

**CONGRATULATING THE COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Commission on Economic Opportunity, located in the City of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, for 40 years of exemplary community service.

Created on November 3, 1966, pursuant to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, CEO was designated by the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners which included Edmund C. Wideman Jr., James Post and William Goss.

The mission of the agency has always been to empower the less fortunate in our community by providing the resources needed to improve the quality of their lives. Over the years, CEO has developed an array of services to assist people. The weatherization program has had great success helping people with older housing stock insulate their homes in order to save money on heating fuel. The Chore program has given older citizens and low-income

individuals the opportunity to repair essential elements of their homes at affordable prices.

CEO came to the aid of senior citizens in the wake of the devastating Flood of 1972 by developing Washington Square Towers, an apartment complex for the elderly. For nearly 20 years, CEO operated a successful senior citizens market that enabled the elderly to save significant sums on basic food items. Today, CEO's Weinberg Food Bank provides staple food items to those who meet income guidelines.

Indeed, over the years, CEO has fostered several community services that eventually became independent entities. These include Legal Services, Rural Health Corporation, Maternal and Family Health Services, Child Development Council, Luzerne County Human Resources Development Department and Head Start.

The original incorporators of CEO included Gottfried Csala, Mrs. Horace Kramer, George Troy, Carlo Paoerio and Raymond Batow.

Today, CEO's board of directors officers include Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan, president; Attorney David Aikens, vice president; John Namey, vice president; Gary F. Lamont, treasurer; and Marie McCormick, secretary.

The board also includes Peter D. Aula, Jollene Bradford, Attorney Joseph Cannody; William Cherkas, Attorney David Glassberg; Judge Hugh F. Mundy, George Nicholson, Michael Pasonick Jr., Rev. Wallace Smith and Estelle Stryjewski. CEO's professional staff operates under the continued leadership of Gene Brady, who was appointed executive director of CEO in 1978.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating CEO on 40 years of remarkable achievements that have touched the lives of tens of thousands of residents in northeastern Pennsylvania.

**CONGRATULATING DEBRA LAS**

**HON. GIL GUTKNECHT**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Debra Las of Rochester, Minnesota on receiving the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This award was established in 1983 by an Act of Congress and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation. The award recognizes teachers who are both role models for colleagues and encourage talented individuals to become and remain teachers. Outstanding math and science educators are nominated each year from the United States and four other jurisdictions. Teachers may be nominated by faculty, students, parents or members of the community. After advancing through an intense selection process at both state and national levels, the final winners are announced by the President of the United States.

Ms. Debra Las teaches eighth grade science at John Adams Middle School in Rochester, Minnesota where she utilizes the school's diversity to connect to her students. Viewing diversity as a strength rather than a weakness, Ms. Las believes that both staff and students alike need to spend the time and

the energy to learn about each other. For this commitment to her profession and to her students, Ms. Las will receive The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching—the highest honor a teacher of mathematics or science can receive.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Debra Las for receiving the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Quality science teachers, like Ms. Las, inspire our students' inquisitive nature to explore new challenges, innovative career paths, and the future of ideas. Her steadfast professionalism and abilities in the classroom are a standard for which all educators should aim.

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL A. BRANDT  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel A. Brandt, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel A. Brandt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE AMERICAN DREAM ACT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an article published in the New York Carib News urging passage of the "American Dream Act". This act has bipartisan support in Congress and it needs much more support so that it can be passed in the House. The act enables U.S.-raised immigrant students to go to college which will put them on the correct path toward citizenship.

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) is the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., has expressed a great amount of support for this very important piece of legislation. There are many students in the country who have little to look forward to after high school. The article points out that every year 65,000 young people who are brought to the U.S. by their parents cannot seek higher education after high school due to their status as immigrants. That fact of life hinders them from further enjoying the wealth and opportunity of our Nation.

I fully support the passage of this bill in the House. Passage of this bill will allow for tal-

ented students to have access to higher education, something they otherwise would not have. This will show our strong-willed commitment to offering the best opportunities for those that work hard. Everyone deserves an equal chance for an education.

We cannot delay any longer the passage of this bill since graduation is just around the corner for many students. We need to further encourage our young people to achieve more and to better their lives and the lives of their families. Americans must understand that the power of the American Dream is that it is extended to all those who seek it. It shall be available today just as it was for their forbearers' centuries ago.

I enter into the RECORD this article for highlighting the importance of an effective and comprehensive immigration reform policy. This country is about allowing all those who wish to work hard to advance their status the opportunity to do so. It should be in the best interest of our nation and the people to provide education to the children of immigrant families and to extend the same assistance that we would want extended to us in time of need.

NCLR SUPPORTS "THE AMERICAN DREAM ACT" AND URGES NEW LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO COLLEGE

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., expressed strong support to "The American Dream Act" recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Representatives Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Howard Berman (D-CA), and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) . . . This bipartisan legislation will enable U.S.-raised immigrant students to go to college and start on the path to citizenship.

"This bill will give thousands of young people who have worked hard in school and have demonstrated a willingness to contribute to this country the chance to follow their dreams to college," stated Janet Murguia, NCLR President and CEO. "We are pleased that Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee came together to include the language of the 'DREAM Act' (S. 2075), which also broadens access to college, as part of the immigration legislation now under debate. We urge the House to follow the Senate's lead and approve 'The American Dream Act' as soon as possible."

Every year, 65,000 young people whose parents brought them to the U.S. as babies or toddlers graduate from American high schools. While they have the academic credentials to pursue a higher education, their immigration status bars them from opportunities that make a college education affordable—in-state tuition rates, loans and grants, most private scholarships, and the ability to work legally to earn their way through college. "The American Dream Act" and its companion legislation in the Senate will significantly increase access to college for talented young people who otherwise would not be able to seek higher education.

"With graduation around the corner, Congress cannot delay in passing this bill. Otherwise, high school will be the end of the road for thousands of students who have worked hard in school and aspire to contribute to our society as productive, tax-paying workers. These young people are certain to add to the great abundance and economic vitality of this country. Congress must not fail these students and their families by continuing to keep the doors to college and the American Dream closed to them," concluded Murguia.

CONGRATULATING HICKORY  
STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Hickory Street Presbyterian Church in Scranton Pennsylvania, which was founded Jan. 28, 1856, and is now celebrating its 150th anniversary.

At the time of its founding, the church was known as the German Presbyterian Church. It was renamed the Hickory Street Presbyterian Church in 1931.

The church has been served by 11 pastors, four of whom have served tenures in excess of 20 years. In 1993, Hickory Street Presbyterian Church and Petersburg Presbyterian Church merged.

Hickory Street Presbyterian Church has been a community leader in many ways over the years. It has been a passionate supporter of many charitable agencies including Bread Basket of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Safety Net, Exodus Prison Ministries, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen and the Bethel AME Homeless Shelter.

Hickory Street Presbyterian Church is the largest Presbyterian Church in Scranton and one of the largest Presbyterian Churches in the region.

Many of the church's members are active in the community and have served as judges, physicians, councilmen, teachers, neighborhood leaders, bankers, lawyers, firemen and police officers. Eight Hickory Street church members have been called into the professional ministry.

Hickory Street Presbyterian Church has a rich history of youth ministry that has carried out mission trips to Maine, Virginia, Tennessee, Washington, DC and Montana.

The church structure is a landmark in Scranton that has received awards from the Architectural Heritage Society.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Hickory Street Presbyterian Church on this auspicious occasion. More than anything, Hickory Street Presbyterian Church has spread the love of Jesus Christ through its mission and ministry, through its local, national and world outreach and through the devotion and love of its people.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MEN  
AND WOMEN OF THE JOINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT ELEMENT  
IN SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the Joint Public Affairs Support Element (JPASE). JPASE stood up in early 2005 at the Joint Warfighting Center in Suffolk, Virginia.

JPASE is instrumental in providing public affairs training, counsel, doctrine and personnel

in military exercises to better prepare joint force commanders and their staffs with media operations and outcomes when real world operations begin. Members of JPASE are trained to be able to be rapidly deployed in support of regional combatant commander's needs.

Under the direction of JPASE's active duty leader, Army Colonel Stephen Campbell and its reserve director Navy Captain Ken Braithwaite, JPASE is already actively fulfilling its mission at home and abroad.

Members of the JPASE team were among the thousands of responders to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. And last October, when Pakistan was shook by an earthquake that resulted in enormous damage and loss of human life, active duty and reserve members of JPASE again were on the scene.

Members of JPASE worked tirelessly to ensure the support of U.S. military was known here in America and throughout Pakistan. According to polls taken throughout Pakistan, their work highlighting the support of American forces clearly won the hearts and minds of the Pakistani people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the JPASE members who were part of that mission: Captain Robert D. Newell, Commander Nicolas Balice, Major Jeffrey K. Sammons, Major Donald L. Langley, Major William M. Manley, Lieutenant Kevin Stephens, and Master Sergeant Greg A. Deimel. Additionally, I would like to thank a group of reserve JPASE members who relieved their active duty counterparts earlier this year and just recently returned home: Captain Ken Braithwaite, Commander Gary Kirchner, Lieutenant Cory Schultz and Senior Chief Heidi Wasson.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the Joint Warfighting Center in my district but more important, I am very proud of the men and women who serve there, the work they do, and the exemplary manner in which they represent our nation throughout the world.

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RECOGNIZING ELISHA T. WOODS  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elisha T. Woods, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 460, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Elisha has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Elisha has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elisha T. Woods for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL  
ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate the International Advocates for Children (IAC) on the services they provide to millions of underprivileged children.

Since its establishment in 2001, the International Advocates for Children, has become an important overseer for orphaned and abandoned children worldwide. IAC strives to guard the fundamental needs of this disadvantaged population by engaging in advocacy, education, problem analysis, and the development of solutions.

For the over 145 million orphaned and abandoned children, the most vulnerable in our world society, achieving these goals of providing love, healthcare, and shelter is even more critical. There is no time to lose because this population increases each day and time is of the essence to having their needs met.

IAC has created momentum by building a world community singularly focused on creating awareness, dialogue, research and knowledge-exchange on the needs of children without parental care. Through its continued efforts IAC will unite and facilitate countries, NGO's and thought leaders in a strong international coalition of child placement professionals.

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TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REP-  
RESENTATIVE ELROD ALBIN  
CEDERBERG

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the honorable Elford Albin "Al" Cederberg, a distinguished former member of this House, a dedicated public servant, and a beloved family man.

Al Cederberg passed away on April 17, 2006, at the age of 88. His story is one that should be shared with every young child. Growing up on and working on a dairy in his younger years, the Cederberg family delivered milk in Bay City, Michigan throughout the depression and never skipped a house even if they weren't able to pay that week, or was already behind. Compassion for people was a trait learned early and well by Al Cederberg, and one for which he will long be remembered.

Enlisting in our Armed Forces in 1941, Al Cederberg's participation in the Normandy invasion and following battles into France and Germany earned him the rank of Captain, five battle stars and the Bronze Star. He was a hero.

Like so many of the "Greatest Generation," Al Cederberg's commitment to his community and country did not end with the close of World War II. Returning home to Bay City he was urged to run for Mayor and clean-up corruption at City Hall. Victory at the local level turned into a successful run for Congress, where he ably represented mid-Michigan for

26 years. Rising to the level of ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, Al Cederberg was a force for his party, close ally of Republican presidents and a respected foe of Democrat leaders.

His term of service was long; his accomplishments were many; and, his impact was profound.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District I represent, which includes a vast portion of Mr. Cederberg's former territory, let me say: May God welcome home His tireless servant, Elford Albin Cederberg.

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TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN AL  
CEDERBERG

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my Congressional colleagues from Michigan to pay tribute to the life and service of former Congressman Elford Albin 'Al' Cederberg. Congressman Cederberg, a Republican who represented mid-Michigan in Congress from 1953 through 1978, passed away on Monday, April 17, 2006 at the age of 88.

Born in Bay City, Michigan, March 6, 1918, Congressman Cederberg attended public schools and Bay City Junior College from 1935–1937. He entered the United States Army in April 1941 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in July 1942, and later a captain in 1943. Assigned to the Eighty-third Infantry, Cederberg participated in the Normandy invasion and fought in France and Germany.

After returning home from Europe at the end of World War Two, Congressman Cederberg served as manager of Nelson Manufacturing Co. of Bay City, Michigan from 1946–1952, and he was elected mayor of Bay City from 1949–1953.

In 1952, Cederberg was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to the Eighty-third Congress and to the twelve succeeding Congresses. During his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, he rose to the distinguished position of Ranking Republican Member of the Appropriations Committee. He and former President, and former House Minority Leader Gerald Ford, were close personal friends who stayed in contact long after both had left public service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have known and served with Congressman Cederberg here in the U.S. House of Representatives. His integrity and his sense of decency were admired by all who came in contact with him. His love for his country, for his State of Michigan and for his hometown of Bay City were well known. Without a doubt, Mr. Speaker, our nation, our state, and our communities are better places in which to live because of the stellar public service of Congressman Elford Albin 'Al' Cederberg. The Members of this Congress could greatly benefit from the shining example of Elford Albin 'Al' Cederberg.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF  
CARROLLTON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the city of Carrollton, Missouri. The city of Carrollton was chosen as the recipient of the 2005 All-America City Award administered by the National Civic League. Carrollton is the county seat of Carroll County and the home to 4,122 outstanding citizens. The city of Carrollton was chosen to receive this award as a result of their commitment to civic excellence in which the citizens, government, businesses, and nonprofit organizations of Carrollton have demonstrated successful resolution of critical community issues. This community cooperation is credited with the creation of a new library, development of downtown business district management, renovation of an historic trolley car, and the construction of a skatepark.

This is an important milestone not only for Carrollton, but also for northern Missouri as a whole. This remarkable achievement by the city of Carrollton proves to me that our belief in our small towns and Missouri values grows stronger by the day. Faith, family, friends, and hard work are the values that draw us together, and I am pleased to see that those values are embodied by the citizens of Carrollton, the community and business leaders, and Mayor Sharon Metz.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the achievement of the city of Carrollton in obtaining the All-America City Award. I wish to extend my warmest regards and congratulations on this momentous occasion. It is an honor and a privilege to represent such a fine community in the U.S. Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELFORD  
ALBIN CEDERBERG

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Representative Elford Albin Cederberg, who passed away on April 17th at the age of 88. During the 26 years Representative Cederberg served in the House, he and I grew very close and I always considered him an ally in fighting for the people of Michigan. Not only was Representative Cederberg a friend and fellow politician, but also a family man married for almost 50 years to his late wife, Marguerite, and a veteran of World War II decorated with five campaign battle stars and the Bronze Star. Whether he was storming the beaches of Normandy or fighting for his beliefs as the ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, he always exhibited strong leadership and a deep appreciation for our community.

A native of Bay City, Michigan, Representative Cederberg began his career of public service by joining the Army. He was assigned to the 83rd Infantry Division during World War II. Not long after the war, he entered politics

as the mayor of Bay City and in 1950 proceeded to unsuccessfully run for Congress. However, Representative Cederberg was determined, sharp and passionate; it was no surprise that 2 years later he successfully won election to represent the 10th District of Michigan in this great House. He went on to serve for 13 consecutive terms.

A strong advocate of the auto industry and Michigan at large, his accomplishments will be remembered and his legacy will continue to impact us. His companionship and great character are already sorely missed by all.

I would ask all my colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Representative Cederberg's children, Marilyn and Tom, and the rest of the Cederberg family.

His passion for Michigan and for this great institution will not be forgotten.

FEDERAL ENERGY PRICE  
PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as every American knows, fuel prices around the country have begun to rise with the beginning of the summer driving season, when demand is at its peak, and during a time when growing economies like China and India are consuming more and more of the world's available petroleum supply. To make matters worse, nuclear ambitions in Iran, the fourth largest oil producer, and tensions in Nigeria, the twelfth, have created the perfect storm for a precipitous rise in gasoline and other fuel prices. Our problem back home is how to manage those global issues so that they have as little impact at home on the average American who just wants to take his family on that planned vacation under tight budget or maintain his delivery business without taking out an additional loan. I am very happy that we are taking up H.R. 5253, the "Federal Energy Price Protection Act of 2006." This bill deals directly and aggressively with the need to stabilize the price of fuel in an uncertain world market and ensure that greed and opportunism don't worsen those challenges by gouging the customer at the pump. H.R. 5253, for the first time, allows the FTC, at any time, to prosecute price gouging. This bill takes aim at those in the wholesale and retail markets for gasoline, diesel fuel, crude oil, home heating oil, and biofuels who prey on their customers for their own unjust enrichment. The FTC is directed to define what price gouging actually is. And a very important point—this legal recourse and its enforcement provisions against gouging are always available, not just in times of natural or energy emergency. Mr. Speaker, this bill's hammer is triggered by consumer rip-offs, not bureaucratic proclamations. In addition, state attorneys general will be empowered to bring cases under the federal law and those cases can lead to extremely strong civil and criminal penalties in the multiple millions of dollars and the possibility of a visit to the nearest correctional facility. This is a very aggressive piece of legislation targeted at a problem that weakens this country not only in dollars but in what it does to the every day lives of all Americans—vacations missed, budgets broken, and business stretched thin. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 5253, the Federal Energy Price Protection Act of 2006 and once and for all make it clear that we are serious about solving our energy challenges at home so we can be more successful in solving them abroad. This bill will serve us and our children well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from Washington on Tuesday, May 2, 2006. As a result, I was not recorded for rollcall votes #111, #112 and #113. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes #111, #112 and #113.

RECOGNIZING THE ARTISTIC  
TALENTS OF GEORGE BLAKE

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous artistic ability of a young man from my Congressional District, George A. Blake of Woodland Hills High School. George is the winner in the 2006 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery."

George's piece, a self portrait, is an impressive portrait in acrylic paint of a young man's face.

George's artwork was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. I am certain that his family is proud of his artistic talents as well as this accomplishment.

It gives me great pride and pleasure that George's painting will be representing the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be set up in the United States Capitol in the coming weeks. The winners of the Congressional Art Competitions held in each Congressional District will be displayed in that exhibit.

I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view George's artwork, along with all of the other winning artwork that will be on display throughout the next year. It is truly amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

I would also like to recognize all the other participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

## TRIBUTE TO HAL DAVID

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise in recognition of Hal David on the occasion of his 85th birthday. Hal's philanthropic work in Los Angeles has made him a great asset to our community, and his professional career has touched the lives of countless people across the world.

You may not know his name, and you may not know his face, but you all know Hal David. Hal is the lyrical mastermind behind countless musical hits. His lyrics include hits like "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head," "What the World Needs Now Is Love, Sweet Love," "Always Something There to Remind Me," and "Do You Know the Way to San Jose". If you're not already humming along, I'm sure you will be soon. The words are simple but the songs are moving and memorable.

Hal says a lyricist must learn "not to fall in love with his own lines." If that's true, then he's in a very small minority. Hal's lyrical genius is widely recognized by both music aficionados and amateurs like me. His talent has earned him countless awards: four Academy Award nominations, with an Oscar for "Raindrops" in the movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*; several Grammys, with three songs in the Grammy Hall of Fame; 20 gold records, the Grammy Trustees Award, and more. He has also been elected to the Songwriter's Hall of Fame, and currently serves as their Chairman of the Board.

His songs span genres and generations. He is the author of lyrics to the film scores of *Alfie*, *What's New Pussycat*, *A House is Not a Home*, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, and *Moonraker*. His songs also appear in countless other movies, from *Forest Gump* to *Runaway Bride*. Not limited to the screen, Hal's Broadway show *Promises, Promises* was nominated for a Tony Award and received a Grammy.

Aretha Franklin, the Beatles, Frank Sinatra, Isaac Hayes, Patti LaBelle, Smoky Robinson, the Carpenters, Willie Nelson and Julio Iglesias are just some of the musical legends who have sung Hal David's lyrics. Hal's impact on the music world is truly immeasurable and his many accomplishments are too numerous to list in full.

Hal's notable achievements don't stop with his musical career. He also donates generously of his time and effort to charitable organizations. He and his wife are founders of the Los Angeles Music Center, which lists him as a "Distinguished Patron of the Arts." He is also a member of the Cedars Sinai Medical Center Board of Governors in West Los Angeles and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, which he formerly served as President. There he is known for his work on intellectual property protection and preservation of artists' rights.

Please join me in wishing him a very happy birthday and many happy returns.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION  
WEEK**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this week marks "Public Service Recognition Week," offering our Nation the dual opportunities to reflect on the richness of the public workforce and the upcoming challenges that it must confront.

The landscape of our Nation is not just dotted, but layered with the work and faces of our public servants. It is easy to forget, but Americans are served every single day by public servants at the Federal, State, county and city levels. The efforts of teachers, laborers and police officers blend into the fabric of our lives seamlessly. The bravery of our Coast Guard saving people from rooftops, doctors guarding us against the advancement of epidemic disease and the men and women in the military protecting our Nation stand out as acts of true heroes. These people are all contributing to a common vision of making our Nation a better place to live. They are all public servants.

While this week is a celebration of the public servant, it would be a lost opportunity not to use this focus to address an ominous problem. Our public workforce is aging quickly and in the next 10 years all sectors will face a great "retirement tsunami." In the Washington, DC region, 60 percent of the Federal workforce will be eligible for retirement with ninety percent of its senior executives reaching retirement age. Across the Nation, State and local governments are experiencing similar retirement forecasts.

The race to replenish these lost workers and their institutional experience is proving formidable. Alarming statistics suggest that the next generation of American workers is turning a blind eye to public service. Just 27 percent of young people say that someone has asked them to consider government employment, an 11-point decrease since 2002. Further, only 3-in-10 young Americans say that they would work in the public sector rather than the private sector. While we have begun to acknowledge the cliff we are preparing to walk off, I'm not certain we understand its true depth.

This challenge requires a new appeal to the American worker. A revival of public service is necessary, one that flows through corporate boardrooms and college hallways. President John F. Kennedy summoned a generation of people to give of themselves to the common good. Now is the time to seek a similar commitment.

I believe in public service and in people who contribute to an effort greater than themselves. As we progress deeper into this new century facing new and sometimes unforeseen challenges, our Nation will have to rely heavily upon the strengths of our public servants. We must be ready to answer that call.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW JERSEY  
ARYA SAMAJ MANDIR'S FIRST  
ANNUAL "ARYA SWARANJALI"**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I recognize the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir's first annual special event, the "Arya Swaranjali", which will take place on Sunday June 4, 2006 in Jersey City, New Jersey, my Congressional District. The "Arya Swaranjali" will be a time when the New Jersey Arya/Hindu community will gather together to showcase the works of talented artists in order to raise awareness and resources for less fortunate children in the South American country of Guyana.

Arya Samaj, which means a Society of Noble People, is a global community of organizations whose mission, based on the ten Vedic principles, is to improve the physical, spiritual and social well-being of mankind. The New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, incorporated in 1987, is an organization that provides cultural, educational, religious, charitable and social links between the Arya/Hindu immigrant community and the United States.

However, the New Jersey Arya Samaj community understands that ". . . to whom much is given, much is required . . ." Under the leadership of Pandit Suresh N. Sugrim, the "Arya Swaranjali" will help Guyanese children who are unfortunately without parents. Due to their beneficence, many orphans will be afforded an improved quality of life which includes better food and clothing, comprehensive education and full medical care.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. for their support of the Arya/Hindu community. Specifically, I would like to commend them on the "Arya Swaranjali" and the good works they will achieve through this event. I am proud to have them in my Congressional district and wish their organization never-ending success in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING 58TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this legislation, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 392, to honor the 58th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. I would like to congratulate the Israeli people on this significant day, and join them in celebrating the 58th anniversary of the Jewish state.

After nearly 2,000 years without a homeland, Jewish independence was restored with the creation of Israel in 1948. The creation of Israel gave the Jewish people a state in the land where their religion, culture, and history date back over 4,000 years.

In the last 58 years, Israel has faced many struggles: conflicts with its neighbors, terrorism on its borders, and problems with many

in the international community regarding the Palestinian people.

Despite these struggles, Israel has grown from a state of less than a million people in 1948, to a state of over seven million today. The Israeli people have created one of the strongest democracies in the world, renowned for their scientific, technological, medical and agricultural innovations. Their commitment to promoting human rights, to protecting the rule of law, and to open and fair elections is unparalleled in the region and is an inspiration to oppressed people around the globe.

Today, 58 years after declaring its independence, Israel and the United States continue to share the common values and ideals of advancing democracy and promoting human rights around the globe. As our strongest ally in fighting terrorism, Israel, a country which has had to fight against terrorism and attacks from its neighbors for its entire existence, continues to play a vital role in promoting American interests.

In return, we must continue to help Israel in its struggle for security by helping reach a lasting peace with its neighbors so that as future generations celebrate this day, they may do so without fear of the violence that has plagued the Jewish state since its independence.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to congratulate the Israeli people and join them in celebrating the 58th Anniversary of Israel's independence, and look forward to working with them for years to come.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
JASON C. SHANK ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jason C. Shank of Pemberville, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Jason's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2010. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. It is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Jason brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Eastwood High School in Pemberville, Ohio, Jason attained a grade point average which placed him at the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Jason has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Jason has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Jason has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by earning letters in varsity track, basketball and golf where he served as the captain of his varsity team. He has also remained involved in his community by actively participating in 4-H Club, his church youth group and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. I have no doubt that Jason will employ the lessons of his student leadership as he excels among the leaders at the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jason C. Shank on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Jason will do very well during his career at the United States Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

CONGRATULATING DR. BILLY CANNADAY ON HIS SELECTION TO BE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Billy Cannaday on his selection to be State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Commonwealth of Virginia and for his dedicated service to the people of Virginia's Fourth District.

I have had the fortunate opportunity to work with Dr. Cannaday on numerous occasions and have seen first-hand the tremendous work he has accomplished as Superintendent of Chesterfield County Public Schools. Since 2000, Dr. Cannaday has transformed Chesterfield schools from having less than half of its 59 schools being fully accredited by the State to 100 percent receiving full accreditation. With his leadership and commitment to respect, responsibility, honesty and accountability, over 80 percent of Chesterfield schools' graduates continue their education.

Prior to his service to Chesterfield schools, Dr. Cannaday served as Director of Secondary Education, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, and Superintendent of Schools for Hampton City Schools. He also served as principal of Huntington Middle School that was awarded a National Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence under his guidance. In 1972, Dr. Cannaday earned a B.A. in Health and Physical Education and a Doctorate in Educational Administration in 1990 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He also holds a Masters in Educational Administration from Hampton University in 1980.

Dr. Cannaday's accomplishments include being named the 2005 Virginia Superintendent of the Year, 2005 Region 1 Superintendent of the Year, 2000 Region 2 Superintendent of the Year and the 2000 William & Mary Professional Educator of the Year. He was also a recipient of the 2004 Leadership in Arts Instruction award by the Virginia Board of Education.

Dr. Billy Cannaday has shown remarkable commitment and devotion to the education of the students he serves. Today we recognize him for his heralded leadership, integrity and desire for excellence.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Billy Cannaday.

HONORING RECIPIENTS OF  
MENTOR'S SPOTLIGHT AWARD

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor mentor Charmaine Robin, and her mentee, Chris John Garcia, who have received as Spotlight Awards from MENTOR. This mentoring pair was nominated by Baldwin School District, in my district in Baldwin, New York. They were selected from nearly two hundred nominations from across the country. For more than a decade, MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership has been working to expand the world of quality mentoring. The idea is that with the help and guidance of an adult mentor, each child can discover how to unlock and achieve his or her potential. The mentoring program provides an answer to the many students who feel that no one cares about them and that they are cut off from our economic system.

Prior to being matched with Charmaine, Chris was not participating in activities in schools, and was not making future goals for himself. With the help and advice of his mentor Charmaine, Chris became involved in many school activities, such as Future Business Leaders of America and Varsity Track, and has challenged himself with honors and advanced placement courses. Chris plans to pursue a career in Physical Therapy.

MENTOR determined Charmaine and Chris are a truly an outstanding match and that they demonstrate the positive impact mentoring can have on a young person's life. I agree, and I could not be more thrilled to commend Charmaine and Chris for receiving the Spotlight Award, and for their achievements.

JAMES H. WITTER OF HOMOSASSA,  
FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a World War II veteran and proud American patriot, James H. Witter of Homosassa, Florida. A Distinguished Flying Cross honoree, Mr. Witter unfortunately passed away earlier this year before he could receive his honor.

As all Americans are aware, the men and women who fought in World War II were truly deserving of the term, the "Greatest Generation." James Witter was no exception to this brave and honorable group of individuals.

Serving in the European Theatre during World War II, Mr. Witter was part of a bombing run over Leipzig, Germany on February 20, 1944. Coming under fire from German

anti-aircraft guns, the ball turret gunner was hit and severely wounded.

Taking charge of the situation, Mr. Witter pulled the gunner, Victor Ray, out of his seat to examine the wound and administer first aid. Finding a severed artery, Mr. Witter knocked out Mr. Ray, closed off the artery with needle nose pliers and parachute cord and saved Mr. Ray's life. All this took place while under continued attack from German anti-aircraft guns.

Recommended at the time to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross, Mr. Witter went more than 60 years without seeing the results of his bravery that winter day high above Germany.

I am proud to present his Distinguished Flying Cross to his widow Evelyn Witter, who was his loving wife for many years. While Mr. Witter did not live to receive this great honor, his family will long remember his bravery and fortitude in battle and how he saved the life of gunner Victor Ray.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like James Witter should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. Mr. Witter is truly one of America's Greatest Generation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RYAN  
REGNELL

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Park Service Ranger Ryan Regnell for his heroic actions that helped save eight lives and to commend him for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award.

On July 25, 2003, Ranger Ryan Regnell was on boat patrol in the Boulder Basin of Lake Mead when 50-mile-per-hour winds and four-to-six foot waves formed. He observed a boat in distress and went to their aid. When he arrived he found three adults, three children and two infants in a vessel that was taking on water and in danger of sinking. Recognizing the seriousness of the situation, Ranger Regnell attached a tow line to the boat and towed the troubled vessel to Lake Mead Marina. He then called for back-up from Nevada Division of Wildlife. En route to the marina, the tow line snapped twice due to the extreme marine conditions and the heavy load. Due to Ranger Regnell's skill, courage and decisive action, the boat and all eight occupants were safely delivered to shore.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ranger Ryan Regnell for his heroic actions, courage and professionalism. I further congratulate Ranger Regnell for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award. I thank him for his distinguished service and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO AMOS PACHECO FOR  
HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Amos

Pacheco, a World War II veteran who recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

Mr. Pacheco enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1944. After basic training, he joined General George S. Patton's Third Army as it raced into Germany. Serving in Company I, 358th Infantry, 90th Division of the 3rd Army, Corporal Pacheco participated in some of the fiercest battles on the Western front. While the Germans were retreating, resistance was stiff. American soldiers were fighting an enemy that might have been beaten but wasn't ready to surrender.

In April 1945, as Allied forces were making the final push towards Berlin, Mr. Pacheco was wounded in action on the Rhine River. A grenade exploded and wounded him, which left shrapnel in his hip. After a period of convalescence, he returned to active duty and was stationed in Europe until 1946.

Unfortunately, as each year passes, we have fewer World War II veterans among us. Men like Amos Pacheco witnessed and participated in the events that changed the world for the better.

This Greatest Generation led our Nation into the American century. They lifted America out of the Great Depression and committed our Nation anew to our founding ideals of liberty. Brave Americans like Mr. Pacheco fought and defeated the Nazi and Japanese regimes, and in the process, secured freedom for millions here and abroad. But their work was not done.

Even after winning World War II, the Greatest Generation had another war to fight: the Cold War. An Iron Curtain descended across Europe, and President Truman articulated a policy of containment to make sure the sacrifices we had made during World War II were not in vain.

Ultimately, freedom and liberty triumphed again, and it was thanks to people like Amos Pacheco, who had returned to San Antonio in 1946 and started working at Kelly Air Force Base. There, thousands of civilian employees worked long hours to repair and equip the planes our Air Force used to safeguard our nation.

I was honored to have attended the celebration of Mr. Pacheco's 80th birthday, where his granddaughter, Chriselda, presented him with replicas of the medals he earned for his service.

Mr. Pacheco has been a father figure to Chriselda, whom he adopted when she was just five years old. Out of love and appreciation for her grandfather, she purchased and presented to him replicas of the medals that were lost over the years. Chriselda gave her grandfather a Purple Heart for the wounds he received and a Bronze Star, which had been awarded to all World War II veterans. It was touching to watch Chriselda and the entire family honor and show their love for Mr. Pacheco. It still humbles me to think they wanted me to be present.

And to my great surprise and pleasure, Mr. Pacheco's 80th birthday party was the second time our two families had crossed paths. After the presentation of the medals, Chriselda showed me a photo of her and my father, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez. More than 20 years ago, Dad had attended a tree planting ceremony at Sarah S. King Elementary School where he met Chriselda, who was a student. Someone snapped a picture of Dad and Chriselda standing next to the tree, and Chriselda still had the photo. I know Dad

would have been honored that she had kept this picture all these years.

It was an honor to help celebrate this signal moment in Mr. Amos Pacheco's life. He is one of San Antonio's heroes, a beloved husband, father and grandfather.

HONORING THE CITY HONORS  
SCHOOL FOR RECOGNITION BY  
NEWSWEEK AS THE #4 SCHOOL  
IN THE NATION

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City Honors Magnet School in Buffalo, New York, which has been recognized for its excellence in education, having been ranked the number four public school in the United States by Newsweek Magazine.

City Honors is a Magnet school, part of the program started in 1975 to afford advanced educational opportunities to academically gifted and talented high school students. Since then, the program has expanded to include grades five through eight and has distinguished itself as a premier academic institution.

Newsweek has recognized that City Honors stands alone as the pre-eminent public institution in the region and the state. In addition, I would like to recognize and thank the teachers and administrators without whom the stimulating academic environment found at City Honors would not be possible.

Public education as exemplified by City Honors has created an environment that instills a love for learning in every student. The value of public education for creating an informed, enthusiastic and responsible citizenry cannot be overstated. Civic duty is an integral part of the American experience and City Honors has inculcated this virtue, encouraging students such as my intern, Samuel Sanders, to dedicate time and effort to the important duty of public service. This recognition by Newsweek reinforces that which I already knew, that Western New York has some of the best schools and students in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand here today to recognize the accomplishment of the City Honors School of Buffalo. Its commitment to academic excellence in public education has improved, and continues to improve, the life of every student enrolled, and the environment and education it provides promotes the civic and intellectual values we as a society hold dear.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND  
OPENING OF CROWLEY CITY HALL

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

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 27th, the city of Crowley celebrated the grand opening of a newly renovated City Hall during a community open house event attended by citizens, elected officials, civic and business leaders. Crowley City Hall is a totally

renovated facility which not only contains city offices but also features the Rice Interpretive Center, the J.D. Miller Recording Studio, and the Ford Dealership Museum.

Crowley earned the title "Rice Capital of America" by milling more rice annually than all other rice-producing countries in the world combined. Also, contributing to its title is the large number of rice mills that line Mill Street. The new building incorporates this heritage with the Rice Interpretive Center, where visitors can take a driving tour down the "rice trail."

At the celebration, Crowley Mayor Isabella delaHoussaye gave the attendees a history of the building and described the renovation and restoration efforts. "This is Crowley pride at its best. We should all be very proud of this accomplishment for our city," said delaHoussaye.

I ask my colleagues to join Mayor delaHoussaye in applauding the citizens of Crowley for constructing this great facility. Construction of the new City Hall building will be marked as a significant milestone in Crowley's long history.

#### HONORING COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES KENTUCKY

### HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Community Alternatives Kentucky, an exceptional organization in my Congressional District that delivers community-based supportive services to persons with disabilities.

The noble mission of Community Alternatives Kentucky is to enhance the lives of the individuals they serve by helping them become active members of their communities and realize their personal goals. They provide a wide range of day-to-day residential and employment services to assist disabled individuals with health needs, personal care, physical and speech therapy, transportation, house-keeping, recreation and other personal management services.

Community Alternatives of Kentucky advocates self determination, civil rights, and community inclusion for people with special needs and developmental disabilities. They play an important role in local communities, promoting an inclusive quality of life that allows all people, regardless of personal challenges, to reach their potential as happy and productive members of society.

I applaud Community Alternatives Kentucky, particularly their wonderful support staff, for all that they do to assist disabled individuals and their families. On behalf of so many in Kentucky's Second Congressional District, I would like to express my profound appreciation for their service and for the many contributions to our communities from the people they serve. Together, they are a true inspiration to us all.

It is my great privilege to recognize Community Alternatives Kentucky today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for their achievements as advocates for disabled citizens. Their unique compassion and dedication to the happiness and well-being of all people make them outstanding citizens worthy of our collective honor and respect.

#### A FALL RIVER PRINCE

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure during my years of representing Southeastern Massachusetts to work with Fernando Garcia. Fernando Garcia is a leader in the business community of Southeastern Massachusetts, and has been particularly active in affairs of the large Portuguese-American Community that contributes so much to that part of the state and indeed to the state as a whole. I had the pleasure a few years ago of visiting the Azores in the company of Mr. Garcia and the then Mayor Fred Kalisz of the City of New Bedford, and I have worked with Mr. Garcia on a number of occasions since then on matters of particular interest to the Portuguese-American Communities. At a time when we are talking about immigration, it is important to note that Mr. Garcia, like so many others who have been such important contributors to the life of Southeastern Massachusetts, is an immigrant who was born in the city of Sao Miguel, in the Azores. I note that he knew no English when he arrived here at the age of 11, and like the overwhelming majority of immigrants, strove to become proficient to the point where he is now a significant community leader—in English while of course retaining his facility in Portuguese.

Mr. Speaker, the sort of civic activity that Fernando Garcia exemplifies is a very important asset and I was pleased to read the excellent article about him in the Fall River Herald News, appropriately in the Business section since as the owner of Fall River Ford he is a significant leader in that segment of the life of his community.

Mr. Speaker, as an example of the important positive contribution made by immigration to this country, I ask that the article from the Fall River Herald News about Fernando Garcia be printed here.

[From the Herald News, Apr. 14, 2006]

#### A FALL RIVER PRINCE

(By Kathleen Durand)

Fernando Garcia said it's easy to be a good corporate citizen in a wonderful environment and community like Fall River.

The owner of Fall River Ford, Garcia will be recognized by the Prince Henry Society tonight for his many acts of charity and service to the community. The Fall River chapter as its Portuguese-American of the year. Similar honors will be bestowed on Thomas Alves, a plumber, by the New Bedford chapter, and Joseph de Melo, an attorney, by the Taunton chapter. The three will receive their awards at a dinner at the Century House in Acushnet.

Garcia said the Prince Henry Society is made up of people of Portuguese heritage, including both immigrants and native-born Americans. The primary function of the society is to promote education, he said, and it has given hundreds of scholarships worth thousands of dollars to deserving students.

A member of the Fall River chapter, Garcia said he was totally surprised to learn it has named him Portuguese-American of the year. "Every member of the chapter is deserving of the award. It's a small chapter but it gives constantly," he said. "It's the first chapter that has women members who have

added to the vision of the society and made it better by their input and views."

Garcia came to New Bedford from Sao Miguel, Azores, in 1957 at age 11. He said he knew no English. "One of the things I've tried to do over the years is to never forget the hardships and sacrifices immigrants must make," he said. "We try to instill that in others and make their journey easier by avoiding the pitfalls we had."

The New Bedford schools had no bilingual program at that time, so Garcia learned English at Our Lady of Mount Carmal School. After four years there he said he was able to navigate through the public schools. He went on to the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where he was president of his class as a sophomore and a junior. He majored in business and foreign languages and his class, the Class of 1969, was the first to graduate from the Dartmouth campus.

"Then it was out into the business world, and I haven't stopped since," he said.

In October 1998 he said he saw a great business opportunity in Fall River. Ford Automotive Co. was about to close a dealership due to prior failures. Garcia said with proper management and dedicated employees, he was able to restructure it so that it now ranks in the top 10 Ford dealerships in New England, employs about 100 people and generates annual sales of more than \$75 million.

"I'm delighted with the growth I've been in the 7½ years I've been here," Garcia said. "There are so many good people. I find it impossible to say no to worthy causes."

In business and in life, Garcia said he believes in integrity, character and in always keeping his word.

Garcia said Fall River Ford is most grateful for the courtesy and patronage of the community.

"I am very proud to be Portuguese," he said. "On the day I received my citizenship papers I was as equally proud to be a Portuguese-American."

Garcia is involved in numerous activities aimed at improving the quality of life in this region. He is chairman of the Executive Business Council at Charlton Memorial Hospital, a member of the board of the President's Council at the hospital, a member of the board of the local chapter of the American Heart Association, a member of the community advisor board of the Diabetes Association and a board member of the development council for HealthFirst Family Care Center.

Before he bought Fall River Ford, Garcia was a national sales manager for Rusty Jones, an automotive appearance maintenance program. He then founded All-Neads Insurance of New Bedford. When he bought Fall River Ford, he gave his co-workers at All-Neads the opportunity to buy the business. Without them, he said, the business would not have achieved the success it did.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JEFFREY A. STONE

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Jeffrey A. Stone in recognition of his heroic act performed at the Bureau of Reclamation's Hoover Dam resulting in the saving of a life and to commend him for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award.

On October 14, 2005, Sergeant Stone displayed outstanding dedication and commitment to the Hoover Dam Police Department

when he assisted a fellow officer in preventing a suicide. While on duty at the entrance to the Nevada Spillway Lot, Sergeant Stone observed a man standing on the wall overlooking the face of Hoover Dam. Suspecting the man was a possible suicide he radioed Corporal Russell Balbirona for help. While waiting for Corporal Balbirona to come, Sergeant Stone approached the man and demanded he get down from the wall. The man told him he was going to end his life.

Sergeant Stone offered him words of encouragement, but the man still refused to get down. Working in unison with Corporal Balbirona who had then arrived, Sergeant Stone continued talking to the man to distract him while Corporal Balbirona approached the man from behind. When the man reached for a cigarette that Sergeant Stone had offered him, Corporal Balbirona grabbed the man around the waist and safely removed him from the wall. As the two men were falling to the ground, Sergeant Stone immediately assisted Corporal Balbirona. After the man was subdued and taken into police custody, he was transported to Boulder City Hospital for a psychological evaluation. Prior to being transported to the hospital the man thanked the officers for saving his life and apologized for creating a disturbance.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sergeant Jeffrey A. Stone for his exceptional display of courage, quick reaction, and heroic actions carried out in this life-saving incident. I further congratulate Sergeant Stone for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award. I thank him for his distinguished service and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BENNYE CAROL  
FRAZIER

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to honor a lovely woman from San Antonio, who passed away recently. I rise to honor Benny Carol Frazier, a person dedicated to serving others and causes bigger than anyone person. Sadly, she left us recently, but she never stopped fighting. In fact, despite her kind and gracious manner, she fought hard her entire life for the causes she believed in.

Benny believed in the power of education to transform lives. She taught in San Antonio schools for many years, and she chose to teach high school students who had the highest risk of dropping out. These are the students most in need of encouragement and reinforcement that obtaining an education is something everyone can do and that the goal is within their grasp. There are, I'm sure, many people in San Antonio who would have quit had it not been for Benny's encouragement. She fought to keep students in school and on track for graduation.

Benny also fought to improve schools and treatment of teachers. She served as President of the San Antonio Teachers Council for two terms as well as for the local affiliates of the National Education Association and the Texas State Teachers Association, and the Texas Industrial Vocational Association.

As was her nature, Benny was also a leader in the community. She served as President for both the San Antonio Calligraphers Guild and the Harp and Shamrock Society and as a member of the S.A. Conservation Society and paper chair of Night In Old San Antonio (NIOA.)

Benny worked at the local level of politics, an area often overlooked despite its importance. As Speaker Tip O'Neill used to say "All politics is local," and Benny knew this. It's at this level that small gestures and kindnesses matter more than policy differences. Benny was unfailingly kind and helpful in many ways, and many in the Democratic Party recall her tireless assistance.

Benny would support local candidates in whatever fashion she could. She served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Bexar County Democratic Party. She was named interim Chair of the Bexar County Democrats, often a thankless task, but she dispatched those duties with the same kindness, enthusiasm and efficiency she performed all other tasks. Even while suffering the illness that would lead to her death, Benny continued to work for the Democratic Party.

Democrats in San Antonio could count on Benny to keep us focused on the goal of helping people. She was dedicated to the mission of our party at its finest, the mission of Democrats like President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Speaker Sam Rayburn or President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Of course, Benny was a wife, mother and grandmother. She and her husband, Tom, were married for 50 years. I am amazed how Benny found time for her career, her family and her activities.

My thoughts and prayers go out to her husband, her family, and those whose lives she touched. She will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING 58TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 58th anniversary of Israel Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut.

On this day in 1948, the U.N. mandate regarding Great Britain's control over the land of Israel ended and the people of Israel declared the existence of the independent democratic state of Israel.

In a democratic nation, Independence Day is created to celebrate the values and freedoms democratic nations hold dear. However, it should also be a day for reflection on the sacrifice required to ensure the continuation and protection of those freedoms. In fact, in Israel, on the day preceding Independence Day, Israelis honor Yom Hazikaron or Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers. The link between the two is clear: Israelis owe a debt, and the existence of the state, to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for it. On this day Israel Independence Day, I also ask for a moment of introspection to honor those who, whether Israeli or American, have fallen to defend their nation and to defend democracy.

The United States has long been a supporter of Israel and her policies as a defender

of democratic freedoms in the Middle East. Israel is our nation's strongest ally and only truly democratic partner in the Middle East.

With the continuing War on Terror, our alliance with Israel is more important than ever. In more than 100 instances in the past 58 years, our countries have stood together in the face of great turmoil. Today, I reinforce the unshakeable commitment of the United States to the safety and security of Israel and her reciprocal commitment to our security. While the times and the circumstances continue to change, the commitment we have made in the past 58 years to building peace and stability has fostered a bond between our nations that shall never be broken.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand here today to recognize Israeli Independence Day and to recognize Israel's commitment to democracy in the Middle East. The common values we share: a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, are the core values on which democracy is based.

HONORING THE LATE HOWARD  
ZERANGUE, SR.

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

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, it is always difficult to inform my colleagues when a constituent of mine passes away. It is especially hard when we have to say goodbye to a distinguished public servant such as Sheriff Howard Zerangue of Opelousas, LA, who died Thursday, April 27, 2006 following a long battle with a blood disorder.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Zerangue was Opelousas. His life and career will forever be defined by his devoted service to his city, as well as his neighbors in St. Landry Parish, where he served more than 25 years as Sheriff. Prior to his seven consecutive terms in the Sheriffs office, Howard Zerangue also served on the Opelousas Board of Aldermen from 1966 to 1974, and as Opelousas Police Chief from 1974 to 1980. Throughout his service in law enforcement, Howard Zerangue was known for making significant technological improvements for his staff despite having to deal with tight budgets. He is also credited with starting programs to fight drugs, and to provide transportation services for the elderly and disabled.

Despite the lofty titles he held, Howard Zerangue never forgot where he came from. His jobs outside of law enforcement, including as a Volkswagen salesman in the 1970's and as a bouncer at the Southern Club, allowed him to relate to the people he served every day. His friends always appreciated his loyalty and his duty. As the Opelousas Daily World noted in their commentary: "He had a strong sense of duty. He could be counted upon to be there when the chips were down. He stood up for those things—and people—that he believed in. He was dedicated to his job and to his vision of it as a way to help others." One could only hope to be remembered in such a way. Despite our loss, Howard Zerangue's memory lives on in the streets of Opelousas and St. Landry, which he worked to keep safe for most of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Howard Zerangue and in offering our deepest condolences to his wife, Ruth Manuel Zerangue; his mother, Winnie Meche Zerangue; his daughters, Mona Manteris and Debbie Sealy; his sons, Howard Jr., Keith, Neal, Harold and Darryl Zerangue; 21 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

HONORING STEPHAN L. WALTERS

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give well-deserved recognition to Stephan Walters, an extraordinary soldier, teacher and citizen from my Congressional District.

Stephan is currently serving on active duty with the U.S. Army Reserves at Fort Knox, Kentucky. As Captain, he is responsible for training and mentoring a full brigade. He also serves as an officer for community outreach, equal opportunity, safety and soldier retention. Prior to his current assignment, Captain Walters served for three years as a member of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, also known as the Presidential Honor Guard, performing a range of ceremonial duties at the White House, Pentagon, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Captain Walters has also distinguished himself in civilian life, earning a bachelor degree in social studies and a masters degree in secondary education from the University of Kentucky, graduating from both programs with honors. Walters was a five-year member of the University of Kentucky's football team, earning numerous awards and honors for his academic and athletic achievements.

Upon graduation, he accepted a position at Jeffersontown High School in Louisville, KY teaching history and coaching football and track. In 2004, he was nominated by his colleagues for the History Teacher of the Year Award, a special honor he later received from the Kentucky Historical Society.

It is my great privilege to honor Stephan Walters today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his distinguished service to his country and his community. His unyielding sense of duty and sacrifice represent the very best of what it means to be an American soldier. His achievements as a civilian, especially his dedication to developing young minds in the classroom and on the athletic field, are further marks of personal greatness. He is a man of exemplary leadership and dedication worthy of our collective respect and appreciation.

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in bringing attention to our Nation's uninsured.

As we commemorate Cover the Uninsured Week, I would like to say that it is criminal that

there are over 45 million uninsured people in this country, 8 million of them children.

For a Nation that boasts about being the wealthiest in the world and claims liberty and justice for all, the fact that we have even one person without health insurance is a contradiction and a shame.

Every single year an estimated 18,000 people die because they are uninsured and cannot get the medical care they need. 18,000 lives lost solely because we as a Nation fail to provide a basic human right to those living in this country.

And instead of addressing this crisis head on, this Administration and Republican leadership have contributed to increasing numbers of uninsured people.

Mr. Speaker, during the Bush Administration the number of uninsured has risen by 6 million people. More people are now without health insurance than at any point since the Census began collecting comparable data in 1987.

The Republicans prefer politics and profit over vulnerable people. It is obvious that consumer driven health plans and cuts to Medicaid are not the answer to this problem. Health Savings Accounts and Association Health Plans provide benefits only to those who are rich and healthy. They will do nothing to decrease the number of uninsured who are typically lower-income and have more health problems.

The increase in the number of uninsured in this country also continues to disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities.

Of the over 45 million uninsured, 32.7 percent are Hispanic; 19.7 percent are Black; and 16.8 percent are Asian. Furthermore, over 25 percent of the Native American population is uninsured.

Despite this devastating crisis in our Nation, we do have a solution. It is universal access to quality health care and we must demand it for our people and make it a priority of this Congress.

The United States is the only industrialized Nation that does not provide some form of universal access.

As a co-chair of the National Health Insurance Caucus, I have fought in Congress for universal access. That is why I have sponsored H.R. 3000, the Josephine Butler United States Health Insurance Act and support my colleague JOHN CONYERS' universal health care bill, H.R. 676.

The goal of our legislation is so simple—to ensure that all individuals have access, guaranteed by law, to the highest quality and most cost effective healthcare services regardless of their employment, income, or healthcare status.

While I promote universal coverage, I also support the Family Care Act, the Medicare Early Access Act, and the Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act, 3 bills that, if enacted, would provide health insurance to half of the uninsured.

If this nation fails to take action right now, the number of uninsured will only continue to increase. Currently, national health care spending is rising by more than 7 percent per year. We all know that as health costs rise, more and more people lose their health insurance either because their employer can't afford it or they can't pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, two out of every five or 41 percent of working-age Americans with incomes between \$20,000 and \$40,000 were uninsured

for at least part of the past year. This is a dramatic and rapid increase from 2001 when just over one-quarter or 28 percent were uninsured.

In fact, only 19 percent of the uninsured are from families with no connection to the work force. That means 80 percent of the uninsured are working people. People who go to work, but cannot afford to obtain health care. We can not continue to spread the belief that employment guarantees access to health insurance.

If we don't acknowledge health care as a basic human right soon, it will be too late for some, and our societies most vulnerable will continue to suffer.

These are the Americans who are too often ignored. The uninsured have lived a campaign of survival, and deserve a voice today and every day on this floor.

These 45 million people are calling out for their government to put people before profit. They realize that access to quality health insurance or universal health care is essential in impacting health outcomes.

Over 40 percent of the uninsured have no regular source of health care and utilize emergency care due to avoiding high cost regular visits.

This situation creates an ongoing cycle of adults and children skipping the key preventive medicine steps, like routine check-ups, recommended tests, and low-cost treatments.

By ignoring preventive treatments and not addressing the sky-high health costs; we are creating sicker people.

It is a fact that the uninsured are more likely than those with insurance to be hospitalized for conditions that could have been avoided.

We are putting our uninsured in the position of choosing between dealing with an illness at its early and most treatable stage or feeding their family.

Mr. Speaker, the message we must send is that universal access to quality health care should be provided without discrimination to all.

We must make health care accessible! Make health care affordable! Make health care a guarantee!

I encourage all of my colleagues to support legislation that will put people before profit in our health care system.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATTY,  
DANNIE AND GREG "GREASER"  
BASHAW

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patty, Danny and Greg "Greaser" Bashaw for their continued support of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC program of Basic High School in Henderson, Nevada.

The Bashaw family has long been supporters of Basic High School's Marine Corp Junior ROTC program. Several years ago, Patty and Greg became involved in the Junior ROTC program through their son, Danny, who was then enrolled. To assist in the fund raising efforts of the program, Patty and Greg had the ingenious idea of starting a car show, an idea that proved to be very successful. Their personal belief in the goals and objectives of the

program and their son, Danny, joining the Army reserve after high school has prompted the Bashaw family to continue supporting the program in such an outstanding fashion.

The Bashaw family has a distinguished record of service to their country and community. Their dedication to their country is most evident by the fact that Greg served in the Vietnam War and subsequently became an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3848. Their son, Danny, is currently keeping America safe by serving in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Patty, Danny and Greg "Greaser" Bashaw for their efforts on behalf of the Basic High School Marine Junior ROTC program and their dedication to country and community. The Bashaws are truly great Americans who epitomize civic pride in their country and a willingness to give themselves to furthering the ideas of our founding fathers by volunteering to help others.

RECOGNIZING 58TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate the fifty-eight years since the founding of the State of Israel. This momentous occasion is not only a joyous day for the people of Israel but for all who cherish freedom and democracy.

The people of the United States and the people of Israel have an ever-lasting bond made even stronger by the events of September 11th. Jewish Americans have made innumerable contributions to our nation throughout its history. Many Jewish Americans also became instrumental in the founding of Israel. These bonds have been strengthened since the events of September 11th. Together with Israel and all freedom loving nations, we will put an end to the fanaticism of terrorism and the threat it poses to the survival of not only the United States and Israel, but to other nations as well.

The need for a safe haven for Jewish people across the world is obvious. Persecution of Jews was practiced for generations throughout Europe and elsewhere. The visionaries who founded Israel established this safe haven to preserve the lives and culture of one of the great peoples and cultures on this Earth. Almost sixty years later, they are still fighting to preserve their great traditions and culture. But Israel has grown and prospered despite the relentless and mindless attacks perpetuated by the enemies of freedom. It has done so with the steadfast support of its friends in the United States and I am proud to count myself as one of these.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize the leadership of Israel's Consul General in New York, Arye Mekel, and the hard work of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. Arye Mekel has worked tirelessly to advocate on the behalf of the State of Israel and the Council has provided invaluable assistance to New York City as a whole and the New York Jewish Community.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating the State of Israel on its fifty-eighth

birthday and vow to work hard to ensure that the alliance between our two countries continues to grow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEBORAH PRYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below:

Rollcall 101, H.R. 4709, the Telephone Records and Privacy protection Act (4-27-06), I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM K.  
EMERY

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. William K. Emery. Dr. Emery today will receive the Friend of Public Health Award from the Berrien County Health Department for his many decades of dedicated service.

A caring and compassionate third-generation physician, Dr. Emery served as a family practitioner and as medical director for Whirlpool Corporation for more than 30 years. Dr. Emery, his father and grandfather have provided more than a century of care to the residents of Southwest Michigan. After retiring from his practice, Dr. Emery continued to serve his community as a member of the Berrien County Board of Health.

Dr. Emery is a man of vision and leadership, and brought those skills to bear as a member of the Berrien County Board of Health. He believes that the key to good health is knowledge and prevention. Dr. Emery was the driving force behind the Health Department's mission of preventing disease, prolonging life, protecting the health of the community, and promoting a better quality of life for everyone.

A 1942 graduate of St. Joseph High School, Dr. Emery received his medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1949 and joined the family practice in 1951.

While his colleagues are recognizing him today for his years of service, Dr. Emery's exemplary service continues. He has been named the first Health Board Member emeritus by the Berrien County Board of Commissioners, and he is volunteering at a local health care facility library.

Southwest Michigan is a healthier and better place because of Dr. William K. Emery.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ST. BERNADINE MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate the medical

staff and administration of the St. Bernadine Medical Center for providing 75 years of top quality medical care to the residents of San Bernardino County, California.

When local doctors and community leaders laid plans for a new hospital in 1929, they intended it to be modeled after St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, home of the Mayo Clinic. Led by Dr. Philip Savage and Father Patrick Dunn of St. Bernadine Catholic Church, they approached the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Houston, and the Sisters agreed to support a new hospital, providing a \$550,000 investment to get it started. A local fund drive brought another \$100,000, and St. Bernadine Hospital was created.

During the early years of operation in the midst of the Depression, the Sisters often would take payment for medical services in the form of fruits, nuts and chickens. The original 125 beds, five surgical rooms, operating theatre and other support facilities served the community until the 1950s, when a series of expansions began.

In the past 50 years, the medical center has grown to a 463-bed acute-care facility providing the nearly 2 million residents of San Bernardino County with some of the most advanced technologies and practices in the nation. The 1,400 employees serve thousands of patients a year, including 43,000 in the Emergency Department alone. The Five-Star maternal-child health center handles 2,600 births a year.

Most recently, the medical center has established the Inland Empire Heart Institute, which is ranked as one of the top two hospitals in Southern California for heart surgery volume. Blue Shield has designated it a Center of Excellence. The Medical Center is also rated as the best in the region for orthopedic care.

Although it is still sponsored by the Sisters of Charity, the medical center is now part of Catholic Healthcare West. From Mother Sebastian, the hospital's first administrator in 1931, to current president Steven Barron and board chairman Wilfrid Lemann, the leadership of St. Bernadine Medical Center has showed devotion to providing the very best health care for our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join in congratulating St. Bernadine Medical Center on their 75-year legacy of top-quality medical care, and wish the medical staff and administration further success in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. NED  
DOFFONEY, PRESIDENT OF  
FRESNO CITY COLLEGE FOR HIS  
DEDICATION AND SERVICE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Dr. Ned Doffoney, President of Fresno City College for his dedicated service and invaluable commitment to his students and his community.

Dr. Doffoney has had an extensive career as leader of numerous community colleges. He hails from Louisiana where he was the founding President and Chancellor of the South Louisiana Community College. Following his time in Louisiana, he moved to

Southern California where he held notable positions in various colleges. For over 4 years, Mr. Doffoney served as the President of Saddleback College of South Orange Community College District; he was the Dean of Academic Affairs at Los Angeles Southwest College as well as the Dean of Admissions; and he served as the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. In addition to his administrative positions, he was also a teacher at California State University, Dominguez Hills. On July 1, 2002, Fresno City College welcomed Dr. Doffoney as its new President.

With a wide variety of leadership experience, Dr. Doffoney has received numerous recognitions and has earned the respect of many education institutions. In 2003, he was invited to participate in the National Community College Working Group organized by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education. Dr. Doffoney was the only community college representative from California who was invited to join a distinguished group of 15 community college Presidents and Chancellors that were given the task of discussing issues and opportunities that affect the community college mission. He was a strong advocate for students with disabilities and was able to provide the group with insight into historic measures made to service those with disabilities in California.

Aside from being a strong advocate for students with disabilities, Dr. Doffoney has also worked tirelessly to promote the role of community colleges as a portal to higher education for California's ethnic majority. His efforts earned him the 2004 New California Media "Exceptional Communicator Award," highlighting the shared values of ethnic media and representing the interest of people from all of the various ethnic communities in the Valley. Dr. Doffoney is a proud recipient of this award and continues to bring new opportunities for education to the millions of underserved people in California.

Dr. Doffoney acknowledges the role of college education in his life and has worked to help those who are also in need of support; through his encouragement of the crucial role of education in shaping the lives of individuals. This work has earned him the 2005 TRIO Achievers Award where he was honored for his leadership and dedication in establishing and promoting effective and powerful learning environments. He continuously exemplifies the benefits of education to the Fresno City College community.

In addition to his dedicated service to Fresno City College, Dr. Doffoney has also made it a priority to establish a presence in community organizations. "As we continue to grow, my top priority is to find new ways to serve the needs of our community. It is our mission to help communities learn and find innovative ways to engage learning at all levels," he says. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Fresno and a board member for the Fresno Metropolitan Museum and Commission on Athletics. He has also recently served as a board member for the Public Safety Commission, Fresno Fire Chiefs' Foundation and Break the Barriers.

Dr. Ned Doffoney continues his quest for excellence and has established a core philosophy of student service at Fresno City College. He has stated, "This is a time to dare to be great. Although higher education faces

many challenges, we must be undaunted in our task to provide the best educational experience to our students." Dr. Doffoney's dedication in the promotion of education and his invaluable service to Fresno City College and its surrounding communities are accomplishments worthy of honor and recognition.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
THE CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCENIC  
RAILROAD

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in appreciation of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad for its stewardship of the historic rail line through the Cuyahoga River Valley.

For thousands of years Indians used the Cuyahoga River and Valley in northern Ohio as a north-south transportation corridor. Later the Ohio and Erie Canal provided the early settlers a slow but easy way to move bulk goods and people. In 1880, the first steam engine chugged its way down the new Valley Railway, signaling an era of progress and prosperity for the Cuyahoga Valley residents. Primarily built to transport coal from south of Canton to Cleveland's growing industries, the Valley Railway also served the farmers, merchants and factories along its route. Depots piled high with farm produce dotted the valley section of the railroad line.

Financial difficulties in 1894 led to the Valley Railway's acquisition by the Cleveland Terminal & Valley Railroad (CT&V). The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad bought the CT&V in 1915 and continued to provide freight and passenger service between Akron and Cleveland. However, the popularity of the automobile caused a decline in passenger traffic on the line. Passenger service ended in 1963. The last freight train operated by the Chessie System ran in 1985.

Today, the historic rails are owned by the National Park Service as part of its goal to preserve the significant cultural resources in the Cuyahoga Valley. The CVSR operates the excursion train through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in cooperation with the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the CVSR, which is holding its annual fundraising event this weekend, the "All Aboard Ball." Recognition is due not only for this railroad's history, but also for its current enhancement of the Cuyahoga American Heritage River and its role in perpetuating passenger rail and excursion rail in Ohio's 10th Congressional District and nationwide.

RESTRICTIONS TO TAIWANESE  
PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN'S  
TRAVEL IN THE U.S.

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, as you may know, this morning, the democratically elected president of Taiwan, Mr. Chen Shui-bian fi-

nally received permission to stop in Anchorage—but not spend the night—on his way to South America. This is quite a change in plans for President Chen, who had hoped to meet with Members of Congress in New York on his way to Paraguay and Costa Rica, but whose trip was delayed for a day because the administration at first refused even this brief stopover. If you have been following this case, you would probably agree with me that this is no way to treat the democratically elected president of one of our staunchest allies in the Pacific.

There are no laws or regulations that prevent leaders from Taiwan visiting the United States, but simply a policy of the administration that forbids President Chen and other Taiwanese officials from officially visiting the United States. What is the source of this restriction? Concern that the Chinese government will be displeased by any welcome of a Taiwanese official on our soil. However, this most recent self-imposed restriction goes even further than the previous policy I have spoken against.

Last week, the Chinese urged us NOT to allow President Chen to land in the United States at all. I suppose that we can therefore view this Alaskan stop as a victory for U.S. sovereignty and relations with Taiwan. However, in the past President Chen has been allowed stops in Los Angeles, Houston, and New York. The final agreement allowed him to touch down and refuel in Alaska, but not even get off the plane—what an insult to a friend and partner of the U.S.A.

I understand that President Chen will be allowed to pass through Honolulu, HI, next week on his way home from South America. I mean no disrespect to the fine States of Hawaii and Alaska, but the symbolism of keeping President Chen as far away from Washington, DC, as possible is unmistakable.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is no way to treat the elected president of one of our fellow democracies which happens to be one of our best friends in the region.

Last month we invited the unelected leader of China to the White House. We presented with a 21 gun salute, and laid out the red carpet for him. But the democratically elected President of Taiwan we do not even let set foot on U.S. soil.

What is wrong with this picture?

I believe that we should work towards lifting all restrictions on high level visits from Taiwan including the President. This would have several benefits for both the United States and our friend Taiwan. First, we would for once and for all eradicate the necessity of complex, lengthy and, truly, humiliating-for-Taiwan negotiations about where and when President Chen would be able to refuel or travel in the United States. Secondly, being able to hear first-hand from Taiwanese officials would promote a balanced understanding of both sides of the Taiwan Strait issue for Congress, the Administration and the American public. Thirdly, we would reduce the ability of Beijing to politicize our valid relations with Taiwan. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we would extend to the President of Taiwan—and thus to the people of Taiwan—the respect and dignity they deserve.

Next week, when President Chen travels home to Taiwan, I hope the administration will change its plans and allow President Chen to make a stopover in New York as he initially planned.

It is my sincere belief that the United States needs to do a better job in nurturing and protecting the fragile democracy in Taiwan. We can do that by communicating directly with President Chen about how he sees the role of his country in promoting democracy around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CELIA  
BELL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Celia Bell, a constituent and friend, who passed away just two weeks ago.

Celia Bell was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 3, 1915. She was born a twin and weighed only one and one-half pounds. Doctors had little faith the babies would survive, and indeed, one did not. But Celia not only survived, she thrived and went on to live a very full life, passing away on April 17, 2006 just a couple of weeks shy of her 91st birthday, which would have been today.

Celia married Max Kauffman on December 22, 1935 and they raised three children together: Fred Kauffman (spouse Bobbie), Hedy Goldberg (spouse Bob), and Brenda Hoelzle (spouse Bob). These three wonderful children blessed Celia and Mac with 8 grandchildren: Bret Kauffman (spouse Madie), Mark Kauffman (spouse Tracey), Eric Kauffman (spouse Debbie), Lee Hoelzle, Bryan Hoelzle (spouse Sharon), Karen Caltune (spouse Todd), and Lewis and Ellen Goldberg. When she passed away, Celia was the great-grandmother of 8 wonderful great-grandchildren: Andrew, Michelle, Max, Brennan, Aaron, and Joshua Kaufman, and Matthew and Jarett Hoelzle. Max and Celia were married for 53 years until Max's passing in 1989.

Celia Kauffman never worked outside of her home, but always kept busy, sewing, knitting, and crocheting. In the late 1970's, Celia and Max moved to South Florida where she continued to be active in her community by volunteering her services. She bowled until the age of 85 when her arthritis forced her to stop. However, at the age of 89, she was still doing volunteer work as the water exercise instructor at her condominium pool and crocheting lap robes which were donated to nursing homes and children's services.

It gives me great pride today to honor this great American, whose legacy lives on in her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends.

RECOGNIZING 58TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of this country's most important allies in the War on Terror, the State of Israel. Fifty-eight years ago today, at

4 p.m., 5th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, David Ben Gurion read the Israeli Declaration of Independence over the radio ending 2,000 years of exile and persecution and fulfilling God's promise to return the Holy Land to the hands of the Jewish people.

The Israeli government was founded to "ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex," principles we here in this country cherish as well. By holding regular free elections, Israel has been an oasis of democracy in a vast desert of theocracies, serving as a beacon of hope for oppressed people everywhere.

In less than 60 years, this open society has allowed the country to prosper economically, creating vibrant agricultural, industrial and technological sectors virtually from scratch and leading to successful foreign trade agreements. Israel has worked tirelessly to promote peace in the Middle East by achieving peace accords with Egypt and Jordan, an idea that would have seemed impossible in 1948. The Jewish State's many positive contributions to the world community exemplified by the Nobel Prizes in economics, chemistry, literature and peace that have been awarded to its citizens.

It is hard to believe that all of this has come out of a country no bigger than New Jersey and that it perseveres in the face of constant adversity. If one of the main planks of our foreign policy is to spread democracy and promote freedom around the world, then I can think of no better way to accomplish that goal than by strengthening the bond between our countries and offering it as an example to the rest of the world.

Israel Independence Day, or Yom Ha'atzmaut in Hebrew, provides Jews in this country an opportunity to demonstrate their solidarity with and strengthen their alliance with the State of Israel. It is fitting, then, that I stand here at the beginning of the very first Jewish American Jewish Heritage Month in which we will celebrate the 352 year history of the Jews' contributions to American culture.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, congratulating Israel on 58 years of independence and I look forward to building an even stronger relationship with our friends in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "OIL AND  
GAS INDUSTRY ANTITRUST ACT  
OF 2006"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Oil and Gas Industry Antitrust Act of 2006," legislation that prohibits oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage and subjects the OPEC nations to the U.S. antitrust laws. I am joined by Representatives CHABOT, LOFGREN, BROWN (OH), MEEHAN, SCHIFF, LEE, and HINCHEY.

In recent days, the price of crude oil has reached an all-time high of \$75 per barrel, more than twenty percent higher than the price at the start of the year. This increase is directly felt by American consumers, who consume over 40 percent of the world's gasoline

and are forced to pay exorbitant prices at the pump. The average price of gasoline is now near \$3 a gallon or more and is only expected to rise further during the summer months as supply dwindles.

There are two parts of this equation—the oil side and the refinery side—and both must be addressed for consumers to see a difference at the pump.

The Oil Problem: The group of eleven nations comprising OPEC is a classic definition of a cartel, and these nations hold all the cards when it comes to oil and gas prices. OPEC accounts for more than a third of global oil production, and OPEC's oil exports represent about 55 percent of the oil traded internationally. This makes OPEC's influence on the oil market dominant, especially when it decides to reduce or increase its levels of production. Just recently, OPEC ministers announced that they would not increase production or even offer their spare oil capacity to respond to rapidly increasing oil prices. While OPEC is in a unique position to respond to and alleviate this crisis, its nations will instead stand by while our oil and gasoline prices go through the roof.

The Refinery Problem: Refining costs are the second largest chunk of the cost of a gallon of gasoline. And while companies like ExxonMobil are posting first-quarter profits that are up 7 percent from a year ago, the cost of gasoline continues to rise. In this climate—and with increasing reliance on foreign oil—we must be particularly vigilant in safeguarding consumers from potential exploitation.

The Solution: This comprehensive legislation, the "Oil and Gas Industry Antitrust Act of 2006," is simple and effective, and has already been passed by a U.S. Senate Committee. It:

Amends the Clayton Act to prohibit oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage.

Directs several studies, including a Justice Department/FTC study of mergers in the oil and gas industry, and a GAO study of whether government consent decrees in oil mergers have been effective.

Directs the Attorney General and FTC Chairman to establish a joint federal/state task force with state AG's to investigation information sharing among oil companies.

Exempts OPEC and other nations from the provisions of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products. (OPEC currently claims sovereign immunity by saying its actions are "governmental activity," which is protected, rather than "commercial activity," which is not.)

Makes clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

Authorizes lawsuits in U.S. federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department.

We do not have to stand by and watch gas prices continue to climb without taking action; we should protect consumers from any anticompetitive behavior that might be occurring. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

AN AMERICAN WORKER'S STORY

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, my constituent Steve Grandstaff is shop Chairman of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 651, which represents hourly workers at Delphi East in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

For the RECORD I would like to read an excerpt of the electronic testimony that Steve wrote for the Education and the Workforce Committee e-hearing on the impact of the Delphi bankruptcy filing:

I am the Shop Chairperson of UAW Local 651 in Flint, servicing Delphi Flint East and representing 2800 hard working people. Early on in this whole saga I had a realization what the whole issue boils down to.

I refer to it as the promise; the promise was part of the deal. The deal was that you came to work and did your job for 30 years and at the end of that time you could have the opportunity to go on your way with a somewhat comfortable pension to see you through your later years.

The workers end of the promise was that they worked the off shifts for the first decade of employment. This meant working the hot days in the summer and the cold ones in the winter. That in itself meant that you were at work when your family and your friends were working normal hours and enjoying life.

The promise meant that you worked in the grimy, dangerous conditions. You did boring monotonous jobs. You suffered the labeling by society because you worked in a factory.

You would work the extra hours so that you could get the nice things that life offered. The things that seemed to come easier to other people but in your case you had to do a little extra to get them. . . .

Over the years many of us had the opportunity to make a decision, should I stay or should I move on to something else. Many, many people stayed on because of the promise.

They made decisions not to go to a new career because they were many years into the equation of which the promise weighed oh so heavily.

The promise was always out there.

The company always reminded anyone that would listen about how they were funding our pensions and used that as a bargaining chip when our wages or benefits were on the table.

It was always figured in as a benefit cost even though now some wonder if the company ever really intended to fulfill the promise.

Now here we are near the end of our careers, not as young as we used to be, many of us broken. When so many of us are so close to being able to cash in on the promise the company is attempting to take it away from us. . . .

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has failed to protect American workers while focusing on protecting the privileged few.

It is time for these workers' stories to be heard and I am pleased to have this opportunity to share one of these stories.

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN YOUTH FEDERATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a wonderful speech made by Nanor Harutunian of the Armenian Youth Federation at a recent event that I attended in New York City to commemorate the 91st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The speech reads:

Your eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Reverend Clergy, Government Officials and Honored Guests.

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Silence, is a spoken language in itself. Silence may often speak louder than words. Silence, verbalizes fear, ignorance, tacit agreement, carelessness, and defeat. What it does not portray is anger, persistence, perseverance, knowledge, and strength. The Armenian Youth Federation will never be silent. We will continue to speak for justice and truth.

As the Armenian Youth, the AYF was built on the endurance and determination of its ancestors. Determination to keep our nation and our country united, free and independent. It is this determination that we possess when we hold the Turkish government accountable for the Genocide of the Armenian people 91 years ago. We stand united not only as an organization but as a people to honor the memory of over one and a half million Armenians killed at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. It is by educating ourselves that we become empowered. It is through this education that we can make a difference. We are the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of those Armenians who were forced out of their homeland, of those Armenians who perished. We have worked and will continue to work with other communities to raise awareness of crimes against humanity. We have held protests, rallies, vigils and memorials in the name of justice and honor.

Dr. King also said "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." If one is afraid to stand up for what he or she believes in, then it is not worth believing in anything at all. We stand for recognition and reparations. Our ancestors had their families, homes, culture, and country taken away from them. The Armenian Youth Federation calls for the atrocities of the past to be recognized. Only by first recognizing the past, can we truly recognize our future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ORDER OF THE SILVER ROSE

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda and Luz Arellano. They are responsible for awarding the Order of the Silver Rose Medal and Award to our veterans in Nevada.

The Order of the Silver Rose was established in 1997 by Mary Liz Marchand. Her fa-

ther, Chief Hospital Corpsman Frank Davis, died from illnesses resulting from the use of Agent Orange in the Vietnam War. Mary Liz's friend brought a silver rose to Chief Davis while receiving treatment in Salt Lake City. Upon his death Mary Liz established the Order of the Silver Rose for the victims of Agent Orange.

Linda and Luz Arellano have started the Order of the Silver Rose Nevada chapter in an effort to bring honor and recognition to the veterans of the Vietnam War. On April 26, 2006, Linda and Luz, on behalf of the Nevada Chapter of the Order of the Silver Rose, honored fifteen veterans from Nevada and recognized them for their service and sacrifice during the Vietnam War. I would like to share the names of those noble veterans, they are; Ronald G. Smith, Edward Fizer, William Siebentritt, David Gilmartin, Joseph C. Marrs, William T. Anton, Dennis Sitzler, Harold Williams Jr., Carlos Cepeda, Charles E. Johnson, Donald Welchold, Robert F. McHale, George S. Nagy, Leon Walker, and Arturo Garingan.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Linda and Luz Arellano as well as the veterans they recognized with the award of the Silver Rose. On behalf of Nevada, I thank these brave veterans for their service and sacrifice.

54TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

**HON. BOBBY JINDAL**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, whereas, the historical record of the United States, as acknowledged by the highest court in our land, reveals a clear and unmistakable pattern woven throughout our Nation's history; America was founded upon the principles and truths revealed in the Holy Scriptures; and

Whereas, as a Nation with a Judeo-Christian heritage, prayer has been and remains an essential element of our national conduct as we seek divine direction and blessing; and

Whereas, our Nation's leaders, beginning with our first president, George Washington, to our current president, George W. Bush, have called upon Americans to individually and corporately pray for and seek God's divine blessing upon our Nation in both times of peace and in times of conflict; and

Whereas, in times of great crisis we have been prompted by officially proclaimed days of prayer to ask for God's guidance; and

Whereas, Holy Scripture instructs in 1 Samuel 2:30 to give God honor; and

Whereas, in 2006, on the 54th Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer, America once again finds herself in the midst of danger and uncertainty making it essential that we as a people seek God's direction through prayer so that our world might enjoy peace.

Now Therefore, I encourage all of the citizens of Louisiana to participate in honoring God by seeking His blessing both upon our State and our Nation.

HONORING THE BUDD LAKE  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Budd Lake Volunteer Fire Department, in the Township of Mount Olive, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent! On June 24, 2006 the good citizens of Budd Lake and Mount Olive will celebrate the Fire Company's 75th Anniversary with special festivities.

The Budd Lake Volunteer Fire Department was formally incorporated in 1931 with approximately twenty-three members. A history compiled by the department says the first purchased piece of equipment was a Baby Grand Chevrolet, which the department utilized as a chemical truck. In 1934 the department was granted permission to move from a garage behind Mockler's Tavern into the Municipal Building (which is now the Country Store). The first pumper owned by the department was a Ford purchased by the Township Committee in 1935.

A new firehouse was constructed in 1968 to house all of the department's equipment and a large room for department meetings and fundraising activities. Additions were completed in 1972 and 1987. The latter included two new equipment bays, allowing one piece of apparatus per bay. Prior to this addition, great agility was required to park three large fire trucks, a brush truck and an equipment van in three bays!

Currently, the Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Ken Nelson, has about 40 members. Last year they responded to over 500 alarms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers of the Budd Lake Fire Department on the celebration of 75 years of protection of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

HONORING SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE LEONARD  
EDWARDS ON HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE BENCH

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and commend Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Leonard Edwards who is retiring in May after nearly 26 years on the bench.

Former Governor Jerry Brown first appointed Edwards to the bench after he had established himself in San Jose, California as a lawyer specializing in juvenile law and criminal defense.

Through the years, Edwards regularly ranked among the highest in local bar association surveys of the judges; and as his speeches and writings spread across the country, his reputation extended well beyond his chambers in San Jose.

In 2004, Judge Edwards received the prestigious William Rehnquist award from the National Center for State Courts, which heralded

him as one of the "most effective and progressive trial judges in America." This honor is especially hard won in a court system whose primary purpose lies with complex and emotionally-charged issues of homes in crisis, juvenile offenders and victims of abuse and violence.

While most judges choose to move as quickly as possible through the assignment of handling juvenile matters, Judge Edwards advocated innovative changes to the system. He fashioned new programs to unify families, deal with domestic violence, improve foster care and reform the approach to both dependents and delinquents in juvenile matters. Edwards is a judge who strongly promoted transparency in an otherwise secretive juvenile court system.

In 1999, Judge Edwards established one of the country's first dependency drug treatment courts. He also founded the Juvenile Court Judges Association of California and was co-founder of the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council.

Judge Edwards' innovations in juvenile justice made him an expert sought out by courts across the country. Although he is retiring from the bench, he will continue to focus on important social justice issues. Judge Edwards hopes to serve as a regular juvenile justice consultant for the California Administrative Office of the Courts and will continue to travel the country to provide expertise to juvenile courts elsewhere.

Judge Edwards is also the son of my predecessor in office, the longtime San Jose Democratic congressman Don Edwards. Former Congressman Don Edwards served San Jose honorably in Congress for three decades and was a true mentor to me when I worked for him prior to my election to the seat he occupied after his retirement. San Jose has been blessed by these two men who clearly served its citizenry well.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL  
RUSSELL W. BALBIRONA

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Russell W. Balbirona in recognition of his heroic act performed at the Bureau of Reclamation's Hoover Dam resulting in the saving of a life and to commend him for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award.

Corporal Balbirona displayed outstanding dedication and commitment to the Hoover Dam Police Department when he assisted a fellow officer in preventing a suicide:

On October 14, 2005, Corporal Balbirona responded to a radio call from Sergeant Jeffrey Stone reporting an individual standing on the wall overlooking the Dam. When Corporal Balbirona arrived at the top of the Dam he observed Sergeant Stone demanding that the man get down. The man told Sergeant Stone he was going to jump. Corporal Balbirona approached the man from behind and motioned to Sergeant Stone to distract the man by talking to him. Even with Sergeant Stone's word of encouragement, the man refused to get down.

As the man was reaching for a cigarette that Sergeant Stone offered, Corporal Balbirona

took this opportunity to rush towards him, grabbing him around the waist and pulling him to safety. After both fell to the sidewalk, the man continued to resist but with Sergeant Stone's assistance he was subdued and taken into custody. Prior to being transported to the hospital, the man thanked the officers for saving his life and apologized for creating a disturbance.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Corporal Russell W. Balbirona for his exceptional display of courage, quick thinking, and the heroic actions carried out in this life-saving incident. I further congratulate Corporal Balbirona for receiving the U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award. I thank him for his distinguished service and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF UNRWA  
INTEGRITY ACT

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the UNRWA Integrity Act of 2006 with Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA). This bill ensures that American taxpayers are not funding terrorism through contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

UNRWA was created in 1949 as a temporary agency to provide relief services to Palestinian refugees. It is the only United Nations agency dedicated to one specific group of refugees. The United States is the UNRWA's largest donor, contributing more than \$2 billion since 1950. In 2005 alone, the United States donated \$108 million, constituting nearly a fourth of UNRWA's annual budget.

Yet, there is a startling lack of accountability over UNRWA's financial activities. An analysis of UNRWA's most recent internal audit performed by the United Nations Board of Auditors finds vague summary totals. Account after account in this audit describe line items as "Cash Assistance" or "Unearmarked Contribution." At least \$43 million of UNRWA's budget is undefined. As American taxpayers, we are entitled to better accounting standards.

With Hamas' rise to leadership of the Palestinian Authority, we must ensure that contributions to UNRWA do not end up in the hands of terrorists. This is no idle concern. UNRWA was suspected in terrorist activity involving terrorists using UNRWA ambulances to transport weapons. Furthermore, UNRWA employees use their posts to run for office on Hamas' ticket. When questioned on Hamas candidates working for UNRWA, the Commissioner General refused to comment.

The UNRWA Integrity Act ensures money designated for humanitarian assistance does not fall into the hands of terrorists. The bill requires the President must certify to Congress that UNRWA is subject to comprehensive financial audits by an internationally recognized, independent auditing firm; does not knowingly provide employment, refuge, assistance or support of any kind to members of foreign terrorist organizations; and is not an impediment to finding a lasting solution for Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza. The bill

also calls upon the State Department to assess the prospect of phasing out services provided by UNRWA, and examine anti-Semitic bias in UNRWA's educational material.

Tying future U.S. assistance to UNRWA to an independent, internationally recognized expenditure audit will ensure U.S. taxpayer money does not support terrorist organizations like Hamas. I want to thank my good friend Congressman TOM LANTOS for being the lead co-sponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues on this bill to bring accountability to UNRWA. By doing so, we can take positive steps towards solving the refugee problem without allowing U.S. dollars to fall into the hands of terrorists.

CONGRATULATING OUTSTANDING  
HIGH SCHOOL ARTIST FROM THE  
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
OF NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers to raise young men and women. I rise today to congratulate and honor 45 outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students is participating in the 2006 Annual Congressional Arts competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works, of art are exceptional!

We have 45 students participating. That is a tremendous response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Sara Gilbert from West Morris Mendham High School for her work entitled "Vacancy." Second place was awarded to Lucy Tan from Livingston High School for her work entitled "1930's Icon." Third place was awarded to Snea Ganguly from Bridgewater Raritan High School for her work entitled "Woods."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entry for the official Record. Home schooled: Phyllis Schlafly's "Circle of Light."

Madison High School: Joey Mottola's "A look into deep Blu," Chloe Unger's "Reflection," Philip Hinge's "Self Portrait," and Pam Dughi's "Self."

Mount Olive High School: Sophia Sobers's "Loss of Innocence," Andrew Schweighardt's "Omas Pickled Peppers," Jessica Masterson's "FLIP," and Meghan Marvin's "There Goes the Neighborhood."

Ridge High School: Wyatt Regan's "Burning Bush," Alan Yang's "Flight of the Mind," Jenna Buesser's "Detained Debris," and Hannah Barkley's untitled work.

Dover High School: Erick Szentmiklosy's untitled work.

Morris Hills High School: Brandon Rodleewitz's "Partners in Peace," and Krupa Patel's "Visions."

Morris Knolls High School: Lindsay Mehringer's "coucher de soleil," Tanya

Groszew's "Odds and Ends," Cheryl Brown's "The telephone Call," and Tiffany Chao's "Lake Tahoe."

Boonton High School: Jennifer Hitchings' "Profile," Wyatt Sikora's "Mind Mesh," Sarah La Placa's "unexpected," and Karinya Santiago's "Mom."

Bridgewater Raritan High School: Allison Boucher's "Zoom In," Snea Ganguly's "Woods," and Amanda Ayod's "What's in My Purse."

Roxbury High School: Mark McDevitt's "Still Life # 3," Dana Windt's "Morris Study # 5," Deborah Brooks' "Proverb # 5," and Amanda Baratta's untitled work.

Livingston High School: Lucy Tan's "1930's icon," Stacey Berson's "B Minor," Genna Cherichello's "Mannequin in Orange and Blue," and Tanya Goldberg's "Complementary Expressions."

Montville High School: Yi Ming He's "Central Perc," April Ennis's "Springtime Enchantment," Joyce Chung's "Checkmate," and Kaitlin Michaud's "Little Sister."

Millburn High School: Albert Choi's "Self Portrait," Ann Trocchia's "Self Portrait Ann," and Erica Sutton's "Self—Portrait."

West Morris Mendham: Sara Gilbert's "Vacancy," David Brunell-Brutman's "Juggernaut," and Heather Schultz's "Relative Motion."

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Every time a vote is called, I walk through that corridor and am reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women.

Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

TO COMMEND THE HONORABLE  
JAMES R. GRUBE FOR HIS WORK  
AT THE UNITED STATES BANK-  
RUPTCY COURT IN THE NORTH-  
ERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and commend the Honorable James R. Grube upon his retirement from an almost 18-year career on the bench serving the United States Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of California.

Judge Grube was appointed to the bench on August 12, 1988 after practice as an attorney specializing in bankruptcy and general insolvency matters. Prior to his practice of law, Judge Grube served in the United States Army as a Captain with the 11th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam. In 1987, shortly before his appointment to the bench, Jim was elected to the 500 Best Lawyers in America in recognition of the quality of his legal work in the field of bankruptcy.

During Judge Grube's tenure he has led the court in a number of areas to improve cost and delay reduction in the courts. In the mid 1990's, Judge Grube led the implementation

of a telephonic hearing system that reduced the cost of litigation in the San Jose, California Court by approximately \$300,000 per month. This system allows attorneys to make court appearances from their offices by telephone on all routine matters as well as other matters of their choosing. The system has become widely used by the bar and saved thousands of dollars in billable hours for clients.

Judge Grube is the author of numerous procedural and substantive guidelines adopted throughout the District and nationwide that provides guidance to counsel and reduce unnecessary legal expense. He is also recognized as an outstanding and frequent lecturer. In 2000 he spoke nationwide about the technology bankruptcies that are typical in Silicon Valley and because of the unique caseload of bankruptcy courts in Silicon Valley, he has authored many ground-breaking opinions in the intellectual property field.

As a strong advocate of education, Jim served on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Education Committee. He has imparted his experience and wisdom by being a mentor to his law clerks and has stood as an example to other lawyers in methods to approach legal problems.

Judge Grube participated in establishing the Don Edwards Inn of Court and has promoted civility and professionalism in the community through his leadership. Judge Grube has also participated in both the San Jose Rotary Club and the Hollister Rotary Club.

I know I join many others in Santa Clara County in thanking Judge Grube for his contributions and wish him well upon his retirement from the bench.

BUSINESS LEADERS TO BE RECOG-  
NIZED BY NORTH CENTRAL OHIO  
ENTREPRENEURIAL HALL OF  
FAME

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of three distinguished Ohioans being honored by the North Central Ohio Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame on May 5.

Shirley Monica began her career with the McDonald's organization in 1978, when she and her husband invested in three stores in the Mansfield area. In 1980, despite a dismal economy, Shirley listened to her instincts and opened a store on her own—silencing her detractors a year later when the store was named the highest-volume store in the United States. Today, Shirley and her family own nine McDonald's franchises in north central Ohio. Her stores have repeatedly been recognized for their service speed, quality, and overall operational excellence.

Shirley has made her career about more than simply developing restaurants. Her co-workers and employees speak of Shirley fondly as a leader, mentor, and friend. Her drive for perfection and faith in people make Shirley truly worthy of induction into the Hall of Fame.

Also being inducted is Bill Burgett, a long-time friend who founded the Kokosing Construction Company in 1950. Based in Fredericktown, Kokosing is a regional leader

in the construction of industrial plants, road bridges, and underground utility systems. Last year, the company ranked 67th in a listing of the top 400 national contractors. Employing more than 2,500 Ohio workers, Kokosing operates five divisions and five subsidiary companies.

Bill has conducted his entire career with dedication to integrity and excellence. All five of his children have voluntarily joined the company, which says even more about Bill's character than the numerous community awards he has garnered over the years. His hard work and entrepreneurial spirit make him an obvious choice for induction.

This year, the Hall of Fame is also paying tribute to a 2005 inductee: Michael M. Vucelic of Ideal Electric in Mansfield. Ideal employs nearly 500 people at its Mansfield and Minneapolis facilities.

Mike acquired a passion for engineering while flying gliders during his youth in Yugoslavia. This fascination with mechanics led him to Germany—where he served as a design engineer for Mercedes-Benz and the Ford Motor Company—and then to the United States, where he worked for Cessna.

By the age of 30, Mike was in charge of overseeing 300 NASA engineers on the Apollo program; Mike himself was at the control panel for both the Apollo 8 and Apollo 13 missions. Mike left NASA in 1975 for a 20-year career at Rockwell International, where he rose from engineering manager to corporate vice president.

In 1986, Mike purchased the nearly bankrupt Ideal Electric Company, quickly transforming it into the industry leader for diesel engines and medium-power generators. His ingenuity and selfless labor make him worthy of this recognition.

I know my colleagues join me in honoring these three exceptional business leaders as they are recognized by the North Central Ohio Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame.

**WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZENS  
AND THE CONSTITUTION PRO-  
GRAM**

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students of East Brunswick High School for winning the national finals of the 2006 We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program. Their unwavering commitment to mastering of our nation's most sacred document is truly laudable.

The students from East Brunswick traveled a long road before claiming national victory. They developed their knowledge of a wide range of topics, from the philosophical origins of the Constitution to its modern-day interpretations. They spent long hours studying primary and secondary sources. On April 29 through May 1, they appeared on Capitol Hill before simulated Congressional committees made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists, and government leaders, who tested their knowledge of both historical and contemporary constitutional issues.

As the foundation upon which our great democracy rests, the Constitution is a document

that all Americans should understand, appreciate, and defend. I applaud the students from East Brunswick High School for acting on these values. They are indeed our future leaders, and have proven that they are able to defend and nurture our democracy and our Constitution. While I certainly admire their wealth of knowledge, I admire even more their passionate dedication to our American ideals.

The participating students competed against more than 1,500 students from 49 other high schools. Since its founding by the Center for Civic Education in 1987, over 28 million students have participated in this program, whose goal is to educate high school students on the importance of continued civic involvement. East Brunswick High School won last year's competition, and it is a great achievement to have defended their title.

I would like to congratulate each of the students of East Brunswick High School: Brian Boyarksy, David Chu, Nelson Chu, Dana Covit, Megan DeMarco, Ben DeMarzo, Craig Distal, Deborah Elson, Dana Feuchtbaum, Munira Gunja, Melinda Guo, Shelby Highstein, Evan Hoffman, Jayasree Iyer, Ryan Korn, Michael Martelo, Carol Ann Moccio, Jeffrey Myers, Ari Ne'eman, Daniel Nowicki, Aditya Panda, Sherwin Salar, Gil Shefer, Aaron Sin, Lauren Slater, Eric Smith, Merichelle Villapando, Amy Wang, and Jason Yang. Congratulations also go to their teacher, Alan Brodman, for inspiring his students to excel in their study of the Constitution.

I am proud to have such fine Constitutional scholars in my district, and I am myself inspired by their dedication our nation's most sacred ideals. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

**HONORING THE BOROUGH OF  
MENDHAM COMMUNITY**

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Borough of Mendham in Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On May 15, 2006 the good citizens of Mendham Borough are celebrating the Borough's Centennial Anniversary.

Mendham Borough, a country village some 6 miles square, was once a stop for stagecoaches traveling on the old Washington Turnpike. The area is hilly, well wooded and its springs and small brooks are feeders for the Passaic and Raritan rivers.

The Borough of Mendham was created out of an urgent need to install a public water distribution system to fight fires and protect the lives and the property of its citizens. This it has done for 100 years, since its establishment as an incorporated municipality on May 15, 1906. Before incorporation, it was part of Mendham Township. The borough's village center (largely unchanged from the 1800s) serves as the hub of commercial activity for the Mendhams.

Mendham Borough is the site of five Historic American Buildings and a registered National Historic District. The leading landmark building and the borough's icon is the classic Federalist style Phoenix House, a former genteel

and fashionable roadhouse. Most famous amongst its regular guests was GEN Abner Doubleday, best known as the inventor of baseball. This majestic building, recently restored, serves as the Borough Hall.

Today, Mendham Borough is comprised of modest homes, small estates, and individual retail stores with some remaining open space. Its population exceeds 5,000.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the residents of Mendham Borough on the celebration of 100 years of rich history of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

**HONORING 5TH AND 6TH GRADE  
STUDENTS AT LAKE HARGROVE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an amazing group of students. The fifth and sixth graders of Lake Grove Elementary School in Lake Oswego, Oregon, have taught us all a lesson about helping those in need.

When these students learned about that many people around the world, and right in our own backyards, go hungry every day, they decided that they wanted to do something about it. They spearheaded an event called the Empty Bowl Project to raise awareness about hunger in their community and to benefit the Oregon Food Bank.

The idea behind the Empty Bowl Project is simple. Participants create ceramic bowls, and then serve a meal of soup and bread. Guests choose a bowl to use that day and to keep as a reminder that there are always Empty Bowls in the world. In exchange for a meal and the bowl, the guest gives a donation to a local hunger organization.

The Empty Bowl Project at Lake Grove consists of three parts. The fifth and sixth graders led their schoolmates in a food drive that has collected over 1,500 food items. Each class from pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade designed their own empty bowl to be raffled at the Soup Supper. And the culminating event will be held tonight with the fifth and sixth graders serving a meal of bread, soup, and water so that people gain a better understanding of what a real soup kitchen is like.

I want to take this opportunity to honor these students for the efforts that they have made on behalf of the hungry of Oregon. With students like these, the future in Oregon is bright indeed.

**RECOGNIZING THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF  
ISRAEL**

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con Res. 392, recognizing the 58th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

The State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation on May 14, 1948. Israel provided a democratic refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis.

Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This multicultural society serves as a shining model of democratic values by regularly hold-

ing free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising its Parliament, the Knesset. Israel is a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens and has worked to build peaceful and bilateral relations with her neighbors, including Egypt and Jordan.

The United States and Israel both share a common vision of democratic values, friend-

ship and respect. Both the United States and Israel are committed to a democratic and stable Mid-East region.

Today we honor Israel's legacy and, by doing so, commit ourselves once again to building a lasting peace in this still volatile region.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 4, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

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|-------|--|--|---|
|       |  | 2 p.m.<br>Judiciary<br>To hold hearings to examine an introduction to the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act and legal issues relating to reauthorization.<br>SD-226   | Tahoe National Forest in the State of California.<br>SD-366   |
|       |  |  | MAY 11  |
|       |  | 2:30 p.m.<br>Commerce, Science, and Transportation<br>Aviation Subcommittee<br>To hold hearings to examine Department of Transportation's notice of proposed rulemaking.<br>SD-562   | 10 a.m.<br>Veterans' Affairs<br>To hold hearings to examine pending health care related legislation.<br>SR-418  |
|       |  | 4 p.m.<br>Judiciary<br>To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations.<br>SD-226   | 10:30 a.m.<br>Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry<br>To hold hearings to examine Department of Agriculture's national response plan to detect and control the potential spread of Avian Influenza into the United States.<br>SR-328A |
|       |  |  | MAY 16  |
|       |  | 9:30 a.m.<br>Indian Affairs<br>To hold an oversight hearing to examine economic development.<br>SR-485   | 10 a.m.<br>Commerce, Science, and Transportation<br>To hold hearings to examine Transportation Worker Identification Credential.<br>SD-562  |
|       |  | Judiciary<br>To hold hearings to examine modern enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.<br>SD-226  | Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions<br>Retirement Security and Aging Subcommittee<br>To hold hearings to examine naturally occurring retirement communities.<br>SD-430   |
|       |  | 10 a.m.<br>Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry<br>To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the sugar provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.<br>SR-328A  | MAY 17  |
|       |  | Finance<br>To hold hearings to examine progress achieved and challenges ahead for America's child welfare system.<br>SD-215  | 9:30 a.m.<br>Indian Affairs<br>To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian youth suicide.<br>SR-485  |
|       |  | Foreign Relations<br>To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Earl Anthony Wayne, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Argentina, David M. Robinson, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and Lisa Bobbie Schreiber Hughes, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Suriname.<br>SD-419   | 10 a.m.<br>Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions<br>Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.<br>SD-430  |
|       |  | Joint Economic Committee<br>To hold hearings to examine the next generation of health information tools for consumers.<br>SD-106   | Commerce, Science, and Transportation<br>Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee<br>To hold hearings to examine accelerating the adoption of health information technology.<br>Room to be announced                  |
|       |  | 11:30 a.m.<br>Energy and Natural Resources<br>Business meeting to consider the nomination of Dirk Kempthorne, of Idaho, to be Secretary of the Interior.<br>SD-366   | MAY 18  |
|       |  | 2:30 p.m.<br>Energy and Natural Resources<br>Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee<br>To hold hearings to examine S. 906, to promote wildland firefighter safety, S. 2003, to make permanent the authorization for watershed restoration and enhancement agreements, H.R. 585, to require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, and H.R. 3981, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out certain land exchanges involving small parcels of National Forest System land in the | 10 a.m.<br>Commerce, Science, and Transportation<br>To hold hearings to examine S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes.<br>Room to be announced  |
|       |  |  | MAY 23  |
|       |  |  | 10 a.m.<br>Commerce, Science, and Transportation<br>To hold hearings to examine price gouging related to gas prices.<br>SD-562  |
|       |  |  | MAY 24  |
|       |  |  | 10:30 a.m.<br>Appropriations<br>Legislative Branch Subcommittee<br>To resume hearings to examine the progress of construction on the Capitol Visitor Center.<br>SD-138  |
|       |  |  | 2:30 p.m.<br>Commerce, Science, and Transportation<br>Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee<br>To hold hearings to examine 2006 hurricane forecast and at-risk cities.<br>SD-562  |
| MAY 5 | 9:30 a.m.<br>Armed Services<br>Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.<br>SR-222   |  |   |
| MAY 8 | 3 p.m.<br>Energy and Natural Resources<br>To hold hearings to examine issues associated with the implementation of the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 addressing licensing of hydroelectric facilities.<br>SD-366 |  |   |
|       | 3:30 p.m.<br>Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs<br>To hold hearings to examine the nomination of David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security.<br>SD-342             |  |   |
| MAY 9 | 9:30 a.m.<br>Environment and Public Works<br>To hold hearings to examine inherently safer technology in the context of chemical site security.<br>SD-628   |  |   |
|       | Judiciary<br>To hold hearings to examine understanding the financial and human impact of criminal activity.<br>SD-226  |  |   |
|       | 10 a.m.<br>Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions<br>Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee<br>To hold hearings to examine proposed reform of Longshore Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.<br>SD-430                      |  |   |
|       | Commerce, Science, and Transportation<br>Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee<br>To hold hearings to examine CAFE standards.<br>SD-562  |  |   |

MAY 25

9:30 a.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education.

SR-485

10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To resume hearings to examine S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes.

Room to be announced

Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine pending benefits related legislation.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine Pacific Salmon Treaty.

SD-562

JUNE 8

10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Business meeting to markup S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes.

Room to be announced

JUNE 14

10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine alternative energy technologies.

Room to be announced

JUNE 15

10:30 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the Coast Guard budget.

SD-562