

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

2006 NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION
MONTH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that the 2006 National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month will be observed this May.

There are currently 44 million Americans, age 50 or older, who have osteoporosis. In addition, an estimated 1.5 million fractures are attributed to this disease every year. Although this disease has commonly been associated with women, it is prevalent in men as well. Nearly two million men currently live with osteoporosis, millions of others are at risk and one in eight men older than 50 years will have an osteoporotic fracture.

Furthermore, the risk for osteoporosis does increase with age. However, it is important to adopt good diet with calcium and vitamin D during childhood and adolescence to prevent a person from being diagnosed with low bone mass later on.

As we observe the National Osteoporosis Awareness Month, I would like to urge providers and individuals to discuss osteoporosis and carry out bone mineral density diagnostic tests when necessary.

In addition, I would like to commend the National Osteoporosis Foundation for bringing awareness to this debilitating disease, providing educational material on this issue, and supporting a search for a cure since 1984. They have entitled this year's campaign "Osteoporosis . . . it matters" and will be hosting events throughout the nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to promote the National Osteoporosis Awareness Month and honor the National Osteoporosis Foundation staff for all of their hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain how I would have voted on May 22, 2006 during rollcall votes #177 and #178 during the second session of the 109th Congress. The first vote was for S. 1235, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005. The second vote was for H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005.

If present, I would have voted "yes" on these rollcall votes.

PALESTINIAN-ANTI TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, as someone with a great interest in Israel, Middle Eastern affairs, and world peace, I believe that we should remain cognizant of the importance of open communication, peaceful dialogue, and positive debate. I have a sincere affection and respect for both people and I pray for a peaceful resolution of deep seeded differences. We are living in historic times, and we have an opportunity to play a significant part in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

This legislation rightly calls upon Hamas to renounce terrorism, and recognize Israel as an independent, sovereign, Jewish and democratic state. I too recognize the need for a secure Israel and the need for a peaceful resolution for the Israel and Palestinian people. For many, peace is a long awaited dream and I am certain that with time, they will eventually realize this dream. I also advocate for cessation of aid to a Hamas led government of Palestinian Authority since they have refused to renounce violence and terrorism as part of their military tactics. I am certain a government that refuses to curtail their terrorist ideals can run the gamut on outrageous and purposefully unrealistic demands.

I am concerned that some of the provisions of H.R. 4681 directly undermine the goal of securing peace.

I question the prudence in ostracizing Hamas from the international community and forbidding contact with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council when some of its members do not belong to Hamas or any foreign terrorist organization. Many of these members have in fact renounced terrorism, recognized Israel and negotiated the prior agreements. I am concerned that these tactics will only hurt relationships with moderate Palestinian leaders whose support and cooperation are vital to ensuring peace.

I am not resigned to the notion that impoverishing a country and hence a people falls within the scope of our duties in ensuring a peaceful resolution. These people are already suffering tremendous poverty and unemployment increases.

We must find a way to punish the evil doers without victimizing their innocent neighbors. I am certain that this legislation surpasses the formation of a militaristic strategy and enters the venue of instilling punitive economic and diplomatic sanctions against the Palestinian people. We cannot restrict U.S. humanitarian aid and potentially eliminate entire U.S. aid projects, such as vital infrastructure and small business development. We cannot threaten to withhold a portion of U.S. dues to the United

Nations because it allows bodies to advocate for Palestinian human rights. I am concerned about the innocent people who will suffer the consequences in denouncing the provisions of the U.S. free trade agreement with the West Bank and Gaza.

I know that refusing visas to members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, including those who belong to political parties that the United States does not classify as "foreign terrorist organizations," will deter ensuring a peaceful resolution. I am concerned that negating visas to members of the PLO diplomats at the United Nations and threatening to close the PLO's office in Washington will close the channels of communication.

Madam Speaker, I have long been an advocate for peace and I pray for a peaceful resolution of the Arab and Israeli people. It is in that spirit, and with that faith, that I will continue to work with the administration to ensure the United States remains firm in its commitment to the security of Israel and to those principles necessary to guarantee the success of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The wording of this Resolution changed to include much of the negative language after I signed on as a co-sponsor.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOACHIM
MATTHEW CHAVEZ

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Joachim Matthew Chavez, a life-long teacher and strong advocate of public education.

Mr. Chavez will retire this year from a 30 year career as a public school educator. Originally from Yuma, Arizona, he graduated from Yuma High School, home of the Criminals and later attended Arizona Western College and Northern Arizona University. He started his career teaching History and English in Parker, Arizona and later moved to Somerton, Arizona where he spent most of his professional career. He created and developed the district's first Bilingual Program where students learned to use their native language skills as a base for English instruction. He later served as the District Director of the Bilingual Programs. He was named Somerton's Teacher of the Year in 1988 and again in 1990.

His dedication did not stop at the school gate but he also committed himself to teaching Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) courses in the evenings and weekends to farmworkers in the Yuma Valley. An active member of the religious community, he taught religious education for over 25 years. As an involved parent, he was a Little League Baseball and Youth Soccer Coach, Ballet Folkloric sponsor, a parent Band Booster, and a supporter of the Cibola Thespian Group.

He and his wife Annette have become role models and mentors to many young teaching

● 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.

professionals. Fully bilingual themselves, they provided area families an opportunity to learn about how parents can have a lasting impact in their children's education.

Mr. Chavez has been credited with elevating the district's English Language Learning program to a level of significant academic achievement among students.

I would like to personally commend Mr. Joachim Matthew Chavez for his tireless commitment to our community. His life and work are examples of service and of hope.

IN MEMORY OF MAJOR MATTHEW
W. WORRELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of MAJ Matthew W. Worrell from my hometown of Lewisville, TX, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for serving our country during Iraqi Freedom. Major Worrell died Sunday, May 14, after insurgents shot down his U.S. helicopter during a raid against Al Qaeda militants in Iraq. He was 34 years old.

MAJ. Matthew W. Worrell was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, KY, better known as the "Night Stalkers." The 160th is an elite avian unit deployed in nearly every conflict and transports Special Forces units around the world by night in specially modified helicopters.

I would like to recognize and celebrate MAJ Matthew W. Worrell's life today. Major Worrell spent 11 years in the Army and served as a platoon leader for the special operations group after previously servicing in the 101st Airborne Division.

MAJ Matthew W. Worrell was a dedicated soldier who earned the respect of those around him. COL Kevin Mangum, the commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, said in a written statement, "They were warriors, heroes, fellow Night Stalkers and our friends," of Major Worrell and his fellow officer killed in the battle.

Major Worrell's family said he never doubted why he was there.

Today, I celebrate the life of MAJ Matthew W. Worrell. He was truly a soldier, a husband, a father and an American who understood his duty. It was my honor to represent MAJ Matthew W. Worrell, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA S. WALKER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Sandra S. Walker, principal of Rock Creek Forest Elementary School in Chevy Chase, MD, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career with the Montgomery County Public Schools.

Mrs. Walker attended Montgomery County public schools as a student and has now spent more than 30 years working for MCPS as a teacher and administrator.

For the past 18 years Mrs. Walker has been principal at a very challenging and complex school. Rock Creek Forest Elementary School has both an English community program and a countywide Spanish immersion magnet program. The school also blends a student body of great ethnic and economic diversity. Mrs. Walker has served this school with dedication and distinction.

On behalf of the students, parents, teachers and staff of Rock Creek Forest Elementary School, I am privileged to extend my gratitude and appreciation to Sandra Walker for her service to our children and our community. Congratulations on an exemplary career. You have my best wishes for an enjoyable retirement. You will be missed at Rock Creek Forest.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 22, 2006, I was unavoidably absent due to a previously scheduled official commitment. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 177: "yes" on S. 1235—Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005.

(2) Rollcall No. 178: "yes" on H.R. 3858—Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, it is not very often that JIM McDERMOTT rises to support this President, but that is precisely what I am doing now.

The President does not want his hands tied by the passage of H.R. 4681. I couldn't agree more.

H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006, will not make Israel safer, will not meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people, and will not give our diplomats the tools they need to help find a path to peace in the Mideast.

For all of these reasons, I oppose it, and I urge my colleagues to reconsider.

I believe in diplomacy as a means to correct injustice around the world. I believe gifted diplomats can accomplish as much with words and deeds as the military can with guns and soldiers.

There is no question that the United States must take all appropriate steps to ensure that terrorists like Hamas are denied access to our financial aid. Not a penny should go to those who do not renounce terrorism.

Hamas is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of innocent Israelis before coming to

power. Since then, they have neither renounced the use of violence nor recognized Israel. This is unacceptable.

By all means, we must deny Hamas dollars that would buy hatred, but we must remember that Hamas and the Palestinian people are not one and the same.

Even as we deny any and all assistance to Hamas, we must not hurt those Palestinians who are working for peace. If we fail to support them, I have no doubt that Israel will pay the ultimate price: more instability in the West Bank and Gaza, more desperation, and more terrorism.

America's leadership is on the line in the Middle East, and more instability is something we need to avoid at all cost. We still have 130,000 American soldiers in harm's way in Iraq; we can't afford to make any more poor choices related to that region.

But, that's exactly what we will do if we pass this bill. It doesn't make sense for the United States to limit political and economic aid to moderates, like Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

He and others have met our government's requirements by recognizing Israel, renouncing violence and terrorism against Israel, and accepting all previously signed Israeli-Palestinian agreements. What happens if we turn our back on leaders trying to heal a millennium of hate?

And what can we expect if we turn our backs on the real and growing humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people? It doesn't make sense to put restrictions on funding the NGOs that provide the Palestinian people with hospitals and schools.

As a medical doctor, I am gravely concerned about the fate of millions of innocent Palestinians who rely on international aid for food, health care, and for developing their economy and businesses.

Recent news reports say that international sanctions are preventing hospitals in Gaza from providing dialysis machines for patients, and they may not be able to supply immunizations to children.

The World Health Organization sees a "rapid decline of the public health system . . . towards a possible collapse." If left untreated, these conditions will nurture a breeding ground for more hatred, more violence, and more terrorism.

This bill will only increase the restrictions on aid to the Palestinians and that will make the already dire situation even worse.

As a doctor I took an oath to heal. As a nation, we took an oath to lead. Allowing innocent Palestinians to go hungry, while denying them medical treatment cannot possibly correct injustice, or lead to peace.

If passed, this bill will be seen as anti-Palestinian, and the resulting chaos and animosity can only threaten the relative calm that Israel has enjoyed for the past year and a half. This bill does not help Israel.

Many of the Israeli leaders I've spoken to, think this bill goes too far by punishing all Palestinians, not just Hamas. They understand that a radicalized population will show more support for Hamas, not less.

During a recent trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories, I saw how both sides deeply yearn for peace. And I saw firsthand how they need the United States to do all it can to help them make peace. The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act will make this task enormously difficult.

The harsh restrictions, and cutting off contacts with moderate Palestinians, will severely complicate our ability to assume an active role in helping both sides resolve the conflict.

If we cannot engage with moderates, and those trying to develop the Palestinian economy and build civil society, we forfeit our ability to nurture and strengthen the positive elements in Palestine.

We need a bill that allows us the utmost flexibility to help moderate Palestinians, to quickly get economic and humanitarian aid to places that need it, like hospitals and health clinics, and helps prevent the resumption of terrorism. This bill does not meet these criteria.

We need to isolate and weaken Hamas, and hopefully their tenure at the head of the PA will be a short one. But if we cannot distinguish between Hamas and the majority of the Palestinian people, we cannot possibly expect to have a role in creating what comes next.

Israelis and Palestinians realize that in the end, their fates are tied. When Palestinians' lives get worse, so do those of Israelis.

It's time to help the majorities on both sides reach their mutual goal—a peaceful two-state solution—rather than standing in the way by punishing one side.

Give our State Department an opportunity to nurture peace, or we will surely have to ask our military to counter more terrorism. Vote against H.R. 4681.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4681 Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006.

As an original cosponsor, I fully support this bill and would like to thank my friend from Florida, Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN and my Ranking Member TOM LANTOS for introducing this important bipartisan legislation.

This bill sends a clear message to Hamas that the United States will never support a terrorist organization cloaked as a democratically elected party.

The support Hamas, a designated terrorist organization by the United States, received shows many Palestinian people do not want peace with Israel and will continue to support terrorist operations on innocent civilians.

Hamas officials continue to endorse recent suicide bombing and continued violence against Israel, the only true democracy in the Middle East.

As long as Hamas chooses to continue down the path of terrorism, it will meet with financial and diplomatic isolation from the United States and our allies.

I have read the statements of several groups opposed to this legislation because this will create a road block towards negotiations. What I want to know is how do you negotiate with a government who is hell bent on your destruction.

Would any member of this House negotiate with al Qaeda? I would hope not. Hamas must be isolated, not coddled, and that is what this legislation will do.

Hamas would rather cling to the impossible dream of the destruction of Israel than work towards a two-state solution that will bring prosperity and an end to the bloodshed that has tainted this region for so many years.

This bill rightly ends direct aid to the Hamas-controlled government. Hamas refuses to change so they must be treated like the terrorists they are.

But I want to make clear that the goal of this legislation is not to cause a humanitarian catastrophe but to isolate this terrorist led government, this legislation will allow funding for the basic health needs of the Palestinian people.

I'm sure like me, my colleagues would rather be supporting a Palestinian Authority-led government working towards a peaceful two-state solution but instead we face the realities of a Hamas-led government bent on the destruction of Israel.

Until this Hamas-led government recognizes Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State, renounces violence, dismantles its terrorist infrastructure, and halts all anti-Israel incitement the United States should never provide assistance to the Palestinian-led government of Hamas.

VETERANS' HOUSING OPPOR-
TUNITY AND BENEFITS IM-
PROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for S. 1235, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005.

This legislation will improve the benefits provided to our veterans and their families.

During war and equally importantly, after our soldiers come home and take off the uniform, we as a nation must support them fully. The Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005 contains many provisions that will help us achieve this goal.

I would like to point out one particular provision that is similar to a bill, H.R. 821, which I have introduced.

Like H.R. 821, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act will amend title 38 to extend the requirement for reports from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the disposition of cases recommended to the Secretary for equitable relief due to administrative error. Extending this reporting requirement will assist the VA in its efforts to properly care for our veterans and their families.

Administrative error should not prevent a veteran or their loved one from receiving the benefits they have fully earned.

I would like to thank and congratulate Chairman BUYER and Ranking Member EVANS as well as the other chairmen and ranking members from our committee who have worked so hard to move this important legislation forward.

It is my hope that we will also be moving a health bill forward with the same bipartisan spirit our veterans have come to expect from our committee.

I support this legislation and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 148: "no" (On Agreeing to the DeFazio of Oregon Amendment to H.R. 4200).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 22, 2006, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 177 and 178. The votes I missed included a motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1235, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005, and a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 177 and 178.

TRIBUTE TO TELACU FOR ITS
COMMITMENT TO SERVICE, AD-
VANCEMENT, AND EMPOWER-
MENT IN THE LATINO COMMU-
NITY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the people of this great Nation share a common spirit and heritage. Whether born on the soil of this land or having chosen to come here in search of a better life—one free of political, social, and economic oppression, we are a nation of pioneers. We believe in the American dream, and the promise that through our labors we can achieve educational and economic success. No barrier is too imposing, no obstacle too tall that it should stand in the way of pursuing this dream.

Two of my congressional predecessors, Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Jacob Javits, advanced legislation in the 1960s that promoted this dream by laying the foundation for an organization called TELACU. Since its founding in 1968, TELACU has become the largest community and economic development corporation in the United States. TELACU is a pioneering institution committed to service, empowerment, advancement and the creation of self-sufficiency. Brought to life through a small investment appropriated by Congress, TELACU has grown to become an organization with nearly \$500 million in assets, creating thousands of jobs, affordable homes, loans to small business people, and most importantly, numerous educational opportunities for young people and veterans.

In 1983, TELACU established the LINC TELACU Education Foundation. For 23 years, the foundation has partnered with corporate donors, private individuals, and a vast network of colleges and universities, providing the driving force behind one of the most effective national institutions ever to impact the educational needs of the Latino community.

In conceiving the foundation, TELACU discovered that while financial assistance is vital for college students to achieve academic success, other factors are also important. Students who are the first in their families ever to attend college often lack the support system necessary to achieve their dream. Socio-economic factors, family responsibilities, cultural identity and financial stress create very real conflicting challenges to academic life.

The LINC TELACU Education Foundation has accepted this challenge head on, combining important financial assistance with highly effective programs that ensure college completion. The foundation supports 600 college students and serves 2,000 elementary, middle and high school students and veterans each year. The success of this extraordinary foundation is best summarized by the numbers: Its scholar retention and college graduation rates are an astounding 100 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I join today with community leaders throughout my State in expressing our Nation's gratitude to TELACU and the LINC TELACU Education Foundation for believing in the dream of higher education for America's next generation of pioneers and helping to make it possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, on May 22, 2006, I missed rollcall vote No. 177 on S. 1235, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, and rollcall vote No. 178 on H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act. I was unable to vote because I was participating in a House Agriculture Subcommittee field hearing and post-hearing meetings with automobile industry executives in Rochester, MI, on the role that industry can play in promoting renewable energy technology in the United States. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yea" on S. 1235 and "yea" on H.R. 3858.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 173: On ordering the previous question. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 174: On agreeing to H. Res. 821, the rule providing for consideration H.R. 5385. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 175: On the Blumenauer amendment to

H.R. 5385. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 176: On final passage of H.R. 5385. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 168, the Chabot-Andrews amendment to the Interior and Environment Appropriations, though I intended to vote aye, I accidentally voted nay. The Chabot-Andrews amendment would prohibit the Forest Service from building more roads for private timber in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. The timber program in the Tongass costs taxpayers approximately \$40 million each year. I have long been a supporter of reforming the road building program in the Tongass, and have supported this amendment in the past. I am pleased that the amendment ultimately passed, and I sincerely regret that I accidentally voted against it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 22, 2006, I was unable to be present, to vote on the motions to suspend the rules and pass as amended S. 1235 the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (rollcall No. 177) and H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (rollcall No. 178). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

COAL-TO-LIQUIDS
TRANSPORTATION FUELS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, for decades this Nation has been researching, debating, drafting, and redrafting national energy policy. Unfortunately, the long gas lines of the 1970's that motivated the kind of original thought needed to end our dependency on foreign oil slipped from our memories as supplies increased and prices dropped. Today, we are punished with oil prices floating in the range of \$75 a barrel, record prices at the pump, and an unstable world market for the foreseeable future.

At the same time, according to the Department of Energy, \$35-\$45 a barrel oil is attainable from a source within our borders. It is our most abundant domestic energy resource—coal. With technology that has been around for decades, coal can be liquefied and turned into a liquid fuel, and eventually sold for approximately half of what we are paying now per barrel.

The true value of coal is misunderstood and many ignore its potential to free us from foreign oil at our own peril. We risk stepping into the same trap that has caught so many promising energy policy advances by the ankle for decades.

Research has brought us a long, long way from the days of smokestacks and gray skies. True, there remain many less efficient, older generation power plants in this Nation, but largely because, while the Government draped oil companies in rich tax advantages, it devoted mere dribbles of money to providing incentives for clean burning coal plants.

Thirty years of government and private-sector research and development has created a product, according to the Department of Energy, that is cleaner than required under EPA Tier II fuel standards. And with this Nation's refinery capacity operating on all cylinders, these fuels would fit right into our energy mix as they would require very little additional processing. Coal-to-liquids can curb our appetite for foreign fuel.

Dtsturbingly, however, for all of our Nation's pride in our competitiveness and innovation, we stand behind a number of other countries in liquefying coal to end our foreign oil dependence.

For instance, these fuels represent about one-third of the consumption in South Africa, which began its production and use in the 1950's using the Fischer-Tropsch process developed during the 1920's by two German researchers. China, India, and Indonesia, recognizing the problems of relying on foreign sources of oil, are all aggressively pursuing coal liquefaction as key components of their energy production. For the U.S., our continued myopia about coal liquefaction is particularly numb-headed, since coal is our most abundant natural energy resource.

In order to catch up to the rest of the world, a position to which the U.S. is unaccustomed, we must invest in our future and Congress began to travel down this road with the reauthorization of the Nation's surface transportation laws last year by including two new excise tax credits aimed at promoting the use of alternative transportation fuels, including liquid fuel derived from coal.

While a helpful first step, due to the restrictive nature of the existing tax credit, I am pleased to join my colleague JOHN SHIMKUS and others in introducing legislation aimed at helping far-sighted firms better afford their foray into coal liquefaction. Our bill would reduce some of the risk that these firms and their investors take as they try to lead our Nation into a new energy frontier.

Simply put, our legislation would extend until 2020 the 50 cents per gallon tax credit for liquid fuel derived from coal that is set to expire in 2009. The legislation does not address other alternative transportation fuels, just coal-to-liquids.

The aim is to provide a level of predictability for a number of years to those willing to put money into coal-to-liquids production. It would help to smooth out some of the ups and downs associated with fluctuating oil prices and the gamble investors make in the financing of these high-tech energy ventures.

Unfortunately, while other governments have been footing the bill for this kind of research and development for decades, our Government has been "playing footsie" with Big Oil. In comparison to the big tax giveaways enjoyed by the oil industry, precious

few U.S. budgetary resources have been devoted over the years to cutting-edge coal technologies. This is mind-boggling policy, given coal's abundance on our own shores.

The United States will never drill its way out of our oil dependency. But using proven, coal-to-liquid technology and American initiative, we could revolutionize our way to a new energy era. This bill helps to level out Federal tax policy that has long been tilted against the public in favor of rich oil companies.

VERMONT WOMAN WINS NATIONAL HONOR FOR HELPING WOMEN IN BUSINESS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for almost two decades Janet Bullard has been the program manager and office manager for the Vermont Commission on Women. Her tireless and inspired work for the Commission, work done for the betterment of the conditions in which women in the State of Vermont live and for the expansion of opportunities available to women, has recently been recognized by a signal honor.

On April 12 in Washington, DC, Janet Bullard was recognized by the Small Business Administration as the National Women in Business Champion of the Year. The competition for this award was nationwide. Janet first won the Vermont State award, then the New England Regional Award, and finally prevailed over a group of remarkably qualified women nationally. The SBA's award is bestowed on a person who has been an advocate for the women-owned business community, who has expanded the business and financial opportunities for women, and who has helped strengthen the role played by business owners in the community.

Janet, a resident of Chelsea, Vermont, has worked for the Vermont Commission of Women for 19 years, almost half of its existence. Established in 1964 by Governor Phil Hoff, the Commission has been an advocate for women and their rights and opportunities for 42 years. It consistently, and with great success, has been the primary advocate in the State of Vermont for the economic, social and political equality of women.

Janet Bullard has championed the rights of women, opened new doors for women, helped bring women together so that they can learn and strategize and about how to succeed in an economic world formerly dominated almost exclusively by men. And her involvement is concrete and financial as well: she has helped women get loans so they can establish businesses. In addition, for the last 10 years she has also worked to get funding for Vermont domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

Society changes more through dedicated work than through speeches, more by enduring commitments than by public appearances. For 19 years, Janet Bullard has worked tirelessly—a labor of love—to improve the status and business opportunities of women in the State of Vermont. Her dedication, and her remarkable ability to get things done, has left its mark on generations of women in our State.

I want to call particular attention to her work with Vermont's community action agencies, her unceasing effort to develop ways to help women start businesses with the aid of micro-loans. She has helped, time and again, leverage State and independent organization funds, and Federal funds, to help women—and especially low-income women—get a start in business.

Here is how Wendy Love, Executive Director of the Vermont Commission on Women described Janet's work the other day: "Janet has an outstanding history with the Commission for almost 20 years, and has shown great dedication to the Commission and to helping women. She has really been a major voice for women's economic opportunity in Vermont. Every time we talk about doing something, she is five steps ahead. Janet has been a glue, helping bind together the folks who work at the community action agencies in micro-business development, and the people who work for the Federal Government at the Small Business Development Center."

We in Vermont are delighted with the honor bestowed upon Janet Bullard: It is richly deserved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during Friday's rollcall votes on H.R. 5385, the 2007 Military Construction, Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted against the Blumenauer Amendment (rollcall No. 175) and in favor of final passage (rollcall No. 176).

HONORING GARRISON CSM GARY DAVIS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Garrison Command Sergeant Major Gary Davis of Fort Knox, Kentucky, retiring June 2 after more than 33 years of military service.

A native of Spokane, Washington, Garrison CSM Davis first enlisted in 1972, completing a 6 year tenure with the Washington State National Guard. After a brief assignment with the Montana State National Guard, he joined the Active Army in May 1980, attending unit training at the United States Army Armor Center at Fort Knox.

Prior to his current assignment at Fort Knox, Garrison CSM Davis served as an instructor at the United States Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, TX; and completed numerous other assignments leading soldier divisions in Kentucky, Georgia, Arkansas, Hawaii, Louisiana and Germany.

During his time at Fort Knox, Garrison CSM Davis's leadership inspired officers and civilians to be good neighbors, making Fort Knox

and its surrounding communities a better place to live and work. In this capacity, he oversaw critical improvements to the Garrison, including the modernizing of residential facilities, enhancing the quality of life of Fort Knox soldiers and their families.

Garrison CSM Davis was a tireless advocate of Fort Knox's military value and future viability in the months leading up to last year's Base Realignment and Closure consideration. Because of his efforts, Fort Knox remains open, adapting to a new mission as a vital multi-functional home to operational army forces and various administrative commands.

Garrison CSM Davis's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit Award, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, United Nations Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism and the Superior Unit Award.

It is my great privilege to recognize Garrison Command Sergeant Major Gary Davis today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his lifelong example of leadership and service. I would like to thank him personally for his exemplary stewardship at Fort Knox during a time of war and administrative transition. His unique achievements and dedication to the men and women of the U.S. Army make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

HONORING THE CANYON HIGH SCHOOL COWBOY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, before the Santa Clarita Valley school term ends this year, I wish to recognize the coaches and athletes of the Canyon High School's football program for their outstanding performance during the 2005 high school football season. Canyon High School's varsity football team completed their season by defeating cross-town rival Hart High School with a score of 21-13 to clinch the CIF—California Interscholastic Federation—Southern Section Division II title. Canyon High School finished its season with an impressive record of 13-1.

MaxPreps, a California-based national high school sports information Web site, lauded Canyon High School's football program. MaxPreps recently ranked Canyon High School's football program as the 14th best in the Nation. This ranking was achieved amongst a field of over 15,000 schools nationwide. MaxPreps presented head coach Harry Welch with a trophy engraved: "2005 MaxPreps Tour of Champions, presented by the Army National Guard to Canyon High School Head Coach Harry Welch." Only 10 such trophies were presented nationally.

The California Interscholastic Federation also bestowed individual honors upon various members of the team. Honors include, but are not limited to, All Section First-team Defense—Tyler Hawkins, Garrett Leary, All Section Second Team Defense—J.J. DiLuigi, Richard Wirthlin, Division II Offensive Players of the Year—Austin Civita, J.J. DiLuigi, Division II Defensive Players of the Year—Matt

Brown, Garrett Leary, Division II Coach of the Year—Harry Welch, Division II Offense—Nick Peterson, Nick Madia, Richard Wirthlin, Phillip Malinoski, and Division II Defense—Chris Kinsbury, Tyler Hawkins.

The level of dedication and tenacity displayed by coaches and players of Canyon High School's football program deserves great praise. The ethos of this tightly knit team should serve as an example to all those aspiring for greatness.

Mr Speaker, I would like to recognize the individual members of Canyon High School's champion football team. Coach Harry Welch, Jean P. Curvey, Ben Longshore, Richard Wirthlin, Stephen Wirthlin, Anthony Arriaga, Amir Rafah, Mark Urbina, John DiLuigi, Austin Civita, Sean Ward, Zane Enright, Phillip Malinoski, Christopher Chapman, David Pyne, Sean Gavin, Randal Rigg, Michael Montano, Christopher Kingsbury, Michael Cooper, Kenny Suber, Daniel Garza, Jr., Leon Henderson, Tyler Hawkins, Keith Martin, Josh Parrick, Jordan Ferguson, C.R. Maldonado, Mike Loucks, Michael Pyne, Raymond Maldonado, Jonathan Hammock, Nick Jurado, Deric Blas, Matthew Brown, Randy Lemus, Joseph Dellibovi, Grant Higgins, Garrett Leary, Michael Blanco, Ryan Schurke, Andrew Martinez, Justin Wallace, Andrew Suarez, Nick Peterson, Hacob Karaoglanian, Mike Harker, Damian Ozuna, A.J. Wallerstein, Nicholas Madia, Mark Valdez, Sean Rowlett, Fares Albichara, Britt Briscoe, Ben Armbruster, and Troy Curvey.

The late Vince Lombardi once said that football is like life—it requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work, sacrifice, dedication and respect for authority. Through their triumphant season, the Canyon Cowboys have developed a winning attitude that will serve them well for their entire life. I commend the team for their ability, commitment, and steadfast determination and I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING MS. EMMA KOLB

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emma Kolb, who has recently finished her 69th year of service to students and parents in western Kansas. She has gone above the call of duty and made her teaching career of 47 years into a passion by volunteering for 22 years after her retirement.

Ms. Kolb began teaching in 1937 in Rush County, KS, and for the next 15 years worked in several other country schools. In 1951 she started at Lincoln Elementary School in Hays. For the next 33 years Emma taught grades second through sixth until she retired in 1984.

If Emma's story stopped there it would still be praiseworthy, but she didn't stop there. She went on to volunteer for 22 more years in the same school building.

The length of her tenure may only be overshadowed by the amount of joy she gave to those she worked with and worked for. During a recent party Lincoln Elementary School staff showed their appreciation for Emma's amazing work by celebrating her commitment to students and her 88th birthday.

I too would like to express my gratitude for Emma's 69 years of service to Kansas students. Ms. Kolb said that during her many years of work inside the school system that "any changes that were made were for the good . . . and that we have a good school system here."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking and honoring Emma Kolb for being a part of those positive changes in the lives of so many students and their schools.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 2006, during consideration of H.R. 5386, I mistakenly voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 167, the Hinchey Amendment. It was my intention to vote "yes" on the Hinchey Amendment.

CURRENCY PROTECTION BILL

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call your attention to H. Con. Res. 390, a resolution I introduced on April 26, 2006.

We are currently living in an environment where prevention of terrorism is at the forefront of the American mind. It is important to remember that although the U.S. dollar is not typically viewed as a vessel of major catastrophic events, mass counterfeiting of the dollar will undermine the U.S. economy and ultimately destroy the security of our Nation. We have come a long way in protecting our highly visible assets since September 11, 2001. Now we must also extend that to our currency.

H. Con. Res. 390 calls upon the U.S. government to ensure the protection of the U.S. dollar and defend its integrity throughout the world. Our Nation must deter counterfeiting of our currency in order to preserve the strength of the U.S. dollar and protect America from a economic disaster.

Recent global politics illustrate the necessity of H. Con. Res. 390. A few months ago, the United States accused the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) of counterfeiting the U.S. dollar. In retaliation, North Korea claimed that the CIA had counterfeited the U.S. dollar and planted the counterfeit bills in North Korea. Despite North Korea's claim of innocence, it is estimated that at least \$45 million counterfeit U.S. dollar are in circulation and have originated from North Korea.

A timely CRS report released March 22, 2006, correctly states that any act of counterfeiting the U.S. dollar is a direct attack on the United States. We must not allow our adversaries the option of using counterfeit U.S. dollars to cause harm against our Nation or economy. That is why H. Con. Res. 390 is so necessary.

This is not just a threat against the United States. The U.S. dollar is the world's reserve currency. Undermining the value of the dollar will negatively affect our allies and the nations

that are dependent on our currency. Counterfeiting of the U.S. dollar weakens our own ability to protect the U.S. and also pads the arsenals of those who wish to engineer our destruction.

It is time to step up and put a stop to the obvious counterfeiting of the U.S. dollar by foreign nations. I am proud to introduce H. Con. Res. 390 in the House, and I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this measure. We must protect our most important national asset—the U.S. dollar.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS CARDUCCI,
GARTH EPPLEY, GEORGINA
JOSHI, ZACHARY NOVAK AND
ROBERT SAMELS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, the community of classical vocal music artists and listeners suffered a great loss on April 20, 2006, when a light plane carrying five outstanding graduate students from Indiana University's Bloomington campus School of Music crashed just short of its destination. We join those grieving the loss of these talented musicians—Chris Carducci of Monroe, MI; Garth Eppley of Wabash, IN; Georgina Joshi of South Bend, IN; Zachary Novak of Anderson, IN; and Robert Samels of Medina, OH—for their accomplishments, for the great promise they held, and for the people they were. We will remember them today:

Chris Carducci—born April 18, 1978, in Monroe, MI, a graduate of Monroe High School, he received a bachelor of arts degree in music education in 2002 from Bowling Green State University—BGSU, Bowling Green, OH. He earned a master's degree in music from Indiana University, Bloomington, in 2005. He was a life member of St. John Catholic Church, where he was baptized, confirmed, and educated at its school. He was a former member and past president of the BGSU Men's Chorus. His opera career included an appearance at Carnegie Hall, where he sang selections from Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch* for the Marilyn Horne Foundation's "The Song Continues . . . 2005." A baritone, Mr. Carducci performed with Toledo Opera, Michigan Opera Works, BGSU Opera Theater and IU Opera Theater. In 2005, he created the role of Pontius Pilate in "Pilatus," a new opera by Robert Samels. Last year, he was recognized by the Metropolitan Opera National Council's Indiana District with an Encouragement Award. He also was a two-time winner of the Conrad-Peatee Art Song Competition.

Zachary Joseph Novak—Born Sept. 17, 1980, in Anderson, IN, graduated Highland High School in 1999. He went on to Anderson University and received a bachelor's degree in 2004, graduating *summa cum laude* with honors in music. Zach received the Anderson University music department's Voice Performance Award and won the Senior Men category and State National Association of Teachers of Singing Awards. He was due to graduate in early May with a master of music degree in choral conducting with a minor in voice from Indiana University in Bloomington. During his years at Indiana University he studied under

the direction of Dr. William Gray, professor of chorale conducting, who was instrumental in Zach's participation in the Lafayette & Carmel Bach Chorale. The Jacobs School of Music at IU continued to foster and enrich his gift of music. Numerous teachers, professors, and ministers had a positive influence on Zach throughout his life. While in Bloomington, Zach was the worship coordinator at First United Methodist Church where he directed the Wesley Choir and Children's Choir. During his time in Anderson, he was the choir director at Bethel United Methodist and choir director and organist at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, where he was a member. He touched so many with his musical talents. Zach received numerous awards during his life, including the American Legion Award twice, the Arion Music Award, Best Male Vocalist 1999, and Who's Who Among American High School & College Students. Scholarships include: The Theodore Presser Music Award, The Lilly Foundation, Anderson University Academic Honors, AU Music Award, AU Trustee Award, Tri Kappa Award, Student Exploratory Teaching, AFT Teacher's Award, and the Herman and Anne Leaf Award.

Robert Samels—Born June 2, 1981, in Akron, OH. Robert taught as an associate instructor in the IU Jacobs School of Music Theory Department with the same zeal he approached all his other professional activities. He was in charge of T231 and was loved and admired by his students. As a bass-baritone he had recently appeared as Mr. Gibbs in the world premiere of "Our Town" by Ned Rorem, as Marco in the collegiate premiere of William Bolcom's "A View from the Bridge," as well as Joseph and Herod in the collegiate premiere of "El Nino" by John Adams. In September 2005, he conducted the premiere of his own opera, "Pilatus." As a member of the Wolf Trap Opera Company for 2006, he would have added three roles this summer, including Bartolo in "Le nozze di Figaro," Friar Laurence in "Romeo et Juliette," and Pluto in Telemann's "Orpheus." Other opera credits included the title roles of "Don Pasquale" and "Il Turco in Italia," as well as Leporello in "Don Giovanni," Falstaff in "Merry Wives of Windsor," and Bottom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." In the summer of 2004, Samels performed Creon in the New York premiere of John Eaton's "Antigone." He also frequently performed in the oratorio repertoire. In the spring of 2005, he was selected as a semifinalist in the annual competition of the Oratorio Society of New York. He began his vocal studies with Alfred Anderson at the University of Akron and Andreas Poulimenos at Bowling Green State University. He was a doctoral student in choral conducting at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and had studied voice with Giorgio Tozzi and Costanza Cuccaro. Robert was an announcer as well as host and producer of "Cantabile" with public radio station WFIU. A soloist with Aguava New Music Studio, he recently performed a concert at the Library of Congress.

Georgina Joshi—Born October 21, 1981, in Elkhart, IN and embarked on a life filled with beautiful music. Georgina started singing at a very early age and studied violin from the age of 3. Georgina's first stage appearance was in Canton, OH, where she appeared with Players Guild of Canton in a production of the musical, *Oliver*. Her operatic debut was as Amahl in Indiana Opera North's production of *Amahl and*

the Night Visitors. Georgina graduated from John Adams High School where she was a member of the 1999 State Champion Mock Trial Team. During high school she was a member of the IUSB Philharmonic and the South Bend Chamber Singers, concertmistress of South Bend Youth Symphony, and participated in summer music programs at Interlochen, Tanglewood Music Center and Aspen Music School. She received numerous awards, including the YWCA Young Woman of the Year. Georgina attended the Royal College of Music, London, England, where she studied with Eiddwen Harrhy, receiving a bachelor of music, honors, degree in 2001. Since that time she has been a student at the IU Jacobs School of Music where she studied with Alan Bennet. While at IU, Georgina appeared as a soloist in various concert works including Haydn's Creation, Handel's Solomon, the B-Minor Mass of Bach, Britten's Hymn to St. Cecilia, Mendelssohn's Psalm 42, Schubert's Mass in A Flat Major, Mozart's Liteneae Lauriteneae K.195, the Mozart Requiem, and the Brahms Deutsches Requiem. She also appeared with IU Opera Theatre as Clorinda in Cenerentola and Despina in *Così fan tutte*. She collaborated with other musicians such as the Catacoustic Consort, the Bath Street Studio, and was a member of the Carmel Bach Festival Chorale. Outside the USA she appeared as a soloist in England, Wales, Romania, and Greece.

Garth Eppley—Garth was born on Feb. 7, 1981, in Wabash, IN, graduated Wabash High School. He graduated from Anderson College in 2003 with a degree in music performance, and was a student at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. He attended Giest Christian Church, Fishers, and was a member of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America, Yankee Beamers, and Rounders No. 7. Eppley had a bachelor's degree in voice performance with honors in performance from Anderson University. A tenor, Eppley studied under Fritz Robertson while at Anderson. His IU Opera Theater roles included Lysander in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the second man in "The Magic Flute," and the lawyer in "Peter Grimes." He was a frequent soloist with the Indiana University Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, with which he recently sang the role of Pilatus in Arvo Part's "Passio." Eppley also was a frequent soloist with the Lafayette Bach Chorale, where he had performed in such programs as Handel's "Solomon," Rachmaninoffs "Vespers", and the Festival of Sacred Choral Music under the baton of guest conductor Craig Jessup of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Last summer, Eppley was a participant, along with other singers from the United States and Canada, in the Charley Creek Vocal Workshop, an intense program of aria and song study. He was a master's student at IU, studying with Peru native Timothy Noble.

They are mourned across the country—from Carmel, CA, to New York's Carnegie Hall, to the Wolftrap Farm Park Summer Opera in northern Virginia, to all over the Midwest and Indiana. May we never forget.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CHRISTINE L. GALLO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Christine L. Gallo, who retired from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Fort Belvoir, Virginia on April 29, 2006. Her distinguished government career spans 38 years, and her record of achievement during this period reflects greatly upon herself and upon the organizations with which she has served. Her contributions to the National Defense will be missed as she moves on to new and exciting opportunities.

Ms. Gallo was a member of the Senior Executive Service and had received numerous awards over her 38-year career. These include the 1998 Presidential Rank Award (Meritorious), the United States Army Association of Quartermasters "The Distinguished Order of St. Martin," the DLA Exceptional Civilian Service Award, the DLA Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Beginning her Federal career as a planning assistant with the Navy in 1968, Ms. Gallo held progressively responsible logistics planning and management positions with the Naval Supply Systems Command before joining the General Services Administration as Director of Distribution for Federal Supply and Services. After joining DLA in December of 1986, she served as Director of the Defense Spares Initiatives Office, Director for Systems Planning for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Production and Logistics, Executive Director for Readiness and Customer Support, Executive Director for Business Modernization and Integration, and Director for DLA Enterprise Support (DES).

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Christine Gallo on her retirement from Federal Civil Service. She epitomizes the dedication and professionalism that make our Federal government a model all over the world.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEWISH AMERICANS DURING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the contributions Jewish Americans have made throughout our Nation's history as we celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month. In 1654, the first Jewish settlers arrived in the New World searching for a place to practice their faith free from persecution and live in liberty. Since then, the United States has continued to serve as a haven for Jewish settlers seeking refuge from waves of anti-Semitic repression and persecution in Europe and around the world. Jewish American Heritage Month should serve to educate all Americans about the rich cultural heritage of the Jewish people and their important contributions to American culture and history.

The United States is better and stronger as a result of Jewish people from around the world choosing to become American citizens. Jewish Americans made invaluable contributions to our Nation's labor movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Thousands of Jewish immigrants and their children who arrived in the United States during this time period earned their livings in sweatshops and factories in New York City, often working under horrific conditions. Many Jewish Americans played a key role in improving the working conditions for laborers, which led to collective bargaining and other advancements in the labor movement. Samuel Gompers, one of the founders and first president of the American Federation of Labor, earned his living in the crowded slums of New York as a cigar maker upon his arrival in the United States in 1863. Becoming highly skilled at his trade and earning the respect of his peers, he eventually moved up the ranks of the existing labor organization, transforming the structurally weak and ineffective Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Councils to the American Federation of Labor in 1886, which grew to represent over one million workers 6 years later.

Many individuals within the American Jewish community also made important contributions to the Civil Rights movement. Jewish philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, who funded dozens of primary schools, secondary schools, and colleges for black youth, led the Jewish community in contributing to some 2,000 schools for black Americans, including Howard, Dillard and Fisk universities. At one time, 40 percent of southern blacks were attending these schools. In addition, Jewish Americans like Abraham Joshua Heschel, a writer, rabbi and professor of theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America was outspoken on the subject of civil rights and marched arm-in-arm with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma. Professor Ernst Borinski, a refugee from the Holocaust who came to America to teach at Taugaloo University, organized dinners at which blacks and whites sat next to each other, a simple act challenging segregation. Joel Elias Spingarn, a Jewish-American educator and literary critic, was a founder and one of the first Jewish leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In 1913, as the organization's chairman of the board, he established the Spingarn medal, awarded annually for outstanding achievement by an African American. In addition, organizations such as the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, and Anti-Defamation League have actively promoted civil rights over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that all Americans observe Jewish-American Heritage Month by initiating programs and activities that commemorate these and the many other significant contributions Jewish Americans have made throughout our Nation's history. Over the centuries, Jewish Americans have achieved great success in business, medicine, the arts, science and technology, and many other professions. These achievements have strengthened our country and helped shape our way of life. In their commitment to family, faith, and community, the Jewish people have made America a stronger and more democratic society.

AC TRANSIT VOTED THE "BEST OF THE BEST"

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alameda County Transit Agency, AC Transit, headquartered in Oakland, California. For the sixth time in 9 years, AC Transit has been recognized as the Nation's most outstanding public bus agency at the American Public Transportation Association, APTA, meeting in Anaheim, California. At its annual "Bus Roadeo" in which bus operators and maintenance teams demonstrate their driving skills and knowledge, APTA has crowned AC Transit's drivers and mechanics as the "Best of the Best."

In addition AC Transit also won first place for its Customer Service in a special competition to evaluate bus operators' courtesy, patience and know-how.

The "Best of the Best" award came after grueling tests of competition involving more than 40 transit agencies with teams of drivers and mechanics from virtually every State in the country. Drivers were tested on their abilities to smoothly stop and maneuver their coaches in and out of tightly constricted spaces, avoiding mishaps and pedestrians. Mechanics were tested on their ability to quickly troubleshoot vehicle malfunctions by quickly diagnosing problems and instituting immediate repairs.

The competition is the "Super Bowl" for transit agencies, offering some of the world's top professionals an opportunity to display their driving skills, reflexes, judgment and superior workshop intelligence.

The "Best of the Best" designation represents the highest combined scores of the operator and maintenance team. AC Transit's team—operator Jesse Delacruz and mechanics, Carlos Leyva, Grant Pinkston and Donald Righter—was deemed number one in the Nation. AC Transit operator Patricia Lock won first place for Customer Service.

Congratulations to AC Transit on winning this prestigious "Best of the Best" award.

RECOGNIZING THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS STUDENTS OF AMERICA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA).

HOSA is a national career and technical student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Occupations Education Division of the Association for Career and Technical Education. HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for middle school, secondary, postsecondary, adult and collegiate students.

HOSA is not a club to which a few students in school join. Rather, HOSA is a powerful instructional tool that works best when it is integrated into the health science curriculum and

classroom. Health Occupations instructors are committed to the development of the total person. Those who join the Health Science-HOSA Partnership recognize the importance of providing students with training far beyond the basic technical skills needed for entry into the health care field. The rapidly changing health care system needs dedicated workers who, in addition to their technical skills, are people-oriented and capable of playing a leadership role as a member of a health care team.

Nationally, HOSA has grown to over 78,000 members in almost every state, and soon, over 5,000 HOSA members will gather in Anaheim, California, for their annual leadership conference. This opportunity provides tours of health care facilities, exhibits presented by professional health care associates, as well as an Educational Symposium—workshops presented by professional partners that provide information about current health care issues.

The members of HOSA, through a student-led pipeline, are making a significant contribution to overcoming the shortage of health care workers in our country, guiding more than 1 million students into health professions. I am proud to say that the Florida HOSA has the fourth largest membership at more than 6,700 members.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Health Occupations Students of America on celebrating their 30th anniversary, and I wish them luck on their continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION 210 GRADUATING CLASS OF 2006

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations of several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 9, 2006, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will honor the graduating class of 2006 at the Annual Apprentice Graduation Banquet, which will be held at the Patio Banquet Hall in Merrillville, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will recognize and honor the 2006 Apprentice Graduates. The individuals who have completed the apprentice training in 2006 are: Nino Arredondo, Joseph Butcher, Robert DePyssler, Lloyd James, Jr., Michael Klaich, Todd Knight, Paul Lacy, William Lawrence, Eric Longoria, Milutin Miljus, Greg Monnier, Eugene Pazdur, Derrick Poper, Jason Powers, Luis Quintana, Sean Severson, Daniel Smith, Bertram Wagner, Adam Westlund, Robert White, and Raymond Zack.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These graduates are all outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women

of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF
HON. JAMES P. MORAN
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006.

Madam Speaker, this bill claims that its goal is to ensure that no United States funding goes to support Hamaas, a foreign terrorist organization that has terrorized thousands and seeks the destruction of Israel. Were this what the bill in fact does, I would support it. However, the bill before us today goes much further than what is needed to achieve its stated goal.

First, H.R. 4681 severely restricts U.S. funding to the many non-governmental organizations that provide critical aid and services to the Palestinian people, and allows for such funding without a presidential waiver for the most basic of services, such as food and shelter. This serves no good purpose. Limiting NGO funding in this manner will only increase the hardship of the Palestinian people. Yes, it is possible that this increased hardship may drive Palestinians to turn against the Hamas-controlled Palestinian government. At the same time, however, the cause of this additional hardship—the termination in U.S. humanitarian aid—will provide a ready excuse to Hamas, allowing it to blame the United States, and others, for its failure. This is not in our interest.

We must not give this “out” to Hamas. Instead, we must ensure that, when Hamas fails in its attempt to govern, as it certainly will, it will not be able to blame the United States or any other party for its inability to deliver what the Palestinian people expected.

Second, restricting United States aid to NGOs in this manner will hurt the very people we should be assisting. The Palestinian people are facing an economic crisis that goes beyond basic food and shelter, and includes education, public health, economic development and physical infrastructure. It is in the United States' interest to provide such assistance if we are in fact in support of a two-state solution and peace in the Middle East.

Third, placing tight restrictions and sanctions on those parts of the Palestinian Authority that are not controlled by Hamas is a serious mistake, for it precludes our executive branch from working with governmental officials who may be viable options to Hamas. Other provisions in the bill—restricting the ability of all Palestinian Authority representatives to travel in the United States, interfering with the participation of Palestinian Authority representatives in international organizations, and refusing assistance to the Palestinian judiciary—are petty actions that will not, in any way, advance peace in the Middle East.

There is a high likelihood that as a result of this bill, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority

will turn around and seek the support from wealthy Arab and Muslim states, as well as extremist governments, like Iran and Syria. The message that this bill sends will push the Palestinian people away from us and quite possibly, the peace process. It will isolate them and force them to become more dependent on Hamas and their extremist supporters. This is not in our interest.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that the purpose of our every response to the Hamas electoral victory and to the fact that it now controls the Palestinian Authority must be (i) to deny any form of direct assistance until Hamas renounces its terrorist traditions and policy, (ii) to assist in the delivery of humanitarian aid and relief to the Palestinian people, and (iii) at least for as long as Hamas does not actively engage in or support violence, to refrain from any actions that will deepen the divide between the Palestinian people and this country, thereby allowing some room for progress to occur. The bill under consideration fails to meet two of these criteria. For these reasons, I will not support it.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF
HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4681, The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006. This legislation promotes the development of democratic institutions in areas under the administrative control of the Palestinian Authority. It comes at a time when the demand for responsible democratic leadership is needed more than ever before in the Middle East. I am proud that I was one of 295 members to co-sponsor this legislation, which would restrict aid to the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority until Hamas meets a series of conditions, including renouncing terrorism and accepting Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

This legislation explicitly states that it shall be U.S. policy that no U.S. Government officer or employee shall negotiate or have substantive contacts with members or official representatives of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, or any other Palestinian terrorist organization, until such organization recognizes Israel's right to exist, and renounces the use of terrorism. Additionally, any Palestinian government must recognize and accept all previous Israel-PLO agreements and understandings.

Having taken over the government of the Palestinian Authority, PA, Hamas has reiterated its commitment to violence and the destruction of Israel by endorsing suicide attacks on Israelis and appointing a man connected to the murder of Americans in Gaza as the new PA Interior Minister. Hamas' continued dedication to terrorism has already prompted the United States and its allies to end nearly all aid to the PA, with exceptions for humanitarian assistance. However, this bill permits certain assistance to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in recognition of his commitment to a non-violent resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The internationally backed Roadmap for Peace requires that the Palestinian Authority launch “sustained, targeted, and effective operations aimed at confronting all those engaged in terror.” The Palestinian Authority cannot call for the destruction of Israel if it is ever to be a serious partner for peace.

Finally, the members of the Palestinian Authority must assure us that they are focused on a better future for the Palestinian people and in order to do so, they must take steps to recognize Israel and its right to exist. The Palestinian Authority must be pressured to realize, that a government that fails to condemn terrorism, or, states its commitment to eliminate a fellow member of the community of nations is a government that cannot be considered a serious partner for peace.

I strongly encourage my colleagues, to vote in support of H.R. 4681, The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4681 because it inappropriately uses a blunt instrument to clumsily attempt to achieve Middle East peace. If this carelessly written and unnecessary legislation becomes law, it will set the Israeli-Palestinian peace process back further and result in additional Israeli and Palestinian deaths.

H.R. 4681 weakens moderate pro-peace Palestinians. This legislation does not discriminate in imposing sanctions against both Hamas and non-Hamas controlled elements and officials of the Palestinian Authority, PA. H.R. 4681 bans all aid to the Palestinian Legislative Council, PLC, and PA agencies and instrumentalities, including those not controlled by Hamas. Among the officials this bill prohibits from receiving assistance is Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who has been instrumental in counterbalancing Hamas and working toward a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

This legislation undermines diplomatic efforts to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East. This bill prohibits all members of the PA regardless of their affiliation or non-affiliation with Hamas—from obtaining visas necessary for diplomatic travel. This ill-advised rule will prevent the United States from fully engaging and bolstering moderate Palestinian leaders who recognize and support peace with Israel.

Even as the United Nations reports of an impending humanitarian disaster in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, this bill imposes unnecessarily strict sanctions on providing aid to Palestinian groups and non-government organizations not affiliated with Hamas. Under this legislation, the Palestinian people could receive essential medicine, but funds for democracy assistance, economic development, and sanitation infrastructure would be prohibited. This legislation therefore makes more likely a humanitarian crisis that will increase support for extremism, thereby endangering Israel and further destabilizing the region.

H.R. 4681 also ties the President's hands in dealing with emergency security and humanitarian crises. The bill limits the President's

ability to waive financial sanctions and travel prohibitions. It onerously requires the President to obtain congressional approval for every waiver on a case-by-case basis, complicating and delaying an American response to, for example, new Palestinian elections or a natural disaster.

Moreover, this legislation is unnecessary. Current U.S. law already forbids members of Hamas and other foreign terrorist organizations from obtaining visas or having diplomatic relations with the United States. According to the Bush Administration, the executive branch already has ample authority to impose all of the bill's restrictions. It is a rare but notable occurrence for me to agree with this Administration.

While I believe, that America should not provide aid to Hamas, I oppose this bill's reckless approach to the Middle East peace process. I voted for S. Con. Res. 79, that states that the U.S. should not provide assistance directly to the PA if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the PA maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel. Unlike the bill before us today, however, that resolution provided the executive branch the flexibility necessary to work with moderate Palestinian groups and permitted foreign aid to go to nongovernmental organizations.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful legislation and to consider a more thoughtful approach to achieving peace in the Middle East.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
BROWARD COUNTY 23RD ANNUAL
SENIOR HALL OF FAME BREAK-
FAST

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 25, 2006, 11 outstanding Broward elders will be honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame Breakfast. These 11 seniors being honored have volunteered in their communities and have contributed countless hours to helping others. Their outstanding character and compassion have truly set them apart. Those being honored are Judith Armstrong, Frieda Kramer, Reverend James Gooden, Helen Landers, Marie Long, Robert Millikan, June Sragow, Shirley Strassler, Jean Thompson, Mayor Joe Varsallone and Sunny Wein.

Judith Armstrong of Fort Lauderdale volunteers with the MediVan Health and Community Services' MediVan Project, providing critically needed primary medical care and prescription medicines to Broward's uninsured, low-income, elderly community. Ms. Armstrong is active on many different senior committees and manages multiple worthwhile projects, making her an incredible asset to the community of Fort Lauderdale.

Frieda Kramer of Coral Springs has dedicated over 20 years of service as a volunteer. She worked as a Medicare counselor with the Jewish Family Service at the Coral Springs Medical Center and with the SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Program as a counselor. Frieda's dedication to helping the elderly with Medicare and medical needs

goes above and beyond the call of duty. Her contributions of time, talent and energy have inspired all.

Reverend James Gooden of Fort Lauderdale has contributed countless hours to the Broward Schools Bi-racial Committee, the City of Fort Lauderdale Redevelopment Committee, and the Planning Committee for the North Broward Hospital District's Seventh Avenue Family Health Center. Reverend James Gooden is truly dedicated to helping those less fortunate and his love for humanity is demonstrated through all of his actions.

Helen Landers of Fort Lauderdale has dedicated her life's work to improving the status of women in our Nation's history. As chair of the Florida Education and Employment Council for Women and Girls, Ms. Landers has helped improved the status of all females. She is not only an outstanding advocate for women, but also for the environment. Ms. Landers is a Florida and Broward County Women's Hall of Fame Award Member and a valued historian.

Marie Long of Coral Springs is a very youthful 90-year-old volunteer at the Coral Springs Medical Center. Ms. Long has totaled more than 8,000 volunteer hours and has assisted her community through her passion for the latest computer technology. Marie's positive outlook and motivation support her life motto, "Youth is in the mind, not the age." These words come from an inspirational and well respected lady who leaves a legacy everyday in her community.

Robert Millikan of Coconut Creek is the face of the Breakfast Club at the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center. The center is a congregate lunch site, however, thanks to Robert participants have enjoyed breakfast, as well, for 8 years. Robert is beloved by both seniors and staff for his humble service and friendship. His kind heart has been a gift to everyone who has known him.

June Sragow of Hollywood is a retired educator who devotes her time and teaching skills to improving the lives of her peers. For over 8 years she has volunteered at Southeast Focal Point Senior Center teaching American History and Current Affairs, as well as tutoring non-English speaking seniors in the English language. June devotes her free time to Hospice of Southeast Florida. June's enthusiasm and desire to give back are evident by her visible presence in the community.

Shirley Strassler of Tamarac recently celebrated her 96th birthday, making her the hardest and oldest working volunteer. Ms. Strassler averages over 300 hours of service a year. Her work has involved: collecting canned goods, shopping for food and getting clothing to those in need during the holidays, and helping the senior program with various activities. Shirley won Volunteer of the Month in January 2003 for her outstanding dedication and inspiration to South Floridians she has touched along the way.

Jean Thompson of Fort Lauderdale has given countless hours of her time, since 1982, serving the less fortunate and homeless. Jean volunteers her time providing food, clothing, and medical supplies to the homeless of all ages. Jean has given hope to those who have lost their way and changes lives with her unconditional love.

Joe Varsallone of Margate has diligently served the city of Margate as mayor, vice mayor, and commissioner for more than 20 years. Mayor Varsallone continues to assure

that the needs of Broward's senior population are met by voting to appropriate funding to the Aging and Disability Resource Center. Joe Varsallone's generosity and grand presence within the community gives Broward County seniors the ability to live in their accustomed environments, without losing their independence.

Sunny Wein of Tamarac has volunteered with the city of Tamarac for approximately 26 years. Ms. Wein began calling and coordinating volunteer drivers to pick up elderly residents for medical and shopping appointments. She also assisted Hall of Famer Helen Sobel in collecting clothing, food and other items for needy families in Tamarac. Sunny is a hard working, dedicated volunteer who loves interacting with people and enjoys helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate these 11 outstanding Broward County citizens who are being honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame, and thank them for their years of service to their fellow Floridians.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my friend from Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for bringing this legislation to the floor. I would also like to thank my other friends, Chairman HENRY HYDE and TOM LANTOS, for their hard work on this bill.

As many of my colleagues have already stated, the need for this bill could not be clearer. In January of this year, the people of the Palestinian Authority elected Hamas, a terrorist entity with decades of experience in killing and maiming Jews, to govern the Palestinian Authority. When we pass this bill, the United States House of Representatives will tell the world that no terrorist organization can expect any support from the American taxpayer.

Some of my colleagues have complained that existing U.S. laws already provide the tools needed to combat Hamas effectively. But the fact is that none of us, during the process of passing those laws already on the books, believed that Hamas, one of the most dangerous groups in the world, would actually seize the reins of power in the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinians must understand that American assistance to others is not an entitlement.

I trust President Bush's instincts on his commitment to Israel. I view this bill as supporting those instincts. I believe, as the President does, that the Hamas government must either completely change its view of Israel and the existence of the Jewish state, or it must fail. Today, the House is acting to say this: Until Hamas changes or it is relieved of its authority to govern by the Palestinian people, American taxpayer dollars will not be used to support it either directly or indirectly. No general waiver authority is needed, in my opinion, to advance this goal.

Of course none of us here want to see the Palestinian people suffer needlessly. This bill does not cut off the stream of humanitarian

funding that some Palestinians unfortunately rely on to survive. But none of us here want to see the Israeli people suffer either. Hamas wants to and will take every opportunity to kill Israelis and Jews of other nationalities. It says so in their charter. And it was demonstrated just weeks ago in the bombing of a Tel Aviv restaurant, in which a close relative of my good friend ERIC CANTOR was murdered.

Leading the world by example is not easy, Mr. Speaker. It requires hard choices, it requires moral courage, and it requires standing on principle. Some of our closest friends overseas may try to take the easy way out by offering incentives to an unreformed Hamas government. But today the House stands with Israel, as we always have, against terrorism. We encourage the Administration to stand firm; and today we give them legislation to help them do just that. I look forward to working with colleagues from the Senate to get this bill to the President's desk. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 4681.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed the following votes because I was traveling on a congressional delegation to Egypt: S. 1235, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act, as amended (No. 177). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." H.R. 3858, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (No. 178). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's rollcall votes on S. 1235, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, and H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both bills.

LOUISIANA SCHOOL RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, recently more than 1,200 students from across the country participated in the national finals competition of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. This is one of the most extensive educational programs in the country developed specifically to educate young men and women about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The program is administered by the

Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. It is my distinct pleasure to announce the competition's Unit 5 Award winner: Grace King High School from Metairie, LA.

The national finals are an arduous 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students testify before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students from many schools demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. This year's winner, Grace King High School, is an educational institution known for high standards of academic achievement that has produced many talented students. The winners of this competition have proven through their hard work and meticulous study of our Constitution that they are no exception.

Mr. Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from Grace King High School are as follows:

Aaron Baer-Harsha, Patrick Berrigan, Jaime Bruno, Lily Chen, Caitlyn Clarke, Paulius Donauskas, Janice Fan, Rebecca Felix, Jeremy Finnegan, Alice Ho, Tony Huang, Thomas Lambert, Krysten Le, Donald Levenson, Ali Mahbod, Elise Murphy-Mejia, Jacob O'Neil, Sean Olsen, Veronica Oro, Anna Plakisy, Rachelle Ross, Olivia Saito, Sara Sands, and Murielle Telio.

I also wish to commend Jamie Staub, the teacher who was responsible for preparing the student class for the national finals competition. Also worthy of special recognition is John Alexander, the State coordinator, who is among those responsible for implementing the program in my district.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Monday, May 22, 2006, due to unavoidable circumstances in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" to S. 1235—The Veteran's Benefits Improvement Act of 2005 and "yea" to H.R. 3858—The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, the January victory of Hamas in parliamentary elections in the Palestinian territories was a shock to observers worldwide and to the many of us in the United States and abroad who have repudiated violence be-

tween the Palestinians and the Jews and have repudiated attacks on the state of Israel.

The election was a shock to the peace efforts in the Middle East because its outcome resulted in the Palestinian government being controlled by a party that was legitimately elected by the voters of the Palestinian territories but that also is a party that sponsors terrorist acts against the Israeli people and whose doctrine is based upon the notion that the existence of Israel is an affront to Islam.

For there to be any progress towards peace under a Hamas-led Palestinian government, Hamas must immediately acknowledge Israel's right to exist; uphold all previous agreements including the Roadmap for Peace; rid itself of all terrorist ties and dismantle its terrorist infrastructure; ensure the continuation of democratic institutions; and how fiscal transparency. If they do not, Hamas cannot expect the support and recognition of the United States and other governments.

However, any actions carried out by the U.S. Government against Hamas must address Hamas specifically and not the Palestinian people generally and must not undermine our goals in the Middle East. The bill being voted on today by the House would undermine the U.S. Government's ability to further the peace process and it would clearly hurt the Palestinian people. It could also lead to chaos in the Palestinian territories, which would be counter to both American and Israeli interests.

I am not alone in saying that denying all aid, except in the most isolated of instances, to the Palestinian people runs counter to both American and Israeli security interests. If we provoke a humanitarian crisis there, it may very well lead to the collapse of the Hamas government but not without potentially severe costs to both law abiding Palestinians and the peace process at the same time. And it could also erode civil order.

We do not and must not ever support terrorists in the Palestinian government. However, the United States must continue to support programs providing the Palestinian people's basic needs such as food, water and medicine; programs supporting democracy, human rights, freedom of the press and non-violence; as well as peaceful co-existence with Israel.

That is why I voted against H.R. 4681. The United States has already cut off direct aid to the Hamas government. This bill would not have brought additional penalties directly to Hamas. That objective has already been achieved. But it would penalize the Palestinian people and greatly limit the Administration's diplomatic options in pursuing peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

I hope that a conference committee with the Senate might produce legislation that addresses my concerns and the concerns of my other colleagues and of many well-regarded organizations and individuals who are deeply pro-Israel and who are great supporters of humanitarian efforts in the Middle East. I look forward to being able to support a revised bill that will send the proper message to Hamas that its violence toward Israel will never be supported and to the Palestinian people that the United States stands ready to work with them to resolve this most difficult and important conflict in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, California.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that has worked since 1920 to improve our governmental systems and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy. A grassroots organization, working at the national, State and local levels, the League's enduring vitality is a testament to its member's commitment to their communities.

The League of Women Voters of Eureka, California was organized in 1956, and in 1981 became the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County. It has influenced public policy through education and advocacy including supporting local efforts to increase affordable housing and the development and maintenance of a high quality public education system. Additionally the League has advocated for responsible stewardship of the Humboldt Bay and has aided in improving public library facilities in the Humboldt County Library District.

From its inception the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County has provided a comprehensive nonpartisan Voter Service program to the public, including live and televised candidate forums, printed information concerning State ballot measures, voter registration booths and online resources. Since 1980 the League has published and updated "A Citizen's Guide to County Government," an excellent source of current information about local government, distributed to the public free of charge.

Since 1992 the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County has honored 18 individuals and 8 organizations at its State of the Community Luncheon, with Civic Contribution Awards for the recipients' efforts in making democracy work in Humboldt County.

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County is committed to the mission of encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and has declared 2006 "The Year of the Voter" to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the organization's existence.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize and commend the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE JOURNEY FOR
FREEDOM RIDE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of our U.S. Veterans and the men and women motorcyclists of America, many of whom are veterans, whose

ride across America in support of our troops overseas and in honor of the service and sacrifice of our U.S. Veterans, is reflected in the rumbling wave of bikes soaring across the highways of America's heartland, echoing the universal sound of freedom, support, unity and peace.

The "Journey For Freedom Ride" began on May 17, 2006 in Tacoma, Washington, and will end in a celebration of nearly half a million riders just outside Washington, DC, on May 26. Conceived by U.S. Veterans and organized by Harley Davidson enthusiast and entrepreneur Dan Harris, founder of Global Biker Films, the "Journey For Freedom Ride" is supported by Harley Davidson Dealerships throughout the Nation, veterans groups and private businesses. The mission of the Ride is as simple and powerful as taking to the open road: To support our enlisted military women and men around the world, until they come home safely; and to ride in tribute of our veterans, especially those who've made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our entire Nation.

The "Journey For Freedom Ride" will be captured on film and sent overseas for free distribution to our troops. Global Biker Films is also planning the establishment of the "Journey for Freedom Foundation," an initiative that will provide college scholarships to the loved ones of our fallen servicemen and service-women. On May 25, 2006, the band of American freedom riders will roll into Cleveland, Ohio, at the Harley Davidson Sales Company, located on Lorain Avenue. Company owner Dan Schmidt and General Manager Joe Cervelli have offered a warm welcome to the freedom riders and veterans from our community and from the across the country.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the riders and organizers of the "Journey For Freedom Ride." Their volunteer journey of support will serve to honor our veterans and active military personnel as they rocket down the highways of America, the chrome soul of our Nation shining like a beacon of hope, roaring with the wind, blue sky, and rolling highways, and held aloft by a spirit of unity, freedom and the endless quest for peace, here at home and around the world. Ride on.

CHILDREN'S TRANSPLANT CENTER
OF PITTSBURGH CELEBRATES 25
YEARS

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues in the House that June 3 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Children's Transplant Center at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

The Children's Transplant Center was the first pediatric transplant center in the entire Nation when it was established in 1981. For 25 years, the unprecedented efforts of the surgeons and staff at the Center have continually raised the bar for pediatric transplant surgery and recovery, both nationally and around the globe.

Twenty-five years after the establishment of the Children's Transplant Center under the guidance of transplant pioneer Thomas E.

Starzl, MD, PhD, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh today is widely recognized as a leader in developing strategies to manage organ rejection. From the first and most successful series of small intestine transplants to its breakthrough work in pediatric multi-organ transplants, Children's has repeatedly achieved major advances in the operating room and laboratory.

I commend the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh for its commitment to taking on the most challenging and difficult cases—which, by the way, has not prevented its dedicated and hard-working doctors and staff from achieving survival rates that repeatedly exceed national and international averages. I am so very proud to say that these people are the caregivers for my young constituents and for desperately sick children from around the world.

I want to extend my warmest congratulations to the Children's Transplant Center, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and all of the surgeons and staff that are part of the Center and wish them continued success in the future.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act, PATA, which passed the House earlier today. PATA denies all direct aid to the Hamas-run Palestinian Authority until it renounces violence and recognizes Israel's right to exist.

Hamas is a terrorist organization responsible for killing hundreds of innocent men and women, including over two dozen Americans. In fact, in April, a suicide bomber killed 9 and injured over 60 civilians in Tel Aviv, but Hamas has not disavowed the act nor denied complicity.

If Hamas will not agree to fight terrorism, recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, or accept previous agreements between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, then Hamas is not a partner of the United States, let alone a partner worthy of funding from American taxpayers' hard earned dollars.

Madam Speaker, let me be clear, no one wishes to harm Palestinians or to deny them humanitarian aid. In fact, this bill ensures that humanitarian aid is still able to reach the Palestinian people, while keeping taxpayer dollars out of the hands of terrorists. Unfortunately, since its election 3 months ago, Hamas has consistently made a choice; faced with the option of peace, negotiation, and a path forward, or continued violence and the status quo, Hamas has chosen the latter. As long as Hamas continues to make that decision, the United States and her allies will continue to isolate Hamas and to deny funding to a terrorist group.

I appreciate that so many of my colleagues share my support for PATA.

TRIBUTE TO THE 14TH AIR SERVICE GROUP AND THE 987TH SIGNAL COMPANY, U.S. ARMY

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Memorial Day, a day to remember those who have given their lives to preserve democracy in this great Nation, I rise today to honor the heroes of the 14th Air Service Group and the 987th Signal Company of the United States Army. These two units represent the only all-Chinese American units serving in World War II.

Chinese-American servicemembers of World War II primarily served in integrated units, in every branch of the military, and in every theater of war, including Europe, the South Pacific, the North Atlantic, and the China Burma India Theater. The members of the 14th Air Service Group and the 987th Signal Company were exceptions. Serving in segregated units, with a mix of White and Chinese-American officers, they were organized for service in China as part of a war aid package for Chiang Kai-Shek's Chinese Nationalist Government.

Several surviving members of these two units are visiting Washington this week to commemorate Memorial Day, but also to share with me their stories. Both on and off the battlefield, their life histories are a part of our Nation's fabric.

Like all of those who served, these units performed an invaluable service to this country on the battlefield. Under difficult circumstances, these units supported the aerial operations in China and enhanced communications between American and Chinese military organizations, contributing to the Allied victory in World War II.

Off the battlefield, these units and their families represent Chinese America in the 1940's. Half were American born and half were immigrants from Hong Kong and China, some as young as high school and others as old as 36 years of age leaving behind families and established businesses and careers. None foresaw leaving what had become home, returning to the country from which they came and joining a fight to protect the freedoms of their new life in America.

To the members of the 14th Air Service Group and the 987th Signal Company, I thank you for your sacrifice, steadfast bravery and love of country and for coming to share your story.

I extend my deepest gratitude to those of the 14th Air Service Group and the 987th Signal Company who did not return home or who are not with us still today. Their memories will live on through us and all servicemembers who have or will answer the call to serve. I call upon this Congress to join me today in thanking these great Americans.

TRIBUTE TO THE DES MOINES VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL 4 BY 400-METER RELAY TEAM

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by Iowa students at the Iowa High School State Track Meet held at Drake stadium in Des Moines this past weekend.

I congratulate the Des Moines Valley High School 4 by 400-meter relay team for topping a 36-year-old State record on Friday, May 19. The team of Bryan Collins, Zac Sandvig, Ryan Keairnes, and Brandon McSkimming set the new record finish in 3 minutes 13.8 seconds, crushing the old record of 3 minutes 16.6 seconds. I am proud to say this time is the fifth best high school mark in the Nation for 2006.

Special recognition also needs to go to Brooke Dinsdale from North Tama High School. Brooke, a sophomore from Traer, broke the State's 25-year-old 800 meter record in 2 minutes 9.6 seconds. Only one high school girl in the United States has run a faster 800 meter race this season.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the athletic and academic excellence of these young people from my district. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team said it best: "If you believe in yourself, have dedication and pride, and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high, but so are the rewards." These students have felt victory on the track, and I am confident they will continue to feel victory as they go through life.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose the manner in which H.R. 4681 was brought to the floor of the House. To bring a bill of this importance up under suspension of the rules, without the opportunity for amendment or full debate, was an unfortunate decision and is a bad way for this body to be legislating. The process should be open, with every chance for members to deliberate and offer substantive and positive change to what is a very complex bill.

H.R. 4681 is well-meaning legislation. Unfortunately, it implements a foreign policy that could potentially reduce future diplomatic options for the U.S. Department of State. While the legislation should specifically target the terrorist group Hamas, it unnecessarily includes nearly all members of the Palestinian Authority—PA—Government, and will punish the entire Palestinian people.

There is no doubt that Hamas firmly believes in terrorism as a means to achieve their goals. The U.S. must continue to denounce the group's ideology. However, H.R. 4681 includes provisions which I believe will make it even more difficult for the PA to find its way back to the roadmap and to achieve peace.

This includes expecting Hamas to reach specific benchmarks—benchmarks that no other PA government has been able to achieve—before receiving aid from the U.S. It includes expanding travel restriction and economic sanctions to include all members of the PA Government and all Palestinians, not simply those who are members of Hamas. Also, it includes no national security waiver which would allow the President the flexibility he needs to diplomatically deal with the situation.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is opposed by many non-governmental organizations, including those who are providing health, education, and humanitarian aid throughout the Middle East. It is also opposed by the Bush administration, which believes the legislation to be unnecessary. U.S. Secretary of State Rice has repeatedly spoken of the need for the U.S. to do all it can to be a leader in promoting peace in the Middle East, and she believes that this legislation is not the appropriate way in which to continue that leadership. This opposition from the very individual who is implementing and creating U.S. foreign policy should give us pause, and should give us even more reason not to be bringing this legislation up under suspension.

There is no question that the terrorist actions of Hamas necessitate action by the U.S. and that every Member of this body opposes Hamas. With passage of H.R. 4681, and passage of similar legislation in the Senate, I hope that a conference report takes into account all of the concerns that have been raised and substantively alters the content within this bill to ensure the Palestinian people do not unnecessarily suffer. We must enact smart foreign policy that is strong enough to bring about change, but which does not tie the hands of the President or marginalize moderate Palestinians who desire positive change.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on May 18, 2006 and missed rollcall vote 172, H.R. 5386. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for 172.

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA WONG

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cynthia Wong who recently passed away. Ms. Wong served as a Pacoima middle-school librarian since 1994 and was an active member and officer of several professional organizations, including the California School Library Association.

Ms. Wong possessed an enormous passion for books and through this passion inspired many students. The hard work she put in as a Pacoima librarian has paid many dividends to the community. She was known to engage students through her bookmark and reading

contests and would spend many hours of her own time planning and leading district workshops.

Ms. Wong's work has been so important to the community that her fellow staff members, along with her students, have decided to honor her through the dedication of a Professional Research Center and a Memorial Reading Garden. Both the center and the garden will be built next to the library that Ms. Wong loved for 12 years.

It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join with me in saluting Ms. Wong for her outstanding achievements. She was an amazing person and her memory will live on through the Cynthia Wong Research Center and Reading Garden and through the many lives she touched.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAXINE JAMES, ESSEX COUNTY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me as I rise to congratulate my Chief of Staff, Ms. Maxine James, on her induction into the Essex County Hall of Fame. This is a well-deserved honor for Ms. James, as she has been a positive force for the betterment of Essex County for many years.

Fortunately for me and the residents of Essex County, Ms. James has always been strongly committed to meeting the needs of her community. It was through her vision and insight that some of the finest public servants in Essex County have been drawn into government service. She has also been responsible for helping to establish long-term, beneficial programs in the County, including the Newark Emergency Services for Families (NESF). NESF provides a life-line for residents of Newark and Essex County who are facing challenging situations including homelessness, a lack of heat, or the need for food to feed their families. She has contributed her time and talent to numerous community-based organizations over the years.

Throughout my years as an elected official, Ms. James has been a staunch supporter, friend and confidante. She is a true professional with a creative genius that has garnered many friends from all walks of life. Before my election to Congress, I had the privilege of working with Ms. James at Prudential Insurance Company in Newark, where she impressed me with her enormous energy, intelligence and tenacity. During my tenure on the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Maxine generously volunteered her services on several committees doing work to benefit the local community.

When I was elected to the office of Newark Municipal Council in the early 1980's, Maxine joined my team and did an excellent job running my office and providing assistance to the residents of the South Ward over the course of 7 years. In 1988, upon my election to Congress, I selected Ms. James to be my Chief of Staff, and she continues in that role today. Her loyalty is admirable and her dedication is un-

paralleled. She is indeed "one of a kind" and it is my good fortune to have benefited from that distinction.

Ms. James is the mother of two children, Chris and Brian, and the proud grandmother of two, Olivia and Malcolm.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in extending best wishes to Ms. Maxine James as she is inducted into the Essex County Hall of Fame. I am pleased to congratulate her on this very special award and wish her all the best as she continues her public service.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOEL M. CARP

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Joel M. Carp who will soon retire from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago after 28 years of service to that organization. Through the Jewish Federation, Mr. Carp has supported the organization's goals of supporting local, national and international services in regards to human welfare.

Mr. Carp is an advocate for sound public social policy and has written over 30 articles pertaining to social work, social planning and refugee resettlement. Throughout his career, Mr. Carp has collaborated with the City of Chicago Mayor's Task Force on issues from hunger to homelessness. Additionally, Mr. Carp was appointed to work with the City of Chicago on welfare reform.

Previous to his work with the Jewish Federation, Mr. Carp devoted 20 years to the Jewish Community Field Center. Mr. Carp has worked in partnership with various organizations such as HIAS, NYANA and OMB Watch to champion for societal improvements. Moreover, Mr. Carp taught as a social work field Professor at various universities in their graduate programs.

Mr. Carp is a man of integrity who keeps his word. At the request of my Chief of Staff Richard Boykin and Craig Roberts, Chief of Staff for Representative JOHN SHIMKUS, Mr. Carp organized an Illinois Chiefs of Staff delegation to visit Israel. During the visit, the Illinois Chiefs of Staff learned many interesting things about Israel and had the good fortune of meeting with the current Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Mr. Carp is highly esteemed for his social policy work and was recently presented with the Melvin A. Block Award for Professional Distinction. Mr. Carp is a pride to the Chicago community and his many years of work are incredibly appreciated. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join with me and the residents of the Seventh Congressional District in saluting Mr. Carp for his achievements in the Jewish community, the Chicago-land area and the United States.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I plan to publish additional thoughts elsewhere about why I voted against H.R. 4681, The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006. I expect to be joined in these thoughts by Dr. Bruce Hoffman, a world renowned expert on the subject of terrorism. For now, however, let me simply offer the following brief observations for today's RECORD, particularly because my vote so angered a valued colleague of mine.

In my view, H.R. 4681 passed the House by an overwhelming majority earlier today because my colleagues seek the end of violent jihadist terrorism and are committed to protecting Israel and its citizens. As my words, votes and actions consistently show, I strongly share these objectives. But at this juncture, I would try a different strategy to attain them.

The storied Archibald Wavell, then a young British officer who had served on Allenby's staff in Palestine, offered this prescient bit of irony about the treaties ending World War I: "After the 'war to end war' they seem to have been pretty successful in Paris at making a 'peace to end peace'." That his prediction has come true thus far is of grave concern to the United States and Israel, two fast allies facing violent jihadist enemies with access to ever more sophisticated killing technology. Somehow we must break the cycle of hatred and violence.

Though factually counterintuitive given its history of hatred and violence, I believe Hamas' victory in the Palestinian elections offers a rare, if slim, opportunity to break this cycle, an opportunity well worth exploring given the enormous stakes and intractable nature of the problem. Unfortunately H.R. 4681 squanders that opportunity by rushing to judgment about the added danger of Hamas as a majority legislative party and by merely continuing strategies that have failed for decades to secure a lasting peace. It and the economic embargo already undertaken by Israel and the United States are apt to further radicalize the Palestinian population (and the Arab world generally), accelerating and extending the cycle of violence and broadening the opportunity for Al Qaeda in Palestine.

Hamas, in the short run, cannot credibly agree to the three preconditions set in H.R. 4681. But it can agree to a cessation of violence while diplomacy progresses. With luck, time and diplomatic skill, that might lead to a peace agreement accepted by Hamas and, hence, worth something more than the paper evidencing it. Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyah has said that Hamas could redefine its position if doing so would further the interests of the Palestinian people. And polls consistently show a majority of Palestinians will accept a two state solution and recognition of Israel.

Hamas now enjoys Ariel Sharon-like strength and credibility among Arabs and Palestinians. No question its election victory at least calls for extra vigilance and caution from Israel and the West. It has committed acts of terrorism which all decent people condemn in

the strongest terms. But Hamas, given time to change and adjust, may have the strength and credibility to break the cycle of hatred and violence on behalf of those it now represents, the Palestinian people. After all, Sharon changed. And who but Sharon could have accomplished the withdrawal from Gaza?

I understand a number of my colleagues voted against H.R. 4681 for humanitarian reasons. These are certainly compelling, but I agree with the vast majority of my colleagues that such issues must take a back seat to the fundamental, long term security issues presented by the Hamas electoral victory. My "no" vote is quite narrowly based. I think this situation calls for time and diplomacy. H.R. 4681 offers neither and evidences, yet again, why Congress should not be conducting our foreign policy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, last week I could not be present for votes on May 17–19 due to my son's graduation from a California law school.

If I had been present on May 17, I would have voted "no" on amendments to the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, H.R. 4200 (rollcall votes 147, 148, 149, and 150). As a cosponsor of H.R. 4200, I would have voted "yes" on final passage of the bill (rollcall vote 151).

I would have voted "no" on the Marshall Rule to consider the budget (rollcall vote 152), "no" on the previous question (rollcall vote 153), and "no" on the rule to consider the Republican budget (rollcall vote 154). I would have voted "no" on the Watt Substitute (rollcall vote 155).

On May 18, I would have voted "no" on the Hensarling Substitute (rollcall vote 156).

I would have voted "yes" on the Spratt Democratic Substitute, which would have accumulated smaller deficits and less debt than the Republican budget, provided \$6.5 billion more for Homeland Security and \$8.6 billion more for veterans' health care over the next five years. In addition the substitute, would have provided \$150 billion for middle class tax relief such as child tax credit, marriage penalty, and extension of 10% tax bracket (rollcall vote 157).

I would have voted "no" on final passage of the irresponsible Republican budget, which passed 218–210 (rollcall vote 158).

I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 740, calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Pat Finucane (rollcall vote 159).

I would have voted against the previous question and rule to consider the Interior Appropriations bill (rollcall votes 160 and 161).

I would have voted for H. Res. 795, which condemns the terrorist attacks in Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt (rollcall vote 162).

I would have voted for the Weiner Amendment to reopen the Statue of Liberty to the public, which passed 266–152 (rollcall vote 163). I would have voted "no" on the Poe

Amendment to open the outer continental shelf to oil and natural gas drilling (rollcall vote 164). I would have voted for the Pallone Amendment to prohibit the EPA from finalizing changes to the Toxins Release Inventory, which collects and reports information on toxic substances (rollcall vote 165). I would have voted "no" on the Beauprez Amendment (rollcall vote 166). I would have voted "yes" on the Hinchey Amendment, which would require that any new leases for offshore oil and gas drilling include royalty payments if the price of oil or gas is over a certain threshold (rollcall vote 167).

I would have voted against the Chabot Amendment, which would prohibit funds for new logging roads in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska (rollcall vote 168).

I would have voted for the Oberstar Amendment to prohibit the EPA from enforcing guidelines set 3 years ago that significantly limit the applicability of the Clean Water Act to streams, ponds, and wetlands (rollcall vote 169).

I would have voted "yes" on the Putnam/Capps amendment to reinstate the bipartisan moratorium on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf (rollcall vote 170).

I would have voted "no" on the Hefley Amendment, which would provide a one percent across-the-board cut to all programs funded in the Interior Appropriations bill (rollcall vote 171).

I would have voted for final passage of the Interior Appropriations bill given the significant improvements made to the bill by the passage of the Hinchey, Oberstar, and Putnam/Capps amendments (rollcall vote 172).

On May 19, I would have voted "no" on the Previous Question and passage of the rule for consideration of the Military Construction and Quality of Life Appropriations bill (rollcall votes 173 and 174). I would have voted "no" on the Blumenauer Amendment which would have cut \$440 million from the BRAC Base Closure account (rollcall vote 175).

I would have voted for final passage of the Military Construction and Quality of Life Appropriations bill (rollcall vote 176).

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and pleasure to rise in recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month, which was inaugurated this year to be celebrated annually during the month of May.

Jewish American Heritage Month is a special opportunity to celebrate Judaism not only as a religion, but a culture that is rich in history, tradition, and flavor. The American Jewish Community has made significant contributions to our society and has helped weave the fabric of American life.

In 1833, it was a Jewish immigrant, Emma Lazarus, who composed the poem "The New Colossus" as part of a fundraising campaign to erect the Statue of Liberty. The monument was later inscribed with her words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." These words have

come to symbolize America's role as a haven for all who seek opportunities and freedom from persecution, including hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants who arrived at our shores.

My own grandparents came in the early 1900s from what is now Moldova after escaping hardship and pogroms. They settled in a working-class Jewish neighborhood in Los Angeles much like other communities that sprang up in major cities around the country. They lived amid a tight-knit community of kosher butchers, synagogues, and Jewish businesses, where Yiddish was often heard on the streets.

Although sometimes criticized for their insularity, these ethnic neighborhoods epitomized the values of charity and community service, building a safety net long before Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security came into existence. In this regard, Jewish Los Angeles has an impressive history. The Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (JFS), established in 1854, was one of the first umbrella organizations of its kind to support comprehensive support services like a food pantry, care for the elderly, and assistance for the unemployed.

The community in Los Angeles also earned distinction for its openness and diversity. A special milestone being celebrated in my district this year is the 100th anniversary of Sinai Temple, which is the oldest Conservative congregation west of the Mississippi. L.A. is now home to the University of Judaism, Hebrew Union College, and an array of synagogues and schools from all streams of Jewish religious practice.

Of course, Jewish Los Angeles is perhaps best recognized for the many Jewish entrepreneurs and entertainers who have taken on prominent roles as producers, actors, recording artists and media personalities. Jewish Americans also made their mark in education, science, economics, literature and many other arenas. More than a third of U.S. Nobel Prize winners in science or economics have been Jewish. There have been 18 Jewish Recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. While Jews in the United States have also suffered periods of discrimination and anti-Semitism, the community has persevered as a champion of civil rights, tolerance and religious freedom. It is often said that Jews living in America are freer, safer, and more prosperous than at any time or place in Jewish history.

One reason it is particularly fitting that this month has been chosen to honor Jewish American Heritage Month is that May 5th is the anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. The United States was the first major country to officially recognize the fledgling Jewish State. Our relationship has been cemented through robust economic ties and strong military cooperation, and an enduring partnership based on democratic values.

Although Jews account for barely two percent of the population, there are today more Jews living in the United States than any other country outside of Israel. I welcome the designation of Jewish American Heritage Month and the opportunity for all Americans to learn about the contributions made by one of our nation's most vocal and vibrant minorities.

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, I am greatly concerned about cuts that have been made to Farm Bill programs through this agriculture appropriations bill. I believe that using mandatory Farm Bill money to pay for an annual spending bill is unacceptable, and it's simply not fair to our farmers.

Appropriators and authorizers have long fought over mandatory and discretionary dollars; however, since 2004, we've seen a large increase in the amount of mandatory money used to pay for programs in the appropriations bill. We all worked very hard during the last Farm Bill. We agreed and put together a safety net for all farmers, and dedicated money to conservation, rural development, and other programs, but have since witnessed a significant portion of our annual funding be redirected.

With falling farm income because of higher energy and production costs, along with lower farm gate prices, now is the worst time to cut this funding for our agricultural producers. I'm worried about dropping the bottom out from underneath our agricultural producers and rural citizens through cuts to conservation and rural development programs, which have already taken disproportionate reductions in funding.

Conservation programs assist our farmers and ranchers in strengthening their environmental stewardship, which is so important for looking after land and water that we will pass on to our future generations. By investing in enhanced environmental protection of land and water, the public benefits from an overall improved quality of life; affordable food, cleaner, safer, and more dependable water supplies; reduced damages caused by floods and other natural disasters; abundant wildlife; scenic landscapes and an enhanced natural resource base. Cutting important conservation programs while we're facing a huge backlog of producers waiting to participate in these programs will hinder these efforts.

I am especially concerned about cuts to the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection program. Since 1996, the program, in partnership with state and local governments and nongovernmental organizations, has kept over 440,000 acres of productive farmland in agricultural uses. FRPP is an excellent way of preserving farmland for many years to come, and helps provide a means for maintaining a viable rural economy.

Additionally, rural development programs are vital to ensuring that our traditionally-agriculturally based communities do not simply vanish because of farm and job loss. I am concerned about cuts to an important rural development program that assists farmers in adding value to their products. Rural development initiatives help to advance our rural communities, develop new markets, and provide economic growth.

Mr. Chairman, I respect the appropriators in the difficult task they have been given in this tight budget climate, but I ask that they respect the funding amounts put forth in the Farm Bill, and not make cuts to mandatory programs.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, as a Member of Congress who's served in the Peace Corps, I've always considered myself a man of peace.

I strongly support current U.S. law that prevents any funding from going to Hamas, which the State Department has rightly classified as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. A Hamas controlled Palestinian Authority is antithetical to a peaceful Middle East or a two-state solution.

On May 23 the House approved H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006. If I was convinced that passage of this bill would foster peace in the Middle East, I would have voted for it. Unfortunately, I felt compelled to oppose the bill because I do not believe it will help Israel, our only democratic ally in the region, or improve grassroots efforts to reach a peace agreement. In particular, H.R. 4681 would make it nearly impossible to fund nongovernmental organization (NGO) reconciliation programs that work to build peace. By funding NGOs that work towards reconciliation and peace we undermine the ideology of hate that Hamas perpetuates. The Senate version of this bill, S. 2370, specifically includes an exception that allows for funding for coexistence and reconciliation activities: "(2) ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY—Assistance to promote democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, non-violence, reconciliation, and peaceful co-existence, provided that such assistance does not directly benefit Hamas or other foreign terrorist organizations." If the joint House-Senate conference agrees to include the above Senate language in the conference report, I will support H.R. 4681.

A secure Israel and a two-state solution are the cornerstones to achieving peace in the region, and grassroots conflict prevention is the critical first step of the foundation for peace.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 4681, PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, today, the House considers H.R. 4681, legislation that I'm sad to say is both overbroad in its reach and misses the mark by penalizing the Palestinian people without compelling Hamas to abandon its anti-Israeli rhetoric, its rejectionist policies and its support for terror and violence.

First of all, Madam Speaker, I want to be clear: I have always and continue to unequivocally denounce and condemn any and all terrorist acts, whether committed by Hamas or any other terrorist group.

That is why I voted for S. Con. Res 79 in February which declared that that no U.S. assistance should be provided directly to the

Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel.

My position on Hamas's responsibilities in light of its having attained a majority of seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council, and thus its assumption of power as the governing party of the Palestinian Authority, has been clear:

Hamas must recognize Israel; Hamas must renounce violence and terrorism; Hamas must abide by previous peace agreements, like the Oslo accord, and act in accordance with the Roadmap; and

Hamas must return the Palestinians to the negotiating table with Israel, and reach the mutually agreeable peace agreement that is called for in the Roadmap and the earlier agreements.

This is Hamas's responsibility of governance. I believe the United States should do everything that it can to both insist upon and to facilitate Hamas taking up this burden of responsibility, and we should not rest until the goal of a negotiated settlement is achieved. Moreover, we should not slow the Middle East peace process by making these targets preconditions for our engagement in the process. As the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin reminded us: I do not need to make peace with my friends.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to understand that engagement and negotiation for peace is a process not an event, and it necessarily involves the belligerents to a conflict not those whom we would aspire to put at the negotiating table.

I agree that we should not fund Hamas, but not at the expense of average Palestinians which is the end result of this legislation. Among other things, this legislation obstructs a

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I regret that because of a family medical emergency I could not be present when the House voted today and I would like to submit this statement for the record in support of H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act.

Hamas' continued refusal to recognize the existence of Israel, enforce existing peace agreements and renounce terrorism represents a real threat to progress in the Middle East peace process. It is therefore critical that the United States send the strongest possible signal to Hamas that a government based on fear and intolerance is unacceptable. H.R. 4681 is an important step towards addressing the extreme and unproductive positions currently held by Hamas-led Palestinian Authority. However, there are some in Connecticut and across the country that remain concerned that the bill goes too far in restricting the financial assistance the Palestinian people rely on or may have far-reaching and unintended consequences. To this end, I look forward to

working with my colleagues to ensure that this bill achieves our common shared goal of fostering a Palestinian government that is a full partner in achieving a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

HONORING RICHARD SHOEMAKER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this June will witness the retirement of Richard Shoemaker after an unusually illustrious career in the American labor movement.

He rose from an eighteen-year-old worker at John Deere in Illinois to serve three terms as vice-president of the United Auto Workers.

He rose up the ranks on the basis of his strong talents of mind and spirit. No matter what rung he was on, he never forgot where he started.

The result was an exceptional dedication to work for the well-being of his fellow and sister workers. He was proud that the labor movement, of which he was a vital part, was playing a key role in creating a strong middle class in America, one that gave workers a chance to obtain what many of their parents dreamed for their children to have, and which so many did not possess before the labor movement—a truly decent wage, decent health care, some security for their retirement, and educational opportunity for their children.

That was infused in his work as a President of his local at the age of 27, as an international representative appointed at the age of 30 by Walter Reuther, and in key administrative posts for UAW vice president Steve Yokich and President Owen Bieber.

He was called upon to tackle tough issues. Some years ago it was the effort to resolve a long conflict in labor management relations at Caterpillar.

Greater challenges still lay ahead. The American auto industry is now tackling perhaps the most dramatic challenges in its history. As vice-president of the UAW for GM and

Delphi, Dick Shoemaker is in the very center of the storm, using his deep talents, intelligence and experience to work toward answers that can sustain the domestic auto industry that he loves and helped build, while remaining faithful to the workers to whom he has dedicated his life's work.

Dick Shoemaker also learned early on the lesson that what goes on in the public sector and government can vitally affect any efforts and gains obtained in negotiations in the private sector. So he assumed a variety of major political responsibilities on behalf of the Union and in the Democratic Party. During these decades of unusual challenge, commitment, and achievement, Dick has been blessed by a wonderful partner, his wife Mary.

This Thursday, May 25, there will be a dinner held to give full tribute on his retirement to Dick Shoemaker. Mr. Speaker, I speak not only for myself as an admirer and friend, but I know for many, many others who say to Dick Shoemaker—congratulations on an illustrious career leaving its major mark on many yesterdays, and for many tomorrows.