

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

U.N. SANCTIONS AFTER OIL-FOR-FOOD: STILL A VIABLE DIPLOMATIC TOOL?

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I, the Ranking Minority Member on the House Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, delivered the following statement to the Subcommittee's hearing on "UN Sanctions After Oil-For-Food: Still A Viable Diplomatic Tool?"

I'd like to thank Chairman SHAYS for holding this hearing and providing Ambassador Bolton the opportunity to testify before this Subcommittee. We are in a critical moment for U.S. policy at the UN, especially regarding Iran. Just last Friday marked the Security Council's deadline for Iran to freeze all nuclear fuel enrichment, and the beginning of the inevitable struggle at the Security Council over what to do to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions.

We've seen this kind of struggle at the Security Council before. The U.S. spent much time in 2002 pressuring the Security Council to take action against Iraq to contain its supposed WMDs. Finally, on November 8, 2002, the Council approved resolution 1441, which imposed tough new arms inspections in Iraq, and promised "serious consequences," to be determined by the Security Council, if Iraq violated the resolution.

Even though Iraq did submit a weapons declaration, and began destroying its Al Samoud missiles as instructed to by UN inspector Hans Blix, serious consequences were imposed on the country anyway. It was the United States, however, and not the Security Council that determined those consequences for Iraq, when President Bush went to war against Iraq on March 20, 2003.

Experience in Iraq has proven that this administration will act unilaterally, outside the mandate of the Security Council, thereby rendering the work of the Council almost irrelevant. At the same time, however, experience has indicated that this administration will use the UN to make its case for war to the world community.

In the coming weeks and months, I think it's fairly predictable that we will see the United States' case for war against Iran unfold at the U.N.

I think it's highly probably that the administration has already made the decision to go to war against Iran. There are already U.S. combat troops inside Iran (REPEAT for emphasis). On April 14th, retired Col. Sam Gardiner related on CNN that the Iranian Ambassador to the IAEA, Aliasghar Soltaniyeh, reported to him that the Iranians have captured dissident forces who have confessed to working with U.S. troops in Iran. Earlier in the week, Seymour Hersh reported in the New Yorker that a U.S. source had told him that U.S. marines were operating in the Baluchi, Azeri and Kurd-

ish regions of Iran. On April 10, the Guardian reported that Vincent Cannistraro, a former CIA counter-terrorism chief, said that covert military action, in the form of special forces troops identifying targets and aiding dissident groups is already under way and that it had been authorized.

We also know from reports that the U.S. is supporting military activity in Iran by Iranian anti-government insurgent groups, some of whom are operating from U.S.-occupied Iraq, such as the terrorist group Mujahedin e-Khalq (MEK). An article published by Newsweek magazine on February 14, 2005 confirms cooperation between U.S. government officials and the MEK. The article describes how "the Administration is seeking to cull useful MEK members as operatives for use against Tehran." Furthermore, an article by Jim Lobe published on Antiwar.com on February 11, 2005 claims that according to Philip Giraldo, a former CIA official and a source in an article about this subject in the American Conservative magazine, U.S. Special Forces have been directing members of the MEK in carrying out reconnaissance and intelligence collection in Iran since the summer of 2004.

Even a statement attributed to Ambassador Bolton, and which I would like elaboration on today, seems to confirm that U.S. policy for Iran is war. According to an article published April 10, 2006 in the Guardian, Ambassador Bolton told British parliamentarians that he believes military action could halt or at least set back the Iranian nuclear program by striking it at its weakest point.

U.S. policy for Iran advocates regime change, not behavior change. We should expect that even if Iran decides to negotiate with the U.S. or other Security Council members over its nuclear program, U.S. policy promoting war in Iran will remain steadfast. When Iraq destroyed its missiles and submitted its weapons declaration, abiding by Security Council Resolution 1441, the Administration decided to unilaterally attack Iraq anyway.

This Administration is reckless and hungry for war. It is imperative that Congress exercise oversight on the Administration's plans for war with Iran before our country is immersed in another quagmire, with more U.S. casualties, diminished national security, and greater a financial burden. I thereby feel very privileged to have Ambassador Bolton with us here today. I have several questions for him regarding the Administration's plans for Iran, and I look forward to his candid answers. Again, thank you, Ambassador for being with us today, and thank you, Chairman SHAYS for holding this hearing.

ISSAQUAH NURSE SERVES OTHERS, DEDICATES LIFE TO WASHINGTON PATIENTS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that nurses play in providing quality care. Nurses are intelligent, well-trained and highly skilled professionals who provide quality clinical and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our Nation's healthcare delivery system.

On behalf of the people in Washington's 8th Congressional District, I would like to specifically acknowledge Patricia Buchsel from Issaquah, Washington for her service on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors and her role as a nursing educator at the Seattle University College of Nursing. She received her BSN from Seattle University and her MS from Seattle Pacific University. Patricia has worked tirelessly to develop, plan and implement countless cancer programs in Washington State.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. According to the American Cancer Society, one in three women and one in two men will receive a diagnosis of cancer at some point in their lives, and one out of every four deaths in the United States results from cancer. This year approximately 28,330 people in Washington state will be diagnosed with cancer and another 11,440 will lose their battles with this terrible disease. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

I would like to once again acknowledge and thank Patricia Buchsel for her hard work and leadership on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors. As a nurse and leader in the field, Patricia has made it her life's mission to help others and she should be applauded for all she has done.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICKY
WHITFIELD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before you today and recognize Ricky Whitfield for his outstanding service to both his high school and community.

Ricky Whitfield is a senior at Aubrey High School in Aubrey, Texas. He is a modern-day

● 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.

renaissance man in the field of athletics by lettering in every major sport for the Chaparrals. Mr. Whitfield's leadership and strong work ethic is legendary in the Aubrey community. Excellence and devotion are the standards by which this young man lives by. In addition to his many athletic talents, Mr. Whitfield acclaimed further notoriety by creating a video at the request of the Aubrey Police Department to warn kids of the dangers of drunk driving on prom night.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission was also very impressed with Mr. Whitfield's work and has since used the video as part of its "Shattered Dreams" campaign in schools around the state. This video should indeed go a long way to warn others of the critical dangers of drunk driving. As he graduates, the impact that Mr. Whitfield has left behind will be felt at Aubrey High School and the Aubrey community for years to come.

I believe that Ricky Whitfield's professionalism should be emulated and his service honored here today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. He is indeed a young man of all trades and I am proud to represent such a person in my district.

CONGRATULATING MR. FRED
TAUL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE TO
REGIONS BANK

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Fred Taul on the occasion of his retirement from Regions Bank after nearly 40 years of service.

Shortly after graduating from The University of Alabama, Fred began his long and distinguished career in banking with Merchant's National Bank. He remained with the bank, now known as Regions Financial Corporation, for 38 years holding many positions of responsibility while working his way up to local president.

In the midst of his demanding professional schedule, Fred always found time to make Mobile and southwest Alabama a better place to live and work. Among the many groups and organizations that he lent his time and considerable talents, Fred served as chairman of the United Way of Southwest Alabama's 2004 campaign, and he is an active member of Board of Trustees for the Mobile Arts and Sports Association.

On behalf of Regions Bank, Fred was also instrumental in building a tremendous amount of community support for the protection and preservation of the Battleship USS *Alabama*. In no small part due to Fred's leadership, the USS *Alabama* Memorial Park Capital Campaign got off to a strong start.

There are many more people in life who like to talk about what can be done to make their community a better place than there are people who are willing to actually roll up their shirt sleeves and go to work to help make it a better place. Mobile is indeed fortunate that Fred Taul is one of those individuals who always believes in getting the job done. He is an outstanding example to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Fred Taul for his many contributions to banking as well as to the Mobile community. South Alabama is a better place because of people like Fred.

As he now faces a challenge unlike any other, I hope Fred knows that his colleagues at the bank and his friends throughout the country are keeping him and his family foremost in our thoughts and prayers.

THE RETIREMENT OF MAYOR
CESAR GONZALEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Cesar Gonzalez, Mayor of the City of San Benito, for his many years of dedicated service to the South Texas community. His extensive efforts and accomplishments throughout his career as a public servant have impacted both the city and people of San Benito.

Mayor Cesar Gonzalez's leadership and involvement in the lives of South Texans has earned him the reputation of being a devoted family man and hardworking businessman. His commitment to the prosperity and development of the City of San Benito and the State of Texas underscores his unwavering community spirit.

Mayor Gonzalez's first service to our country was in the United States Air Force. He went on to serve as a livestock inspector with the U.S. Government. Both positions were only stepping stones leading to a prolific and remarkable public career.

At the local level, Mayor Gonzalez helped form the first San Benito Boy's and Girl's Club as well as in the establishment of the Cameron County Livestock Show. He also served as president of the San Benito Quarterback Club, served as a Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts of America, and remained a longtime affiliate of the San Benito Chamber of Commerce.

He extended his public service efforts throughout the Rio Grande Valley serving as president of the Lower Rio Grande Development Council, secretary-treasurer to the Lower Rio Grande Development Economic Authority, Vice President of the Lower Rio Grande Certified Corporation, and as Industrial Developer of the Year.

Mayor Gonzalez's public participation has stretched beyond the local scope of his close-knit community to the entire Texas population. His positions include: Chairman of the Texas Municipal League Insurance Board, Chairman of the Texas Department of Human Resources, Chairman of Border Cities and Counties and as President of the Mayor's Association of the State of Texas.

These distinguished positions illustrate his lifetime of service, both to South Texas and to the State of Texas, yet they do not speak to his kind heart and charming ways. He is an exceptional human being who is much beloved in South Texas.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in celebrating the life of service of an outstanding public official. Mr. Speaker, the Mayor Cesar Gonzalez's three years as City Commissioner, astounding 22 years as Mayor

of the City of San Benito, and lifetime of public service are a source of Texas pride.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
ROSE-MARIE COGGS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved member of the Milwaukee community, Ms. Rose-Marie Coggs.

The daughter of Calvin Jr. and Erma L. Coggs, Rose-Marie was born in Milwaukee on May 26, 1953. As a child, she was a student at Fifth Street Grade School, Robert Fulton Junior High School, and graduated from Rufus King High School. In addition, she graduated from Milwaukee Area Technical College in its metallurgist program.

Rose-Marie displayed her significant artistic talents in drawing and painting and exhibited her works in Milwaukee art showings. In addition she was known as an accomplished jewelry designer with a particular gift for watches and rings, of which she produced beautiful collections. An award-winning artist, she often featured in showings at the Inner City Arts Council and African World Festival and in fact, her work was a regular feature in art festivals throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.

Rose-Marie Coggs was a woman of many creative talents and interests, from modeling for the African World Center with the Bashir Family to antiquing as a licensed antique dealer and appraiser who traveled throughout Wisconsin and Illinois participating in shows and fairs. She worked in the hospitality arena at various locations, was employed at OIC-GM as a receptionist, and worked as a Community Organizer for Project Respect.

Rose-Marie prided herself in being a mother to her only child, son Ayinde J. Coggs. She was also blessed in having thirteen grandchildren: Ayinde Starling, Raymond Quesada, Ayana Coggs, Nielah Coggs, Ayinde Sprewell, Deonte Sprewell, Amber Coggs, Adanna Coggs, Brittney Harris, Angel Johnson, Lyric Elvord, Amani Carter and Naomi Noble. She was an extremely giving person who loved celebrating family events and faithfully remembered others' birthdays.

Mr. Speaker, so many of us in the Milwaukee community are saddened at losing her suddenly and much too soon. My thoughts and prayers are with her friends and loving family at this time, and I ask my colleagues in the House to join me today in remembering her life and many contributions to our community.

CONGRATULATING KAWNEER COMPANY AS IT CELEBRATES 100
YEARS OF BUSINESS GROWTH

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 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

Kawneer Company which is celebrating its 100th anniversary on May 5 at its facility in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

Founded by Francis J. Plym, an architect, in 1906 in Kansas City, Missouri, the Kawneer Company distinguished itself in the field of architectural products, earning more than 400 patents in the past century.

Between 1910 and 1920, Kawneer developed the first metal air frame sections used in American aircraft, an achievement that earned the company a commendation from the U.S. War Department.

Between 1920 and 1930, Kawneer became the first manufacturer to incorporate lightweight, strong, economical aluminum in architectural products including ornate grills and soffits.

From 1930 to 1940, nearly 75 percent of Kawneer's business centered on aluminum, and Kawneer became the largest American user of aluminum for architectural purposes.

Months after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, every inch of the Kawneer plant was devoted to making airplane parts. American soldiers flew into battle supported by Kawneer rib assemblies, fuel tank supports, flap controls and many other aviation components.

For the past half century, Kawneer has been in the vanguard of architectural innovation, especially with regard to large commercial window applications.

In the future, Kawneer intends to commit itself to developing sustainable environmental solutions, such as the Kawneer Power Wall, the first proven integrated photovoltaic curtain wall system designed to control the sun in large commercial buildings.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Kawneer Company, which employs 400 people in its Bloomsburg facility. Its impressive sales performance over the past 2 years saw gross sales double from \$51 to \$100 million. Clearly, Kawneer is an important part of northeastern Pennsylvania's economy and we wish them every success in the future.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2830, PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Mr. MILLER's motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 2830, the so-called Pension Security and Transparency Act.

I opposed the Republican pension legislation that passed this body late last year because it will erode an employer's willingness to provide defined benefit plans and will close the loopholes that allow companies to dump their pension obligations onto taxpayers.

In addition to these effects, it offers insufficient protections to loyal workers and gives special treatment to executives for their compensation and pension packages. It is this specific problem that we are addressing today.

ExxonMobil's outgoing CEO, R. Lee Raymond recently secured a total retirement package valued at \$400 million, including a \$98 million windfall in the form of a lump sum pension payment. This is just one more example

of huge executive compensation at the same time that workers are losing their retirement security and earned and needed benefits.

Under the House Republican pension legislation passed last year, if an employer allows a pension plan to become less than 80 percent funded, the covered workers cannot receive benefit increases, cost of living adjustments, or lump sum pension payments. The legislation holds executives to a different, and much cushier, standard. Executives can continue to pad their own compensation packages with corporate assets until plan funding drops below 60 percent.

We must establish fairness in the pension process and level the playing field so that CEOs and workers are subject to the same benefit rules. This motion would accomplish that goal, instructing conferees to apply the same benefit restrictions for workers and retirees, and CEOs. This is a vital step that we can take to restore a vital sense of fairness to the compensation and pension process.

I encourage my colleagues to support this motion.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT LEA MILLS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Marine Sergeant Lea Mills of Masaryktown, Florida was killed by a terrorist IED explosion last week while on patrol in Iraq. Sergeant Mills was 21 years old, and leaves behind a young wife and a grieving family.

Dedicated to serving his country, Sergeant Mills joined the Marines following his graduation from Hernando High School in 2002. Lea felt that the Marines would give him the best opportunity to serve his Nation on the front lines and make a difference in people's lives.

When I spoke to Sergeant Mills' father Rob, he told me that Lea was inspired to volunteer for the military after the September 11 attacks.

Not only did Sergeant Mills request to be sent to Iraq, but he also felt that it was his duty as a Marine and that it was the right thing to do for his country.

A dedicated soldier, Sergeant Mills understood what the Marines' mission was in Iraq. As his father Rob said to me, "He believed very strongly in what he was doing." In fact, Lea had recently just re-upped for a second stint with the Marines.

Sergeant Mills leaves behind his wife Keesha Malicoate, his parents Dee and Rob Mills, and his brother Parker Mills.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Sergeant Lea Mills who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear.

While brave men and women like Lea have perished in the cause of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget their sacrifice and commitment.

CELEBRATING PROGRESS IN THE U.S. MOX PROGRAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2000, the United States and Russia agreed to dispose of surplus, weapon-grade plutonium by turning it into MOX fuel for use in existing, commercial nuclear reactors. South Carolina was thrilled when its Savannah River site was chosen to fulfill this important mission.

While the United States has initiated its responsibilities, Russia's program has not proceeded as quickly. Yesterday, I offered an amendment to ensure that the pace of the Russia MOX program will not dictate the progress of the U.S. MOX program. The amendment also restores \$34.7 million in funding for the construction of the MOX facility at SRS.

By passing my amendment, my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee have helped create hundreds of jobs in South Carolina and guarantee that our state will not become the permanent resting place for tons of plutonium. I will continue to work with my directly affected colleagues GRESHAM BARRETT, and CHARLIE NORWOOD to support the Savannah River site as it moves forward with this important mission.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL YVONNE J. PRETTYMAN-BECK, COMMANDER OF THE NORFOLK ENGINEER DISTRICT, NORFOLK CORPS OF ENGINEERS, VIRGINIA FOR HER SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colonel Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, Commander and Norfolk District Engineer, for her loyal service to the United States Corps of Engineers and to the people of Virginia's Fourth District.

Over the past 3 years, I have had the fortunate opportunity to work with Colonel Prettyman-Beck on numerous occasions. I commend her leadership in advancing the growth and preservation of numerous projects of great value in our district and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Her hard work and integrity will be greatly missed upon her reassignment from the Norfolk District post she has held since August 2003.

With over 24 years of service in the U.S. Army, Colonel Prettyman-Beck's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession. Following graduation from the New Mexico Military Institute, she went on to obtain a Master of Science degree in Management Science and a Master of Science degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. She has served on numerous assignments throughout the U.S. and overseas. Her military education is extensive and includes

the Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck's decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with star, the Military Outstanding Service Volunteer Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Army and Joint Staff Identification Badges.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck has shown tremendous commitment and devotion to her country. Today we recognize her for her unwavering patriotism and dedication to her profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed one vote on May 3, 2006. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 781 (Rollcall 120).

WASHINGTON 8TH DISTRICT
SCHOOLS NOTED AS NATION'S
BEST

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous students, teachers and administrators at Newport High School, Interlake High School, Bellevue High School, International High School and Sammamish High School, all located in Bellevue, Washington. These schools were named to Newsweek magazine's list of "America's Best High Schools."

For the second year in a row, three high schools in Bellevue were in the top 50—Newport is ranked 37th, Interlake is ranked 44th and Bellevue is ranked 49th. The International School in Bellevue is ranked 57th, up from 160th last year. Sammamish of Bellevue is ranked 186th.

Sincere congratulations to: Newport High School's Principal, Patty Siegwarth and Assistant Principals, James Peterson and Bethany Spinler and the Knights; Interlake High School's Principal, Sharon Collins and Assistant Principals, Eric Cochran and Keith Schacht and the Saints; Bellevue High School's Principal, Mike Bacigalupi and Assistant Principals, Doug Sovde and Johnnie Gregory and the Wolverines; International High School's Principal, Peter Bang-Knudsen, and International's student body; and Sammamish High School's Principal, Spencer Welch and Assistant Principals, Laura Bang-Knudsen, Jennifer Rose and Andrea Pfeifer and the Totems.

Newsweek determines its ranking based on the number of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests taken by all of the schools' students in 2005. These tests are the best measure of overall college readiness, according to Newsweek.

Newsweek noted the schools for Creating Good Citizens, Celebrating Liberal Arts, Preparing Students for Work, Emphasizing Science and Technology and Reaching Out to Everyone as well.

I am filled with pride for these students and teachers, that their dedication to their educations has distinguished them from others. Their accomplishments are noteworthy, but their drive to get where they are—the countless hours of preparation it entailed—is the real accomplishment. Juma Ikangaa, a Tanzanian marathon runner once said about preparing for marathons, "The will to win means nothing without the will to prepare."

Teachers and administrators at Newport High School, Interlake High School, Bellevue High School, International High School and Sammamish High School have prepared students not just for college with an outstanding high school education, but for life with a real lesson that will serve them well—real accomplishments take time and sustained effort to achieve. They do not happen overnight. They do not come easy. They are often impeded by unsuccessful attempts. These schools, students, teachers and administrators have demonstrated the philosophy Aristotle spoke of when he said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." Don't break the habit.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC KING

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a fallen soldier from my district. Army Specialist Eric King of Vancouver, Washington, was killed in Baghdad on April 22. He was 29 years old. Specialist King leaves behind his wife, Tracie, and daughters Ashlin and Shealyn, who will remember their father and husband's love of laughter, fishing, and the Northwest. His death is a tragedy not only for this family but for our community. On April 22, Specialist King was driving the lead Humvee in a convoy patrolling a Baghdad neighborhood when a roadside bomb exploded and killed King and his three comrades in the vehicle.

The Army awarded King the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal and Army Service Medal.

Specialist King was born in Florida and moved to Vancouver in 1996. He left a union job as a truck driver in Portland to enlist in 2004. He was assigned to the First Squadron, 67th Armored Battalion in Baghdad.

My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. King's family, and with the families and loved ones of all our nation's fallen heroes. Let this stand as a solemn reminder of just how many brave men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice and given their lives for our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM OSBORNE

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of cynicism about politics today. H.R. 4975, the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, is a significant step toward additional transparency and accountability in the legislative process and will ensure that everyone has equal access to the legislative system. Had I been present on May 3, 2006, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4975.

HONORING MRS. PHYLLIS
McCARRICK

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a beloved constituent and community leader, Mrs. Phyllis McCarrick, of Rocky Point, New York, who recently passed away at the age of eighty-three.

Born Phyllis Healy in Arlington, Massachusetts, she served in the Navy during World War II and later settled in Rocky Point with her childhood sweetheart and husband, Mr. Thomas McCarrick. After running a milk delivery service, Phyllis and her husband opened the McCarrick Dairy and Grocery store, which grew into a beloved landmark in our community, and is owned and operated by their sons today.

Named Rocky Point's Citizen of the Year in 1999, Phyllis raised money for Catholic charities and was a Cub Scout den mother in addition to running a successful business. Her enduring contributions to eastern Long Island will always be remembered by our community with fondness and deep gratitude.

Phyllis is survived by eight children, nineteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's First Congressional District, I express our profound sorrow following Phyllis' passing as well as the gratitude of our community, which will always remember her extraordinary life and lifelong dedication to Rocky Point, New York.

FEDERAL ENERGY PRICE PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the tremendous impact that the cost of gasoline is having on my West Virginia constituents and on working families across the country. Rural communities that make up a large portion of my congressional district are especially hard hit by rising fuel costs because of the distance many people must travel to work and school and the limited public transportation options.

In addition to high prices, gas stations in some areas have run out of fuel all together. It is vital that we take every possible step to ensure that the gasoline market is priced fairly and it is important that we take steps to increase the supply of gasoline available to the market.

This week in my district I highlighted a 5-point plan to reduce the price of fuel. These steps include:

1. Take tough action against price gougers.
2. Waive boutique fuel requirements so that supply can be easily transferred between regions of the country.
3. Temporarily waive the 2.5 percent and 54 cent per gallon tax on ethanol so that imported ethanol can help make up the difference with the recent phase-out of MTBE in our gasoline supply.
4. Make use of coal—West Virginia's natural resource—as part of our fuel supply. Coal liquefaction technology has been available for many years and our government has invested in research that would allow for fuel to be produced now. Our nation has a 250-year supply of coal that already provides over half of our nation's electricity. Coal is an answer to the gasoline problem as well.

5. Allow for responsible drilling in ANWR and the Outer Continental Shelf to increase our domestic supply of crude oil.

I am pleased that the House took action today on two elements of this important plan. I strongly support H.R. 5253, passed by the House today that will punish price gougers with tough fines or jail time. Provisions of the bill will allow for enforcement by either the Federal Trade Commission or state Attorney Generals to provide the maximum possible protection for consumers. We must investigate and punish instances of gouging wherever they occur on the energy supply chain.

I am extremely disappointed that the House did not take action today on H.R. 5254 to improve the permitting and approval process for new refineries. Our nation has not built a new refinery since 1976 and it is clear that the regulatory process is a major reason why. This improved permitting process would also have been applied to coal liquefaction facilities—another step that should be taken to increase our fuel supply. Once again opponents of increased fuel supplies and lower prices blocked action on common sense energy solutions.

Passage of price gouging legislation is a positive first step. I urge my colleagues to support further legislation to increase supply by allowing new domestic exploration and waiving tariffs and boutique fuels.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON VOLUNTARY PRAYER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today is a significant day for me, the people of West Virginia and the Nation. Today we commemorate the National Day of Prayer.

As a people of faith, we know that prayer is a powerful instrument. And as one Nation under God, we know that many times our most powerful tool is prayer.

With that in mind and in celebration of National Prayer Day, today I have proposed in

the House of Representatives a Constitutional Amendment that would restore voluntary prayer in our Nation's schools.

West Virginia's senior Senator, ROBERT C. BYRD, introduced identical legislation in the United States Senate last week.

I believe that the Framers of the Constitution made their intent clear when they wrote the First Amendment. I believe they wanted to keep the new government from endorsing one religion over another, not erase the public consciousness or common faith.

For hundreds of millions of Americans who believe in God, prayer is our bridge between Earth and Heaven, our way of opening our hearts to the Lord. Through this intimate relationship we find peace and guidance. It is as important to us, as Christians, as the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat. It nourishes our souls and makes us strong.

Nothing in this Constitution, including any amendment to the Constitution, shall be construed to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer in school, or to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer at a public school extra-curricular activity. Nor does this resolution alter the language of the First Amendment.

The Constitutional Amendment I am introducing today simply clarifies our right, and the right of our children in school, to bow our heads and give thanks for our bountiful blessings, to begin the day as many of us do—with the comfort of prayer. It is a right that is protected by both the Free Speech and Free Exercise Clauses of our Constitution.

Today, during the National Day of Prayer, I am reminded of the verse in Second Chronicles that reads, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Today we thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon this great Country and ask Him to continue to heal our land and meet our needs—and we do so through the power of prayer.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JOSHUA BEN TELLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Paul and Maxine Teller of Washington, D.C., on the birth of their son. Joshua Ben Teller was born this morning, May 4th, 2006, at 8:31 a.m., weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces, and measures 19 inches long. Joshua is blessed to have been born into a loving home, with wonderful parents, and his birth is a blessing to our Nation.

THE TESTIMONY OF PENELOPE A. GROSS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Chesapeake Bay is one of our region's

greatest assets. Keeping the Bay clean is a major priority for the state and local governments.

Our colleague Wayne Gilchrist recently held a hearing on the status of the Bay. One of the participants in that hearing was Supervisor Penelope Gross from Fairfax County, Virginia. I would like to enter into the RECORD her thoughtful comments presented at that hearing. Supervisor Gross has long been an advocate for Bay restoration and her testimony reflects how local governments can be critical partners in that effort.

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT SUB- COMMITTEE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND IN- FRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

MAY 4, 2006.—Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the opportunity to appear today to discuss Chesapeake Bay restoration activities and the vitally important role of local governments in those efforts. I am honored to be invited to provide testimony. Chesapeake Bay issues are of particular interest to me, which is why I serve on the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, was a member of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Blue Ribbon Financing Panel and recently was elected Chair of the Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Committee, also known as LGAC. I also chair Virginia's Potomac Watershed Roundtable, and I represent the Mason District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. As you may know, Fairfax County is one of the largest jurisdictions, population-wise, in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Each of these responsibilities has helped shape my perspective on what is needed to keep our efforts to achieve a clean Bay on track. I would like to share several themes that are the basis of my remarks today:

Implementation and restoration happen primarily at the local level and we need more state and federal funding to get the job done; EPA and their state counterparts need to provide stronger leadership on regulatory issues that will drive much of the multi-billion dollar Bay cleanup effort; a more focused approach to enforcement of existing federal laws, regulations, and policies by EPA to the state would alone make significant strides to clean up the Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners need to set clear implementation priorities, emphasizing those measures that offer the greatest pollution reduction return on investment;

The implementation and funding burden must be shared equitably between and among sectors and levels of government.

Of the 98 commitments in the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, 22 specifically involve local governments, and other commitments imply local government involvement. And I want to remind you that there are more than 1,650 local governments throughout the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay Watershed. From a local government perspective, we know what to do to continue making progress, but we need more help from our state and federal partners. The Bay Program has successfully generated plans and documents that outline what actions local governments should take to help restore the Bay. However, I believe we're heavy on written plans, and we're struggling on the follow-through—i.e., technical and financial assistance to get more done. This was the most common and strongly voiced concern

among LGAC members from all jurisdictions at our most recent meeting, held right here in this building. And I want to take this opportunity to thank Congressman Gilchrest and his staff for engaging in substantive dialogue with LGAC members about this legislation.

Local governments throughout the watershed are currently spending millions of local citizenry dollars to do our part in cleaning up the Bay. However, there needs to be a greater emphasis on developing mechanisms to capture those substantial implementation efforts by local governments and others which are not funded through state or federal Chesapeake Bay funds. For instance, the Commonwealth of Virginia still does not have an effective mechanism to track urban nonpoint source Best Management stormwater facilities. This could be accomplished through a direction to the Chesapeake Bay Program Office and the states to develop an enhanced tracking and reporting system. I understand that the states may already be working on such a system, but to facilitate reporting by implementing entities, I would recommend that this system be web-based and simple to use.

I'm sure it is no surprise to you that the biggest help we could use is additional federal and state funding. The "Cost of a Clean Bay" report prepared by the Chesapeake Bay Commission estimated that more than half of the cost for meeting C2K nutrient and sediment reduction goals would be borne by local governments. In some of the most expensive programmatic areas, such as stormwater management and urban nonpoint source pollution control, the local government share is closer to 100% since there are virtually no federal or state funds to help address the problem. While, sadly, the thoughtful recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Finance Panel seem to have faded from memory, the needs that were identified there have not. It is critical that the federal and state governments in the watershed assume a major role in providing financial assistance for implementation at the local level.

On the issue of funding, I also need to mention my concern with deep cuts being proposed to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). While local governments and our State partners are working to increase funding for clean water programs, the federal SRF is being targeted for cuts totaling \$199.2 million. Many local governments, especially in rural areas, in the Bay watershed depend on this federal funding to pay for high priority water pollution control projects, and the proposed budget cuts are exactly the opposite of what's needed to achieve our goal of a clean and healthy Bay.

But funding alone isn't enough. We also need our state and federal partners to work cooperatively with local governments on a watershed basis to:

1. Clearly articulate measurable goals for local governments to achieve and couple these with appropriate levels of funding support. I support the requirement for measurable goals for local governments under the Local Government Involvement section, with the provisions that this be woven into a realistic implementation plan that includes equitable levels of funding support. To guarantee success of the Tributary Strategies, it is critical to have a detailed plan for implementation that explains who, what, when, where, why, and how.

2. Increase the level of support for the Small Watershed Grants Program to the proposed authorized amount of \$10 million. While far short of the estimated funding necessary to achieve the C2K goals, the Small Watershed Grants are perhaps the most effective

mechanism for engaging local governments in the common effort to achieve water quality and habitat goals. The current funding level of \$2 million translates into just \$1,212 for each of the 1,650 local governments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In addition, I recommend increasing the cap on individual small watershed grants to as much as one million dollars, a substantial increase over the present \$50,000 limit. Let me give you an example: in Fairfax County, we often do not apply for small watershed grants because the staff time involved in preparing the grant application actually costs more than the grant itself. The current \$50,000 cap effectively eliminates larger jurisdictions from participating in the Small Watershed Grants Program. In addition to the review and prioritization of grant proposals by the Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee, there also should be a mechanism for prioritizing grants within watersheds or metropolitan areas to ensure that grants address priority local or tributary-specific issues. A good example of a priority might be the ongoing efforts to restore the Anacostia River which flows into the Potomac River just a few blocks from here.

3. Establish a "Measurable Goals" provision for Soil Conservation Districts comparable to the provision for local governments. As the level of accountability and responsibility for local governments is increased, equity suggests that there be a comparable provision for "Measurable Goals" for the agricultural sector. A logical geographic unit would be the soil conservation district. As above, implementation should be coupled with equitable levels of funding support.

4. Enhance the Tributary Strategies and Implementation Plans to explicitly address nutrient and sediment "Cap Management" as growth continues. Cap management is clearly required by the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, and the population of the watershed is projected to increase by upwards of 2 million between now and 2030. If not explicitly addressed at the State level in Tributary Strategies and related implementation plans, there is a very real risk of losing ground, literally, as new development occurs.

5. A one-size-fits-all approach to local government coordination and C2K Agreement implementation will not work. Outreach and implementation must be tailored to the abilities of large and small jurisdictions to undertake those efforts. Differences in local government access to technology must be considered during the development of communications strategies. A strong, structured technical assistance program to local governments is needed, especially in smaller, more rural jurisdictions that lack staff expertise in stormwater management and watershed protection. In many localities, watershed management still is not reflected in land use planning. As a result, development patterns and practices ignore the many values that riparian buffers, protected floodplains and protected natural resource lands offer for water quality, water supply, and wildlife habitat. More importantly, as a local elected official, I know that local government officials need to understand the local benefits that would result from changes in land use policies. Otherwise, they won't be persuaded to defend these changes before their constituencies.

6. We are concerned about the proposed language that requires tributary strategy goals or BMPs to be included in NPDES permits, both point and nonpoint source, or MS4 permits. In Virginia, nonpoint source pollution standards should not be written into MS4 permits because, as mentioned earlier in my testimony, the Commonwealth does

not yet have an effective mechanism to track urban nonpoint sources.

Each of these areas is of strong interest to LGAC. With appropriate staff and requisite resources, I can envision an activist role for LGAC, as the Tributary Strategies are turned in to action plans, including:

Developing goals at the local level and helping to ensure that localities live up to their responsibilities;

Partnering with state and local agencies to achieve an equitable allocation of funding;

Reaching out to other sectors, especially agriculture and private industry. We need to open or continue dialogue with all our partners in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We are all in this together: from those who labor under the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol dome to the Pennsylvania farmer, the Maryland waterman, the Virginia technology worker, the long-time resident, and the new Americans. Finger-pointing won't clean up the Bay; working together just might.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the opportunity to appear here today and for your leadership in helping to keep the Bay restoration effort moving forward. We are looking forward to working with you, other members of Congress, and our State and federal partners to achieve our shared goals of a restored Chesapeake Bay watershed.

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK
HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL PROBLEM

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the nearly 46 million Americans who lack health insurance, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Cover the Uninsured Week (May 1–7, 2006) aims to raise awareness of this National problem and the will to solve it.

One in seven Americans, including more than 8 million children, does not have even basic healthcare coverage. Each day, these men and women hope they do not become sick or are not injured. Parents hope their children remain healthy. As healthcare costs continue to rise, it becomes more difficult for many families to continue healthcare coverage.

During the week of May 1–7, events will be held at hospitals, medical centers, community centers, on campuses and in place of worship worldwide. Volunteers will help to enroll uninsured adults and children in public programs that provide low-cost and free coverage to those who are eligible. Information about local help available will be distributed as well.

Ensuring Americans have access to adequate medical care should be a priority for all of us. Cover the Uninsured Week gives all of us the opportunity to say that we care—and we want this issue to be a national priority.

THE REMARKABLE LEGACY OF
U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI
ANNAN

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reflect on the distinguished legacy of United Nations

Secretary General Kofi Annan, a great friend of this Congress and of the American people, and a dear friend of our family.

Kofi Annan began his service as Secretary General in January 1997, and his second five-year term will be completed in December of this year. Although he is the seventh individual to serve as Secretary General in the history of the United Nations, he is the first individual to be selected for this position from the ranks of U.N. staff.

As the Secretary General completes his work in New York, Mr. Speaker, the world's luminaries will weigh in and a consensus will quickly emerge that Kofi Annan is the United Nations' greatest secretary general. Because Kofi and his wife Nanne are dear personal friends of my wife, Annette, and me, I want to be the first to reflect on the remarkable term of this outstanding international civil servant.

Mr. Speaker, in looking back on the decade that Kofi Annan has shaped the United Nations, it is clear that his term has been sustained by a powerful vision—his belief that this complicated world body could become something much more than a Cold War relic useful only for convening meetings and servicing international conferences.

Since Secretary General Annan's first day on the job, he has been driven by the conviction that the United Nations must undergo what he has called a "strategic refit" to help the organization reach its full potential in the 21st century, to better serve the pressing needs of mankind that individual states are unable or unwilling to meet.

Every day for the last decade, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary General has worked tirelessly, against impossible odds, to convince 191 sovereign states to let him reshape the organization in line with his vision. This has been no small task, given that each one of these 191 states—democracies, monarchies, military juntas, and brutal dictatorships—is jealous of its own sovereign rights.

As we enter the closing months of Kofi Annan's term at the helm of the most important and most unruly international organization, we can say with absolute confidence that—against all odds—he has succeeded in this project.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most profound measure of Kofi's success was the groundbreaking consensus agreement he led the United Nations to adopt last September at an historic summit of more than 100 heads of state. This agreement consisted of a binding pledge by all U.N. member states to recognize a collective "responsibility to protect" individuals threatened with genocide, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity, a responsibility that supercedes the sovereignty of any individual state.

Kofi Annan's inspiration for his effort to reshape the fundamental principles underlying the United Nations grew out of his profound sadness in the tragic failure of the global community to protect its most vulnerable citizens in Srebrenica, Bosnia, and in Rwanda.

Mr. Speaker, during the decade between the latter of these two tragedies and that World Summit pledge last September, Secretary General Annan, has focused U.N. activities on three goals: preventing conflict, promoting democracies, and eradicating poverty. He has done this methodically and with steely determination, step by step, surmounting numerous pitfalls and hurdles along the way.

Despite inheriting a United Nations beset with a sclerotic bureaucracy and severely limited resources, Kofi Annan's achievement in mobilizing the world body to start to close what he has called "the chasm between [those who are] rich and poor, free and fettered, privileged and humiliated." This effort has been breathtaking in scope and scale.

In the past nine years under Secretary General Annan's watch, Mr. Speaker, the number of civilian soldiers deployed on U.N. peacekeeping missions has increased from 20,000 to 80,000, bringing hope and a measure of stability to damaged lives in places like Liberia, Burundi, Haiti, the Ivory Coast, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

U.N. capacity to move beyond simply keeping the peace to helping shell-shocked societies recover and prosper has also been greatly enhanced under Kofi Annan's leadership. His most notable accomplishment in this process was to establish a U.N. Peacebuilding Commission during that World Summit last September.

Mr. Speaker, the Secretary General's efforts to build U.N. capacity to promote democracy have also enjoyed remarkable success. During his tenure the Secretariat's Political Office has helped conduct more than 100 successful elections, including those in Iraq and Afghanistan. The people involved in this enterprise have also helped achieve democratic openings in places previously thought to be beyond democracy's reach, such as Georgia, Ukraine, Sierra Leone and Lebanon.

Secretary General Annan's moral leadership has also inspired the U.N.'s member states to remake a wholly dysfunctional U.N. Human Rights Commission by replacing it with a Human Rights Council that for the first time in the history of the United Nations will require countries to meet human rights qualifications to gain membership. This change will forever shatter the pernicious myth that had long operated in Geneva, that a pathological dictatorship like Sudan somehow occupied the same moral high ground as Sweden in enforcing agreed human rights standards.

The Secretary General has also created a new architecture to attack poverty and chronic disease by committing states to tangible Millennium Development Goals, and by creating a Global Compact committing corporations to pledges to upgrade environmental, labor and human rights conditions. This will serve to bring the benefits of globalization to more people worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, it was my honor to be the first person to nominate Kofi Annan for the Nobel Peace Prize. When the distinguished Secretary General accepted that prize in October 2001, he explained why he is so committed to ensuring that the United Nations can live up to its responsibility to protect each and every vulnerable human being.

As he most eloquently phrased it on the stage in Stockholm, "What begins with the failure to uphold the dignity of one life, all too often ends with a calamity for entire nations." And "a genocide begins with the killing of one man—not for what he has done, but because of who he is."

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to overstate the contribution that United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has made to advancing human dignity, peace and stability in the world. I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting Kofi Annan, the finest Secretary General ever to have served at the helm of the United Nations.

HURRICANE KATRINA STATEMENT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on May 4, 2006, I prepared the following opening statement for the Committee on Government Reform's hearing, "Sifting Through Katrina's Legal Debris: Contracting in the Eye of the Storm":

Thank you, Chairman DAVIS, for holding this important oversight hearing to examine federal contracting for Hurricane Katrina relief. I appreciate that you have kept your promise to hold a series of hearings on the subject of Hurricane Katrina as you said you would in September of last year. I am grateful for your leadership in this regard.

Since this Administration has come into office, we have witnessed multiple federal contracting sprees, which have all been reckless and wasteful. After 9/11, and the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security, a variety of security functions were contracted out to private companies. The Iraq war and reconstruction brought the next round of federal contracts, and finally, after Hurricane Katrina, several contracts were administered to aid in relief and reconstruction.

Contracts awarded have consistently been cost-plus and no bid contracts, have lacked oversight and transparency, and have led to costly waste, fraud and abuse.

Despite the waste, fraud and abuse, which have been well documented by government oversight bodies, including this Committee, the federal government has refused to learn its lesson and change its contracting practices. The contracts handed out for Katrina relief and reconstruction were just as flawed as those for Homeland Security functions and Iraq reconstruction.

Halliburton, for example, which has been the target of investigations for robbing the American taxpayer blind in its Iraq contracts, was one of the first companies awarded no bid contracts after Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, to repair 3 different Navy facilities in Mississippi.

Furthermore, measures put forward immediately following Hurricane Katrina to help ensure proper contracting, such as Ranking Member Waxman's bill, the "Hurricane Katrina Accountability and Clean Contracting Act," were disregarded.

Now, eight months later—eight months too late—we are here in this Committee examining what went wrong. Our government should have known better.

Today's hearing will reveal how FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other federal agencies entered into at least eight major contracts, worth over \$5.6 billion, that have resulted in significant waste, fraud and abuse.

We will also hear some familiar testimony: how full and open competition has been the exception, not the rule, in awarding Katrina contracts; how lack of contract management and oversight were missing in Katrina contracts; and how these flawed contracting procedures lead to significant cost or performance problems in nearly every major contract related to Hurricane Katrina.

Far too much taxpayer money has been squandered on important jobs that aren't getting done. I look forward to the testimonials

from the witnesses today. Despite the federal government's record, it is my sincere hope that this hearing will lead to concrete reforms in contracting practices.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 121, 122, 123, and 124. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 121, "yea" on rollcall vote 122, "nay" on rollcall vote 123, and "no" on rollcall vote 124. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following these votes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DC NATIONAL GUARD HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the fourth bill in the Free and Equal DC series. This series includes measures that all involve obsolete or inappropriate intervention into the local affairs of the District of Columbia. The other bills in the series are the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act, the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act, and the District of Columbia Hatch Reform Act. This bill would give the Mayor of the District of Columbia the same authority over the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) as the governors of all 50 States have over their guard units. My work on the Homeland Security Committee convinces me that this bill is necessary now more than at any time in the District's history. In most circumstances involving a suspected terrorist incident and in all circumstances constituting local emergencies, the Mayor of the District of Columbia should have the same authority as governors. The National Guards in the 50 states operate under similar dual federal and local jurisdiction. Yet the President of the United States as the Commander in Chief alone has the authority to call up the DC National Guard for any purpose here, local or national. Each governor, however, as the head of state, has the authority to mobilize the National Guard to protect the local jurisdiction, just as local militia did historically. Today, the most likely need is to call upon the National Guard to restore order in the wake of civil disturbances and natural disasters. Today it could prove necessary to act quickly without knowing the origin of an event. The Mayor, who knows the city better than any federal official and works closely with federal security officials, should be able to call on the DCNG to cover local natural disasters or civil disturbances without relying on the President, who may be preoccupied with national matters, including perhaps war or security matters, or relying on a delegated official with little familiarity with the city. It does no harm to give the Mayor the authority. How-

ever, it could do great harm to leave him powerless to act quickly. If it makes sense that a governor would have control over the mobilization and deployment of the state National Guard, it makes the same sense for the Mayor of the District of Columbia, with a population the size of that of small states, should have the same authority.

The Mayor of the District of Columbia, acting as head of state, should have the authority to call upon the DCNG in instances that do not rise to the level of federal importance necessary to implicate the authority of the President. Today requiring action by the President of the United States could endanger the life and health of DC residents, visitors and federal employees. Procedures that require the Mayor to request the needed assistance from the Commander in Chief for a local National Guard matter are as old as the republic, and are dangerously obsolete. This bill would deprive the President of his authority over the DC National Guard. The President could still nationalize the Guard at will, as he can with the Guards of the 50 states, and particularly here in the nation's capital.

Following the September 11th terrorist attacks, I succeeded in including a provision in the Homeland Security Act recognizing that the District of Columbia must be an integral part of the planning, implementation, and execution of national plans to protect city residents, federal employees, and visitors by including the District of Columbia, as a separate and full partner and first responder in federal domestic preparedness legislation. At a minimum, such recognition also demonstrates the respect for local governance and home rule that every jurisdiction that recruits members of the military to its National Guard deserves, especially today when the Guards are no longer weekend warriors, as the Iraq war demonstrates. The confusion that accompanied the September 11 attack plainly showed the danger inherent in allowing bureaucratic steps to stand in the way of responding to emergencies in the nation's capital. September 11 has made local control of the DCNG an imperative.

This bill is another important step necessary to complete the transfer of full self-government powers to the District of Columbia that Congress itself began with the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973. District authority over its own National Guard apparently was not raised during the Home Rule Act process. However, it was almost unthinkable then that there would be war in the homeland, much less terrorist threats to the nation's capital. What should be unthinkable after 9-11 in an era of global terrorism is allowing to stand old and antiquated layers. Giving the mayor of the District of Columbia authority to call up the National Guard could make the difference in protecting the safety of the residents, federal employees, and visitors alike. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HOBBS HIGH SCHOOL INSPIRATION AWARD

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hobbs High School, in Hobbs

New Mexico, which recently earned the 2006 College Board Inspiration Award.

The College Board's Inspiration Award annually honors three schools nationwide that have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in expanding access to college, particularly in financially disadvantaged areas.

Hobbs High School is a model of educational success and its receipt of this award is an accolade to their hard work and dedication to improving the opportunities available to their students.

Hobbs is a community that receives less funding per pupil than any other district in New Mexico and has twice as many people in terms of percentage living at or below the poverty level compared to the national average. However, in spite of these setbacks Hobbs High School has made extraordinary advances in expanding access to college for their students.

Approximately 55 percent of all secondary students at Hobbs High School now participate in Advanced Placement and Pre-Advanced Placement courses and they currently have the largest Advanced Placement program in the State of New Mexico. Demonstrated success has already been seen with last year's 97 percent graduation rates and the increase in the number of those individuals who went on to college upon graduation.

Hobbs High School is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when teachers, students, and community leaders come together to ensure that plentiful opportunities exist for their students. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hobbs High School for this wonderful academic achievement.

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY STATEMENT ON CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last Friday evening, I was honored to join Southeast Michigan's Ukrainian American Community in remembrance of a terrible tragedy: the Chernobyl nuclear disaster on April 26th, 1986.

Here in Washington, the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus organized a number of events last week to ensure that Congress adequately remembered this solemn anniversary. Through all of these events, and at the commemoration I attended in Michigan, there was a consensus that as we remember those victims of Chernobyl who lost their lives, we must continue, and indeed strengthen, our efforts to help those who are still living with its consequences.

To that end, I ask that a statement from the Ukrainian American Community in Michigan be placed in the RECORD. It calls on us all to do our part in standing with the Ukrainian people to address the consequences of this disaster that so many still struggle with 20 years later.

APPEAL: TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MICHIGAN DELEGATION TO THE U.S. CONGRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOLEMN 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NUCLEAR DISASTER AT CHERNOBYL, UKRAINE

The Ukrainian American community, gathered at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warren, Michigan, on Friday, April 28, 2006 in solemn commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Nuclear Disaster at Chernobyl, Ukraine, recommends to the Michigan Delegation to the United States Congress the Testimony of H.E. Oleh Shamshur, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and urges the members of the Delegation to assist in addressing the urgent problems noted in Ambassador Shamshur's testimony, excerpted below:

"Chernobyl was not only a "maximum credible accident" and the greatest man-made technological disaster. There is much more about Chernobyl catastrophe: this has become a frightening reminder of the awesome human cost—measured in lives and life-threatening health problems—of the lack of freedom, democratic procedures, civic control and transparency.

The plain and awful fact is that the biggest nuclear catastrophe in human history was kept secret from ordinary citizens, who were massively exposed to radiation exceeding the maximum acceptable level by hundred times.

During the critical period after explosion, while evacuating the local population from direct neighborhood of the nuclear power station, the Soviet government let millions of people in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia conduct their daily life as usual—unaware, unwarned, unprotected. On May 1st, four days after the disaster, people in Kyiv and dozens of other cities were urged to go outdoors to celebrate May Day, an official holiday in the Soviet Union. In those moments when radioactive cloud was reaching Sweden, when West Europeans were called to restrain from buying fruit and letting children play outside, in Ukraine parents carried their kids to the festivities. It was only days later, that people of Ukraine came to know the full extent of what had happened to them, their families, their land. By early May millions of people, including children, received unthinkable amounts of radiation as the volume of radioactive materials released into atmosphere exceeded Hiroshima by 400 times.

Experts and humankind are yet to comprehend and assess the full scope of the hazardous consequences of the nuclear devastation, including continuous exposure to radiation of such magnitude. About 5 million people were directly affected by explosion. As of January 2006, 2.6 million Ukrainians have had the status of those affected by consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Over 570 thousand children officially registered as affected by the disaster continue to live in Ukraine. 6,769 children died of horrible diseases caused by the calamity including thyroid and other cancers. Tens thousand square kilometers of once fertile and flourishing land remain radiation-polluted, as well as 2,218 Ukrainian townships and settlements.

The international community should be aware that the period of so-called half-life of radioactive strontium released into atmosphere in 1986 is 90 years. Therefore however scaring it might sound, the full story has not been told yet. The gravest implications of the catastrophe might be still ahead for Ukraine and other nations. We should be well prepared to face this eventuality.

The price Ukraine has paid for the lies, hypocrisy and greed of the Soviet regime epitomized by Chernobyl and its aftermath has

been enormous. What we need now is assistance in addressing two very concrete and urgent problems.

Building a new reliable Shelter. Taking this opportunity I am asking the distinguished members of the Commission to weigh in their political authority to call upon all G8 members and other countries concerned to follow the example of the U.S. Government and to make adequate financial contributions making possible the erection of the Shelter-2. The construction costs are estimated at slightly over 1 billion USD representing rather modest amount of money compared to the damages which 200 tons of highly radioactive waste still glowing underneath the corroded Shelter-1 might incur. We also urge all the signatories of the Ottawa Memorandum to honor their obligations concerning compensation of the losses suffered by Ukraine due to the decommissioning of the Chernobyl NPS.

Meeting the health needs of the innocent children, suffering from hazardous effects of Chernobyl. We deeply appreciate the work done in this respect by the members of the U.S. Congress, such as Co-Chairman Chris Smith and Representative Lincoln Diaz-Ballard. It was largely due to Mr. Diaz-Ballard's efforts that on April 20th one of the biggest humanitarian airlifts organized by the Children of Chernobyl Fund arrived in Ukraine for the benefit of Chernobyl-affected children. I know that more projects are in preparation and I'm deeply thankful for them to our American partners."

Ambassador Shamshur concludes with the following words, words which the Ukrainian American community in Michigan and, we trust, our elected officials, fully share and support.

"I strongly believe that our two countries—Ukraine and the United States—will stand united in facing the challenges and preventing any new human tragedies that might be caused by the consequences of the disaster that happened twenty years ago, but remains so present in our lives."

THE PASSING OF BILL WALSH

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, it is often said one of the best things we can do in this world is to take a tragedy and use it as a catalyst to do something positive. The April 5th death of a 64-year-old homeless man, Bill Walsh, in the woods of southeastern Connecticut has become a rallying cry for the homeless. I hope that the death of Bill Walsh will be turned into something positive.

As a Vietnam veteran I have long been involved in addressing the dilemma of homelessness. Vietnam divided our nation and many soldiers returned from Southeast Asia with a variety of troubles. On far too many occasions their troubles led them to the streets and to the ranks of the homeless. We know that many of the homeless suffer from addictions and mental problems. We will never be able to help them secure a home and until their lifestyle issues are addressed.

In Connecticut we are taking action. A coalition of business leaders, social service agencies and government officials have produced the Southeastern Connecticut Ten Year Plan To End Homelessness. The three pronged attack seeks to establish a safety net by identi-

fying social services available to the homeless and finding more effective ways to deliver them. Supportive housing is an essential component—supportive housing helps address issues of heart and head while providing a place to live. In supportive housing complexes individuals find companionship, security and a staff that will help them address issues such as substance abuse, education and other barriers that prevent people from participating as productive members of society. The third part of the program is to help the homeless find employment.

I attended Bill Walsh's funeral and those who knew him described him as "a gentle soul", "just like us", and a "sweet man who never bothered anybody." No doubt we also would all agree that a 64-year-old "gentle soul" should not be living in the woods.

Many families are one paycheck away from being homeless. They are our neighbors and our friends. Those who are already experiencing life on the street or in the shelter are in need of support. A society that is dedicated to helping others help themselves will take the tragedy of Bill Walsh and use it as motivation to address homelessness. I believe ours is such a society.

In attendance at Mr. Walsh's funeral was the Rev. Emmett Jarrett, of St. Francis House, in New London. He made some insightful and compassionate remarks about Bill Walsh. I ask by unanimous consent that his meditation be included with my statement for the RECORD.

SEEING THE INVISIBLE: A MEDITATION ON
LUKE 16:19-25

(By Fr. Emmett Jarrett, TSSF)

The story you have just heard—the story of Lazarus, the poor beggar, and the rich man—is one of the stories Jesus told to call people to live not in selfish isolation but as sisters and brothers. It's also a story that Martin Luther King, Jr., the great American patriot, preached on many occasions, including the last Sunday sermon he ever preached, a few days before he was assassinated in April, 1968. King said of this story that it was not about Jesus condemning wealth, or the rich. "There is nothing in that parable," King said, "that said [the rich man] went to hell because he was rich. . . . [He] didn't go to hell because he was rich; [he] didn't realize that his wealth was his opportunity . . . to bridge the gulf that separated him from his brother, Lazarus. [He] went to hell because he passed Lazarus by every day and he never really saw him. He went to hell because he allowed his brother to become invisible."

Our country remembers Dr. King because of his dream that America would some day fulfill its promise and become a land of freedom and equality for all. But King was not just a great patriot, he was not just a great civil rights leader. He was also a leader in the movement to end the war in Vietnam. He was a leader in the struggle to end poverty in our country. When he preached his last sermon at the Washington National Cathedral in 1968 he was on his way to Memphis, Tenn., to support sanitation workers in a strike for decent wages. He was preparing to lead a national march on Washington from the rural South, from Appalachia, from the ghettos of Northern cities, a march of white people as well as black people, a "poor people's march." He was working to make the invisible people in our country visible. He was working for brotherhood and sisterhood, for what he called "the beloved community."

We are gathered here today to remember an invisible brother, Bill Walsh, who died in

the woods a few days after the New London winter emergency shelter closed. Bill died in the woods—technically in Waterford—but he was a New London resident. His last residence had been the shelter at St. James Church around the corner, but his last proper home was an apartment in the Mohican just down State Street from here. But Bill was invisible, and so he died, without the minimal attention any human being requires and is entitled to. Like Lazarus, the poor beggar in Jesus' parable, Bill was our brother, and most of us didn't see him.

So we gather here today in the First Congregational Church of New London, the church where Bill worshipped, and where he ate breakfast many mornings. Because the beloved community includes not only like-minded people who worship together, but people who break bread together, people who eat together. As the prophet Isaiah says, the life God asks of his people, of us, is a practical life of friendship and service. God requires of us that we "share our bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into our house" (Isa. 58:7). It is appropriate, then, that we gather this morning and remember Bill, and pray for him and for ourselves.

But we will not be the beloved community if we do not accept our responsibility for Bill's neglect, and for his death. The great rabbi Abraham Heschel said that "in a democracy, some are guilty, but all are responsible." All of us, as a community, as the people of the City of New London, are responsible when some of our brothers and sisters, some of our neighbors made in the image of God, have no place to lay their head. Thomas Jefferson said about slavery in America, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just." Well, friends, I tremble for our country today. There are more than three million homeless people in the richest nation in the world. We are that rich man, who went to hell not because he was rich but because he allowed his brother Lazarus to become invisible. We have an opportunity to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless. It's no use blaming other towns and cities. God will judge them. It is myself and my city that I tremble for. It is for New London that I will be judged.

So I ask you this morning, as we remember Bill Walsh, to join the struggle in our city to make him and others like him visible. I invite you this morning to see the homeless poor, many of whom are present in this house of worship today. Look around you. See your neighbors. Some of your neighbors have homes to go to tonight. Some don't. But all of us are neighbors. All of us are brothers and sisters to Bill Walsh and to one another. Let us resolve today, in his memory, to make our city a "city on a hill," to which everyone can look for inspiration, to make our country "a light to the nations," that cares for its neediest citizens. We have to see each other to do that. As the great labor organizer Mother Jones said, "we've got to mourn the dead, but fight like hell for the living." We can't bring Bill Walsh back from the dead. He is with Lazarus, the poor beggar that Jesus talked about, "in Abraham's bosom." But we can see the invisible poor, and shelter the homeless and needy, and not find ourselves under judgment for our failure to see.

Now let us remember Bill. But let us get up tomorrow morning and start to work together to create a homeless hospitality center in New London that will be a model for the rest of our region and our nation. Let us see the invisible poor, and live together with all our sisters and brothers in the beloved community the God of justice invites us to become. Then Bill will be like one who has risen from the dead and brought us to the promised land.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the history and invaluable contributions of an exceptional organization in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this organization for its educational leadership and record of extraordinary service benefiting underrepresented young people in Colorado and the Denver area. It is to commend this exemplary organization that I rise to honor the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

The growing importance of innovation in science and engineering to our economic well-being and to a better quality of life for our citizens is well documented. Currently, there is much discussion and concern in this Congress about the ability of the United States to sustain its scientific and technological superiority. Sustaining our leadership hinges upon expanding our human capital to meet the technical challenges of a new economy and its increasingly global and complex systems. In this regard, cultivating students with the requisite skills to enter the pipeline of future engineers and scientists has become a priority.

Over 25 years ago, a group of committed African-American engineers anticipated the future. They recognized the need to expand the pool of talent entering our colleges and universities. In 1980, they founded the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists (CABPES) with the express purpose of increasing the representation of minorities in the fields of engineering and applied sciences. CABPES has been in the vanguard of cultivating talented youth and it has become a learning gateway for students from all walks of life desiring to expand their horizons. Its commitment to the future is longstanding and our communities are well-advised by its example and the foresight of its founders.

Professional mentoring sets CABPES apart and a cadre of dedicated parents and committed volunteers are responsible for its outreach and educational programs including: the Junior Engineers, Tomorrow's Scientists Program which concentrates on developing student interest in engineering and applied sciences; the Math Enrichment Program which tutors students with their mathematics assignments; the SAT Preparation Program which prepares students for the college entrance examination; and the Widening Our World Program which gives CABPES' students the opportunity to use their computer skills and develop leadership abilities through community service. These programs have served to enrich the learning experience by providing an environment that offers real-world perspective, dialogue and exchange. Students have gained a richer and deeper understanding from practitioners who not only impart a passion and enthusiasm for their disciplines, but convey the sense of wonder that accompanies discovery and scientific endeavor.

We are indeed fortunate to have CABPES in our community. It is an invaluable resource

and I am deeply appreciative of the good work CABPES does in making science and engineering careers more attractive to all our students, particularly the under-represented. CABPES' programs help improve performance in the classroom and its mentors provide solid role models that encourage achievement. We owe a debt of gratitude not only to CABPES' founders, its board, volunteers and management professionals, but to its private sector partners as well. Their engagement and support of this organization make a real difference in the lives of our young people and thereby, in the communities CABPES serves.

Please join me in commending the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists. It is the strong leadership and meaningful service this organization provides on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

STATEMENT ON DISCHARGE PETITION ON H.J. RES. 55, THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2005

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the discharge petition for H.J. Res. 55 not because I support the substance of the underlying resolution, but because I believe a full and open debate of our Iraq policy on the floor of this House is long overdue.

I believe the invasion of Iraq was a mistake. It has diverted resources from the fight against Osama bin Laden and those who attacked our country on September 11, 2001. It has fueled al Qaeda with fresh recruits and inflamed anti-American sentiment around the world. It has resulted in the loss of the lives of thousands of American soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis. It has cost the American taxpayer hundreds of billions of dollars. It has made us less, not more, secure.

From the outset I have been an outspoken opponent of the Bush administration's decision to go to war in Iraq. I argued strongly that the United States should support the request of the United Nations' weapons inspectors for additional time to complete their mission. The Bush administration spurned that request. We know the result—the primary justification given for going to war in Iraq, namely the alleged existence of stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction and the alleged collaboration between the government of Iraq and al Qaeda, proved to be false.

Many of us warned repeatedly that invading Iraq would open Pandora's box and unleash forces and historic rivalries that we would not be able to control. The rising sectarian conflict, the insurgency and the brutal executions carried out by militias were foreseeable. The total failure of the administration to plan for the aftermath of the invasion made what was certain to be a bad situation even worse.

We went to war in Iraq in an irresponsible manner; we should leave Iraq in a responsible way. Having invaded Iraq, we have both a moral and national security obligation to do everything possible to prevent the situation and sectarian conflict from spiraling even farther out of control. We must devise a plan to

leave Iraq in a way that maximizes the chances for stability and minimizes the possibility for the eruption of a full scale civil war with even more bloodletting than there is today. We must leave Iraq in a way that does not allow al Qaeda—which did not have a base in Iraq before the war—to develop a stronghold there. We must not compound the blunders of the Bush administration by creating the conditions for even more bloodshed in Iraq and allowing it to become a launching pad for terrorist activities. That is why I have not supported proposals that set a date certain for the total withdrawal of all American forces from Iraq. I believe such well-intentioned legislation, like H.J. Res. 55, would have the unintended consequence of accelerating a budding civil war and strengthening the hands of those who would like to see Iraq plunged into even greater chaos and bloodshed.

While I do not support H.J. Res. 55 in its current form, I believe the Congress must have a serious and full debate on our strategy for bringing our troops home. Since the President declared “Mission Accomplished” in April 2003, we have seen more death and destruction in Iraq. The administration’s efforts to achieve a political solution have been grossly inadequate. This House was wrong to give the President a blank check to go to war in Iraq. It now must fulfill its obligation to bring our troops home in a responsible manner. Let us honor our troops by having a serious debate. That is why I am signing the discharge petition for H.J. Res. 55.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY KEEFE
BROOKS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to my dear friend Kelly Keefe Brooks, who passed away on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at the age of 43 after a courageous battle with breast cancer. Kelly was a devoted wife, loving mother of two girls, and a warm and caring friend.

Kelly fought a courageous battle against her cancer while remaining the same loving, jovial, and caring woman that her friends and loved ones will always admire. She has become a role model and inspiration to all who knew her and all who face the same struggle against cancer. I ask unanimous consent to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the eulogy delivered by Kelly’s good friend Suzanne Galvin Harvey on Saturday, April 29, 2006, which was partially written by Kelly Keefe Brooks herself.

Good Afternoon.

First let me begin by saying that Kelly did a very unusual thing before she died; she wrote her own eulogy. Anyone that knew her would not be surprised. Kelly knew what she wanted and was not afraid to tell you. I asked her if I could add to it and surprisingly, she agreed. Her words are all about saying goodbye to the people in her life. I’d like to start first by saying goodbye to her.

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to have called Kelly Keefe Brooks my friend for almost thirty years. We met as freshmen at Lowell High School when she asked me to share a locker with her. She introduced me to the seven friends we still have to this

day—Our Girls Club. I’ll be forever grateful for that gift she gave me.

Kelly was fortunate to have married Billy, who she called “the love of her life”. A few days ago she said, “Sue, let’s face it, who else could have stood me?” I repeated that to Billy recently and he said he “enjoyed every minute of the ride.” “Well maybe not every minute!”

Kelly gave Billy the same wonderful gift she gave me . . . an abundance of friends. She had a way about her that drew people to her in droves. She crammed many of us into her short life with 4th of July cookouts by the pool on Wilder Street; Superbowl parties; Cinco de Mayo celebrations on Clark Road; and founding Our Girls Club and presiding over it with an iron fist. From the folks at the Post Office to her golfing buddies at Longmeadow; from Our Girls Club to her sisters’ original Girls Club; and from Billy’s mom and family to her own family, there is no shortage of supporters for Billy and the girls with this entourage she built for them.

We all admired Kelly and Billy’s love for each other so much. God sent her a peach when he sent her Billy Brooks. His devotion was unending and he would have done anything for her, whether she had cancer or not. His only regret is that Kelly wanted to see Hawaii before she died. When he got the news that her health was declining, he was thinking of ways to get her there just to see it. “I was thinking maybe I could get her on a medical plane—but it would be too far if something happened,” he said. That’s the kind of guy Billy Brooks is.

Together they were blessed with two beautiful daughters—Emma and Molly. She may have seemed a little tough on you girls at times, but she loved you with all her heart. These past few months she spent so much thought on giving you both special memories and personalized mementos to last a lifetime. Her likes have become your likes—New York City, General Hospital, stalking celebrities outside the Daytime Emmy awards and looking for stars around the streets of New York. I know she will always be the real star in your eyes and has become a celebrity in her own rite, which was evident from the turnout at her wake last night. Your mom also liked pictures—not so much taking them as having people take them of her and plenty with both of you, those pictures are a chronicle of your life with her. Another wonderful gift she gave you, gave all of us.

Kim and Sharon. She couldn’t have asked for two better sisters who were always there for her and the girls. Auntie Sharon, always thinking of ways to help with the girls, or buying things for the house, or helping Kel decorate for the holidays or change of seasons. So glad you could be with her the morning she died. Auntie Kim, always there with at least seven or eight phone calls a day, checking in with her and being there for the girls as well. I cannot imagine the loss the two of you will feel. Not only sisters, you were true friends.

And finally her loving parents, Paul and Maryanne. Tomorrow was supposed to be a surprise 50th Anniversary party for you. Kelly has been feverishly planning that for the last few months. The video she created for you and the songs she chose—what a tremendous gift she has left for you. No parent should have to bury a child, and that is what bothered her the most when she was diagnosed—worrying about what that would do to her Mom and Dad. You should be so proud of the wonderful daughter you raised.

Kelly has been a role model for hundreds of us: family, friends, medical staff, and even to complete strangers right here in Lowell, who have been inflicted with this devastating disease. Never complaining, showing tremendous courage and spirit, fighting the uphill

battle against all odds, always with a smile on her face, and never losing faith in her doctors and caregivers or in her God. There was no time for tears with Kelly—she had much to do before she left us. Like demand a list of exactly what people were bringing over for meals. “Enough pasta!” she’d say “Can’t a girl get a couple of pork chops?” Thanks to Denise Perrin and Lesley Byrne for spearheading all those dinners and house cleanings.

Goodbye Kelly and in the motto of Our Girls Club, which is engraved into the gold heart shaped charms that hang from our bracelets, we will truly be “friends forever” and we will all miss you dearly.

That is the end of my portion of this—my tribute to her. I think she asked me to do this because she thought I was funny. I’m glad I could provide you with some comic relief but sorry Kel I didn’t have them rolling in the aisles because I didn’t feel much like entertaining and laughing today. I did, however, briefly consider wearing my nun costume up here. But I think I traumatized my mom enough with that once before. Thank you mom for helping me write this for Kelly—she would really have been happy that it came from both of us. And now for Kelly’s own words.

EULOGY

(By Kelly Keefe Brooks)

Good afternoon.

Surprise, surprise! You didn’t think I would leave and not get the last word in. Seriously, I wanted to take this time to thank some people and to let you know my thoughts; you know how the cancer really changed me. Who am I kidding? To know me is to love me!

Everyone always told me I had a great attitude and I did, but I had so much help from family, friends, co-workers and medical professionals. That is what made it possible.

I do have some requests from a few of you. Babs, Cathie, Lesley, Mary and Carolyn—you have all become the monkey in the middle for Sharon and Kim. I hope they are laughing. Emma and Molly, take care of Dad, he probably doesn’t remember what he had for lunch yesterday, so go easy and get along with each other. With all the women out there I am not concerned about how many mothers you girls are going to have. And you thought I was bad. Good luck girls! You thought I was annoying, ha!

Girls be successful in life and by that I mean be happy. Get careers not jobs, a big mistake most people make. Emma, I hope you live in NYC for at least a brief period of time. Molly, even though you are the youngest you will be the glue to keep the family together and I don’t mean just you, Emma, and Dad. I mean everyone. It’s a big job but I have no doubts.

What can I say about my girls club? They cooked, cleaned, sat with me on that king-sized bed and watched movies. Thank you!

Theresa and Dr. Anamour—thank you for giving me the extra time in life.

I don’t have words for my parents only I am sorry they had to bury me first.

Sharon and Kim—take care of the girls and each other. Remember they see what you do.

Billy as much as I hated the post office, it is where I met you and hunted you down like a dog. Thank god for Denise, Mary and the keg (good times) you gave me two beautiful girls and Papa two beautiful grandchildren. Now you are his favorite son-in-law. There also is not another man who can make me laugh like you do, or could stand being married to me. I didn’t get the nickname Paulette for nothing. I love you with all my heart.

Hope you all have a great time at the mercy meal, I can’t tell you how mad I am

I won't be there. Have a good time leaving church—lots of singing—I picked these songs.

Kelly didn't realize that the three songs she wanted at the end are unfortunately not allowed at a Catholic Mass. So instead of singing and clapping, leave here today with a song in your heart, a beat in your step, and a smile on your face for the special woman we knew and loved.

IN HONOR OF EARL WOODS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual, role model, and parent. Yesterday, Earl Woods, father of golfer Tiger Woods, succumbed to cancer at the age of 74. He not only leaves behind a gifted son, but a legacy of integrity, pride, excellence, and passion.

Even before he raised a golf genius, Earl Woods lived an accomplished life. He gave up the opportunity to play professional baseball to attend Kansas State University, and became the first black scholarship player in the old Big 12 Conference. Later on he went into military service, served two tours in Vietnam, and spent time in Thailand where he met his second wife—Tiger's mother—Tida.

Earl Woods was a man who believed foremost in raising his son, Tiger, to be a good person, not a great golfer. Woods dedicated himself to instilling in his son a strong work ethic, mental toughness, and the drive to succeed—all factors that have allowed Tiger to become one of the most celebrated athletes of our time.

In the midst of cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, Earl Woods stood by his son, tournament after tournament, providing the guidance and friendship Tiger needed to win. Earl Woods said that his relationship with his son was one of friendship: they were equals. And he considered that to be the greatest achievement of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere condolences to the Woods family for their loss. Our prayers are with the Woods family today and we ask that God grant them peace during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO MUSLIMS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend an important community in Oklahoma's Fourth Congressional District. It is often said that the media in general does not run enough positive news, and I am afraid that this is especially, and unfortunately, the case for American Muslims. Many have associated the terrible events of September 11, 2001, with the millions of law-abiding, good-hearted Muslims in the United States. I wish to set the record straight about those decent Americans who work to make their communities and our

Nation a better place to live, work, and worship.

A poll conducted in 2004 uncovered some troubling numbers, Mr. Speaker. Those consulted were asked to give the first thought that came to their minds upon hearing the word, "Muslim." Two-thirds had a neutral reply: "religion" or "mosque," to give two examples. A little less than a third, 32 percent, had negative replies: "violence," "hatred," and, I am sorry to say, epithets unsuitable for polite company. Only two percent of respondents had comments considered positive.

Numbers the following year, 2005, were more promising. Negative comments had fallen six percent to total 26 percent. Positive comments had tripled from two percent to six percent. Still, the sum of positive comments is far too low for such a vibrant community. Further, these numbers mean that the negative comments outnumber positive comments by a little more than four-to-one.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers were as startling to me as they were to the many Muslims I know, respect, and represent. My home state of Oklahoma has a dynamic and growing Muslim community. Given public perceptions of the faith by Americans at large, much of their activity is directed at educating the public about themselves and their beliefs. Education about the Muslim community is clearly important as less than half of Americans claim to be "very knowledgeable" or "somewhat knowledgeable" of Islam.

I am pleased to report that in my home state of Oklahoma, Muslim groups are among the first to respond in times of crisis. Oklahoma's Muslims gave generously to the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, to earthquake victims in Turkey, and to those who suffered from the tsunamis along the Pacific Rim. They came to help when Hurricane Katrina struck, adopting and helping resettle displaced families. Three days after September 11, 2001, these men and women hosted a blood drive for victims in Washington and New York.

Oklahoma's Muslims also do much within our state. They host a free medical clinic in my state and often pay bills and rent for the needy. They adopt highways and contribute to public libraries, reach out to students and to other faiths. They host T-ball teams and Scout troops. In short, they are valued members of our communities.

Like all Americans, Oklahoma Muslims want good schools for their children, talk over the dinner table about how to pay the bills, and want to balance their work with their home life. The values and common interests that they share with their fellow Oklahomans far outweigh any differences in matters of faith. I urge my colleagues, and my fellow Americans, to get to know their Muslim neighbors next door. They help make America the vibrant, tolerant country it is. After all, whatever one's faith, in this land of liberty we are all Americans.

HONORING JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, America lost one of its best and brightest intellects and

public servants in recent days with the death of John Kenneth Galbraith.

To say that Professor Galbraith understood economics is like saying Albert Einstein was good at arithmetic.

Ken Galbraith pioneered economic theories that transcended numbers, products, and nations, because he added people into the equation.

He recognized and helped the whole world understand that market forces alone could not be anonymous engines of economic activity. There was more at stake—people, and more to consider—policy, in a nation's economic growth and development.

If you stop and think about it, every parent has told a child at one time or another that there are consequences to their actions; John Kenneth Galbraith helped nations understand that there are consequences to economic actions.

Mr. Galbraith's impact on modern economic theory can be seen in the books he authored including *The Affluent Society* and *New Industrial State*. In all, his astonishing contributions as a world-renowned economist and professor span more than five decades.

But, there is so much more to his life and contributions to the American people.

John Kenneth Galbraith served his country as a Presidential advisor and ambassador to India.

He helped FDR implement the New Deal, serving in his administration. He also served President John F. Kennedy, among others.

Mr. Galbraith walked among giants, because he too was a giant—in intellect, heart, and commitment to his country.

If ever there was a single individual who embodied the positive change he wanted to see, it was John Kenneth Galbraith.

I was privileged to know him in my role as President of ADA, Americans for Democratic Action.

When liberal activists gathered in January 1947 at the Willard Hotel to form Americans for Democratic Action, Ken was there to inspire and to lead. He never stopped doing either.

From the beginning, Professor Galbraith was ADA's guiding light—both philosophically and as a pragmatic politician.

As its president, he led ADA during the Vietnam War to take a stand and become the first national organization to oppose the last fatally flawed war this country waged.

His participation in ADA continued as an ADA national board member, national convention speaker and author of the pithy Galbraithian letters, some of which were private and many of which attracted members to this organization which he held so dear.

I received a personal note from him just recently. John Kenneth Galbraith was that kind of person; he never stopped thinking, and feeling, and interacting, even as his own health was failing.

Just a few weeks ago, as he lay bedridden, he met with an ADA board member to discuss ways to further the goals and objectives of the organization.

John Kenneth Galbraith was nothing short of astonishing and his loss to us and to the world is enormous.

His legacy will be sustained by the countless people he inspired, through his sons—including Jamie, who serves on ADA's national board—and through the Galbraith Fellows,

who will continue to work in the public service in his memory.

To say that John Kenneth Galbraith will be sorely missed is an understatement of the highest order.

What I am proud to say is that I knew this great American, and this institution can honor his memory by ensuring that his voice resonates throughout America for all time.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN KENNETH
GALBRAITH

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the United States lost an intellectual giant in the passing of economist and public figure John Kenneth Galbraith.

Both he and I were immigrants to the United States—he from Canada, I from Hungary—and we both earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Berkeley. But I came to find that we had much more in common than that.

When I ran my very first race for Congress in 1980, Mr. Speaker, I received an unsolicited contribution—and as my colleagues know, that is truly remarkable for a challenger seeking to upset an incumbent member of Congress. The contribution was from John Kenneth Galbraith. The hand-written message with the check said, “From one economist to another.” He added that he was delighted to see economist leaping into the political arena.

I cannot tell you how touched I was, not only at receiving an unbidden sign of support from someone so well-known and respected, but also to realize that a man of his caliber was in my corner.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Galbraith was a profoundly influential American economist and a prolific author. His four dozen books and more than 1,000 articles covered an amazing breadth of subjects, from Keynesian economic theory to political progressivism and fiction. Many of his volumes were bestsellers in the late 1950s and during the 1960s; they including memorable titles such as *The Affluent Society* and *The Industrial State*.

He is widely quoted. Some of his most pithy observations are among the most profound. For example, he once noted that “all successful revolutions are the kicking in of a rotten door.” And who can forget that it was Galbraith who said, “In economics, the majority is always wrong.”

John Kenneth Galbraith was a dynamic presence with a nimble political mind. He advised U.S. Presidents from Roosevelt to Clinton and was actively engaged in the Presidential campaigns of John Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy. And he served with great distinction as U.S. Ambassador to India from 1961–63.

In the year 2000, President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award recognizing exceptionally meritorious service. He was also awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India’s second highest civilian award, for his contributions to strengthening ties between India and United States.

It is difficult today to recall another man whose judgment and advice was valued by so

many for so long, and who also managed to touch so many personally. My wife Annette and I extend our heartfelt condolences to his devoted wife of nearly 70 years, Catherine, and their sons Alan, Peter, and James.

Mr. Speaker, John Kenneth Galbraith was an extraordinary human being and a dear friend whose prodigious life’s work helped shape American politics and economics. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this astonishing individual.

HONORING THE FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas it is the sense of the House of Representatives to recognize and commend those American universities which have achieved world renown and brought pride and honor to our Nation through their traditions of academic excellence;

Whereas attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, the House of Representatives is justly proud to honor the Fordham University School of Law upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary;

Whereas on September 28, 1905, the Fordham University School of Law opened its door in the City of New York to 13 students; since that time it has evolved into one of the largest, most diverse and most respected law schools in the Nation, with nearly 1,600 students and over 200 full-time and adjunct faculty;

Whereas to commemorate this milestone in the life of the school and the educational history of the City and State of New York and the Nation, the Fordham University School of Law has designed a year-long celebration commencing on September 28, 2005;

Whereas the Fordham University School of Law’s Centennial Celebration will feature symposia, lectures, galas and, in keeping with its dedication to serving others, a commitment by its alumni, faculty, and students to contribute 100,000 hours of public pro bono work to help those that are less fortunate;

Whereas for 100 years, the Fordham University School of Law has been defined by unparalleled standards of learning and has produced countless leaders throughout the world; and

Whereas with great admiration, the House of Representatives is proud to pay tribute to this eminent university which stands at the threshold of the future with its legacy of outstanding achievements and its impressive body of distinguished alumni;

Therefore, be it resolved that the House of Representatives honors the Fordham University School of Law upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary, fully confident that in its future, it will enjoy the same success which has so characterized its past.

HONORING HOME SCHOOLERS

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all concerned parents who have

made an enormous commitment. All parents are teachers, but these parents have accepted total responsibility for their children’s learning, by schooling them at home.

Of course I am talking about the successful home school movement that has taken root and is rapidly growing throughout the United States. It is not easy to be a parent. I should know since I’m the proud father of five children and seven grandchildren. But adding “teacher” to the list of responsibilities parents face every day illustrates their incredible determination to ensure that their children get a solid education.

It has been said that in order to understand the future we must first look to the past. That is being done here. Thousands of present day students, like many of our Founding Fathers, are being taught at home.

The motives of these parents vary, many parents don’t like the curriculum being taught to their kids, or are wary of the threat of peer pressure or the presence of drugs or violence lurking in too many of our schools today.

In a world where it is common to pass the buck, tens of thousands of families have adhered to the principle set forth by former President Harry Truman, saying that “the buck stops here” when it comes to their children’s education.

The home schooling movement has proven it works and the numbers show. According to a recent report from Reuters News Services, between 1.7 and 2.1 million children across the country are taught at home. This is a 29 percent jump from the number of home schooled children in 1999.

When they are asked to compete against children from traditional schools, these students do quite well. One illustration is how often they show up in the finals of national spelling competitions. If you “google” the words “home schooled” and “spelling bee” together you will see page after page after page of success stories from places like Albuquerque, New Mexico, Oswego, New York or Fayetteville, North Carolina—as well as the national competition here in Washington DC.

There are other examples too.

I would especially like to congratulate Braden Juengel from Edmond, Oklahoma who was recently notified that he is one of only 39 people in the United States to receive a perfect score of 36 on his ACT test. Braden has been home schooled since the second grade. He is also a National Merit Scholar Finalist and plans to either attend Oral Roberts University or my alma mater, Baylor University, next fall. I congratulate him and his parents Mr. and Mrs. Randy and Luann Juengel.

These children are living proof that the “one size fits all” approach to education is not necessarily the only or the best way for our children to learn. This is not a knock against traditional schools. My wife and I chose for all of my kids to be taught in the Putnam City public school system. But let’s remember that the first and most important teachers that children have are their parents. We show them how to eat, help them to walk and teach them to communicate.

The Reuters news article also helps dispel the mistaken myth that home schooled kids are socially inept because they supposedly have less social interaction. Nothing could be further from the truth. Home schooled children frequently combine for many purposes—and they interact well. The growth of the home

schooling movement means that more and more children are learning together, just not in a traditional classroom. For example, a group of 70 home schooling families living in a Washington suburb organize regular group field trips and extracurricular activities for their home schooled children. They also come together for music lessons, soccer and basketball games and for art classes.

These are all ideas and events planned by parents, not school boards. Students are transported by mom or dad driving mini vans, not school buses. Home cooking beats school cafeteria food any day of the week. Education begins at home and I applaud the parents who recognize that they—not someone else—must take responsibility to assure that their children are well educated. I remind everyone: Whether you school them at home or send them to school, you as a parent have the responsibility to make sure they learn and behave. Teachers and principals may help, but parents are the ones who must accept responsibility.

I congratulate all the parents out there who made a commitment to put their children's education first. These are parents that our Founding Fathers would find worthy of praise.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AMY ARNAZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss Amy Arnaz for her outstanding service to the community of Boulder City as the owner and operator of Dance Etc. Dance Studio. She also serves as the Executive Director of the Boulder City Ballet Company. Miss Amy, as she is known to the community, will retire from her service of Boulder City on May 27, 2006.

Miss Amy began her ballet career at age 7 under the direction of English Ballerina Christina Carson. She attended college at San Diego State University, where she danced with the San Diego Ballet Company. After traveling to New York to study with the Joffrey School Ballet, she returned to Las Vegas and joined the Sulich's Nevada Dance Theater. In 1979, Miss Amy purchased Dance Etc., and she continues to teach ballet, tap, jazz, and exercise to this day.

In 1997, in cooperation with her husband Desi Arnaz Jr., she founded the non-profit Boulder City Ballet Company. While serving as the company's Executive Director, Miss Amy has brought joy to the lives of the children who live in the small town of Boulder City.

Miss Amy has been trained to teach the Royal Academy of Dancing System used by the Royal Academy of England. Her students are also exposed to various types of dance through guest instructors and special workshops. She is certified through the American Council on Exercise, and continues to train in order to remain at the top in her field. Miss Amy and her valuable efforts to bring dance to the community will be very missed by the city of Boulder City; however, she will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Miss Amy Arnaz on the floor of the House. I commend her for her contributions to Boulder City and thank her for her continued service to

the children of southern Nevada. I now yield the remainder of my time.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL MISSOURI EAGLES YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Central Missouri Eagles Youth Hockey Association for winning one of the Positive Coaching Alliance's 2006 "Honoring the Game" Awards. For those of you not familiar with the Positive Coaching Alliance, they are a partnership of coaches, athletes—both current and retired—and community leaders who are dedicated to improving the quality of youth sports programs by offering training workshops and providing resources to coaches and parents that stress sports fundamentals, positive coaching and good sportsmanship.

The Positive Coaching Alliance presents an Honoring the Game Award to youth sports organizations and schools that demonstrate excellence in coaching, strong organizational culture and the promotion of good values. Award winners receive an all expenses paid trip to San Francisco where they are recognized for their accomplishments. The Central Missouri Eagles Youth Hockey Association was one of three national winners and the only Midwest team to be honored.

The Eagles are composed of 4 coed teams with 60 players, ranging in age from 5 to 18. The Eagles have a motto—"Building Good Athletes and Great Citizens"—and they have certainly lived up to it. Since 2001, all players have participated in a community service project as part of their commitment to the team. This season, the Eagles made numerous outstanding contributions in Mid-Missouri.

The Eagles pee-wee team, which includes 11 and 12 year-olds, gathered 500 stuffed animals and 130 backpacks for abused and neglected children. The high school varsity squad also collected more than 400 stuffed animals for sick children at the University of Missouri's Children's Hospital in Columbia. Finally, the mite and squirt teams, which are 5 and 10 year-olds respectively, collected more than 300 cans of food for those in need.

The involvement of our youth in activities that build character through community service and athletic competition is a positive experience, and it is refreshing to hear of organizations such as the Eagles that not only promote sportsmanship, good coaching, and having fun but also encourage player development outside the rink. This is exemplified in an excerpt from the Eagles mission statement, which reads as follows:

"The community is best served when the Eagles graduate young citizens enriched by meaningful participation in a disciplined team sport, long after the outcomes of distant games have faded from memory."

The Eagles are an outstanding organization and should be commended for all their efforts. The coaches and parents who have made this program a success are also deserving of our praise and recognition. I wish the Eagles continued success both on and off the ice and

again offer my sincere congratulations for their winning an Honoring the Game Award from the Positive Coaching Alliance.

RECOGNIZING JOAN STELLA HOLMAN ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend Joan Stella Holman of Lakeport, California as she celebrates her 90th birthday and a lifetime of inspiring achievements.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 70 years Joan has been lighting up stages around the world. At an early age, Joan realized she wanted to become an actress. At only 17 years old, this driven and intelligent young woman traveled the world in pursuit of her dreams. She performed in England, South Africa and began her United States acting career in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Joan was born in England and became a naturalized citizen in 1952. After settling in San Francisco she began working as a journalist for the San Francisco Chronicle and the Oakland Tribune. While working in San Francisco she continued to perform in community theaters around the Bay Area. At age 66, Joan retired from her journalism career and settled in Lakeport, California, however, she could not retire from the stage.

Mr. Speaker, Joan has become an integral and dearly beloved member of our community. She is recognized throughout Lake County for her leadership, heartwarming personality and devotion to the arts. She has bettered our community through her love of acting. She has been cast in numerous community theater plays performing with the Lake County Repertory Theater, Ukiah Playhouse and Lakeport Community Players. In 1994 Joan received the Actress of the Year Award for her portrayal of Miss Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Joan is currently co-starring in "The Gin Game" which opens on the eve of her 90th birthday. While she may be in her 90th year she continues to portray characters with as much heart and spirit as someone who is starring in their very first role.

When not on stage, Joan continues to support the arts and our community through her dedication to several art organizations, including the Clearlake Performing Arts Council and the Lake County Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate that we take this time to thank and honor my dear friend Joan Stella Holman for all she has done for our community and for the arts. She is an inspiration to us all and on behalf of the United States Congress; I wish to extend our best wishes to her as she celebrates her 90th birthday on April 24, 2006.

COMMEMORATING COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Cover the Uninsured Week.

Since its inception in 2003, the week held from May 1–May 7, recognizes the plight of one of the greatest threats to our Nation—46 million Americans who lack health insurance coverage.

This important initiative is led by former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. During the week, community-based events are organized throughout the Nation to heighten public awareness about the importance of making health care coverage a civil right and a priority on our public policy agenda. Over the past three years, the week of events has included health fairs, seminars for small businesses, as well as faith-based, college and university activities.

Mr. Speaker, 46 million Americans—which equates to 15 percent of the population—are living without any form of health insurance coverage. As a Nation that embodies democracy and spreads its principles of equality throughout the world, we should be shocked by this astounding figure. The statistics regarding the uninsured are equally shocking:

Proportionately, Hispanics and African-Americans have been hit the hardest by our failure to provide health care for all. At least 60 percent of Hispanic Americans, more than 43 percent of African Americans, and 23 percent of Caucasians are among the uninsured.

More than one in four uninsured adults (or 26.6 percent) have less than a high school education.

Only 9 percent of people in families with income over \$50,000 per year are uninsured, compared to 40.8 percent of people with family income below \$5,000.

A national survey conducted in 2003 found that almost six in 10 uninsured adults (59 percent) have been without health insurance for two years or more.

In the state of Maryland, approximately 810,000 people, 14.6 percent of the total population, lack health insurance coverage.

Mr. Speaker, these statistics illustrate something very concrete and clear: the human consequences of having tens of millions of Americans uninsured are appalling. Necessary medical treatment is being delayed too long or altogether, and the Americans are dying unnecessarily.

Apart from this fact, the employment-based health insurance system, which provides health insurance for almost two-thirds of the non-elderly population, is also broken.

The reasons are complex, but this much is clear.

Too many Americans are working at low-paid or part-time jobs that do not provide health insurance coverage.

Insurance costs are increasing—and those employers who do offer coverage are attempting to shift more and more of those costs onto their employees.

We also know that those areas of our economy in which any job growth is occurring are about 10 percent less likely to provide health care coverage than those in which the number of available jobs is shrinking.

Mr. Speaker, based on all of these facts, the time to change our Nation's healthcare equation is upon us. There has to be a better way to ensure universal, high quality care. I am convinced that there is no human right more fundamental than the preservation of life. Wealth should not be a pre-condition to world class health care in a nation that truly values all of its people.

With that said, I have joined Michigan Congressman JOHN CONYERS and many others in proposing the United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676).

This proposal would create a nation-wide, single-payer health care system that is publicly financed but provides private care. It would include expanding and improving the existing Medicare program to cover Americans of all ages. Under the plan, Americans would retain (or regain) the right to choose their own doctors. Other health care professionals and all medically necessary services would be covered. There would also be neither co-pays nor deductibles.

Today, I encourage my colleagues to work with us in advancing the vision of universal health care for the following three reasons:

We must not allow the sick and dying Americans in our communities to be marginalized.

We must make common cause with all of the Americans to provide the care that they need at a cost that they can afford.

We must be clear in our assertion that health care is a fundamental human right whatever may be the color of a person's skin.

Now is the time to create a health care system that truly serves ALL Americans and now is the time for America to transform our human right to health care into a civil right guaranteed—and funded—by federal law. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 676.

NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE OF FLORIDA LAND SALE

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced common sense legislation that provides the Forestry Service the flexibility they need to properly manage their assets. This legislation modifies the Florida National Forest Land Management Act in two simple ways, which will provide the Forest Service essential authority to manage the National Forests in Florida effectively.

The first provision simply adds an unmanageable tract of land located in Tallahassee, FL to the list of lands the Secretary of Agriculture is currently authorized to sell. This specific property, tract W-1979, is approximately 114 acres of land that has evolved into an unmanageable problem area for the Apalachicola National Forest. Due to the configuration and surrounding development, the vegetation cannot be managed through prescribed fire. Although a very valuable tract from a real estate/commercial aspect, this tract has lost its National Forest character. The sale of this land will allow the Forest Service to purchase other lands located within the Forest that are more manageable and will enhance National Forests in Florida.

Secondly, this legislation would allow the Forest Service to use proceeds from the sale of other "non-green land" to be used for construction and improvements to Administrative facilities essential to the proper management of the Forest. These "non-green land" tracts of land are owned by the Forest Service, but have urban improvements like fairgrounds or sporting complexes and are not conducive to the overall purpose of protecting our National Forests.

This legislation would allow the Service to use the proceeds from the sale of improved lands to build critical infrastructure they need to manage the Forests in Florida, while allowing the Forest Service to continue its practice of using receipts from all nondeveloped "green land" tracts for the acquisition of other "green land" tracts to enhance the National Forests in Florida. By passing this legislation, the Forest Service will have the ability to efficiently and effectively manage our Nation's precious resources.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT JEFFERY D. GUSTAFSON

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate CMSgt Jeffery D. Gustafson of Rochester, Minnesota, on his dedicated service in the United States Air Force.

In November of 1975, Chief Master Sergeant Gustafson enlisted in the United States Air Force at the 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Force Reserve Station in Minnesota. He retired from the same station on April 1, 2006, having achieved the highest attainable enlisted rank in the United States Military.

Chief Master Sergeant Gustafson has served the United States from across the world, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Honduras. He was given the distinct honor of being the first troop commander of a fully manned Aerospace Expeditionary Force for the United States Air Force. He was also the first recipient of the General Rawlings Air Force Sergeant Association and Air Force Association Chapter's Chief Master Sergeant of the Year. In addition, Chief Master Sergeant Gustafson has been thanked in person for his military service by President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere gratitude to CMSgt Jeffery D. Gustafson for his service in the United States Air Force and his commitment to our nation. His distinguished accomplishments reflect to the highest degree upon himself and the United States Air Force.

AMTRAK 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amtrak on its 35th Anniversary, and commemorate its 35 years of public service to this Nation through its commitment to passenger rail.

I travel all over the country and the people I talk to love Amtrak. It is a great way to commute to work, it takes cars off our already congested highways, and in many areas of the country is the only mode of transportation available. In fact, ridership has increased in 8 of the last 9 years reaching a record level of over 25 million passengers last year. It is also important to note that Amtrak's long distance

trains are the only inner city passenger trains in half the states in America.

Amtrak was also a First Responder during hurricane Katrina, and helped evacuate thousands of Gulf region residents while President Bush and his Administration were nowhere to be found. Now they are becoming a key part in each State's future evacuation plans.

Now what I can't understand is why the Bush Administration is trying to destroy passenger rail in this country. Every industrialized country in the world is investing heavily in rail infrastructure because they realize that this is the future of transportation. But sadly, as there systems get bigger and better, our system gets less and less money.

President Bush has a lot of wacky ideas for dealing with the high gas prices he created, but I can assure him that as prices climb to \$4 dollars per gallon, you are going to see Americans lining up to use a passenger rail system that has been neglected by this very Administration. But what more do you expect when you put J.R. Ewing in the White House.

Once again we see the Bush Administration's paying for its failed policies by cutting funds to vital public services and jeopardizing more American jobs. This Administration sees nothing wrong with taking money from the hard working Amtrak employees who work day and night to provide top quality service to their passengers. These folks are trying to make a living for their families, and they don't deserve this shabby treatment from the President.

With the passage of the latest emergency funding for the war, President Bush will have spent over \$439 billion on the war in Iraq, but could only find \$900 million for Amtrak's 25 million passengers. Just one week's investment in Iraq would significantly improve passenger rail for the entire country for an entire year. This is another perfect example of just how out of touch this Administration is because I can assure the President that there is a whole lot more support for Amtrak in this country than there is for the war in Iraq.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation spread about Amtrak, and it is important for people to know the real facts about Amtrak. Ridership numbers are at record levels, outstanding debt has been reduced by \$300 million, major infrastructure projects have been completed. All with a workforce that has been reduced by over 4,000 employees.

We still have a lot of work ahead of us when it comes to Amtrak. But we're starting \$900 million closer to our goal, and I know with the help of the American public, we can fully fund Amtrak at \$1.6 billion and keep Amtrak running long into the future.

REMEMBERING FRIEDA FRY

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, March 8, 2006, marked the death of Frieda M. Fry, age 94, an honored resident of my district. Her passing prompts me to remark on this remarkable woman, and how she exemplifies qualities that we should encourage in all of our citizens.

A lifelong citizen of Summit County, and 50 year resident of Richfield Township, Frieda

was wife of Federal Administrative Law Judge Walter Logan Fry, who preceded her in death in 1978. Judge Fry served long and well in federal service, culminating with his appointment to the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, DHEW, including 3 years as ALJ in charge of the Cleveland, Ohio, Office.

Frieda was born in Barberton, Ohio, and traces her roots to the Swiss and German settlers of the early eighteenth century. She graduated from Akron East High School in 1929; and received the Diploma for Elementary Teaching from Kent State College (now University) in 1931.

From 1931 to 1935, she taught Fourth Grade at the Betty Jane School in Akron. Beginning in 1941, she taught elementary grades for the Boston Rural School District in Peninsula. Beginning in 1962, she taught elementary grades at Hillcrest Elementary School in Richfield, Ohio.

Mrs. Fry's interest in learning began early. Son, W. Logan Fry, recounts: "mother told us that when she was a little girl, she would spend half her allowance on lunch—and the other half on books. Books opened the whole world to her. At her death, her personal library included books on art, science, religion, medicine, psychology, nature, history and the cultures of the world."

Following Judge Fry's death in 1978, Mrs. Fry traveled five continents. She traveled across China; visited small textile factories in India; rode on the backs of elephants in Kashmir; and experienced the smells of the opium dens of Katmandu. On this later trip, a very finely dressed gentleman with a well-trimmed mustache, who described himself as a diplomat, asked if she had any daughters—and volunteered to care for them generously if she did. Mrs. Fry politely declined, but continued in a mutually rewarding conversation.

In Russia, she attended a performance of the Moscow Ballet on a wintry Christmas Eve; and enjoyed the circus in Uzbekistan. The jet flight to Tashkent, with goats and chickens on the passenger list, was a harrowing but thrilling experience.

Frieda made many trips to Germany and Switzerland. On one such trip, with daughter Nancy Fry Laessig, two German citizens on a facing train car seat said, in their native language: "Look at those two Americans, they don't even know the difference between the Danube and the Rhine." Nancy translated, and Mrs. Fry shot back: "We are guests in your country, you should be telling us all about your country, not disparaging your guests." That led to a deeper conversation, and her German critics soon became friends, sharing ideas and experiences until their train arrived in Zurich.

Mrs. Fry also traveled in and across Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Germany, France, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand, among others.

Moreover, as part of Richfield's "Mundialization" program, she entertained friends from Wolfach, Germany; and visited them in their own homes in Wolfach. (In the 1960s, Richfield, Ohio became America's first 'world town,' followed by Minneapolis, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Boston, among others.)

Frieda Fry placed her beacon atop of her basket; and has served as an example for two generations of her own children. Grandson Michael Fry who competed for the United States

in Amateur Rope Skipping Competitions in Korea, Australia, Belgium and Canada; granddaughter Bonnie Laessig who traveled across Norway with her paternal grandfather, artist Robert Laessig; granddaughter Holly Laessig who studied language and culture in Bangkok, Thailand; granddaughter Rachel Mitton Fry who studied language in Tel Aviv and biochemistry in Munich; and granddaughter Elizabeth Anne Fry who studied Russian in Moscow, built homes in South Africa with President Jimmy Carter and Habitat for Humanity and, last year, taught elementary students in Tanzania.

The qualities that Frieda M. Fry demonstrated in her daily life are well suited for all Americans—the delight in learning, the calling to teach and spread knowledge, and the engagement with the people with whom we share our planet. For her, 9/11 was not a call to isolation and retreat, and certainly not an excuse to erect rigid barriers designed to bar students, artists, immigrants and refugees from our shores.

Frieda Fry embraced the people of the world, and their diverse cultures.

We will all miss her.

RESPONSE TO 2006 USTR SPECIAL 301 REPORT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week the USTR issued its annual Special 301 report evaluating intellectual property laws in foreign countries. During this year's review process, I wrote to Ambassador Portman along with a bipartisan group of my colleagues raising concern about the agency's consideration of complaints by the pharmaceutical industry against Israel. PhRMA had called on USTR to elevate Israel to the worst designation of "Priority Foreign Country" and work to block Israel's membership in the OECD because of pharmaceutical IP issues.

I am glad to see that the USTR chose not to take these drastic steps. Such action would have been unwarranted and damaging to an important ally. However, I am deeply disappointed that Israel did remain on the "Priority Watch List." Israel has worked in steadfast consultation with the U.S. to adopt broader protections for pharmaceutical products. Israeli lawmakers, under the leadership of then-Minister of Trade Ehud Olmert, passed legislation that strikes a balance between the need to provide strong protections for innovators and timely access to affordable treatment for the Israeli public.

Similar to a U.S. law, commonly referred to as Hatch-Waxman, the Israeli system provides patent extensions for delays in the drug approval process as well as 5 years of exclusive marketing rights for new drugs that enter the market. This is far beyond the level of protection required by the World Trade Organization agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS). Yet, by keeping Israel on the "Priority Watch List," the Special 301 report criticizes Israel just as harshly as major IP offenders like China and Russia, and more harshly than many other countries with weaker IP regimes.

These inconsistencies raise serious questions about how the agency makes its designations. I am particularly concerned about the report's inordinate emphasis on the protection of pharmaceutical test data submitted for the approval of new drugs. Of the 48 countries named in the report, 28 were criticized for inadequate test data protection nearly double those cited on this issue in 2001.

USTR has insisted that the TRIPS "data protection" requirement be strictly interpreted like a Hatch-Waxman provision that mandates a 5-year period during which a generic copy cannot be approved. As one of the principal authors of that legislation, I find this position at best misguided and at worst immoral.

First, nothing in TRIPS requires any period of "data protection," much less 5 years. Article 39.3 of TRIPS only requires protection from "unfair commercial use" and there is certainly no global consensus about what that actually means. Second, the U.S. system is not a "one-size-fits-all" solution that is appropriate for all countries. For many poor countries, adoption of five years of "data protection" will deprive their citizens of any and all access to life-saving drugs.

When Special 301 Report designations become arbitrary and excessive, they lose their credibility and effectiveness. It is time for Congress to examine the process by which the USTR reviews intellectual property protection laws, weighs submissions from industry and related advisory committees, and ultimately, how it determines the status of the foreign countries in its annual report.

**MOREHOUSE COLLEGE CROWNED
NATIONAL CHAMPION AT 17TH
ANNUAL HONDA CAMPUS ALL-
STAR CHALLENGE**

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to inform fellow Members about a recent academic competition featuring some of the nation's sharpest young minds. The 17th annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) in Orlando featured students from the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This year, the team from Morehouse College, which is located in my Congressional District, won the competition. I want to offer my sincere congratulations to Dr. Anderson Williams, Coach of the Morehouse team, along with Jordan A. Harris who was captain of the winning team.

In addition to the sense of personal satisfaction the Morehouse team gained from winning, they also received a \$50,000 grant for their school. The runner-up, North Carolina Central University, took home a \$25,000 grant. The remaining 62 teams earned grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$15,000. Through the program, more than \$300,000 in institutional grants are awarded annually to participating schools.

For 17 years, HCASC has celebrated the academic and cultural benefits offered by the HBCUs while honoring African American cultural icons. Since Honda founded this program in 1989, more than 50,000 HBCU students have participated, and Honda annually awards educational grants to participating HBCUs.

More than 320 college students from 64 HBCUs across the country competed in the 4-day round-robin format tournament. The top two teams from each of eight divisions advance to the "Sweet 16," in a single-elimination playoff. The final two teams then compete for the National Champion title in a best 2-out of 3-final series.

Nearly 100 HBCU presidents, educators, alumni and community volunteers attended the event, themed "Your Challenging Spirit" to support the participating students. The theme speaks to the spirit the students have exhibited to get to this point and may have to call upon throughout their lives. Influential PBS Talk Show Host and radio personality, Tavis Smiley, kicked off the event with a keynote speech at the welcome dinner.

In addition to winning institutional grants, the one-of-a-kind competition gives HCASC students the chance to exercise teamwork and establish long-term relationships through unique networking forums.

The Morehouse team included: captain Jordan A. Harris (Senior, Economics), and players Mark A. Bernard (Senior, Chemistry), Anthony Christopher Smith (Senior, Political Science & Pre-Law), John Ramsey Clarke (Senior, Economics) and Alvin McNair (Freshman, Undeclared). They were coached by Dr. Anderson Cornelius Williams (Professor; Elberton, Ga.).

The Honda Campus All-Star Challenge is the only competition of its kind and was established by American Honda Motor Co., Inc., in 1989. Since the inception of the program, more than 50,000 HBCU students have participated, and Honda has awarded more than \$5 million in grants to HBCUs to improve campus life through facility improvements and increasing academic resources.

Below is a list of the 16 playoff teams which qualified for the "Sweet 16" playoff round in Orlando. Congratulations to all the participating teams and thanks to Honda for sponsoring such a wonderful event.

**2006 HONDA CAMPUS ALL-STAR CHALLENGE
SWEET 16 PLAYOFF TEAMS**

1. Alabama State University.
2. Benedict College.
3. Central State University.
4. Clark Atlanta University.
5. Elizabeth City State University.
6. Florida A&M University.
7. Harris-Stowe State University.
8. Howard University.
9. Mississippi Valley State University.
10. Morehouse College.
11. Morgan State University.
12. Norfolk State University.
13. North Carolina Central University.
14. Spelman College.
15. Tennessee State University.
16. University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

**2006 SAILOR OF THE YEAR
AWARDS**

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 30 young men and women in the United States Navy. On March 23, I attended the Sailor of the Year awards at Naval Station Mayport in my hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. The Sailor of the Year is bestowed upon

one young man or woman in each of the naval units stationed at Naval Station Mayport.

We all know that it takes courage and dedication to enlist in our armed forces. All of these honorees have made that valiant decision to serve our country. They have successfully navigated the Navy Basic Training Course and have excelled in their chosen rating. However, these men and women were picked today because over the course of the past year, they have gone above and beyond the call of duty and demonstrated great character and resolve. Their command leadership who work with them day in and day out, in peacetime and in wartime have hand selected these honorees because they see a great leadership potential in each one of them. It was my honor to be the guest speaker at their award ceremony, and I wish them the best in their future in the Navy and in life. They make us proud of our men and women in uniform. Thank you and Godspeed.

Sailor of the Year Honorees:

AD1(AW) Crystal T. Cooper assigned to AIMD Mayport,

BM1(SW) Paul Burt assigned to ATG Mayport,

HM1 Andrea M. Searcey assigned to BMC Mayport.

AE1(AW) Bret F. Stroman assigned to CNL Mayport,

IT1(SW) Michael T. Laurie assigned to COMHSLWINGLANT,

IS1(SW) Walter J. McKinley assigned to COMUSNAVSO,

AO1(AW) Christopher M. Ham assigned to HSL 40,

AZ1(AW) Cory S. Benfield assigned to HSL 42,

AE1(AW) Christopher B. King assigned to HSL 44,

AD1(AW) Christopher N. Howell assigned to HSL 44,

AW1(NAC/AW) Spencer G. Wait assigned to HSL 46,

AM1(AW) Aristile S. Guidry assigned to HSL 46,

AD1(AW) Abraham Tolbert assigned to HSL 48,

NC1(SW) Lizzie Martin assigned to HSL 48, AW1(AW/SW) Jason C. Kleinsmith assigned to HSM Weapons School,

CS1(SW/AW) Stephan Jones assigned to NS Mayport,

GSM1(SW) Gregory L. Crum assigned to SERMC,

CTT1(SW) James C. Woods assigned to the USS Boone,

FC1(SW) Christopher D. Weddel assigned to the USS Carney,

IT1(SW) Benjamin J. Padgett assigned to the USS Doyle,

GSM1(SW) Scot A. Wanser assigned to the USS Halyburton,

CTT1(SW) Scott B. Aaron assigned to the USS Hue City,

EM1(SW) Adam J. Smyk assigned to the USS McInerney,

OS1(SW) Hannabal E. Forbes assigned to USS John L. Hall,

EN1(SW) Andrew J. Hochgraver assigned to USS Samuel B. Roberts,

TM1(SW) Christopher Moore assigned to the USS R.G. Bradley,

EN1(SW) Paul A. Gurrola assigned to the USS Simpson,

EM1(SW) Oliver Cummings assigned to the USS Taylor

EM1(SW) Timothy Howard assigned to the USS The Sullivans,

EM1(SW) Cory Baron assigned to the USS Vicksburg.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
GERALD D. "JERRY" COCHRAN
OF CRESCENT CITY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Honorable Gerald D. "Jerry" Cochran on the occasion of his retirement as the Del Norte County Assessor, an office he has held for the last 36 years.

Mr. Cochran has been a dedicated advocate for the citizens of Del Norte County since first being elected to office on November 3, 1970. He is a tenacious public servant with a reputation for being forthright, open and responsive to the needs of the community. He has been a consistent advocate for working families and for those less fortunate. I consider him a true friend and counselor, someone I rely upon to advise me about issues affecting the most northern coastal county of California, home of

the Smith River National Recreation Area and Redwood National Park.

Over the last three decades in Del Norte County, Mr. Cochran has provided outstanding and resourceful leadership during critical, watershed events for the region. He was a fierce advocate on behalf of the county leading up to the expansion of Redwood National Park in 1978. He led the local effort to site a California correctional facility in Del Norte County in 1980's. He has fought for highway improvement projects, protected the county's interest in state and federal land acquisitions and always focused on ways in which to help build the local economy to secure good-paying, long-term jobs.

Mr. Cochran moved to California from the state of Wisconsin when he was five years old, one of five children of Tom & Alvina Cochran. He attended Humboldt State University and joined the United States Air Force, serving our nation for four years with duty in Japan, Vietnam and at the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. Cochran has served on numerous local boards, including Sutter Coast Hospital, Rural

Human Services, Humboldt State University Advisory Board, and the Wild Rivers Community Foundation. He currently serves on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the prestigious Golden Gate Bridge District Board of Directors.

He is an active member of Rotary International of Crescent City, the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee and was recently asked to serve as the Del Norte County Veterans Service Officer. In 2005 he received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Crescent City/Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce.

Jerry married the lovely Jacqueline Cochran 41 years ago; they have one daughter, Marcy, son-in-law Darin Bradbury, and a beloved grandson, Dalton.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Gerald D. "Jerry" Cochran for his vision, leadership and commitment to a healthy and vibrant Del Norte County and for his extraordinary record of public service to the people of the North Coast of California.