

Gary was, however, far more than a respected member of our police force. He was a loving husband for more than 18 years, he was the proud father of two, and he was an active, well-recognized, and beloved member of Port Richmond—a home to many Philadelphia police officers.

I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Gary Skerski and in remembrance of the 56 United States law enforcement officers who have died this year in the line-of-duty.

These brave men and women in uniform have given their lives while protecting our communities. These brave men and women died while enforcing and upholding our laws. And, these brave men and women left behind family, friends and colleagues for the benefit of others.

Our nation must never forget their contributions to the safety, security and betterment of our neighborhoods. I know I and my staff will not forget Gary, his sense of dedication, and the contributions he made to our community.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with the Skerski family during this very difficult time. And, I know that all of my colleagues, and all Americans, join me in honoring Officer Gary Skerski and all of the officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote 159. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" for 159. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following these votes. H. Res. 740, Roll Call No. 159, Vote "Aye".

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#### FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize, Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, I would have hoped to be able to rise today to support a bill that strengthened our existing law in caring for and protecting our environment. Unfortunately, this is not so.

When the Forests Emergency Recovery and Research Act was introduced, I did not consider it perfect, but I felt that the intent was

good. I had faith that as the bill moved through committees, any weaknesses or inconsistencies would be amended, and that ultimately we would have on the floor a bill that I would want to support.

Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the case. The bill purports to provide for emergency recovery projects to help lands heal from natural disasters such as floods and fires, when in fact it imposes unnecessary exemptions from provisions in the Clean Water Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

New research and peer-reviewed science is emerging that verifies that post-disturbance or post-fire logging destroys wildlife habitat, pollutes watersheds, and delays a forest's ability to regenerate itself. In fact, what some term "salvage logging" may even increase the risk of fire.

These studies have indicated that ecosystems have an amazing ability to recover quickly from fires; in fact, fires are needed for regeneration and re-growth. Forests are, in fact, much like the legendary Phoenix, experiencing a majestic rebirth from ashes periodically. Dead or damaged trees help to insulate ground-level growth and absorb moisture, preventing fire. These "snags" also serve as protective homes for multitudes of wildlife before they decompose and return sustenance to the soil.

At stake here, however, is writing into law land management practices that are quickly proving themselves not only out of date, but detrimental to the environment. We must remember that fire clean-up and logging profit is not the only goal—our main goal should be to preserve these forests for posterity.

Therefore I can not support this bill in its current form, and I encourage my colleagues to vote against an act that attempts to undermine existing environmental protections and damage delicate ecological balance.

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#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM F. HARVEY

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William F. Harvey who donates his optometric services to the Paiute Tribe Health Services, and the Las Vegas Blind Center.

Dr. William F. Harvey was born in Las Vegas, Nevada, on November 2, 1948. Dr. Harvey attended Western High School in 1967 before finishing his undergraduate education at Brigham Young University in 1972. Dr. Harvey graduated at the top of his class at Illinois College of Optometry in 1976 and moved back to Las Vegas to start his private practice.

Dr. Harvey works hard in his private practice and is a devout husband, father of three, and grandfather of six; however, he still reserves time to serve the community. Since 1993 Dr. Harvey has donated his time to the Las Vegas Blind Center and continues to serve the Paiute Tribe Health and Human Services, giving their patients free optometric care.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. William F. Harvey on the floor of the House. I commend him for his continued service to the residents of southern Nevada.

#### RECOGNIZING THOMAS MERSHON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Mershon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

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#### TRIBUTE TO WILBERT "BILL" TATUM, RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 "HUDSON LINK'S BILL WEBBER AWARD"

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a dear friend and colleague on the occasion of a very special awards recognition to honor him with the Hudson Link's Bill Webber Award.

Wilbert "Bill" Tatum has been an integral part of the fabric of New York for many, many years. When I think back on the years of our association many thoughts come to mind. Bill is not only an intellectual, in the best sense of that word, but a pioneering journalist, and entrepreneur who for more than 30 years has guided the Amsterdam News, one of the Nation's most important newspapers. In doing so, he has dedicated his professional life to informing and defending his people, building his community, and fighting to make our country better.

In April 1971, when he, along with Percy Sutton and Clarence Jones, acquired the Amsterdam News, Bill Tatum was determined to play a role in changing the social climate in New York. By the mid-1970's the newspaper took what some called militant positions on civil rights issues but by the end of the decade began to focus more broadly on the social and economic issues. Under Bill's leadership, the Amsterdam News continued to flourish and gained a reputation as an intrepid African American voice on controversial local issues.

Most New Yorkers can remember how tenacious Bill Tatum was when he applied pressure on the then New York mayor, Ed Koch. Bill, through the newspaper, constantly monitored the activities of city hall and the mayor. Holding the mayor's feet to the fire, brought New Yorkers out of the polls, and cleared the way for the election of David Dinkins, New York's first African American mayor.

I would like to acknowledge that Bill's daughter, Elinor, continues the Amsterdam News' legacy into the 21st century. She has pledged to keep the Amsterdam as the unwavering voice the Black community in New York.

Mr. Speaker, again I congratulate my friend Bill Tatum as a much deserving recipient of the prestigious "Hudson Link's Bill Webber Award" as I enter this recognition into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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HONORING THE EDGEWOOD  
BULLDOGS GOLF TEAM

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2006*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Edgewood Bulldogs golf team who recently won the Texas University Interscholastic League State 2-A Championship.

On Thursday and Friday, May 11–12, 2006, the golf team competed in the University Interscholastic League Championship tournament at the Jimmy Clay Golf Course in Austin, Texas, for the State Championship. The Bulldogs competed against 200 other 2-A schools, holding to a one-stroke lead that brought home their first ever Boys Golf Championship and second team title in Edgewood High School history.

Today I would like to congratulate Head Coach Stan Williams, and players Dillon Phillips, Brett Perry, Garrett Cecil, Justin King, and Michael Waites.

As the Congressional representative of the players, families, coaches, and supporters of the Edgewood Bulldogs, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory and outstanding season.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the resolution expressing the Sense of Congress that calls for mandatory reductions of greenhouse gas emissions to address global warming.

There is no doubt in my mind that global warming is happening and that man is contributing to it. Now, it is our responsibility to work to mitigate the impacts of potentially catastrophic climate change.

The year 2005 is currently tied for the warmest year on record with 1998. However, the warmth in 2005 is remarkable because, in

contrast to 1998, it was not boosted by El Niño. And since 1990, we've had the 10 hottest years on record.

Hurricanes are getting stronger, heat-waves are hitting harder and more often, and the polar ice cap and Greenland's ice are melting. We must act now.

We need to deal with climate change with concerted action and with bipartisan dialogue, regional cooperation and an alliance between industry and environmentalists.

The threat from global warming is very real, and we must act now to combat potentially catastrophic climate change. We cannot leave this legacy to our children and grandchildren.

We simply will not have a world to live in if we continue our neglectful ways.

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HONORING THE CONGREGATION  
ETZ CHAIM ON ITS 30TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2006*

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, May 21, 2006, the Congregation Etz Chaim of Marietta, Georgia will mark its 30th anniversary. As the first Jewish congregation in Marietta, Etz Chaim has grown from its beginning in 1975 to be a leader today in the Jewish community of Atlanta.

In celebrating their commitment to faith and service, the congregation is honoring two of their most distinguished members: Judy and Stan Fineman. Over the years, Judy and Stan have dedicated their time and energy to Etz Chaim with a selfless devotion. They share in the excellent reputation and tradition of this congregation, and I applaud their generous contributions to our community.

On this anniversary, we have the opportunity to reflect on the message of excellence and altruism Etz Chaim has brought to Marietta. Spurred by their spiritual leader Rabbi Shalom Lewis and embodied in each individual member, the principles of the message of Etz Chaim are as important today as they were 30 years ago: A "commitment to our faith and tradition, community service, giving to others, life long learning, and the passing of Judaism from generation to generation."

It is my privilege to join Congregation Etz Chaim in looking forward to a future of continued growth and service to others.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATTY SUE  
HUCHINSON

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patty Sue Hutchinson to celebrate the anniversary of the McFadden Insurance Agency, which she started 25 years ago.

Patty Hutchinson was born on March 25, 1933 in Springfield, Missouri. After graduating as Valedictorian of her high school in 1950, she started in the insurance business the very next week. Her first time out of her small town she had no formal education on the insurance

business she received on the job training due to the lack of insurance education classes at the time.

In 1952, she married Bob Hutchinson, and due to his Air Force career they were transferred first to Anchorage, Alaska then to Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, NV. Patty worked for various independent agents and adjusters after moving to Las Vegas. After the birth of her first child she went to work for Farmers Insurance Company when they opened their first claims office in Las Vegas. When her second child was born she decided to work part time for Key Adjustment Company. When deciding to return to full time employment Patty returned to work for Peccole Insurance Agency. In 1960, she was rehired at Key Adjustment Company. In 1966 she was requested by a former Key Adjustment Employer, to move with him to Horsey Insurance Agency as an office manager and commercial underwriter. In 1979, she took insurance courses, receiving her Certificate for General Principles of Insurance from the Insurance Institute of America. She soon after took the State test and became an agent. Patty then joined with John McFadden opening McFadden Insurance as a 50 percent partner in 1981.

Her commendations include: the Insurance Women's Association of Las Vegas' Woman of the Year, President of the Nevada Independent Insurance Agents from 1983–84, Education Chairperson for the Nevada Independent Insurance Agents, the Nevada Insurance Education Foundation Trustee, and was the first woman to go through the chairs and serve as President of the Independent Insurance Agent's of Southern Nevada. Patty has received many awards with the Nevada Independent Insurance Agents, and most recently in 1996 was Insurance Person of the Year for the University of Nevada Las Vegas's Institute for Insurance and Risk Management.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Patty Sue Hutchinson for her years of service and her many successes in the insurance industry.

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RECOGNIZING ANDREW MEYERS  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Meyers, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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