

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL DAVID WISECARVER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lieutenant Colonel David Wisecarver, a native of Kansas City, Missouri. On June 24th, 2006, Lieutenant Colonel Wisecarver will receive a promotion to the rank of Colonel in the United States Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Wisecarver enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1981 and completed Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training, and served in the 190th Transportation Company as a CH-47 mechanic and crew chief before entering the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He was then commissioned as an Infantry officer from Northwest Missouri State University in 1985. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology and a Master of Arts Degree in Business Management from Touro University.

After posts in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, and finally in Savannah, Georgia, Lieutenant Colonel Wisecarver participated in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti in 1994. He completed Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and was assigned as the Executive Officer to the Director of Officer Personnel Management System, Task Force XXI in Washington, DC. His next assignment was back to the 101st Airborne Division, where he served in Operation Desert Focus, in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in 1999. The Lieutenant Colonel's last assignment was Task Force 2, Senior Observer/Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana, where he trained twenty-one Battalion Combat Teams deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. His upcoming assignment will be to Rawalpindi, Pakistan, to attend the National Defense College for a year.

He is highly decorated and has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, The National Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Aircrewman's Badge, the U.S. Army Ranger Tab, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, and the Air Assault Badge, among others.

Lieutenant Colonel Wisecarver has been married for eighteen years to the former Dianna K. Huntley of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They have two young children, Samantha and Matthew.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Lieutenant Colonel David Wisecarver as he assumes the new responsibilities of the rank of Colonel. Over the years, he has served the United States with dignity and courage and I am proud to be able to represent him in the United States Congress.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-
OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4843, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006.

As a cosponsor of this bill, I would like to thank my colleagues in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for expediting its consideration in committee and for their strong bipartisan support.

H.R. 4843 would raise disability compensation for veterans and dependency and indemnity compensation for their survivors by 2.2 percent beginning December 1, 2006. It would also increase benefits for spouses with children under 18 who recently experienced the death of a husband or wife due to military service.

Rising medical expenses coupled with disabilities generate some of the most burdensome financial situations veterans face. El Paso, TX, is home to approximately 60,000 veterans, many of whom depend on government compensation to sustain them as well as of their families. Increasing rates for veterans' compensation is an important part of recognizing and repaying veterans after they so courageously risked their lives in service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's veterans and their dependents deserve our utmost appreciation for their service to our country. I ask all my colleague to join me in voting favorably on H.R. 4843.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 5638, PERMANENT ES-
TATE TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5638, the latest deficit busting tax giveaway from this Republican-controlled House. This enormous Republican tax giveaway completely ignores the real economic needs faced by the 99 percent of American citizens who work hard, pay their taxes and receive zero benefit from this bill. Instead, the priority of this Republican Congress is providing special handouts to estates with assets worth tens and hundreds of millions of dollars—America's economic elite—and then have these tax cuts for the privileged paid for by middle class families.

This legislation should be called the "Add Debt on America Tax Giveaway Act" since

this bill will have the effect of adding nearly \$800 billion to the national debt—10 percent of the total current debt—over the next 10 years. The cost of Republicans cutting and running from common sense and fiscal responsibility is that 99 percent of Americans will be forced to pay for the debt created by this nearly \$800 billion tax cut for the super-rich.

Less than 1 month ago this Congress passed a tax bill providing capital gains and dividend tax cuts that primarily benefit families making over \$1 million a year. Now Republican leaders are giving away nearly \$800 billion in tax cuts for the 7,500 wealthiest families in our country, including an estimated 75 who live in Minnesota. Estates valued at over \$20 million account for 43 percent of the value of this legislation and will receive an average tax break of \$5.6 million. This so-called virtual elimination of the estate tax is an attack on the middle class and an abandonment of equity or fairness in taxation.

The Bush administration and Republicans in Congress are addicted to tax cuts that bust our Federal budget and add trillions of dollars to the national debt. Since 2001, Republicans have taken a \$5.6 trillion Federal budget surplus left by President Clinton and turned it into a \$3.2 trillion deficit. Republicans in Congress have raised the debt limit four times—for a total of \$3 trillion—and our Nation now faces a national debt approaching \$9 trillion. The answer to this fiscal disaster is not cut-and-run tax policies that ignore the needs of 99 percent of American citizens. The response from this Congress should be to enforce fiscal discipline—including a restoration of pay-as-you-go rules to balance the budget. It is time to return the focus of Congress on to the real priorities of middle class American families who are being squeezed at the gas pump, at the grocery store, paying college tuition and paying for skyrocketing health care costs.

During the last 8 years, special interest lobbyists for the 7,500 wealthy estates have been paid \$600,000 a year to push the elimination of the estate tax Congress. These lobbyists have spun the myth that the estate tax hurts small businesses and family farms. However, the New York Times searched for a farmer hit by the estate tax but failed to find a single farm lost because of the estate tax—not on single family farm in all of the United States that needed to be protected because this tax giveaway is not about farmers or small business owners, but our Nation's most privileged millionaires and billionaires.

Today, middle class families are being hurt by Republican cut-and-run policies that cater to the super-wealthy who hire lobbyists to get Congress to pass legislation—like H.R. 5638—that will protect their assets tax-free by passing their tax burden on to hard working families. Students struggling to afford college received a \$12 billion cut to student aid, families cannot afford health insurance after Republicans have made deep cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, and our senior citizens continue to worry about access to affordable prescription drugs since this Congress passed a law

● 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.

to guarantee profits for pharmaceutical companies and HMOs at taxpayer expense. And all Americans will be affected by the rising interest rates caused by our out-of-control Federal deficit.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is fiscally irresponsible, completely unnecessary and threatens America's fiscal security, as well as our national security. President Bush's fiscal year 2007 budget calls for \$247 billion in interest payments on our national debt. This is \$247 billion not going to educate our children or keep America secure, but instead is going to wealthy investors and foreign governments that have purchased our Nation's debt. Now, this Republican Congress is adding almost \$80 billion more on the national debt, adding to the federal budget deficit and our Nation's fiscal insecurity. This is an irresponsible and dangerous piece of legislation that makes America less secure. I urge my colleagues to reject this latest Republican cut-and-run tax giveaway and focus on the needs of American families.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN
ANGUS ASSOCIATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the American Angus Association, based in St. Joseph, Missouri. This month will mark the 50th anniversary of the American Angus Association's move to St. Joseph from Chicago in 1956.

The American Angus Association is a member-based not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1883. The Association maintains ancestral records and performance information on purebred Angus cattle in the United States, as well offers a variety of programs and services to over 34,000 members across the nation. All of these programs are managed by a very hardworking and dedicated staff.

In the 50 years since moving to St. Joseph, the Association and its entities have grown to employ nearly 200 people. That growth has seen the expansion of the original building that was once on the edge of the city. After several additions to the structure, the Association was able to house two of its entities: Angus productions, Inc. and the Angus Foundation. From humble beginnings in the home of its early executives, the American Angus Association has come a long way in 123 years of service to America's cattlemen.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the American Angus Association. The Association has been remarkable in its many years of service and the city of St. Joseph is proud to be their home. I wish to thank the American Angus Association for all that they do and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
MR. CHUCK AND MRS. EVELYN
SEBES IN CELEBRATION OF
THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:
JUNE 16, 2006

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Chuck and Evelyn Sebes, as they celebrate 50 years of love and commitment that continues to lift the lives of family, friends, and extends outward into our community.

Chuck and Evelyn met in 1953 and wed 3 years later on June 16, 1956. In 1959, they bought their home in Parma, where they still live. Evelyn was employed by Ohio Bell for several years and decided to leave the workforce to devote her time to her children. Together, Evelyn and Chuck lovingly raised their four children: Joe, Jim, Janet, and Joyce. Later, Evelyn returned to work part-time for Higbees and Dillard's, and worked at both stores for a total of nearly 30 years.

Chuck worked for National Tool Company for 22 years until the company closed. While there, he served as President of the United Steel Workers of America, Local 4827, a tenure which reflected his unwavering focus on the rights and welfare of workers and their families. Chuck was later appointed to the Ohio Regional Board of Review for Worker's Compensation by then Governor Richard Celeste. In 1991, he was appointed by Martin E. Vittardi, Clerk of Parma Municipal Court, to serve as his Chief Deputy, where he continues his service today. Chuck has served as a Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Precinct committee person and as an Executive Committee member and is the longest serving City Leader for the Parma Democratic Party. He is an active member of Parma Southwest COPE, AFL-CIO and together with Evelyn they belong to Parma Elks Lodge 1938. Chuck and Evelyn's passionate sense of volunteerism, especially on behalf of improving wages and working conditions for workers, continues to positively impact countless families throughout our community.

The bond they share with their children comes from life lessons that Chuck and Evelyn taught them while growing up. To be selfless, to lead a life of volunteerism, to live by the golden rule—"do unto others as you would have them do unto you"—and to remember that there is nothing as important as God's gift of family. The memory of their mother's soft skin while holding them reminds them of a safe and loving childhood. It was the sound of their father's voice telling them colorful stories and jokes that brought laughter into their home. Their grandchildren Danielle, Shelley, Jackie, Christopher, Lauren, Samantha, and Jamie fill Chuck and Evelyn's lives with pride and love. At gatherings, it is Evelyn's potato salad and Chuck's ethnic dishes that everyone looks forward to. Time spent with friends playing pinochle and poker or bowling has formed lifelong friendships. Their legacy will be one of dedication to one another, to their family, and to their community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of my dear friends, Chuck and Evelyn Sebes, as we join them in

celebration of this momentous occasion—their 50th wedding anniversary. Their devotion to each other, to their children, grandchildren and friends, and their commitment to giving back to others continues to touch the lives of everyone they I know, including my own, and serves to strengthen and uplift our entire community.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 5638, PERMANENT ES-
TATE TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

As a part-time farmer myself, I support tax relief that helps our farms and small businesses grow. I have supported raising the estate tax exemption level several times in previous years. However, this must be done in a responsible manner that does not dishonor our values, shortchange our essential services, or heap more debt on our children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, H.R. 5638 fails this basic test. H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006 is far from the "compromise" that its authors claim. This bill would result in almost 80 percent as much lost revenue as a full repeal of the estate tax. H.R. 5638 would cost the American people \$762 billion in the first 10 years of its enactment.

The Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act of 2006 is the latest example of this Congressional Majority's misplaced priorities. Less than 1 percent of estates will pay the estate tax this year under the exemption in current law and only 7,500 estates nationwide would be taxable under the \$3.5 million exemption that would take effect in 2009. Under current law, 997 of every 1,000 estates would not pay any part of Federal estate taxes. Given current circumstances, the timing could not be worse for giving tax breaks that only apply to multimillionaires' estates.

I am very proud that during my first term in the U.S. House, Congress and the President balanced the Federal budget for the first time in a generation. Until just a few years ago, the budget remained balanced and the surpluses we produced were being used to pay down the national debt and strengthen Social Security. The current Republican regime in the White House and Congress has reversed that progress and the Nation is much worse off because of their policies. Today the national debt stands at \$8.4 trillion. We face the danger of being forced to borrow more money from countries like China to pay our national debt and putting ourselves at the mercy of their rising interest rates. A nation at war cannot justify adding almost \$800 billion to this staggering debt. We cannot continue to pile on debt that our future generations will be forced to pay.

Increasing this budget shortfall only makes it more difficult to invest in our true priorities. We are still a nation at war and some of our soldiers lack the best armor. We are facing another hurricane season while continuing to rebuild the Gulf Coast following Hurricane

Katrina. Already the Republican budget resolution cuts funds for homeland security, including port security by \$6.1 billion over 5 years, cuts essential services for working families by \$9.4 billion, and slashes funding for health by \$18.1 billion below current services. As the former Superintendent of North Carolina's public schools, I find the budget cuts for education especially disappointing. Instead of investing in our future Congressional Republicans are eliminating 42 Federal education initiatives. The budget also eliminates vocational education (\$1.3 billion); Perkins Loans (\$730 million); Safe and Drug-Free Schools State grants (\$347 million); and Even Start family literacy services (\$99 million). The Republican budget cuts \$15 billion from the amount authorized for the No Child Left Behind education reform effort and reduces the 17.7 percent Federal contribution to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to 17.0 percent. The loss of revenue from H.R. 5638 leaves a huge budget hole that will have to be filled by the States and the burden will be placed on middle class and low income families.

In contrast, the Pomeroy Substitute is an alternative that offers a simpler solution without the damaging economic effects of H.R. 5638. Unlike the Republican bill, the Pomeroy Substitute would offer immediate tax relief by raising the estate tax exemption level to \$6 million per couple and growing to \$7 million per couple in 2009. This would exempt 99.7 percent of all estates in the nation while costing only 60 percent of H.R. 5638. While there is no plan to make up for the huge losses in revenue resulting from H.R. 5638, the Pomeroy Substitute would be paid for by closing the gap in unpaid taxes. Additionally, the estate tax revenue collected under the Pomeroy Substitute would be transferred as receipts used specifically to shore up the Social Security trust fund. According to the Social Security Actuary, this would eliminate one quarter of the trust fund's shortfall.

The Pomeroy Substitute offers immediate tax relief without adding to the crippling debt now facing future generations. This is the type of sound tax and budget policy Congress should pass. We owe the American people nothing less.

RECOGNIZING JERRY DARNELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jerry Darnell of St. Joseph, Missouri. Jerry will soon be retiring from the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, after years of distinguished service as the Director of the Small Business Development Center.

As the Director of the Small Business Development Center, Jerry has provided free management assistance and guidance to current and prospective small business owners all throughout the St. Joseph area. He has offered his experience and guidance to the enterprising citizens of my district for many years, as those entrepreneurs sought advice on the start-up, expansion, sale, and marketing of their business. His job is especially important, as the collection of small business

owners are responsible for the growth and sustainability of our communities.

Before joining the Chamber in 2001, Mr. Darnell was employed as a broker for City-Street and served as an instructor at the Johnson County Community College. He has had over 10 years of experience in commercial lending after obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Math and Business from Kansas State University and a Masters in Business Administration from Louisiana State University. These varied experiences have all made for a solid background in advising the small businesses of St. Joseph. In the community, Mr. Darnell is active in the Boy Scouts of America Diversion Program and the Service Corps of Retired Executives.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jerry Darnell. His role in developing and assisting the small businesses of St. Joseph will be difficult to replace. I commend his record of service and accomplishment to the city of St. Joseph over the years and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ANDY ANDERSON'S RETIREMENT FROM GAINESVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Andy Anderson for his 8½-year tenure as the hospital chief executive officer of Gainesville Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Anderson was the fourth administrator for Gainesville Memorial Hospital. The most notable of his achievements was his leadership in campaigning for a \$26.5 million dollar bond to build the North Texas Medical Center. Under Dr. Anderson's tenure, the quality of patient care increased, opportunities for continuing education improved, and nine tenure doctors were hired.

Retiring to pursue another challenge in life, the progress Dr. Anderson catalyzed substantially strengthened the health care quality throughout the 26th District of Texas, and I know his vision improved the lives of thousands.

As a doctor myself, I find personal inspiration in Dr. Andy Anderson and the devotion he had to his family, his hospital and his community. He is a role model, and I am proud to serve as his representative in Washington.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. HYACINTH CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the parish community of St. Hyacinth Catholic Church, as members and leaders celebrate 100 years of faith and hope throughout Cleveland's southeast side.

Throughout the past century, St. Hyacinth Parish has opened wide its doors to all who

seek spiritual renewal and fellowship. Its ministry reaches beyond the parish itself through the numerous members who have joined the clergy as a result of the guidance and fulfillment they found at St. Hyacinth.

St. Hyacinth began its ministry as a response to the influx of Polish immigrants in the "Jackowo" neighborhood. Feeling crowded in the existing parish, the residents bought land from the Board of Education and have remained at that location since opening in 1906. The newly instated Cleveland Bishop Richard Lennon will lead the Jubilee Mass at the parish in commemoration of the past one hundred years of service and in celebration of the next 100 years.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every past and current member and spiritual leader of St. Hyacinth Catholic Church. Despite a growing and changing community, St. Hyacinth Catholic Church has consistently provided compassionate spiritual direction, in the heart of Cleveland and far beyond.

SENIOR INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill which reauthorizes the Older Americans Act. This act was developed with the goals of improving the lives of older people in areas of income, housing, health, employment, retirement, and community service. At the outset, I have to commend and thank Chairman MCKEON, Ranking Member MILLER, Subcommittee Chairman TIBERI, and Subcommittee Ranking Member HINOJOSA for this incredible bipartisan bill. This has been one of the most bipartisan efforts in which I have engaged during my tenure in Congress. Also, I extend my sincerest appreciation to the majority and minority staff members for working diligently to address my concerns. Also, I would like to thank the delegates of the White House Conference I on Aging for their input on and promotion of this reauthorization. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have a Seniors and Eldercare Taskforce composed of a wonderful group of experts who advise me on key issues regarding seniors in my district—the great city of Chicago. I want to recognize and thank the cochairs of this taskforce—Karen Graham and Phyllis Mitzen—and the members of this taskforce for their leadership and attention to the needs of seniors in Chicago." This act advances many areas of concern to my district. Foremost, it expands access of younger grandparents to the National Family Caregiver Support Program, and it encourages states to adopt Kinship Navigator programs for relative caregivers. In the United States, 2.4 million grandparents are responsible for raising grandchildren in their homes. My congressional district has over 10,000 grandparent-headed households; it has the second highest percentage of children living in grandparent-headed households in the nation. This bill aids these caregivers with services that help in their care giving responsibilities. Further, the

bill promotes community based services via self-directed models of care. It specifically directs the Assistant Secretary on Aging to help individuals avoid depleting their assets in order to qualify for Medicaid. This bill would reduce instances of abuse and neglect and improve data collection on the subject by broadening the definition of abuse to include self neglect and better coordinating the efforts of state and local agencies, building on the ideas promoted by my colleague from Illinois, Mr. EMMANUEL. I also am very happy that the bill emphasizes the importance of mental health in many ways, drawing on the spirit of the Positive Aging Act sponsored by Mr. KENNEDY.

Mr. Speaker, The 38th Vice President of the United States, Hubert Humphrey, once said, "The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life . . . the children [and] those who are in the twilight of life . . . the elderly." The Senior Independence Act of 2006 ensures that our Government continues to recognize the needs of the elder within our country and continues to fulfill these needs.

HEALTH CENTERS RENEWAL ACT
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5573, the Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006. This legislation is an important first step towards a straight reauthorization of the community health centers program. As we all know, community health centers are the backbone of our Nation's health care safety net, providing quality, affordable primary health care to over 15 million people across the country. There is overwhelming, bipartisan support for the community health centers program because the evidence of its success is undeniable. Health centers are efficient, locally controlled, and provide a high standard of care: simply put, they work.

In my District, the eighth district of Massachusetts, community health centers are not only essential to providing access to excellent health care in many of the neighborhoods I represent, but they are also pillars of the communities they serve. The community board, a majority of which is comprised of patients that the health center serves, is an essential part of keeping individual health centers inextricably linked to the community and its needs. It is significant that the bill before the House recognizes the unique, consumer-driven nature of the health centers model that has worked so well for many years. This fundamental structure of the health centers program must be maintained to ensure that the widely acknowledged success of the program continues.

The bill before the House authorizes appropriations for fiscal year 2007 at the same level as proposed by the President in his budget. This is a promising first step that echoes the amount authorized for fiscal year 2007 in H.R. 5201, legislation offered by my fellow cochair of the Community Health Centers Caucus, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS. How-

ever, that legislation, which I have cosponsored along with 233 Members of the House, would authorize such sums as necessary for fiscal years 2008–2011. The legislation we are considering today authorizes a specific dollar amount for each of those years, and I am concerned that the amounts in the bill may not take into account the costs of both the President's plan to expand health centers to every poor county in the Nation and the growing demands placed on existing health centers due to the increasing numbers of uninsured or underinsured, coupled with rising costs of providing medical care.

As the reauthorization moves forward, I hope that we can all remember those health centers in our districts who serve everyone who walks through their doors, regardless of ability to pay. They do extraordinary work, and we have an obligation to ensure that they have sufficient resources to continue to fulfill their essential role in our Nation's health care safety net.

RECOGNIZING DOUGLAS BURNETT
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Douglas Burnett, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF
LEWISVILLE'S COMMUNITY RE-
LATIONS AND TOURISM DEPART-
MENT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Lewisville's Community Relations and Tourism Department for winning two State awards by the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers: The Best Marketing Plan and Best Special Event. Lewisville is my hometown and sits in the heart of the 26th Congressional District.

Lewisville's Community Relations and Tourism Department won "Best Marketing Plan" for its promotion of the 2005 Bassmaster Elite 50 tournament and county fair. The tournament was a huge success and was broadcast on ESPN. The Bassmaster Elite held on

Lewisville Lake gave sports fishermen around the world a glimpse of beautiful North Texas, and I am honored that the city developed an award winning plan in conjunction with the competition.

The team also won "Best Special Event" for the 2005 Holiday at the Hall Festival. The Festival is always a welcome relief to holiday stress and last year was enjoyed by more than 10,000 people. In 2005, the city held its third annual event in Old Town Lewisville highlighted by the Holiday Parade down Main Street.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the city of Lewisville and the Community Relations and Tourism Department on their accomplishments. I am honored to represent the city and call it my hometown.

IN HONOR OF LOUIS BROWLOWE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Louis Brownlowe, upon his retirement that follows an exemplary, thirty-six year career as a Teacher-Counselor, Dean of Special Studies and Dean of University Studies at Cleveland State University.

Mr. Brownlowe earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Miles College and a Masters Degree in Education from Cleveland State University. Throughout his tenure at CSU, he concentrated his efforts on programs and projects that provide access to higher education for non-traditional students, who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to enroll in college.

In 1971, Mr. Brownlowe became actively involved in the Ohio Association of TRIO Program Directors. He served on the task force of the National Council of Educational Opportunity Associates, which eventually became a significant aspect of the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1980. Mr. Brownlowe was a leading force in establishing CSU's Upward Bound Program, which began in 1999. Mr. Brownlowe continues his dedication to civic action and empowering others, especially our youth. As the Superintendent of the Sunday School and President of the Youth Ministry at Union Grove Baptist Church, Mr. Brownlowe serves as a gentle guide and inspiration and a shining role model that reflects the significance of personal strength, conviction, determination, accomplishment, and the importance of education.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of Mr. Louis Brownlowe, upon his retirement from Cleveland State University—a vocation of the heart, framed by thirty-six years of outstanding service, integrity and accomplishment. His dedication, expertise, leadership, and energy, focused on educational opportunity for all, extends outward into the community where he volunteers his time and talents on behalf of lifting countless lives onto a foundation of hope, spiritual strength and opportunity. I wish Mr. Brownlowe and his family an abundance of health, peace and happiness as his journey begins from here.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JAMES
ALEXANDER FUNKHOUSER

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain James Alexander Funkhouser, a brave soldier and fallen hero from Katy, Texas.

Captain Funkhouser was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, and he was their Headquarters and Company Commander in Iraq.

The son of a 31-year Army Veteran, Captain Funkhouser was born in Okinawa, Japan, but he eventually became a Texan, graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1999 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Captain Funkhouser spent the next six years stationed in Vilseck, Germany, Fort Knox, KY, Fort Polk, LA and finally to Fort Hood, TX where he was then deployed with his unit to Baghdad, Iraq in early December 2005.

A highly decorated soldier and American hero, Captain Funkhouser's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

During a reconnaissance operation in Baghdad, Captain Funkhouser, his Iraqi interpreter and two CBS reporters were killed when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee.

Captain Funkhouser loved his country, and he gave his life defending America and the freedom and opportunity for which our flag flies.

Captain Funkhouser is survived by his wife, Jennifer; daughters, Kaitlyn and Allison; parents, Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. James Alexander Funkhouser, Sr.; grandmother, Oneita Funkhouser; parents-in-law, Henry and Rosemary Garza and numerous extended family members, friends and fellow soldiers of the United States Army.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS,
FIRST CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the following high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certifi-

cate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders through their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2006

Lucero Perdomo, New Futures High School; Claudia Grajeda, School for Integrated Academics and Technologies; Amy Holmen, Sandia Preparatory School; Aidan Hamke, Albuquerque Academy; Christopher Anaya Moriarty High School; Holly Garcia, Albuquerque Charter Vocational High School; Laura Wilson, East Mountain High School; Melanie Garcia, Los Puentes Charter School; Talysa Ogas, Los Lunas High School; Lisa Herrera, Temple Baptist Academy; Leslie Copass, La Cueva High School; Lisa Domme, Sandia High School;

Ariel Blea, Valley High School; Kayleen Foltz, Creative Education Preparatory Institute; Joseph D. Miranda, Sierra Alternative High School; Patricia D. Mooney, Southwest Secondary Learning Center; Kimberly Lauer, Menaul School; Christiana Baca-Bosiljevac, Menaul School; Janice Cribbage, Highland High School; Catherine Ames, Cibola High School; Crystal Vialpando, Mountainair High School; Desiree Cordova, Bernalillo High School; Carla Dozal, West Mesa High School; Grace Floyd, Hope Christian School.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE OWEN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotic public service and self sacrifice of Colorado Senator Dave Owen.

For more than five decades, Dave Owen has used his God-given abilities to serve his country as an Army officer, as a small business owner, and State Representative and Senator in Colorado. His tenacity, his sense of humor, and his integrity endear him to many people. He is worthy of our respect and admiration.

Mr. Owen comes from a family with a history of public service. His stepfather served as an Army officer and the chairman of the Colorado Republican Party. Following in his footsteps, Owen joined the Air Force Reserves while studying at Denver University and then volunteered to fight the communists in Korea in 1951. As an armorer, he worked for 12 months arming and cleaning the weapons on F-51 Mustang fighter planes. After returning home to Colorado he used the GI Bill to get a Bachelor's Degree in English at Colorado College, in Colorado Springs, while simultaneously becoming the Cadet Commander in his ROTC unit. As a 2nd Lieutenant, he again entered full time military service and was sent to Europe and his wife, Marilyn, was able to accompany him. For several years, he served as a platoon leader in German to help defend against a possible invasion from the Soviet Union.

After returning to the United States, Mr. Owen decided to pursue the remaining part of his military career as an Army personnel officer. This new career gave Mr. Owen the opportunity to travel the world. After working at Fort Bragg in North Carolina for three years, he received training in the Persian language of Farsi in California before being sent to Iran as an advisor for the Shah. After two and a half years in the Middle East, he returned to work at Fort Campbell, Kentucky before being sent to Vietnam in 1967 to work as the Deputy Adjutant General of the 101st Airborne Division. After Vietnam, Owen's military service continued when he joined the U.S. Strike Command in Florida. As a Lt. Colonel, he traveled to various countries in Africa and the Middle East as an advisor on the use of military equipment supplied by the United States. In the mid-70s, Owen finished his military career working for the Army and Air Force Postal Service in Washington, D.C., supervising the delivery of mail and postal services to Army and Air Force personnel worldwide. He also oversaw military personnel charged with transporting top secret documents to U.S. Embassies around the world.

In 1979, Mr. Owen retired from the Army and came to Greeley, Colorado, for a business opportunity. For the next 10 years, he owned and operated a wholesale snack food company. Owen sold the business after he decided to devote his energy full-time into public policy. He was appointed to his first elected office in 1987 to replace Tom Norton, who resigned from office, as State Representative in the 48th House District. In 1988, Owen ran and won reelection for the same House seat. He served his district faithfully until 1998 when he ran and won as Senator for Colorado's 13th District.

As a State Senator, Owen consistently receives high rating from the Colorado Union of Taxpayers for fighting government waste, and the National Federation of Independent Business for being a "Guardian of Small Business." He currently serves on the state's prestigious Joint Budget Committee and is the past president of the National Republican Legislative Association. He has received the Statesman of the Year award from the National Right to Work Committee and was recognized as the National Legislator of the Year by the American Legislative Exchange Council. Owen has gained a reputation for his work to improve children's health care and for creating the nation's first Foreign Capitol Depository, which acts as a Swiss bank and encourages foreign investment in Colorado.

Owen continues to live in Greeley with his remarkable wife Marilyn. After 41 years of marriage, they have two sons and two teenage grandchildren. Dave is currently running for State House District 50.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent a decorated veteran and extraordinary public servant Dave Owen. We are indebted to men like Dave, who view public service not as a career but as a way of life. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to Dave Owen; he is a true American hero.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER VAUGHN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Vaughn, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

THE WAR ON TERRORISM

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a just cause that is facing a critical turning point. The outcome hangs in the balance, and Mr. Speaker, we should not kid ourselves into believing that victory is foreordained.

Churchill once said that there would not be war if both sides did not believe that they could win it. The enemy we face in Iraq, and in the broader war against the radical Islamists, is driven by an apocalyptic vision of God. And because such apocalyptic visions are rooted in faith and not facts, they are very hard to dispel. We, therefore, face an opponent who is neither open to reason or compromise. Nor will he necessarily be defeated by calculations of military strategy and prudence.

We face the paradox of a perilous time. At the opening of the 21st century we are opposed by an adversary who preaches the savagery and barbarism of the 12th century. We face in Iraq an enemy that will show us absolutely no quarter. And Mr. Speaker, I am bound to say that I think we in this Chamber, and indeed even in the country at large, have been slow to grasp that fact.

However, the difficulty of the fight should not dissuade us from waging it if the cause is just—and the cause is just. Mr. Speaker, I have had the sad duty to attend the funerals of several of the servicemen killed in Iraq who came from my district. There are those who say that we should not withdraw from Iraq because to do so would mean that they died in vain.

This is not correct. Nothing that we have done or will do, will ever subtract one ounce from the valor and nobility of those who have died in the service of their country. As Lincoln said in the Gettysburg Address, "We can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not

hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract."

However, we should pause to note that our servicemen and women are fighting—and sometimes dying—because they know the terrible price that will be paid if our adversaries prevail. They have seen, as I have seen when I traveled to Iraq, what a world our enemies would have us live in.

It is a world filled by a grotesque and distorted vision of God. It is a world of slavery and submission where the Almighty is not a benevolent and loving Creator of His Children. But rather is a pagan idol that demands blood sacrifice and glories in the murder of the innocent.

You need look no farther than the carnage in Baghdad, or Kabul, or Mogadishu or, let us never forget, the Twin Towers, to see the truth in that axiom. That is what our enemy, for all his talk of God, seeks to do. He seeks to kill God by destroying God's children and God's creation. And we are all that stands between our adversary and the realization of his nihilistic vision.

Mr. Speaker, there are those in this House who are far better versed than I in the strategic and military calculations that are the essence of this conflict. There are those who say that we mistakenly entered the war in Iraq on the basis of flawed intelligence. This, I think, underestimates the nature of our adversary. Given the expansiveness of our enemy's nightmare vision, I think it is safe to say that there would have been war in Iraq no matter what we did.

That, of course, will be for the historians to decide.

But this much I do know, Mr. Speaker. We stand for hope. We fight for peace and a world that is free. We sacrifice now so that the little children that I met when I was in Iraq might live in a better world tomorrow. And because they will have a better world, we Americans will live in a safer one. To quote DeGualle, "Behind the terrible cloud of our blood and tears here is the sun of our grandeur shining out once again."

Mr. Speaker, I do have one concern. I think that we in this Congress have allowed too wide a gap to develop between the society we help to govern and the war we have been compelled to wage. We have to correct this, because we will not win this war—in Iraq or beyond—unless we as a Nation come to grips with what we face and begin to act accordingly.

We must never forget that, to quote Lincoln again, "Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed." Right now I look around me and I see a Congress and a country distracted, and nothing could be deadlier to our security and our hopes for a better future.

To some extent this is understandable. America is, and has every right to be, tired of conflict. In 1917, for the first time, we went "over there" to make the world safe for democracy. In 1941, in Churchill's evocative phrase, the new world stepped forth, yet again, to the rescue and liberation of the old. Then after 1945 we stayed on to wage the long twilight struggle that came to be called the cold war.

Then, in 1989, a miracle. We stopped holding our breaths. The Berlin Wall came down

and the Soviet Union disappeared. The hair trigger nightmare of the nuclear armed world seemed to recede. We came off of the figurative tip-toes on which we had been standing for nearly 50 years. We had grown so accustomed to it that when the Cold War ended, we scarcely realized just how nerve wracking, and what a strain, it had all been.

Now here we are again. More war, more sacrifice, more death. It is not a pleasant picture—but it offers this. It offers hope. It offers an alternative to yet another in a long line of obscene and perverted visions that seem to be forever conjured in the minds of men.

Mr. Speaker, I have dared to say today something that very few of us seem willing to say. We could lose this war. There is nothing in the stars that says we must prevail. In history, freedom is the exception, not the rule. So I say to my colleagues, we must press on in Iraq. We must fight wisely, but we must not falter.

Most of all we must stand together. That way, when our children and grandchildren look back at this moment in history, they will say that at the threatened nightfall the blood of their fathers ran strong.

TIME MAGAZINE ARTICLE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the following article from Time Magazine with my colleagues in the House. I believe it contains some important insights into what we really need to focus on during the long war.

[From Time Magazine, June 25, 2006]

FORGET FLAG BURNING

(By Major General Robert Scales (Ret.))

Some in Congress appear to be taking a sabbatical from the long war on terrorism to introduce a constitutional amendment banning the burning of the flag. The debate over such an amendment may or may not be worth having, but one thing is clear: at a time when the country is at war, now is not the time for such tertiary considerations.

I understand reverence for the flag. It comes naturally to soldiers. We commit our lives to serving intangibles, swearing oaths to a piece of parchment or saluting an expanse of cloth decorated with stars and stripes. We understand symbolism because symbolism is what in large measure compels us to do a job that might result in our demise.

The American flag symbolizes freedom. The Constitution we soldiers are pledged to defend guarantees freedom of expression even when freedom of expression includes the right to deface the flag, however obnoxious that act may be. Of course, I'm old enough to remember flag burning when flag burning was "cool." I was in Hawaii, on R. and R., halfway through my tour in Vietnam. My wife and I were watching television when student war protesters in California—none of whom had the slightest chance of facing violent death in combat—illuminated their campus by torching Old Glory. I was appalled by the sight. A short time later, Walter Cronkite informed the world that my unit, the 101st Airborne, was beginning an offensive in the A Shau Valley. I left for Vietnam the next day to confront an enemy that undoubtedly would have punished those protesters had they burned the North Vietnamese flag in Hanoi.

But that was then. The image of the flag that soldiers see today is different. Instead of flags aflame, we see flags covering coffins of soldiers and Marines returning the hard way from Iraq and Afghanistan. Pushing forward a constitutional amendment is labor-intensive work. I'm concerned how such a diversion during wartime might appear to those who are still serving in harm's way.

Please don't get me wrong. I have many friends in Congress, patriots all. Each one of them has been to Iraq and Afghanistan many times. Although he refuses to advertise the fact, one was wounded there during an inspection tour last year. My concern relates not to the sincerity of Congress but to the perceptions among our young men and women that their overseers are suddenly distracted at a time when attention to their needs has never been more necessary.

Our soldiers want to be assured that Congress is doing all it can to reduce losses in what Lincoln ruefully termed the "terrible arithmetic" of war. They want to know that Congress is doing all it can to give them the weapons they need to maintain the fighting advantage over the enemy. They are concerned that their equipment is wearing out under constant use. They and their families are worried that not enough soldiers are in the pipeline to replace them.

We know from letters and conversations that our young soldiers returning from combat are concerned about the future of their institutions. They want to know who is focused on reshaping our Army and Marine Corps so that both services will be better able to fight the long fight against radical Islam. How will Congress fund the future? Where will the new weapons and equipment come from? They are also worried about more personal issues like housing and health care for themselves and their families.

Dan Brown was my First Sergeant in Vietnam. I was new to war. He had served in two. He gave me a piece of advice then that Congressmen intent on changing the subject should heed: "In combat the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. Otherwise, you die." The main thing today for Congress and the Nation should be the war in Iraq. Soldiers are sworn to defend the right to free speech with their lives even if "speech" is expressed in despicable ways. What they want in return is the assurance that our lawmakers will hold their interests dear.

So the message from most of us soldiers is clear: Debate a flag-burning amendment if you wish. But don't create the perception among our young men and women in combat that there are more important issues than their welfare at the moment. Wait a while. At least for their sake, wait until the last flag-draped coffin comes home.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN LESEMAN
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Leseman, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Brian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

RESIGNATION OF THE HONORABLE
NORMAN Y. MINETA, SECRETARY
OF TRANSPORTATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, Norman Mineta last week announced his resignation from the President's Cabinet as Secretary of Transportation—the longest serving Transportation Secretary in the history of the Department. His departure comes gracefully and on his own terms, just as were his more than three decades in public service to the American people.

Norm's public service can't be condensed into a press release or simple statement of appreciation. His years of service to the country he loves—on behalf of his California constituents and in the arena of transportation—are unparalleled for their impact and effectiveness. The past 30-plus years have proven Norm a giant in his field and a true friend to those of us that served with and learned from him.

On occasion Norm joined me in the mountains of southern West Virginia, each time increasing his understanding of our unique landscape and transportation needs. In his years as a Member of Congress and as Transportation Secretary he did a great deal to improve the infrastructure of southern West Virginia and, indeed, the lives of southern West Virginians.

I am certain Norm will continue his outstanding record of service as a private citizen in the years to come and I congratulate my friend on his decision and wish him, his wife Deni and his two children, David and Stuart, the very best.

TRIBUTE TO NUCOR STEEL-
JACKSON INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, the United States of America has always stood for economic opportunity and freedom. And in recent generations our nation has strived to provide an even better model for equality of opportunity. The work has been long and arduous, and it has not been without its setbacks.

We have struggled in the schools, the halls of government, in the workplace to make equality of opportunity something that is written on our hearts as well as in our laws.

Some of the most successful undertakings in the struggle for equality have been in our mills, and foundries and factories. Mississippi's manufacturing sector has provided genera-

tions of our citizens the opportunity to enter the middle class and realize The American Dream.

Manufacturing jobs have traditionally provided above average wages and the medical and other benefits that strengthen families and society. These jobs have also provided Mississippi workers with the satisfaction that comes from seeing their work transform raw goods and materials into finished products of usefulness and value.

Since 1998 the United States has lost more than 3.3 million manufacturing jobs. Here in Mississippi the manufacturing job loss approaches 60,000, and this has undercut the strength and resilience of our state's economy. The erosion of our state's manufacturing sector presents a significant barrier to our state's long-term economic progress.

Mississippians are especially mindful of the need for economic strength and resilience as we rebuild from the devastation of last year's hurricane. The world has witnessed the stunning economic setbacks wrought by Hurricane Katrina, but they have also witnessed the strength of our spirit and our resolve to rebuild Mississippi better and stronger than before.

If we are to accomplish this we must create a sound economic foundation for manufacturing. This means we face several additional important tasks as we continue to rebuild. We must ensure that international trade agreements—either in their drafting or their enforcement—do not discriminate against Mississippi manufacturers because they adhere to the world's highest environmental, health and safety standards. We must redouble our efforts to root out and halt all unfair trading practices among our trading partners because these practices place Mississippi manufacturers at a significant and unfair disadvantage.

One American manufacturer is leading a national grass-roots effort to bring back the level playing field to global trade and the global economic arena in which our manufacturers compete. Nucor Corporation is underwriting and leading an unprecedented series of grass roots town hall meetings across the country to inform voters and inspire action among elected officials at every level of government.

These meetings have been held in states across America and have drawn as many as 4,000 citizens. Nucor Steel—Jackson, Inc., which employs 250 workers in Mississippi, is hosting the eleventh Nucor Town Hall Meeting on June 29, 2006 in Jackson, Mississippi. It is noteworthy that in a political age where we often focus on personalities and scandal that this meeting will feature in-depth presentations and discussions of substantive issues.

Voters and elected officials are provided an important forum to look at the underlying causes of our massive job losses and to propose policies and actions that can reverse the trend and put American manufacturing back on track.

Rebuilding Mississippi in the wake of the hurricanes has proved a daunting challenge, but we have demonstrated the spirit and resolve to get the job done. We also face the long-term challenge to restore manufacturing to its rightful status as a cornerstone of our economy. We offer our appreciation to Nucor Steel—Jackson for their leadership as we face this challenge and make our commitment to Mississippi's future.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. JOSEPH-OGDEN GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartans, the 2006 Class A State Softball Champions. The Spartans concluded their season on June 3, 2006 with a 1-0 victory in the girls' softball State Championship in East Peoria.

It had been an arduous season for the Spartans, defeating number two-ranked Beecher and number one ranked Taylor Ridge en route to a 31-6 season. The victory was the 665th in just 839 games for their head coach, Randy Wolken; a perfect finish for a team that had overcome so many challenges throughout the season.

Though they had reached the final four last year, the Spartans entered these playoffs huge underdogs. But strong defense and leadership helped the team to far exceed expectations, even for many of its players, culminating in its surprise State Championship.

The citizens of this district and I are very proud of the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartan softball team, and we look forward to continued success in the future. Let us honor the Spartans' tremendous accomplishments this season.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartans, the 2006 Class A Softball State Champions.

RECOGNIZING STEVE LYNCH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steve Lynch, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO THE SISTERS OF MERCY

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the Sisters of Mercy in my hometown, St. Louis, Missouri on the 150th anniversary of their arrival to the United States. Throughout their long years of service the Sisters have tirelessly devoted themselves to sacrificial living—assisting the poor, the sick, and the uneducated throughout Missouri communities.

This tradition of service began on June 27, 1856, when the Sisters of Mercy arrived in St. Louis to open St. Francis Xavier Parish School at the request of then Archbishop Peter J. Kenrick. The Sisters later expanded their ministry beyond the school walls, establishing an orphanage, instituting an industrial school for single-parent children, beginning a Sunday school course for African American women, and continuously visiting the poor, sick, and imprisoned. The Sisters in these ministries frequently incurred personal sacrifices, but this did not deter them from their good works.

In spite of their worthy efforts, the Sisters of Mercy frequently encountered obstacles throughout their service including shortages of food and clothing, as well as insufficient funding. With undying faith and dedication, however, the Sisters were able to overcome these challenges. In their many years of service, the Sisters of Mercy have worked at five high schools and more than 20 parish elementary schools. Additionally, the Sisters have been active in healthcare since 1871, when they converted their original school into a hospital that continues to provide medical care today. After 150 years of service to students, families, the sick, and the underprivileged, the Sisters of Mercy have demonstrated their great commitment to the St. Louis community. Today we recognize their efforts with the best of our admiration and gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO HUNGARIAN VICTIMS OF COMMUNIST TERROR

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, President Bush traveled to Hungary to participate in events marking the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising. I commend the President for making this trip and for recognizing the sacrifices made on the streets of Budapest in the name of liberty and justice.

Fifty years ago, at the height of the Cold War, Central Europe, was a prisoner, and Moscow was its jailer. Confronted with overwhelming Soviet domination, the Hungarian response was to reaffirm the core values of democracy: individual freedom and national independence.

On October 23, 1956, these two powerful forces—tyrannical communism and the principles of democracy—met and clashed in the middle of Europe. Within the Soviet Empire, the 1956 Hungarian Revolution presented an

alternative to a deceptively dangerous idea, the idea that the best solution to a war-ravaged world is to eliminate political, cultural, religious, economic and national differences by imposing a single, universal "truth." This idea represented the incontestable dogma of communism.

At the heart of the clash was Imre Nagy who assumed the post of Prime Minister even announced Hungary's intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact. But, when the Soviet Union crushed Hungary's bid for freedom during those day in October, Imre Nagy and his colleagues were arrested, convicted in secret trials, and eventually executed as "traitors" on June 16, 1958. To prevent the inevitable expressions of support for Nagy and what he stood for, he and the others executed with him were buried by the Moscow-backed regime in Budapest in unmarked graves.

The significance of his and countless other Hungarians' sacrifice is etched onto the political map of the 21st century and echoed in the recent developments throughout the world. As President Bush observed, "The lesson of the Hungarian experience is clear: liberty can be delayed, but it cannot be denied." That is the real moral of the events of 1956 and the subsequent human sacrifices of Imre Nagy and his fellow freedom fighters.

As we remember and mourn those who gave their lives defending freedom those fifty years ago, I would like especially to remember the towering courage of a reluctant hero and a great Hungarian patriot, Imre Nagy.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL R. WYN ELDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel R. Wyn Elder as he assumes command of the 4th Airlift Squadron based out of McChord Air Force Base.

Lieutenant Colonel Elder graduated from the University of Virginia in 1990 and soon thereafter began a distinguished military career. After completing the Aircraft Maintenance & Munitions Officer Course as a Distinguished Graduate, he was assigned to Nellis AFB in Nevada. He served in several different capacities at the squadron and group levels, including Officer-in-Charge, and Munitions Flight and Assistant Officer-in-Charge of the F-16 and A-10 Aircraft Maintenance Units belonging to the United States Air Force Fighter Weapons School, 422d Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron. In April 1994, Lieutenant Colonel Elder was selected for Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance AFB. After completing his training as a Distinguished Graduate, he served as the Executive Officer, 17th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, South Carolina. During this period, Lieutenant Colonel Elder commanded missions as part of Operations Allied Force, Southern Watch, Joint Guardian and Joint Endeavor. Thereafter, Lieutenant Colonel Elder spent two years attached to the White House Military Office as a Presidential Advance Agent. In this capacity, he served as the point man for Air Force One flights throughout the world, including the first U.S. presidential trip to Slovenia. Most recently,

Lieutenant Colonel Elder was selected for admission to the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS). He graduated from SAASS in June of 2004 and was assigned to the position of Special Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command, in Norfolk, Virginia. Lieutenant Colonel Elder is a senior pilot with over 2200 hours of flight time in the T-38, C-17, and T-1 aircraft.

In addition to his varied professional and academic experiences, Lieutenant Colonel Elder has earned numerous accolades, including: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Kosovo Campaign Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lieutenant Colonel R. Wyn Elder. I thank him for his years of exemplary service and congratulate him on his new command. I wish him the best in this new endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
CHRISTOPHER VILLAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the story of a remarkable young man from Milton, Florida. William Christopher Villar, by all surface accounts, was your typical 22 year old. He was attending community college with the hopes of one day obtaining a degree in business. He was working at a job that he loved and he had recently gotten engaged to his long time sweetheart, Heather Dieterich. His life was unfolding the way we hope that all of our children's lives will eventually unfold.

Certainly, it was not these things, or even the fact that, as a young man, he was actively involved with his church that made him atypical. And it was not the fact that he was a star on the basketball court—making the All-Conference and All-State teams his senior year at Central High School in Santa Rosa County—a high school he entered after being home schooled for a number of years. Quite simply, it was his selflessness and his unyielding love for his family that set him apart.

Chris was the oldest of three boys. As such, he was fiercely protective of his younger brothers. There is a story the family tells about an accident that happened 12 years ago that illustrates this best: Chris and Jacob, his youngest brother, were riding in the back seat of their father's car when the driver of an RV, coming over the peak of the 1-10 bridge between Santa Rosa and Escambia counties, failed to slow down for a disabled vehicle. The RV slammed into the Villars' car with enough force to peel the roof back. While we, thankfully, will never have to learn what could have happened that day—we do know that Chris, in an instinctive moment, grabbed his two year old brother Jacob—perched high in his car seat—and threw his own 10 year old body over him to save him. He didn't think of himself.

By and large, the people who knew him all said the same things about him: He was a good boy and he had been raised right. That

is a compliment we hear far too infrequently these days, but it is a testament to his parents. It should make them proud.

I wish I could tell you that the story ends there—that this exceptional boy will one day become an exceptional man, an exceptional husband and an exceptional dad. Unfortunately, on the evening of Thursday, June 15th, Christopher Villar's life came to a tragic end when a car driven by a drunk driver crashed through the roof of his family's home. I am not going to talk about the details of the accident, other than to say that it was an avoidable tragedy and a sickening reminder of the dangers of driving while under the influence. But I will talk about something that happened in the moments before. Chris, like so many of us, had been enjoying the NBA playoffs with his family. He was a New York Knicks fan but pulled for the Heat in this series to pick at his younger brother, Matt. They were ribbing about it, as brothers are wont to do, when a loud noise was heard in the front yard. Whether it was the sheer instinct of a protective older brother, the hand of God, or both, Chris pushed Matt away from himself and toward the middle of his room just as the car crashed through the ceiling. In an instant, it was over. If any good can be found in this tragedy, it is that one life was lost instead of two. Once again, Chris hadn't thought of himself.

Mr. Speaker, these words do nothing to ease the pain the friends and family of William Christopher Villar are feeling today. Their void is a void that no words can fill. I share them with you because this remarkable young man deserves to be remembered, not for the tragic accident that took his life, but for the positive impact he had on the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING THE LIBERTY
TRIBUNE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Liberty Tribune and their staff on the monumental accomplishment of 160 years of journalistic excellence in the community of Liberty, Missouri. I am proud to celebrate this accomplishment today, and prouder still to note the Liberty Tribune is the second-oldest weekly newspaper west of the Mississippi River still in continuous publication.

From their modest beginnings, founded by 19-year-old Robert H. Miller, the Liberty Tribune has always called the town square their home. Mr. Miller founded the Tribune through the financial contributions of Dr. William Jewell, namesake of the nationally recognized William Jewell College.

The Liberty Tribune has covered and been a part of historically significant news in their community from the very beginning. The Tribune boasts the only embedded reporter during Alexander Doniphan's march to the Mexican-American War. They covered the persecution of Mormon founder Joseph Smith and the first crime committed by legendary outlaw Jesse James. The Liberty Tribune has been bringing all the news of the day to the citizens of Liberty since 1846 and they show no signs of stopping. Today the Bradley family of St. Joseph, proud owners of the Tribune's parent

company the News-Press Gazette, carry on the tradition of dedicated news coverage for the citizens of Liberty, Missouri.

I am proud to represent the Liberty Tribune and their excellent contributions to the people of Northwest Missouri. I have no doubt this tradition of excellence will continue for another 160 years.

HONORING MARTIN FAGA IN
RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Martin Faga, who is retiring from his post at the MITRE Corporation. I have known Marty Faga since my days in the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, when he was a congressional staffer and civic activist in Lee Boulevard Heights.

President and Chief Executive Officer of MITRE Corporation, Mr. Faga received his master and bachelor of science degrees in electrical engineering from Lehigh University in 1964 and 1963.

Before joining MITRE, Mr. Faga served from 1989 until 1993 as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space, where he was responsible for overall supervision of Air Force space matters. At the same time, he served as Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), responsible to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence for the development, acquisition and operation of all U.S. satellite reconnaissance programs.

Mr. Faga joined MITRE in 1993 as Vice President of MITRE's Center for Integrated Intelligence Systems, one of the three units operating under the Department of Defense Federally Funded Research and Development Centers. He later served as Senior Vice President, General Manager, and Executive Vice President. Since 2000 he has been MITRE Corporation's President and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Faga's career has included distinguished service as a staff member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, where he headed the program and budget staff; as an engineer at the Central Intelligence Agency; and as an R&D officer in the Air Force. He has served on the Commission for the Protection and Reduction of Government Secrecy, the Jeremiah Panel to review the mission and organization of the NRO, several Defense Science Board Task Forces, and the National Commission for the Review of the NRO. Additionally, he has been appointed by President Bush to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and to the Public Interest Declassification Board.

Awards and honors bestowed upon Mr. Faga include the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, the Air Force Exceptional Civilian Service Medal, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, and in 2004, he was awarded the Intelligence Community Seal Medallion.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Martin Faga and congratulating him on his retirement after a distinguished career dedicated to ensuring the national security of the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, due to travel restrictions I was unable to vote on H.R. 4843, the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006. If I were here I would have voted in favor of the legislation.

A cost of living adjustment is the least we can do for our veterans. They, and their families, sacrifice a lot to protect our freedoms and rights. Our nation has a responsibility to take care of our veterans.

Surviving spouses of veterans whose deaths were service-connected and their children will benefit from the increase. We must remember when a soldier dies it is our responsibility to take care of their family. It is our duty.

I am hopeful that this is the first of other increases for our veterans. We would all like to see more funding for healthcare and other programs but unfortunately the House leadership doesn't place the emphasis on funding as strongly as I do.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. MACPHERSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with pride today to honor my constituent Robert A. Macpherson, recipient of the 2006 Federal Highway Administration's Excellence in Right of Way Award in the Leadership category. This biennial national award is given to one individual who has demonstrated excellence in leadership and made outstanding innovations in the field of right of way.

The prestigious award was presented to Mr. Macpherson by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and FHWA Right of Way and Utilities. This honor recognizes Mr. Macpherson's significant contributions to his profession that have helped to streamline the process of real property acquisition, making it easier to acquire property while protecting the rights of owners and tenants.

Mr. Macpherson has been a dedicated employee of the California Department of Transportation for over 40 years. During his tenure with the department he has served the people of California in many capacities, most recently as the District 4 Deputy Director for Right of Way and Right of Way Engineering and Surveys.

In addition to his longtime service to the California Department of Transportation, Mr. Macpherson has volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America for over 25 years. He is the father of four and resides in San Rafael with his wife of 46 years.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Macpherson is a shining example of the benefits that hard working and creative individuals can contribute not only to the state of California but to the country. It is my pleasure to honor him for the receipt of the 2006 Federal Highway Administration's Excel-

lence in Right of Way Award. I have no doubt that he will continue to serve his community as an example of effective and dedicated leadership.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am on the occasion of National HIV Testing Day.

Mr. Speaker, more than one million Americans are currently living with HIV/AIDS. Of those, an estimated 320,000 people do not even realize that they carry the virus. Another 40,000 new transmissions are occurring every year in the United States, about half of which result from individuals who are unaware they are infecting others.

Today, June 27, 2006, is National HIV Testing Day, which gives us an opportunity as a Nation to pause to acknowledge the terrible toll that HIV is taking on America and to recommit ourselves to the eradication of this terrible disease. Most importantly, perhaps, National HIV Testing Day is an occasion on which we reiterate our commitment to testing vulnerable Americans for HIV as a first step towards providing counseling, offering treatment and bringing an end to the spread of AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to note that one of the nation's leading manufacturers of HIV rapid test kits, Chembio Diagnostics, is located in Medford, New York, which happens to be in my district. For years, Chembio has been a major provider of HIV test kits across the globe, and recently they secured FDA approval to sell their test kits in the United States. For those employees in my district who engage in the important business of promoting testing for HIV, this day is of particular significance.

In his 2006 State of the Union address, President Bush proposed to direct \$93 million to the purchase and distribution of rapid HIV test kits for use in areas of the country with the highest rates of newly discovered HIV cases and the highest suspected rates of undetected cases. In response, we recently appropriated \$63 million for this program. I strongly support the President's new testing initiative and the increased importance placed upon testing as part of the continuum of care and treatment we provide for HIV/AIDS patients in this country.

For too long, testing has been an afterthought rather than a priority. I sincerely hope this is an area where we can find bipartisan agreement and move swiftly to provide more resources to prevent the spread of AIDS in the coming year and beyond. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in observation of National HIV Testing Day and in recognition of Chembio's break-through achievement in this critically important, life-saving field.

ORDINARY MAN, EXTRAORDINARY DAD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, "Just a truck driver and daddy from Florida" is how Mark Lunsford describes himself. Being a single father, he worked many long, hard miles on the road to provide a good life for his children. He is just an average Joe. He has always loved his kids with every fiber of his being and he always made sure they were safe.

Nine-year-old Jessica, or "Jessie" as her daddy calls her, lived with Mark and his parents, where she could be closely watched and protected, even when he was on the road. She was a bright, energetic child who loved her grandparents, adored her father, and had been spared of the darkness of society. That beautiful innocence, however, was violently shattered in the dark of night on February 23, 2005.

Unbeknownst to Mark and his parents, a serial-convicted sex offender lurked right across the street. This vile snake laid in wait, slithered into the Lunsford home, and abducted little Jessica from her own bed. He took her safety, he took her innocence, and in the end, he took her life. Sadly, one month later, the devastating discovery of Jessica Lunsford occurred.

As any father would be, Mark was inconsolable at the news of his daughter's death. Mark realized, however, that he had to prevent another father from feeling this immense grief and another child from experiencing such violence. Mark immediately began working with the Florida State Legislators in enacting legislation aptly named, "Jessica's Law." "Jessica's Law" requires a minimum sentence of 25 years incarceration for first time sexual offenders of children. The law also requires that these predators must be monitored for life, if they are released from prison.

A man who never imagined that he would be involved in politics, Mark became Jessica's voice throughout State governments. His fatherly instincts drove his passion to protect our Nation's children from these dangerous sexual predators lurking among us. During the last 15 months, due to his dedication, "Jessica's Law" has been enacted in 16 States, with 9 additional States enacting legislation similar to Jessica's Law." He is soft-spoken about his achievements and accomplishments, maintaining his victories are "Only Jessie's." He has stated to me on many occasions, he will not stop until every State enacts "Jessica's Law." Her memory is his strength.

On Tuesday, June 20, 2006, Mark was awarded the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in public and community service—The Jefferson Award. Specifically, he was awarded the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for Outstanding Public Service Benefiting the Local Community. This award was named after Jefferson Award co-founder, and former First Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy, and is considered to be one of the most prestigious of all of the Jefferson Awards.

Mr. Speaker, as a father and grandfather to 6 girls, Mark's devastating loss hits very close to home. I have the privilege of knowing Mark and consider him one of my good friends. He

was a man who never imagined such a horrific tragedy could befall his daughter, and that his family could be victimized so cruelly; however, he refused to stand there and do nothing. He became an advocate; he became Jessica's voice. This ordinary man became an extraordinary dad and I am truly honored to pay him this tribute.

That's just the way it is.

HONORING JOSEPH H. HALLISSEY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to and celebrate the storied career of Joseph H. Hallissey. His 60 years of remarkable leadership, in positions at the YMCA, Hallissey Travel, the Dearborn Public Schools, and the Henry Ford Community College, more than distinguish Mr. Hallissey as a truly impassioned and accomplished citizen.

After serving his country as an officer in the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1953, Mr. Hallissey excelled in his time at the YMCA, as well as in his years as a travel agent during which time he served as President, Trustee, and General Congress Chairperson for the American Society of Travel Agents. Mr. Hallissey was honored as Travel Agent of the Year by the 30,000 member American Society of Travel agents, and "Travel Person of the Year" for his efforts in founding the Institute of Certified Travel Agents in Detroit.

While Mr. Hallissey was indeed an invaluable aid to those who wished to escape for a short time, his work in that area was, and continues to be, equaled only by his ceaseless effort to better the lives of those around him. Through the years he has served on numerous committees supporting public education, the Dearborn Public Schools, and Henry Ford Community College, and co-chaired seven campaigns generating hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for these institutions. He has also served on the Board of Directors and fundraising campaigns for countless community organizations, among them: Centurions of Dearborn, Dearborn Chamber of Commerce, Dearborn Goodfellows, Dearborn Rotary Club, Fairlane Club, Henry Ford Hospital, and Inter-service Club Council of Dearborn.

Mr. Hallissey and his lovely wife Veronica have been recognized for their longstanding support of public education by having the Dearborn Public Schools' Miller Element School Library Resource Center and the Henry Ford Community College North Hall dedicated in their honor. Mr. Hallissey's commitment to public education was also clearly expressed as he excelled during his career as Coordinator of Community Relations and Ventures in Partnership Coordinator for the Dearborn Public Schools, as well as in his career as Director of the Henry Ford Community College Office of Development. He also serves as chairperson for the Scholarship Committee of the University of Michigan Alumni Club of the Greater Detroit and reviews hundreds of scholarship applications annually.

Admittedly, I am not the first of those who have found it fit to admire Mr. Hallissey's compassionate contributions. He has been hon-

ored by many organizations for his community volunteer efforts, receiving the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" Award, the Dearborn Rotary Distinguished Community Service Award, the Dearborn Inter-Service Club Council "Member of the Year" Award, the Henry Ford Community College Distinguished Service Award on two occasions in 1976 and 1991, and the Henry Ford Community College President's award. Joseph Hallissey's commitment to bettering the lives of those around him, and endless efforts to create a vibrant, outreaching educational community, will not soon be forgotten. I would like to thank Joseph Hallissey for his ceaseless and industrious humanitarian accomplishments over the past 60 years, and would ask that all my colleagues rise to wish him the best for a long and rewarding retirement.

FOR JOB WELL DONE DURING
CITIZENSHIP DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to thank our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication in holding one of our most successful Citizenship Days.

Citizenship Day is an event that our office has held for the past 12 years. It is an event that assists legal residents in becoming Citizens. Since 1994 this event has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had since becoming a Member of Congress. To be able to assist someone in their dream of becoming a citizen of this great Nation is truly amazing. This year we were able to assist over 320 people process their applications for citizenship.

In order to become a citizen, one must go through a series of stages to fully complete their application forms. Our office assists these very people by setting up a one-stop application processing opportunity. We set up various stages where applicants were able to get assistance in filling out the application form, take the necessary pictures, purchase a cashiers check for the application fee, speak with and receive quality control of their application from an immigration attorney, and the postal service provided the opportunity to send their citizenship application by certified mail.

None of this would have been possible without the help of our wonderful volunteers that took time from their families to be with us on this great day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), J.P. Morgan Chase, NALEO, LULAC, the U.S. Postal Service and Mamacita's Restaurant for their dedication to the community and for the intricate role they played in assisting many of our residents fulfill their dreams of becoming U.S. Citizens.

I would also like to give a special thanks to the following volunteers that made this day such a success: Constable Victor Trevino and his officers, Ms. Theresa Turmini, Mr. Charles R. Flores, Ms. Herlinda Garcia, Mr. Francisco B. Rodriguez III, Mrs. Margaret Rodriguez, Ms. Josephine Mendoza, Mr. John Martinez, Mr. Rafael Palafox, Ms. Juana Wilson, Ms. Anna

Nunez, Ms. Mary Clossner, Ms. Amanda Stewart, Ms. Rose B. Garcia, Mr. Anselmo Davila, Mr. Guadalupe Flores Jr., Ms. Frances Munoz, Ms. Veronica Sanchez, Ms. Xiaochun Zhou, Mr. Jaime Elizondo, Ms. Sylvia Ramirez-Martinez, Ms. Sylvia Espadin, Ms. Natasha Jabbar, Ms. Thelma Valle, Miss Perla Gonzalez, Ms. Sophie Hu, Mr. Joe Vail, Ms. Teresa Murguia, Miss Krystal Hernandez, Ms. Frances Hernandez, Mr. Francisco Valle, Ms. Veronica Avalos, Ms. Ursula Featherston, Ms. Rosalinda Salazar, Ms. Carmen Galle, Ms. Martina Garza, Ms. Patrese Ruffin-Bush, Ms. Patricia Perez, Mr. Adrian Espadin, Mr. Edward Gonzalez, Dr. Melissa Najera, Ph.D., Mr. Cassandra Juarez, Ms. Clarissa Juarez, Mr. John Gavidia, Ms. Esther Arrendell, Mr. Jimmy Jackson, Mr. Jose Henriquez, Ms. Santa Herrera, Ms. Martha Bulbai, Mrs. Kristen Quan, Ms. Ada Smoot, Mr. Eduardo Garcia, Ms. Cristina Valdez, Ms. Claudia Rodas, Mr. Eric Rodas, Ms. Ivonne Moreira, Ms. Jenny Marquez, Ms. Terasina Niles, Ms. Erika Faz, Mr. Kirk Savarese, Ms. Jeanette Niles, Ms. Tania Buitron, Ms. Veronica Sainz, Ms. Belinda Castro Ms. Sylvia Halfhill and Ms. Sandy Heathman.

For too long we have been hearing that immigrants are a detriment to our society. Well I'm here to tell you that most immigrants are just like our forefathers who established this great Nation of ours. They are just like the millions of immigrants who have come before them longing for a better life, longing to become American citizens, longing for the American Dream.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUE LOWES

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Gwendolyn Sue Lowes, as she prepares to move from Henderson, Nevada to Tyler, Texas. Sue has worked in my District Office since I was elected to the House of Representatives in 2002, and has been an invaluable asset and outstanding example of what a person ought to be.

Sue was born on October 12, 1946 in Breckenridge, Texas. She graduated from McCollum High School in San Antonio, Texas. After high school, Sue attended San Antonio Junior College and began working for Traveler's Insurance. She spent more than thirty years in the insurance business. She worked for the prominent San Antonio insurance firm of Cato & Cato for nineteen years and was known among her colleagues and clients as a bright, cheerful, talented person who always went the extra mile to get the job done. After leaving San Antonio, Sue and her husband Ted lived in Florida and Northern California. They moved to Las Vegas in 1992 and began working at my insurance office in 1993. Sue came to my staff with an outstanding reputation in the insurance field. During the ten years she spent at my Farmer's office, she always maintained an extraordinary work ethic, a positive attitude and a friendly demeanor.

In 2003, Sue joined my Congressional staff and has been an incredible asset to my staff and my constituents. Sue balances a variety of duties with grace and skill. She greets

every constituent with a smile. She is a proactive person who actively seeks opportunities to improve her performance and the performance of the office as a whole. She is a loyal, hardworking and selfless person who always meets a challenge with a positive attitude. Sue has coordinated the Military Academy nominations for the students in my district since 2003. She has done an outstanding job recruiting community members to serve on the Academy Selection Committee, organizing outreach to local high school students and developing relationships with each of our great Military Academies in order to facilitate the nomination process. Sue truly makes a difference in the lives of those who have had the privilege of working with her.

Although Sue has an outstanding record of professional performance, she is most outstanding because of who she is. Sue is a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She has two children, Margaret Jean "Maggie" and John Perry, and three grandchildren. She and her husband have been happily married for eighteen years. Sue is a well-rounded individual who actively pursues her talents and interests. She is an accomplished athlete, an excellent cook, an avid hiker and a talent at many other hobbies. Throughout her life, Sue's warmth, kindness and zest for life have enabled her to nurture strong relationships with her family and friends. Sue is loved and respected by all who know her because of her wisdom, her compassion and her supportive nature.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Sue Lows for her extraordinary commitment to our community, state and nation, and for achieving excellence in all aspects of her life. She has been a wonderful friend for nearly fourteen years and she is truly an admirable person. She will be greatly missed in my office, but I wish her the very best as she goes back to Texas to begin the next phase of her life.

TRIBUTE TO DAKOTA STEWART
WEST

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in great pride and pleasure, to inform the House of a wonderful event that has taken place in my family.

On June 20, 2006, my stepdaughter Emily and her husband Allen West, of Nashville, Tennessee, gave birth to their first child, a daughter. I am proud to report that Dakota is a happy, healthy baby girl. Cynthia and I, along with Allen's parents George and Julie, are delighted with this joyful addition to our family. She reminds us again that, as Art Buchwald once said, "The best things in life aren't things."

Looking into the face of this beautiful new person causes me to marvel again at God's miracle of life and to celebrate Dakota's safe arrival. She also elicits from me the renewed responsibility that I, and we in Congress have, to see that she and her generation will live in freedom, in a safe and prosperous nation and world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of our colleagues join me in wishing all the best to Dakota Stewart West.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of H. Res. 877, the rule for consideration of the House report for H.R. 5631, the Department of Defense appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2007, on June 20, 2006, I improperly referred to the Ranking Member of the Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee as Mr. SABO of Minnesota. I would like the record to show that I meant to refer to the Ranking Member of the Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee as Mr. MURTHA of Pennsylvania.

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise on this auspicious occasion to celebrate the 34th anniversary of Title IX—the landmark legislation to ensure equal access to sports opportunities for young men and women. At the outset, I commend and thank all of the men and women that have contributed to its success over the past 34 years—empowering women to make responsible decisions and to contribute positively to society.

Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary, I must express my concern over the Title IX loophole created by the Department of Education on March 17, 2005. This loophole undermines this important civil rights legislation. Rather than continuing the mandate on institutions to maintain equality in men's and women's sports, the change shifted the burden to female students to show their interest in and entitlement to participation opportunities, effectively allowing schools to justify disparities in treatment. This loophole—which was established without notice or opportunity for public comment—is having a devastating impact on women's sports.

Mr. Speaker, if the fabric of society is only as strong as the threads that hold it together, then surely the duty of government must be to reinforce those threads, not to pull them apart. Yet allowing colleges to gauge interest in women's sports based on a single e-mail survey does exactly that—it unravels the fabric. It sends the message to girls that the ability to play sports is somehow unnatural. No one questions a boy who wants to play soccer; no one asks him to fill out a survey. So why do girls have to jump over hurdles to enjoy the same activity? Hurdles must remain in track and field where they belong, not in civil rights legislation. That is exactly the battle Title IX was designed to end, and it did . . . until March 17, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, in 1971, 1 in 27 high school girls participated in athletics. Now it's 1 in 3. The explosion in athletic opportunities open to young women has generated enormous interest. The ratings for the women's final at Wimbledon, the most watched women's sport-

ing event, are generally the same as the men's. In 1996, it was the U.S. women's soccer and basketball teams that captured Olympic gold. Interest follows opportunity, not vice versa.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this Congress to demonstrate our commitment to our Nation's young women. We know that playing sports improves self-esteem, teamwork skills, and psychological well-being. We know that 82 percent of executive businesswomen played organized sports after elementary school. What we don't know is why the current Administration, in light of overwhelming evidence touting the benefits of athletics, has made it easiest for colleges and high schools to shirk their responsibility to women.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I, along with fellow members of the House of Representatives, are working to protect Title IX. In addition to urging the President to withdraw the new rules, I am an original sponsor of House Resolution 735 expressing that these changes are inconsistent with longstanding Department policies and fundamental principles of equality. I will continue to fight to address these inequalities that threaten to reverse 34 years of progress.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 889,
COAST GUARD AND MARITIME
TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report. It was my pleasure to serve as a conferee on the Fiscal Year 2006 Coast Guard authorization bill.

I am a strong supporter of the Coast Guard men and women who valiantly serve our nation.

Through their hard work and dedication, 33,000 people were saved in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

This will not be the last time that we will turn to the Coast Guard for help.

Congress must provide the Coast Guard with the support it needs to perform its security and life-saving missions.

The Coast Guard's current assets are deteriorating quickly, and the Administration has clearly failed to realize that there is a problem.

The Administration's request for the Deepwater program, which will provide the Coast Guard with more modern equipment, was \$32 million less than last year.

Congress, recognizing the problem, authorized funds in this bill that will help accelerate the purchasing of Deepwater assets.

I had hoped that even more funds would be authorized for the Deepwater program. In the Homeland Security Committee's mark-up of H.R. 4954, the SAFE Ports Act, I supported an amendment offered by Rep. Donna Christensen (D-VI) that would have provided enough funds to complete the Deepwater program in ten years rather than the current twenty years. I wish that provision had been accepted in this bill.

Nonetheless, the funding level in this bill is a good first step.

Finally, this bill establishes a review process before an Administrative Law Judge for individuals denied a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC).

TWIC cards will be required for all port workers.

If a person is denied a TWIC, he or she will not be able to work.

Therefore, it is critically important that a neutral party be involved in deciding whether or not an individual should be denied this card.

Every person deserves the opportunity to work and the government cannot arbitrarily inhibit this right.

I thank the other conferees on both sides of the aisle for working with me on this conference report, and I recommend my colleagues support it.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHARLES W.
MORGAN WHALESHIP

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to represent Connecticut's Second Dis-

trict, which is home to many historical sites, including Mystic Seaport, which is known as the Museum of America and the Sea.

Since the 1600s, the Mystic region has been a center of shipbuilding. The Golden Age of America's maritime enterprises was between 1784 and 1919. During those years more than 600 ships were constructed along the Mystic River. One of those ships was the Charles W. Morgan and I rise today to commend Mystic Seaport and those citizens who came forward years ago to "purchase shares" of that wonderful old ship so it could be preserved and restored for public display.

From 1841 to 1921 the Charles W. Morgan traveled the seas in pursuit of profit. Certain voyages lasted four years and her adventures took her and her crews to the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans. After 37 voyages the ship had earned her shareholders more than \$1 million.

In 1941, Mystic Seaport acquired this proud ship and by the 1970s it was clear that restoration was required to protect it from the corrosion of time and the elements. As was the case during its voyages, private citizens again came forward to buy shares into the ship and today the investment in the Charles W. Morgan has once again paid great dividends. On July 15, Mystic Seaport will celebrate the his-

tory and survival of this magnificent vessel, which is the last surviving wooden whaleship in America.

On July 15, descendants of the ship's crew members and those who participated in the ship's refurbishment will gather at the seaport to celebrate the Morgan and its wonderful history. This is a milestone in our maritime history and for my district. The restoration of the ship will continue and its history will continue to be shared. The next generation will have the opportunity to visit this living museum which tells tales of adventure and of America's relationship with the sea.

Man faces the future armed with the past. That is why it is essential that we honor our history and preserve it. History is who we are, what we are and why we are. The Charles W. Morgan is an important artifact of American history. I thank all those who worked to ensure that it would be preserved as a reminder of America's greatness, of our historic determination to embrace challenges and our indomitable spirit to explore and to dream.