

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF FROM THE HEART CHURCH
MINISTRIES

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of From the Heart Church Ministries. Since its beginnings in 1981 with only twenty four members, From the Heart Ministries has provided spiritual guidance Prince George's County community through worship services and radio broadcasts.

Founder and Pastor Reverend John A. Cherry is a nationally acclaimed minister whose message of hope and committed spiritual teaching has changed the lives of many. Under his steady leadership, From the Heart Ministries has grown from its modest beginnings as a storefront church to becoming one of the largest churches in Prince George's County, providing services to over 26,000 members. Reverend Cherry's spiritual message is also broadcast Sundays and during the week, providing religious guidance and teaching to thousands more.

Reverend Cherry's twenty five years of service have established a foundation of strong biblical teaching rooted in faith and love—a foundation that his son, John A. Cherry II, will build upon. Reverend John A. Cherry II will officially be installed as pastor during the anniversary celebration.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing From the Heart Ministries' 25th Anniversary and applauding the, accomplishments of Reverend John A. Cherry. His legacy of spiritual leadership will allow his son to continue to his work and influence the hearts and minds of a faithful community for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed four votes on May 19th, 2006. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on defeating the Previous Question on H.Res. 821 (the Rule providing consideration for H.R. 5385—Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act); "no" on H.Res. 821 (the Rule providing consideration for H.R. 5385—Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act); "yes" on the Blumenauer Amendment (increasing appropriations for the clean up on closed military bases) and "yes" on H.R. 5385 (Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act).

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

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to explain my opposition to the Interior Appropriations bill. This important bill should reflect our national commitment to protecting our air, our water, and some of our most treasured public lands, including our national forests, parks, and open spaces. Unfortunately, this bill fails to live up to our responsibility to be good stewards of our natural heritage. This bill cuts the Clean Water State Revolving Funds by \$200 million and cuts State Conservation Grants to below last year's levels. Most egregiously, this bill cuts funding for essential projects to repair and upgrade facilities in our National Parks by \$216 million below last year's levels and more than \$400 billion below the level of six years ago. This bill does not meet the federally mandated increase in federal pay and other fixed costs of the National Park Service. As a result, we will see cutbacks in staff and visitor services at our parks. This bill also does not include any funding for schools at Indian reservations.

I am disappointed to have to vote against this bill because it did contain some worthwhile provisions. In it, the Congress finally recognized the reality of global warming. Though the bill does not include any concrete steps to address the problem, I was pleased that Congress finally acknowledged the issue. I also supported an amendment included in this bill that would require energy companies to pay royalties for the oil and natural gas they obtain from publicly-owned lands. This common sense amendment ends an unnecessary and illogical subsidy to the oil and gas industry and allows the American people to benefit from the use of our public resources.

There was a Democratic amendment that would have addressed this bill's most critical failings. We proposed a plan to add essential funds to this bill by making a small reduction to the average tax cut for the wealthiest Americans. My Republican colleagues reject this proposal, upholding tax cuts for a few at the expense of important initiatives that benefit all Americans. As a result, we have a bill that fails to adequately protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and our shared natural heritage that we hold dear.

HONORING HAKKI GURKAN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hakki G. Gurkan of Chicago, Illinois, on the occasion of his 30th birthday. Currently serving our Nation in Iraq, Hakki is continuing an impressive career in many areas of public service.

Petty Officer, 2nd class Gurkan joined the United States Navy Reserve in 2002 and is now serving overseas in Iraq as an Intelligence Specialist. He is fiercely proud to serve his country and I am certainly proud of him.

Before being mobilized, Hakki served as a Chicago Police Officer for 6 years. As a patrol officer in the 11th District, he worked tirelessly every day to respond to emergencies and keep our community safe and secure.

Last year Hakki added to his already considerable background in public service by using his vacation time to serve as an intern in my Washington, DC office. He was a strong addition to the office and assisted my staff in many important ways.

Hakki received his bachelor of arts degree from Columbia College in Chicago and earned a master's degree in law enforcement administration from Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I thank Hakki for his devoted service to our country, both at home and overseas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending best wishes to Petty Officer, 2nd Class Gurkan and all American men and women in uniform serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world.

IN HONOR OF POLISH
CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day—sharing their cultural gifts along a parade route lined with food, song and joyous celebration.

The first written European constitution, the Governmental Statute of Poland, was instated on May 8, 1791. Poland's Constitution was the result of nearly five centuries of struggle and perseverance by the people of Poland to diminish the power of the King and also to create facets and an institution of government vital to the foundation of a constitutional government. The Polish American Congress was formed in 1949, and continues to serve as a

● 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.

significant bond of Polish culture, heritage and history in Cleveland and across the country. The group serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Taking a positive stand on issues concerning the people of Poland, the group strives to attain a free market economy within the framework of a democratic society.

The goal of the Polish American Congress is to make Americans of Polish heritage more successful U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. In addition, the group supports fraternal, professional, religious, and civic associations dedicated to the improvement of the status of all Americans of Polish heritage. The Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish community, and in its many years of support and service has been an invaluable contribution to the city of Cleveland and beyond.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the leaders and members of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate Polish Constitution Day and as they continue to promote and protect the heritage, history and culture of their beloved Polish homeland—providing awareness and connection to every new generation born in America, and enriching the diverse fabric of our entire Cleveland community.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

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:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to Interior appropriations bill and in support of the Putnam/Capps amendment that will be considered on the floor today.

For 25 years we have maintained a bipartisan agreement to ban any new drilling off our shores because we believed it was more important to safeguard the health and beauty of our coastal environment for future generations to enjoy.

But now the Interior appropriations bill threatens to upset this agreement and open our coastal areas to drilling despite overwhelming opposition from the American people.

We should not be trading away our pristine coastal habitats to fatten the coffers of the administration's cronies in the oil and gas industry.

The fact of the matter is that new offshore drilling will do nothing in the short term to reduce the high gas prices that consumers are facing at pump, and will do nothing in the long term to wean us away from our addiction to oil.

The best way to fight high gas prices now is to hold oil companies accountable for

gouging consumers by instituting a windfall profits tax.

At the same time, we need to make immediate investments to expand energy efficiency by raising vehicle fuel economy standards, increasing the use of renewable fuels, and by adopting a foreign policy that does not hold our constituents hostage to the latest political crisis in the Middle East.

Today our constituents are paying the price for this administration's deliberate decision to prioritize the profit margins of the oil and gas industry over a comprehensive and sustainable long term energy policy.

Vote against another giveaway to the energy industry. Support the Putnam/Capps amendment and save our coastal environments.

HONORING W. JAMES FARRELL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today I order to recognize the long and distinguished career of Jim Farrell. Jim retired this month as chairman of Illinois Tool Works, Inc., ITW, after a 41-year career with the company, and has spent a lifetime making a positive impact on the Chicago-area community.

After graduating from the University of Detroit with a degree in electrical engineering, Jim joined ITW in 1965. He originally intended to work there for the few months he had before reporting for military service, but he would ultimately return after 2 years in the Army. Rising steadily through the ranks, Jim served as ITW's chief executive officer from 1995 and chairman from 1996. Based in Glenview, Illinois, the company now operates in 45 countries and employs almost 50,000 people.

As CEO and chairman of a Fortune 200 company, Jim was known for an unusual but highly successful approach. At ITW he oversaw the purchase of more than 200 companies. He resisted the prevailing wisdom to consolidate operations and instead gave the 600 division managers a high degree of autonomy. This allowed Jim to cultivate an environment that remains highly conducive to entrepreneurship and allows managers to stay closely connected to employees and customers.

Jim has always found time and energy to give to the community. For more than a decade he has chaired and worked with the Chicago branch of Junior Achievement, a worldwide organization dedicated to educating young people about business, economics, and free enterprise. In addition to serving on numerous other business and civic boards, Jim also instituted a generous matching policy under which ITW matches \$3 for each \$1 donated to charity by an employee.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Jim for his many successes, I thank him for his role within the business community of Illinois and for his dedication to civic duty, and I wish him and his family the best of luck in all future endeavors.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

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. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I submitted the attached statement, in support of the Putnam-Capps Amendment to ban drilling for natural gas on the Outer Continental Shelf on May 18, 2006.

FLOOR STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE OCS DRILLING BAN AMENDMENT TO THE FY2007 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL, H.R. 5386

I rise in strong support of this amendment to preserve the popular and longstanding ban on drilling off our coasts. First, let's be clear that there is no such thing as drilling for gas only. Even the Administration and the energy industry have dismissed the idea as unworkable. So this is nothing more than a fig leaf.

But it's a fig leaf that will bring toxic contamination to our marine environment merely three miles off our coasts. And it could open the door to drilling in the Great Lakes, which is also opposed by Great Lakes residents.

We cannot forget that new drilling will have no effect on energy prices for years. In contrast, we have technologies to reduce our addiction to oil and natural gas that are ready to go today. The problem is that we're subsidizing unsustainable energy production like drilling for natural gas and oil while failing to fund real renewable solutions. I urge my colleagues to vote for the amendment.

TRIBUTE TO COMMEMORATE JEWISH AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Jewish American History Month and the contributions made to our country by Jewish Americans. With a culture that strongly values education and community, they have enriched our culture and contributed to the economic and cultural vitality of our Nation. My community in Silicon Valley wouldn't be what it is today without the contributions of Jewish Americans.

Jewish immigrants came to our country, hoping to fulfill their dreams by participating in the American promise of socioeconomic mobility and cultural tolerance. The stories of their successes in our country are greatly inspiring.

Andy Grove, for instance, fled his home in Hungary during the Hungarian Revolution with his family under the cover of night, and immigrated to the United States. From these humble beginnings he eventually became the Chairman and CEO of one of the greatest

economic engines in the world, Intel. Sergey Brin, another innovative Jewish leader, came to America with his family to escape anti-Semitism. Through hard work and diligent studies, he founded one of the most innovative companies in the world: Google.

Examples abound of other Jewish Americans who lead our community in innovation and philanthropy, including Jeffrey Skoll, Ken Levy, Eli Reinhard and Eic Benhamou. America's ethnic diversity is a source of our country's strength, and the Jewish American community stands as a bedrock for our nation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of President Bush's proclamation declaring May 2006 as Jewish American Heritage Month.

Jewish American Heritage Month recognized the wonderful cultural heritage of the Jewish people in America. It will be a time to honor all of the benefits and successes that Jewish Americans have experienced as well as recognizing the achievements and the diversity their culture has provided to the United States.

Jewish American Heritage Month will also provide a venue for education of the Jewish American culture. It allows an opportunity to further educate and ultimately end anti-Semitism for future generations.

Today, I join my colleagues as well as President Bush to establish the month of May to observe and celebrate the rich history of the Jewish people in America and honor the great contributions they have made to our country.

TRIBUTE TO DISABLED VETERANS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, next Monday we will honor all that have made the ultimate sacrifice serving and protecting our country. I rise today to honor our disabled veterans still with us that have sacrificed so much.

On the last Monday of May every year, Members of this body celebrate Memorial Day by walking in parades, making speeches, and talking to active and retired military men and women. We tell them how much we appreciate their efforts and thank them for their services. We do this proudly as they deserve our respect and admiration for serving this great country.

Currently, American troops defend our freedom on many different fronts and veterans are at the forefront of our legislative priorities. The number of veterans coming home from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas increases daily and it is our responsibility to ensure their needs are met. While our veterans may be out of harm's way, our responsibility to them remains.

I am introducing legislation to further our commitment to our disabled veterans that have served our country with valor. Currently, every year Congress enacts a cost-of-living adjustment for veterans' disability benefits. We have done this every year since 1978. In fact, both Congress and the President assume this COLA will be enacted every year.

My legislation, the Veterans Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act, would simply make the COLAs for veterans' disability benefits automatic each year. Veterans should not have to depend on Congress adjusting their disability benefits every year. Social Security and Medicare have automatic COLA adjustments. Our veterans deserve to have that same security. Furthermore, because Congress and the President assume this increase in their budget every year, my bill has no budgetary effect.

I am also pleased to enter into the RECORD letters of support from the Disabled American Veterans as well as American Veterans (AMVETS). These veterans service organizations support this bill to assure veterans the COLA they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot and should not assume future Congresses will act to adjust veterans' disability COLAs every year. I ask my colleagues to join me to ensure our veterans get the benefits they deserve without having to rely on a superfluous yearly act by Congress.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
Washington, DC, May 22, 2006.

Hon. JOE KNOLLENBERG,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KNOLLENBERG: On behalf of the 1.5 million members of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and its Auxiliary, I write in support of the measure you are introducing today, the Veterans' Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act.

Your bill would protect the benefits of sick and disabled veterans and their dependents by preserving its intent and beneficial purpose. Specifically, the bill would automatically increase the rates of disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), and the annual clothing allowance by the percentage of increase in the cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index without precluding any other increases deemed necessary in the future.

Other benefits such as automobile and housing grants, and burial and plot allowances, for which Congress has regularly enacted legislation to adjust these benefits have had their value seriously eroded. Unless the amounts of disability compensation, DIC, and clothing allowance are periodically adjusted, inflation diminishes the significance and effectiveness of these benefits.

Again, I want to thank you for your continued effort to protect and enhance the benefits and services of veterans who are disabled by virtue of their selfless sacrifice and service to our nation, and their dependents.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE,
National Legislative Director.

AMVETS,
Lanham, MD, May 22, 2006.

Hon. JOE KNOLLENBERG,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KNOLLENBERG: On behalf of AMVETS (American Veterans), I want to thank you for your legislation that will provide a timely and guaranteed cost-of-living adjustment for our nation's disabled veterans.

AMVETS endorses your legislation to automatically increase veterans' disability benefits by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) each year, without an act of Congress. It is important VA benefits keep pace with society and the cost of living. Your bill will see that veterans' benefits are increased proportionately and will sustain the same buying power as in previous years.

AMVETS supports our nation's commitment to care for the men and women who have served in our military service. I strongly encourage the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to act favorably on this legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES B. KING,
National Executive Director.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 19, 2006, I was absent for votes as I was honored to give the commencement address to the 2006 graduating class at Monroe Academy in Monroeville, Alabama. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 173, 174, and 176. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 175.

TRIBUTE TO "WE THE PEOPLE" AND EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the "We the People" program. From April 29 to May 1, 2006, approximately 1,200 students from across the country participated in the national finals competition of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. I am pleased to announce that East Kentwood High School from Kentwood, Michigan, received the Unit 3 Award in the competition. The "We the People" program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

The "We the People" national finals is a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students "testify" before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Among the questions students responded to in this year's competition were: "How would you distinguish a federal system from a unitary government and from a confederation?" and "What did the Framers hope to achieve by establishing a federal system of government?"

The following outstanding students represented East Kentwood High School: Mark Alonso, Sefik Arapovic, Tyler Boyd, Michelle

Burns, Aaron Dame, Karl DeVries, Kelsey Duinkerken, Branden Graf, Jessica Hoag, Jessica Hulbert, J.J. Jang, Jamie Overbeek, Alexa Schlosser, Paige Stevens, Peter Vu Tran, and Laura Vlieg.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Deborah Snow, who was responsible for preparing the students for the national finals competition. Also worthy of special recognition are Linda Start and Jim Troost, the state coordinators, and Susan Laninga, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the "We the People" program in my district.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the House, please join me in congratulating these young constitutional experts for their outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I had a leave of absence on Friday, May 19, for family business. If I had been present, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote 173, "yes" on rollcall vote 174, "no" on rollcall vote 175, and "yes" on rollcall vote 176.

IN HONOR OF ROCKFORD, IL,
BURPEE MUSEUM FOR RECEIVING
TWO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF MUSEUM AWARDS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Burpee Museum of Natural History of Winnebago County—Burpee, IL, in the district I am proud to represent. The Burpee Museum is a remarkable cultural institution that has received two prestigious American Association of Museum—AAM—Awards. Both of these awards are for the Jane: Diary of a Dinosaur exhibit at the museum, which opened to outstanding reviews in June 2005.

The museum submitted entries in two categories: Overall Exhibit Excellence and the MUSE Award for the use of media and technology in the Jane exhibit. Burpee received the Exhibit Excellence Award, which is considered the museum profession's highest honor. It also received an Honorable Mention MUSE award for Jane's interactive Meet the Researcher video.

Lew Crampton, Burpee president and CEO, accepted the awards at the AAM's 100th International Conference in Boston in the company of 7,000 other museum profession delegates from around the world. Judges who presented the awards to Mr. Crampton praised Burpee, stating the "whole project was so solid . . . and you just did everything right . . . your work could and should serve as a model to other institutions (including much larger ones) as a way to create an excellent exhibit."

Jane's exhibit is a reflection of the dedication and professional excellence that is demonstrated by the personnel at Burpee.

Burpee's personnel overcame three daunting tasks in order to successfully create the exhibit. First, after transporting Jane from Montana to the museum lab, Jane's 66 million year old bones were carefully removed from the rocks in which they were embedded. Second, identifying Jane's place in the dinosaur family tree presented a unique challenge because many scientists consulted in the process disagreed on this matter. Finally, in the midst of the first two tasks, Burpee's personnel had to consider how to create an exhibit that would be able to bridge the gap between science education and family enjoyment.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my recognition and support of the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford, IL. Since its founding in May of 1942 as a part of the Works Progress Administration, the mission of Burpee has been to inspire all people to engage in a lifetime of learning about the natural world, and they have been very successful in doing so. To this day, Burpee reaches out to the public through its creative event programming and excellent educational offerings for educators, families, and other members of the local community. Burpee is a prime example for other cultural institutions across the country, and I am honored to recognize the museum and its personnel here today.

IN MEMORY OF KATHERINE DUNHAM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Katherine Dunham, who passed away Monday, May 21, 2006. Katherine may have become famous for her extraordinary dancing capabilities, but it was her humanitarian activities that truly made her a legendary American.

Born in Chicago, Illinois on June 22, 1909, Dunham was once described as "the hottest thing to hit Chicago since Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked the bucket." From a very young age, her talent for dance was obvious. However, she decided to heed her parent's wishes and began studies in social anthropology at the University of Chicago during the 1930's. It was during these formative years that she was awarded a Rosenwald Travel Fellowship to study anthropology and native dance in West Indies. Forced by her advisors to choose between the two, she went with dance and the rest, as they say, is history.

Dunham's extensive knowledge of anthropology became instrumental in the style of dance, now referred to as the Dunham technique, which she invented and popularized. She brought African and Caribbean dance and ritual influences to a dance world dominated by a European style, thus beginning the anthropological dance movement, which made use of ethnic and folk choreography. To Dunham, her methods were "more than just dance or bodily executions." Instead, her style was "about movement, forms, love, hate, death, life, all human emotions." She made her Broadway debut in the late 1930's sporting an unorthodox costume, which included a bird cage on her head and a cigar in her mouth.

Her reasoning: such accessories were typical of the women whom she saw while in the Caribbean during her anthropological studies.

From the 1930's to the 1960's, Dunham revolutionized the worlds of dance, theater, music and education, touring the world, visiting over 60 countries on 6 continents with dance companies and touring productions. She introduced the art form of black dance to Europe and was the first person to expose elements of American modern dance to a foreign country. James Dean, Marlon Brando and Eartha Kitt all became disciples of her technique as they sought Katherine out as a teacher. With the permission of King Hassan II, she first introduced the dancers of Morocco to an American audience with her 1962 production of Bamboche. She formed the first all Black dance company, Ballet Negre, which became the famous Katherine Dunham Dance Company.

Even during her years dancing, Katherine's interest in culture and anthropology never faltered. In 1965, she decided to disband the Katherine Dunham Dance Company to act as advisor to the cultural ministry of Senegal. She also wrote eight books, numerous articles and short stories and several essays touching on her cultural interests ranging from experiences from her world travels to the Myal dance, a secret rite native to Jamaicans.

Following her retirement from dancing in 1967, Dunham continued to choreograph shows; however, humanitarian leanings became the focal point of her efforts. She moved to East St. Louis, Illinois, a predominantly black area, to work with inter-city youth. Her concept was to infuse a spirit of the arts with these children in an attempt to keep them out of trouble. To do so, she founded the Performing Arts Training Center and the Katherine Dunham Museum and Children's school, which brought in artists like Harry Belafonte, to teach subjects as diverse as African hairbraiding, conversational Creole, martial arts, and aesthetics. She would continue to carry out these programs for the rest of her life, despite cuts in government and private funding.

This would not be her first or last activist effort. While touring the United States in the 1940's through the 1960's, Dunham refused to have her dance troupe perform in segregated theatres in an attempt to fight discrimination. In fact, she once refused to perform after finding out that African Americans had been prohibited from buying tickets to one of her shows. Her promotion of African and Caribbean values during the peak of the Civil Rights movement helped to infuse a positive image of black culture in the public consciousness.

Later on, in 1992, she would once again make a political message, as she went on a 47 day hunger strike to protest the government policy that repatriated Haitian refugees. Her involvement with Haiti did not stop there. Dunham was a big supporter of democracy in the country and in particular of the exiled President Aristide. In 1991, when Aristide was ousted in a military coup, Dunham petitioned the United States government to aid in his restoration as president. She also made several civilian trips to Haiti, eventually purchasing a house there. On each trip, she did her best to help stimulate the country economically and to provide humanitarian aid to the poverty-stricken people of Haiti.

Throughout her life, Katherine Dunham was many things to many people. To her surviving

daughter, Marie-Christine Dunham Pratt, she was a mother. To her late husband, theatre designer John Thomas Pratt, she was a wife of 49 years. Yet, to all, she was an exemplary American. Katherine earned her celebrity status in a time when discrimination was at its peak, revealing immense reservoirs of creativity and dedication. She then used her fame as a way to create positive change in the world. As every dancer knows, actions speak louder than words and it was clear that Katherine lived by this doctrine. Her life is an inspiration to me and her loss will be felt, not just by the dance community, but by all Americans.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for her hard work on behalf of recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage month and to express my gratitude to the President for his proclamation making May Jewish American Heritage Month.

After the burning of the Second Temple and the final dispersion of the Jews from Zion, people of Jewish heritage have settled in every corner of the world. There are Jews in

China, in India, in Mexico and in Greece. While Hitler almost murdered all the Jews of Europe, he did not entirely succeed.

Because of the moral values of this country we put our entire Nation into the fight against the Nazis in World War II. What is so remarkable about the fact that the United States fought so fiercely and so bravely in World War II is that they did so to save the world. That desire arose from the Nation's character, which is an amalgam of the religious heritage of its people—including its Jewish people.

Today I think about the Jewish soldiers in World War II who fought not even knowing of the death camps and the ovens. I think of the men who risked their lives every day in the mud of France and the fields of Belgium because they knew what was spreading and taking over Europe was immoral. When Eisenhower's troops first came upon a death camp, he made the camp guards and the German villagers who had lived in the green fields and gardens around the camp come to view the bodies and to bury them. The message was clear: Americans find what you have done here and you villagers have tolerated here to be an immense crime, an unimaginable crime.

The greatness of our people is their character. Jewish people have brought a lot to the making of that character. Jews have known that the values in the Five Books of Moses are universal and throughout 2,000 years of Diaspora brought their values with them to the shores of all the countries where they settled, including America.

Judaism is a religion and a value system. No one who is not a Jew is considered less

a person by a Jew. No stranger can be left without shelter, no hungry man without bread.

I could not help but notice in the Save Darfur Coalition and other grass roots organizations working so hard to stop the genocide in Darfur that many Jewish organizations are involved in the grass roots efforts. Among them are the American World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, Jews against Genocide and the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism. I have received letters from children in Jewish schools asking me to help the people of Darfur. Jewish people have a special understanding about genocide. The parents of these children who write to me may have lost grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins. But they also know they can write to their Congressman and their children can write and ask for help for these people so far away who are in desperate trouble as their relatives once were.

One of the characteristics I most admire is the activism many of the Jewish people engage in. That activism has meant a great deal to the civil rights movement. I also admire the way Jews have contributed to the "personality" of New York. As a New Yorker, I feel especially lucky because I have learned some Yiddish, some great jokes and have met some truly amazing people who love books, culture, art and life. I'm glad for the Jewish heritage I experience in my district every day I am at home.

I say to Jewish Americans today: Congratulations and mazal tov.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 24

9 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine National Transportation Safety Board reauthorization.

SD-562

Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for defense related programs.

SD-192

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Labor.

SD-124

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of R. David Paulison, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management, Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 997, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery, S. 1529, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the city of Yuma, Arizona, S. 1548, to provide for the conveyance of certain Forest Service land to the city of Coffman Cove, Alaska, S. 1957, to authorize the Secretary of Interior to convey to The Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc. certain Federal land associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Nebraska, to be used as an historical interpretive site along the trail, S. 2003, to make permanent the authorization for watershed restoration and enhancement agreements, S. 2028, to provide for the

reinstatement of a license for a certain Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project, S. 2035, to extend the time required for construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Idaho, S. 2054, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of water resources in the State of Vermont, S. 2150, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Bureau of Land Management Land to the City of Eugene, Oregon, S. 2373, to provide for the sale of approximately 132 acres of public land to the City of Green River, Wyoming, at fair market value, S. 2403, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to include in the boundaries of the Grand Teton National Park land and interests in land of the GT Park Subdivision, S. 2568, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, S. Res. 468, supporting the continued administration of Channel Islands National Park, including Santa Rosa Island, in accordance with the laws (including regulations) and policies of the National Park Service, H.R. 394 and S. 2034, bills to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a boundary study to evaluate the significance of the Colonel James Barrett Farm in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of the Minute Man National Historical Park, H.R. 482, to provide for a land exchange involving Federal lands in the Lincoln National Forest in the State of New Mexico, H.R. 486, to provide for a land exchange involving private land and Bureau of Land Management land in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, for the purpose of removing private land from the required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at Holloman Air Force Base, H.R. 1492 and S. 1719, bills to provide for the preservation of the historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II, H.R. 3507, to transfer certain land in Riverside County, California, and San Diego County, California, from the Bureau of Land Management to the United States to be held in trust for the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, and H.R. 4000, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise certain repayment contracts with the Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska, the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No. 2, the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District, and the Webster Irrigation District No. 4, all a part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, and other pending calendar business.

SD-366

Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine progress of the Capitol Visitor Center construction.

SD-138

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine judicial nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine 2006 hurricane forecast and at-risk cities.

SD-562

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2466, to authorize and direct the exchange and conveyance of certain National Forest land and other land in southeast Arizona, S. 2788, to direct the exchange of certain land in Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, and S. 2567, to maintain the rural heritage of the Eastern Sierra and enhance the region's tourism economy by designating certain public lands as wilderness and certain rivers as wild scenic rivers in the State of California.

SD-366

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider intelligence matters.

SH-219

3:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gaddi H. Vasquez, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, and John Clint Williamson, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues, Department of State.

SD-419

MAY 25

Time to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of R. David Paulison, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management, Department of Homeland Security, and Lurita Alexis Doan, of Virginia, to be Administrator of General Services.

Room to be announced

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the current status of United Nations reform.

SH-216

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education.

SR-485

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to markup the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006.

SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To resume hearings to examine S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes.

SD-106

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the outlook for growth of coal fired electric generation and whether sufficient supplies of coal will be available to supply electric generators on a timely basis both in the near term and in the future.

SD-366

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending benefits related legislation.

SR-418

Aging

To hold hearings to examine the status of preparing for a pandemic flu.

SD-G50

1 p.m.
 Judiciary
 Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the consequences of legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine Congress' role in Federal financial management, focusing on Congress' role and effectiveness in the Federal budget process, as well as ways it can improve the management of Federal funds.

SD-342

3 p.m.
 Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael E. Ranneberger, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya, Eric M. Bost, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, and W. Stuart Syming-

ton IV, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti.

SD-106

JUNE 13
 10 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To resume hearings to examine S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes.
 Room to be announced

JUNE 14

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

JUNE 15

10:30 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the Coast Guard budget.
 SD-562

JUNE 20

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

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 24

10:15 a.m.
 Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine the McCarran-Ferguson Act, focusing on implications of repealing the insurers' antitrust exemption.
 SD-226

MAY 25

2:30 p.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings to examine Pacific Salmon Treaty.
 SD-562