

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REGARDING HOUSE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS PROVISION TO FUND BLM NEW MEXICO'S PREPARATION OF A NEW CO-DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR OIL AND GAS AND POTASH IN THE SECRETARIAL POTASH AREA OF NEW MEXICO

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, for too long, the number one concern of Americans all across our Nation has been the price and supply of energy. The cost of gasoline at the pump and the cost of natural gas delivered to homes and businesses throughout America have risen to levels that have threatened family pocketbooks and employment for businesses both big and small. Americans are looking for real action that addresses the real problems they are experiencing in the market place—the price and supply of gasoline and natural gas. The answer is to be found, in part, by increasing domestic supply of oil and gas. And we have so much of those resources still untapped—whether in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, in off-shore leases, or on a range of federal properties where the oil and gas resources are already owned by the American people.

Many of these opportunities for increased production of oil and gas on federal lands are admittedly fraught with controversy and caught up in partisan politics. However, the House Interior appropriations bill that we passed on May 18, pursues a supply of 1–2 billion barrels of oil and gas on a federal property that is readily developable, where no environmental impediments exist and where drilling and pipeline infrastructure is so plentiful that the oil and gas can be cost-effectively and quickly delivered into the market.

Particularly, our House Interior Appropriations bill provides an additional \$800,000 to the Bureau of Land Management to develop a new co-development policy to facilitate greater production of both the oil and gas and potash that lies beneath an area known as the Secretarial Potash Area near Carlsbad, New Mexico. There has been some contention between oil and gas producers and the potash industry over how extensive oil and gas production should be in the area. The potash industry has claimed that drilling oil and gas wells variously prohibits recovery of potash deposits by them or creates safety risks to potash miners. The BLM New Mexico State Office has denied many applications for drilling permits (APDs) on the basis of those claims. For their part, the oil and gas leaseholders argue that such claims are baseless and point out that there has never been a safety incident in a potash mine from the oil and gas wells that already exist in the potash area. Additionally, they reference the 500,000 acres that constitute the Secretarial potash area are so vast that in-

creased oil and gas development can be achieved without adversely impacting the potash industry.

Last year, the BLM New Mexico State Director commissioned New Mexico Tech to conduct a thorough geological assessment of the oil and gas potential of the potash area. The State Director briefed congressional staff on the conclusions of the New Mexico Tech study on February 14, 2006. Those conclusions are compelling in terms of the urgent need for more oil and gas in this country. After studying the geologic data in great detail, New Mexico Tech concluded that: “Even considering only the Brushy Canyon and Morrow Formations, a large part of the SPA [Secretarial Potash Area] has significant future oil and gas potential along presently producing trends.” The study further concludes: “The Secretary of Interior’s Potash Area is a prolific oil and gas producing region with significant future reserves. . . . [A]most the entire SPA is of interest for future development. . . . These formations . . . consist of extensive sandstones that have demonstrated production characteristics. . . . Horizontal wells have been demonstrated to work with good production, and drilling islands in areas with existing wells are one method of permitting sub-potash development in the future.”

At that same recent briefing for Congressional staff, the BLM New Mexico state director acknowledged that her office has no data to support the claim of safety risks alleged by the potash companies, but expressed a desire to conduct more research on the issue to confidently issue more APDs for oil and gas drilling. The New Mexico State Director also informed congressional staff that she wanted to begin creation of a new co-development resource policy for the Secretarial potash area that would increase oil and gas production while avoiding any legitimate and avoidable adverse impact on current and future potash mining.

The House Interior Appropriations bill provides the BLM Director with additional funding to accomplish the stated objective of creating such a new co-development policy. With BLM already having the full legal authority to create the new co-development policy, BLM can begin action now and does not need to wait even for the enactment of a final Interior Appropriations conference report to commence activity to create the new co-development policy. The only thing now standing in the way of that new policy and oil and gas production is action by the BLM New Mexico office. BLM must understand the seriousness of our intentions underlying this funding provision and the agency must appreciate that we want oil and gas production expedited as a result of this funding and soon. We are watching BLM to see action, and so are the American people.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 921.

No sovereign nation can tolerate having its borders invaded, its people shelled and its soldiers kidnapped. America wouldn't, the members of the EU wouldn't, and Israel shouldn't.

Under the circumstances, Israel's response has been measured. Israel clearly has the right to defend its cities and its people from rocket fire, its borders from terrorist tunnels and its military bases from kidnappers.

Hamas and Hezbollah are terrorist organizations. They have no purpose and no aim other than to destroy Israel. For months they have been waging a war against Israel—and Israel has shown restraint. They have lobbed rockets at Israeli targets—and Israel has shown restraint. They have bombed Israel's cities—and Israel has shown restraint. They have sent their suicide bombers—and Israel has shown restraint. There comes a point when Israel can no longer be restrained. It has a right and an obligation to protect its people from attack.

Ironically, these attacks originate in the areas from which Israel withdrew its troops and settlers. Israel left Lebanon in 2000 and disengaged from Gaza last year. Instead of rewarding and encouraging such movement, Hamas and Hezbollah set about arming themselves with increasingly dangerous and potent weapons. We are now seeing the extent to which these terrorist organizations have been fortifying themselves, and it is terrifying. Their weapons are reaching areas of Israel that have never been subjected to rocket fire before. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis are living in bomb shelters or have been evacuated from their homes.

I am pleased to note that the United States and many members of the international community, including the G–8 have supported Israel's right to defend itself. “We demand first that the Israeli soldiers be returned to Israel healthy, that the attacks on Israel cease, and then naturally for Israel to halt military action,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters at the G–8 summit.

Many Arab leaders and opinion molders have also condemned Hezbollah and/or Hamas for their actions. Although he issued the usual condemnations of Israel, Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, also chided Hezbollah's “unexpected, inappropriate and irresponsible acts.” I understand that delegates from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and the UAE backed Mr. al-Faisal. In the same vein, the official Saudi Press Agency opined, “A distinction must be made between legitimate resistance and uncalculated adventures undertaken by elements [without] . . . consulting

• 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.

and coordinating with Arab nations." Ahmed al-Jarallah, editor of Kuwait's Arab Times, condemned both Hezbollah and Hamas in an editorial on July 15, 2006, writing, "Unfortunately we must admit that in such a war the only way to get rid of 'these irregular phenomena' is what Israel is doing. The operations of Israel in Gaza and Lebanon are in the interest of people of Arab countries and the international community."

I am pleased that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is planning a trip to the region shortly, and hope that she will remain fully engaged. In the meantime, Israel should not be asked to stop its actions as long as Hezbollah and Hamas continue to send missiles toward Israel and to hold Israeli soldiers hostage.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall vote 382 on July 19, 2006, because I was unavoidably detained on official business at the White House. Had I been present, I would have cast the following vote: On rollcall No. 382, I would have voted "yea."

#### PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, today I voted against the Pledge Protection Act—H.R. 2389. I believe in the constitutionality of the Pledge and believe that the Pledge should contain the words "under God."

Unfortunately, this bill does more to hurt the Pledge than help it. The bill strips Federal courts of jurisdiction over Federal constitutional claims, leaving the States to each decide issues regarding the Pledge. Some States may strike down the Pledge; others may modify it. The end result would be lasting damage to the Pledge. This is clearly a Federal, constitutional issue.

I realize that, in 2002, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reached a disturbing result by declaring that it was an unconstitutional establishment of religion to have students recite the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. The U.S. Supreme Court overruled the ninth circuit on procedural grounds in 2004. Unfortunately, there was no clear opinion overruling the ninth circuit on substantive grounds.

The ninth circuit's ruling has created confusion as to whether the decision must be followed within the boundaries of the circuit. At least one Federal district court in California

has since ruled that it must. That case is on appeal now to the ninth circuit, and hopefully it will make its way to the U.S. Supreme Court for a reversal.

#### COMMENDING NASA ON COMPLETION OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE'S SECOND RETURN-TO-FLIGHT MIS-SION

SPEECH OF

### HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend congratulations to NASA and the Shuttle program for the successful STS-121 mission on Space Shuttle *Discovery*. On July 4th, I watched with pride as the NASA performed a successful launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, a fitting tribute to NASA, our brave astronauts, and our incredible space program.

STS-121 successfully confirmed the Space Shuttle safety improvements, including the redesigned External Tank foam insulation, the heat shield, and improved imagery during launch. STS-121 also successfully supplied the International Space Station with more than 28,000 pounds of much-needed equipment and supplies.

Our amazing astronauts also gave us earth-bound admirers three awe-inspiring spacewalks. My hearty congratulations go to the entire *Discovery* crew—Commander Steven Lindsey, Pilot Mark Kelly, and Mission Specialists Michael Fossum, Lisa Nowak, Piers Sellers, and Stephanie Wilson.

With the completion of the flawless 13-day mission of STS-121 on Space Shuttle *Discovery*, NASA proved that both its Space Shuttle program and the International Space Station program are once again on firm footing. Americans can be confident that NASA's goal of completing the construction of the space station will be realized.

And this confidence-building mission comes at the right time, since the most complicated space assembly mission that has ever been scheduled in human space flight will happen in only a month and a half. Starting in August, NASA will launch a series of missions to finish the backbone of the International Space Station. These shuttle missions will be the most complex since the Apollo program.

These are great challenges for NASA, but America's space agency continues to prove that it is up to the job. I have complete confidence that NASA will be successful with the remaining 15 Shuttle missions to complete the space station before the shuttle's retirement in 2010.

Our Space Shuttle program has proven that it is on track to completing its remaining missions and NASA is on track to continue the manned space program, including the return of Americans to the surface of the Moon.

ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL  
ZOBERMAN

### HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following article written by my constituent, Rabbi Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, VA. A son of Polish Holocaust survivors, he grew up in Haifa, Israel. He is past President of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. The article reads as follows:

Once more I felt in the pit of my stomach that gnawing sense of emptiness born of disbelief and grave concern, which after all is a defense mechanism, experienced during past wars and crises. My phone calls to my family in Haifa, Israel have increased from Fridays to wish them a "Shabbat Shalom" to daily contacts of empathy and support.

My beautiful coastal Haifa, Israel's third largest city, has become a deliberate target with rockets landing on Mt. Carmel, not far from my sisters' homes and my parents' residence where I was raised. My very pregnant niece was emotionally affected and temporarily left to Tel Aviv for psychological stability. Speaking to my mom, who along with father are Polish Holocaust survivors, conveyed her definite heightened anxiety as she faced one more challenge after already much trauma, including Israel's previous wars and ongoing tensions since arriving there in 1949. I've also been in touch with Lebanese friends in Virginia Beach. They too are affected by the disconcerting events.

The eruption of hostilities this time followed attacks and kidnappings by Hamas in the south and Hezbollah in the north, instigated by the true powers to be in Iran and Syria, and lengthy rockets' firing at Israeli towns within range from Gaza. It thus forced Israel's government to send a loud message to those who are obstacles to the future of peace, a pre-condition to Israel's very viability and survival in a restive region of critical strategic importance. No state would allow disruption to its citizens' lives on a scale tolerated so long by Israel. Particularly for a small country albeit with a capable military, such unacceptable scenario becomes debilitating.

The threat from radical Islam seeking to create a Middle East a la its rejectionist ideology, sans Israel and Western influence, also aims at destabilizing moderate Arab states such as Egypt and Jordan which signed peace treaties with Israel. Without a countervailing strong Iraq, Iran is now positioned for hegemony to restore its historic preeminence and emerge a global Muslim leader. It attempts to acquire nuclear power as a step in this envisioned goal while led by an irresponsible president who openly denies the Holocaust and calls for Israel's elimination. The Palestinian Authority as well as Lebanon stand to benefit from Israel's actions for their own future is held hostage by their extremists. Israel's response is supportive of America's heroic efforts to confront terrorism world-wide, painfully introducing democracy to a liberated Iraq, even though democracy's Arab enemies subvert fledging democracies from within. Fighting terrorists is hampered by their planting themselves among civilians to take advantage of democratic nations' reluctance to retaliate at random. But terrorists underestimate the will of free nations to ultimately fight back in spite of limitations with inevitable and regrettable losses of life and property. Tragic indeed has been Lebanon's lot

and inability to control Palestinian and Lebanese militants who have begrudged her Western culture and delicate ethnic and religious balance.

How frustrating that despite Israel's sacrificial Gaza disengagement a year ago as well as the departure from southern Lebanon in 2000, with plans for the further withdrawal from the West Bank to create a Palestinian state, its adversaries refuse to respond in kind. Reestablishing a deteriorated deterrence posture is a must for Israel's security. Recently elected Israeli Premier Ehud Olmert is undergoing his first major test by fire, literally, filling in the big shoes of his incapacitated predecessor Ariel Sharon. Sharon, the daring leader in war and peace, would approve Olmert's conduct that is supported by a united political front, so otherwise rare, testimony to Israel's resolve to again prevail. A determined Jewish state has no plans to leave its bad neighborhood, and it may yet help transforming it with its essential American partner. May children on both sides of Israel's borders soon be able to freely play and sleep at peace.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation of Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, grew up in Haifa, Israel.

HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 71 FOR 86 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so that I may honor the American Legion Post 71 of Denton, Texas as they celebrate their 86th Anniversary. For close to a century, the American Legion Post and its members have selflessly served thousands of veterans and their families throughout North Texas.

The American Legion, holding a 3 million part membership nationally, was chartered by Congress in the aftermath of World War I as a "patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans' organization." Since its establishment, the American Legion has sworn "to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;" to promote service and to harvest a healthy sense of community. Today there are over 15,000 posts world-wide.

In celebration of their 86th Anniversary, Post 71 will honor the family of Ernest Dallas Jr., a Denton Veteran of the Iraq War, with a "Fallen Heroes Memorial Plaque."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud American Legion Post 71 for their honorable service to our nation and our heroes. I also recognize one of those heroes, Ernest Dallas Jr., who lost his life in Iraq not more than a year ago. Our nation truly owes a debt of gratitude to him and our other fallen soldiers for their admirable and unyielding service to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 13, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 374.

Rollcall vote No. 374 was on final passage of H.R. 9, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

This is an important piece of legislation that I hope to see pass through the Senate, signed by the President and enacted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on July 20, 2006 and missed Rollcall vote 393. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for 393.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 921, condemning the provocations by terrorist organizations on Israel's northern and southern borders.

The actions of the terrorist organizations, Hezbollah, in Lebanon, and Hamas, in Gaza, against Israel are unconscionable. Instead of working towards peace, these terrorist organizations have chosen to perpetuate the violence. Unprovoked attacks on Israel's borders, murdering Israeli soldiers, taking Israeli hostages and showering rockets targeting and killing Israeli civilians are not furthering any legitimate goal.

I am pleased to see that many of the world's leaders have publicly recognized that the crisis in the Middle East was deliberately incited by terrorist organizations. I applaud the leaders of the world's top industrial nations' collaborative statement on July 16 condemning the terrorists: "These extremist elements and those that support them cannot be allowed to plunge the Middle East into chaos and provoke a wider conflict. The extremists must immediately halt their attacks."

I also congratulate the Arab nations, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan for their willingness to openly criticize Hezbollah's attacks on Israel's northern border. I am in full support of their efforts to speak out against Hezbollah's recent assaults against Israel.

Israel's actions over the past week must be viewed in a broader context. It should be recognized that in response to Israel's unilateral

withdrawal from Southern Lebanon in 2000 and from Gaza in 2005, as well as its committed plan to pull out completely from the West Bank, Israel has met only violence. Since 2000, Hezbollah has fired hundreds of rockets at civilian areas and kidnapped and murdered Israeli soldiers. Since September 2005, terrorist groups in Gaza have launched over 1,000 rocket attacks at Israeli cities. Previously, Israel exhibited restraint and refused to respond to these aggressions with any significant counterattack. Now, in light of the current unprovoked kidnappings by Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel is warranted to act appropriately to free the captured soldiers and to defend her citizens.

Now is the time for the Lebanese Government to abide by the U.N.'s rules. In refusing to disarm Hezbollah as required by U.N. Resolution 1559, the Lebanese Government is choosing to openly ignore the decree of the international community. Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora should accept responsibility and take immediate action against the terrorist group which Lebanon harbors. I support the resolutions that call on the United Nations to help the Prime Minister and his government to achieve these goals.

Now is also the time for the Hamas government to accept accountability for the actions of its terrorist organization. As the elected government of the Palestinian people, they have a duty to tell the terrorists to release the soldier they captured, halt the relentless rocket fire aimed at Israeli civilians and end their encouragement of terrorist acts against Israel.

But neither the Palestinian nor the Lebanese Government are wholly responsible for these recent provocations against Israel. There is a much greater strategic dimension to the Hamas-Hezbollah offensive. The terrorist organizations, Hezbollah and Hamas, are unquestionably sponsored and guided by the Iranian and Syrian Governments.

Iranian and Syrian support of these attacks will not be rewarded. The current bloodshed of innocent Israeli and Lebanese civilians will not strengthen their governments' positions. As sponsors of terror they will be condemned and held accountable for their actions.

Israel must have the right to defend her civilians from ongoing missile attacks, whether they arise from Lebanon or the Gaza Strip. Like the United States and other sovereign nations, Israel is justified in reestablishing its deterrent posture.

FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 9) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act (H.R. 9). I am a proud co-

sponsor of this bipartisan legislation, which ensures every American citizen has the right to vote.

If the Constitution is the embodiment of America's ideal of equality, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a historic milestone in our pursuit of that ideal. The namesakes of this legislation are among the tens of thousands of common heroes who fought, sacrificed and even perished to abolish the institutional barriers to voting that cast a shadow on American freedom for nearly 200 years. It is the responsibility of our generation to honor their legacy of vision and commitment through our diligent stewardship of their hard-won victories. Today, as America's elected representatives, we in Congress must renew our dedication to advance the cause of freedom by reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act.

Enacted in 1965 and renewed in 1982, the Voting Rights Act (VRA) prohibits the use of any voting practice or procedure that discriminates based on race and requires certain jurisdictions to provide language assistance to minority citizens. The Act bars literacy tests, poll taxes, intimidation, threats, violence and other transparent assaults on liberty. It also protects against insidious procedural barriers such as restrictive voter registration requirements, districting plans that dilute minority voting strength, discriminatory annexations and the siting of polling places at inaccessible locations.

The Department of Justice has called the Voting Rights Act "the most successful piece of civil rights legislation ever adopted." As a result of the Act in Mississippi, African American registration went from less than 10 percent in 1964 to almost 60 percent in 1968. In Alabama, registration rose from 24 percent to 57 percent. These immediate gains in access to the polls sowed seeds of equal representation that future generations would reap.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, there were approximately 300 African Americans serving in public office across the country in 1964, including only three in Congress. Today, more than 9,100 African Americans hold elected office at the local and state level, including 43 in Congress. The guarantees of full political participation codified in the VRA have greatly benefited all minority groups including Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans—the last group to win the right to vote. This impressive record of progress argues strongly for reauthorization of the Act.

While most provisions of the VRA are permanent, several key provisions of the law are set to expire in 2007. These provisions include Section 5, which requires covered jurisdictions to obtain approval or "pre-clearance" from the U.S. Department of Justice before they can change voting practices or procedures. Section 203 of the Act requires election officials to provide written and oral assistance to certain citizens with limited English proficiency. Also due for reauthorization are Sections 6–9, which empower the U.S. Attorney General to appoint examiners and send Federal observers to monitor elections when evidence exists of voter intimidation at the polls.

This bipartisan reauthorization bill restores the original intent of the VRA by making it clear that any voting rule changes motivated by intentional and purposeful discrimination cannot be "precleared" by a Federal court or the Department of Justice. And H.R. 9 mod-

ernizes the VRA by requiring the use of the most updated census data and by directing the GAO to determine ways to better administer election assistance to non-English speakers.

Despite broad bipartisan support within the Congress for reauthorization, some Members question whether the VRA's protections are still necessary in today's America. Regrettably, almost 40 years after enactment of the VRA, voting discrimination is not only a painful memory of our past but also a persistent challenge for the present and future. Since the VRA was last reauthorized in 1982, the Department of Justice and disfranchised voters have brought hundreds of intentional voter discrimination cases before the courts, many within the last 5 years.

In 2001, the mayor and all-white Board of Aldermen of Kilmichael, Mississippi canceled local elections when it appeared several African-American candidates might win seats. Elections were finally held in 2003, after the Department of Justice used the VRA to intervene. In the election that followed, the town elected three African-American board members and their first African-American mayor.

South Dakota enacted a redistricting plan in 2001 that "packed," or over-concentrated Native Americans into a district, preventing them from creating a majority voting bloc in an additional, neighboring district. Three years later, a Federal court invalidated the state's plan, finding "substantial evidence" that state officials excluded Native Americans from voting and holding office.

Local officials in Bexar County, Texas attempted to undermine Latino voting strength in a 2003 special election by neglecting to site polling places near those communities. Using the special provisions of the VRA, Latino advocates were able to prevent Latino voters from being silenced in the election by obtaining expedited assistance from the local district court.

And not all voting irregularities are local. The mere mention of "Florida" or "Ohio" evoke the voting controversies of the 2000 and 2004 Presidential elections, which called the legitimacy of the outcomes into question and shook Americans' confidence in our elections process. The effort to reestablish confidence in the elections process has produced new controversies over electronic voting machines that leave no paper record for verification and recounts.

Clearly, the voting discrimination and irregularities that inspired the Voting Rights Act persist and serve to remind us that the right to vote cannot be taken for granted, but it must be actively protected and defended. By passing H.R. 9 and reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act, Congress reinforces the foundations of American democracy and keeps faith with generations of Americans past and future. I urge my colleagues to reject all attempts to weaken the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act (H.R. 9) and to support the bipartisan compromise before us today.

SUPPORT THE STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT, H.R. 810

## HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I support moving stem cell research forward and believe H.R. 810 will accomplish it in an ethical and responsible manner.

It is almost 2 years since my daughter-in-law, Naomi, underwent a kidney transplant. I marvel at the combined results of the many people and years of science and research that came before her which gave her that opportunity.

Naomi was lucky and found an eligible donor in her brother. The transplant operation was a success. In fact, just a month ago, our family cheered on Naomi at the Transplant Olympics.

It seems like a happy ending, but the story does not end here.

My daughter-in-law takes a number of drugs to keep her body from rejecting her new kidney. I hope her body will be able to support her transplant for many years.

Hopefully, Naomi will not need to face another transplant for many, many years. Clearly, she may not be able to go to a sibling again.

Will new research bring her new hope in the future?

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, I have a personal reason for seeing an expansion of the existing stem cell lines.

New stem cell lines hold the promise of advancing medical research and providing cures to a number of diseases.

After years of work, both the House and Senate passed bipartisan stem cell legislation. Unfortunately, President Bush vetoed this critical bill. Despite a valiant effort in the House, we could not override this veto.

We need to think about tomorrow—what kind of future do we want to provide for the millions of individuals who live with life-threatening illnesses and their families?

If we don't move forward, we will not have the chance to develop innovative treatments, including the potential of growing kidneys.

I hope I can give Naomi and other families like ours that chance.

REGARDING THE GATES FOUNDATION'S WORK TO DEVELOP AN HIV VACCINE

## HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, AIDS is a disease that knows no national borders. Approximately 40 million people across the globe are infected with this virus. There is no cure, and for many people, no hope.

Between 1995 and 2005, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS has doubled, despite efforts to prevent transmission of the disease. New infections among women outpace those among men as a result of gender inequalities and violence toward women. Ninety-

six percent of people with HIV live in the developing world, most in sub-Saharan Africa.

Life-saving drugs to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the virus have been unavailable, and hundreds of thousands of infants have become needlessly infected at birth or through breastfeeding in the last year.

Bill and Melinda Gates have done a great thing to provide hope to the millions suffering from AIDS.

Yesterday, they announced that they have dedicated \$287 million in the form of 16 grants over 5 years to set up an international network of HIV vaccine scientists.

What is special about the grants is that they will be shared among 16 research projects in 19 countries. Five of the grants will pay for central laboratories to test researchers' findings and foster international collaboration.

Importantly, the Gates Foundation's gift will encourage the 165 scientists receiving them to join forces. All the scientists involved have signed a collaboration agreement to openly share their data and results. This unique arrangement is designed to get an effective HIV vaccine quickly into clinical trials in humans.

I have great respect for Bill and Melinda Gates, and I admire their desire to do good things at a global level. They are a model of charity. By this generous gift, the Gates are showing all of us how to look beyond our own borders and make a real difference in this world. Global health and equality are the true keys to bringing about world peace and understanding.

HONORING DOROTHY BARKER OF  
CWA

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my long-time friends, Dorothy Barker. Though not a native Houstonian, she has been here longer than most. She came here in 1939 and is a proud graduate of Milby High School.

Dorothy immediately went to work after graduation and moved around Texas with her husband, U.S. Army Air Force Sergeant Hugh Barker. In addition to being the mother of three children, Dorothy managed to have a variety of jobs to help support her family. She had a milk route in San Antonio, drove a city bus in Galveston, and was a "motor pool" employee at the Air Base in Dalhart, Texas.

Finally, her family settled down in Houston and she became an employee of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1945 and joined the Communication Workers of America the same year. In 2 short years, she became a job steward and became a chief steward in 1962.

She was elected associate treasurer in 1972, which is when I met her and she has held that position ever since.

Dorothy helped bring the CWA into the State of Montana in 1970 and I know personally, she has worked tirelessly to help increase union membership, protect labor rights, and get those of us who believe in good wages and benefits elected to office.

Dorothy helped me the first time I ran for State representative and was elected in 1972.

She has been a strong supporter ever since and I appreciate working with her over the last 32 years.

She has attended all the formal training schools offered by CWA. She has attended steward's training, local officer training schools, leadership and advanced leadership schools, and the AFL-CIO labor law and advanced labor law courses.

Her commitment to the CWA can never be questioned. She has served as a leader in all phases of local organizing drives, and all legislative and community service work. She has been a delegate to the last 18 CWA conventions and a delegate to the AFL-CIO Convention annually since 1976.

She was District 12 CWA Woman of the Year in 1981 and was CWA Woman of the Year for local 6222 in 1999.

She currently serves as local 6222 coordinating officer for the legislative committee, finance committee, election committee, and public relations committee.

She is vice-president of the Harris County AFL-CIO and chair of the trustees of the State AFL-CIO.

I thank Dorothy Barker for her service to the working people in the Houston area and in Texas over the last 60 years and congratulate her on her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES MA-  
RINE CORPORAL PAUL NICHOLAS  
KING

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, Marine Cpl Paul Nicholas "Nick" King, who gave his life in service to our country.

Corporal King was a resident of a community in my district, Tyngsboro, and was deployed with the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces as part of Operation: Iraqi Freedom II. Nick arrived in Iraq just a few months ago and served as a mortarman with the 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Weapons Company, Regimental Combat Team 5. On Sunday, June 25, 2006, he sustained fatal injuries when his unit was attacked as they patrolled Fallujah, Iraq.

Nick was just 23 years old when he was killed. He leaves behind his beloved wife Becky who was his high school sweetheart. He is also survived by his loving parents Paul and Julie, and his siblings, Julie, Dianna, and Daniel. He was looking forward to starting a family with his wife and finding a new home upon his return. He was also planning to restore a motorcycle that the couple had bought shortly before his deployment. His friends and family recall his zest for life as well as his courage and sense of duty. Although he was safely stationed with a support unit in Korea, Japan, and Thailand, Nick volunteered for deployment to Iraq because he wanted to fight alongside his fellow Marines. He loved being a Marine and his courage will not be soon forgotten.

Nick graduated from the Greater Lowell Vocational High School in 2001. He enlisted in the Marines during his final year in school and wore his uniform to his wife's senior prom. Nick was very proud to be a Marine.

Nick's family is proud of him for the supreme sacrifice he paid on behalf of his country. He will always be remembered for his kindness, his zest for life, his courage, and his love for his family. He will be sorely missed.

I have requested that an American flag be flown over our United States Capitol in memory of Cpl Paul Nicholas King to honor his brave service to our country. This flag was recently presented to his family. Nick died fighting for the country he loved, alongside comrades he respected and with the family he adored, forever in his heart. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, we should all take a moment to recognize Cpl Paul Nicholas King, United States Marine Corps, who gave his life in service to his country.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCE-  
MENT ACT OF 2005—VETO MES-  
SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC.  
NO. 109-127)

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, and in support of overturning the President's veto of this legislation. Unfortunately, what should be a debate about promising new research and technology that could lead to cures and treatments for countless diseases and disorders has been overshadowed, yet again, by a debate about when life begins.

These stem cells do not come from fetuses as some people mistakenly believe. They are blastocysts, 3- to 5-day-old embryos made up of so small a number of cells they can fit on a head of a pin. This legislation does not allow these embryos to be cloned or created for stem cell research. Therefore, there is no risk of rogue scientists performing illegal or unethical experiments.

In addition, the authors of H.R. 810 have taken all precautions to ensure that safeguards are in place for the ethical use of embryonic stem cells. The only embryos permitted to be used under H.R. 810 are those that will come from in vitro fertilization, IVF, donors who no longer plan on using the embryos and who provide their written consent.

Every year hundreds of thousands of leftover embryos from IVF are thrown away. Instead of tossing them in the trash, why shouldn't the owners of the embryos be able to give their consent to have these embryos used for research? We should not be denying their right to help save lives.

Those of us who support embryonic stem cell research unfortunately will not be able to overturn the President's veto. We, however, must not give up. To all Americans who support saving lives, who want to cure diseases and disorders that are plaguing their loved ones, and who care about groundbreaking ethical health research, I ask you to take this issue to your elected Representative and tell them that you demand this legislation become law in the next Congress.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT ROBERT  
P. KASSIN

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of SGT Robert P. Kassin.

Robert dedicated his life to serving his country, and last Sunday, July 16, he made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Kassin was killed near Larzab, in Afghanistan's Zabul province, when his platoon came under enemy fire. He died proudly, eager to defend our Nation and help the people of Afghanistan.

For almost a decade, Robert faithfully defended his country. After graduating from high school in Clovis, NM, he joined the Army in September 1996, volunteering for deployment and reenlisting shortly after arriving in Afghanistan. Robert took pride in all that he did, and this was apparent to all who knew him.

Robert leaves behind his parents, Robert Joseph and Lucia Kassin of Clovis, his 7-year-old son, his wife, Judy, and two stepdaughters. His son and stepdaughters will grow up proud of their father, Sergeant Kassin, knowing that he gave his all in service to our country.

Our most sincere and heartfelt sympathies are with Robert's family and friends during this time of great loss. We will always remember his bravery and the sacrifice he made proudly serving our great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN LINDER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 380, House passage of S. 2754, I inadvertently was recorded as voting "nay."

I would like the record to reflect the fact that I wanted my vote to be recorded as "yea."

This does not change the outcome of the vote.

COMMENDING AND SUPPORTING  
RADIO AL MAHABA

SPEECH OF

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Ms. GRANGER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 784 commending Radio Station Al-Mahaba in Iraq.

Radio Al-Mahaba, which means "love" in Arabic, is the only radio station in Iraq or the Greater Middle East whose programming is geared toward the issues important to women.

The station's programming is meant to be an educational tool for women, focusing on subjects such as parenting, healthcare, relationships and other social topics.

The station broadcasts in three different languages, giving women freedom to voice their opinions and hear other opinions.

Articles about Radio Al-Mahaba have appeared in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune and USA Today.

I recently had the honor of meeting with employees of Radio Al-Mahaba on a delegation I led to Iraq to work with Iraqi women leaders and Parliamentarians.

Right now, they are on the verge of having to shut their doors because of terrorist threats against the group and a lack of funding.

Many insurgents do not want to see women have a voice or play a significant role in Iraq. Despite these threats, the employees remain determined to stay on the air.

To do this, they are working for free to keep the station running. If this is not a clear expression of a desire for a free and open society, I don't know what is.

The station eventually hopes to broadcast into Iran in order to let Iranian women know that freedom can be achieved but only if they stand up for their rights.

Mr. Speaker, this is a non-partisan issue. Radio Al-Mahaba deserves our support.

It's crucial that women have a strong voice in Iraqi society, especially as Iraqis work to form a democracy.

Radio Al-Mahaba provides women with a vehicle to have that voice.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-127)

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked a true tragedy for the medical history of this country. For the first time in 5 years, this President chose to veto a bill that has the potential to save millions of lives and impact millions more.

This veto will go down in history as a monumental step backward for medical research and a profound and significant disappointment for victims and their families. Hope was just a signature away and to millions of people in this country, this President could have become a hero simply by signing H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, into law. Instead, he chose to veto this bill and stall the advancement of science.

In contrast, by signing S. 3504, the President gave cover to opponents of lifesaving science. I would hope that this President would give more credit to the American public. S. 3504 is a useless bill that does nothing for victims of ravaging diseases and instead rubs salt in the wound.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here with many of my colleagues, pleading with the President to listen to 72 percent of Americans, the overwhelming majority of scientists, researchers, and even Nobel laureates who all recognize the promise that embryonic stem cell research holds.

Right now, only 22 of the 78 stem cell lines approved by President Bush are left. Many of these lines have been contaminated and are no longer useful, but more than 400,000 frozen embryos exist in the United States. To be

clear, these are embryos that were extracted for in vitro fertilization. Most of them will be discarded. If the President had signed H.R. 810, they would have instead been used to save human lives. With further research, these cells may be used as "replacement" cells and tissues to treat many diseases including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's disease and others.

Mr. Speaker, as a founder and current co-chair of the Working Group on Parkinson's Disease and as someone who lost my father to Parkinson's disease, I know firsthand just how important this legislation is and how important it is to open up the stem cell lines. I cannot be more clear: This bill is about saving lives and preventing devastating diseases from ravaging and ending people's lives.

In vetoing this legislation, this President has stalled science, ended hope, and reversed progress.

I stand with a bipartisan majority of Congress to express my severe disappointment with the President's decision to veto this life-saving legislation.

HONORING MARY TSUKAMOTO

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mary Tsukamoto for her commitment to educating young people in the Elk Grove Unified School District and to advocating for the Japanese-American community. With the use of the curriculum that she developed in the Elk Grove School District and the naming of the Mary Tsukamoto Elementary School in Sacramento, CA, Ms. Tsukamoto has been honored since her passing 8 years ago.

Born in 1915 into an immigrant family in San Francisco, Mary Tsukamoto and her four siblings attended segregated schools throughout childhood. In 1942, when Mary was just 27, she, her husband, Al, and their daughter, Marielle, were sent to an internment camp in Arkansas. Following that dark period in her life, Mary Tsukamoto emerged determined to fight for Japanese-American causes.

As an Elk Grove School District teacher for 25 years, Mary developed an educational curriculum addressing the treatment of Asian-Americans in the United States. This curriculum, "Time of Remembrance," is a living history program featuring interviews, photographs, and artifacts from the internment camps compiled by Mary Tsukamoto. The motto for "Time of Remembrance" is that "never again" should an American lose his or her fundamental rights.

After her retirement from teaching in the mid-1970s, Mary Tsukamoto continued to teach and lead the community. Her leadership contributed to the successful effort to seek a federal apology and restitution for Japanese-American internment. Subsequently, Mary co-authored a book with Elizabeth Pinkerton titled *We the People: A Story of Internment in America*, and worked closely with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC to create an exhibit about Japanese-American internment. This activism, along with her outstanding teaching record, was recognized during this year's National Women's History Month and at

receptions in both California and Washington, DC.

Recently Mary was selected as one of ten National Women's History Month honorees by the National Women's History Project. With this honor, her life story was featured on XM radio and on the Lifetime TV Channel. This year's National Women's History Month theme was "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams," a fitting theme to describe the life of a community hero.

As a civil rights activist, author, and teacher, Mary Tsukamoto affected the lives and perspectives of many Americans. Her legacy is seen in civil rights legislation and the statewide use of her curriculum. It is in recognition and admiration of Mary Tsukamoto that I stand in honor today. Her life's work is remembered and respected.

#### PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2389, The Pledge Protection Act of 2005.

As I said in 2004 when the House voted on the Pledge Protection Act in the 108th Congress, I strongly believe that the Pledge of Allegiance, including the phrase, "under God" is a constitutional expression of patriotism.

Therefore, I—along with many of my colleagues—was outraged by court decisions that erroneously declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. As a result, I consistently have voted in favor of legislation reaffirming the place of the Pledge of Allegiance in its entirety in our schools.

In the 108th Congress, I voted in favor of H. Res. 132, which urged the Supreme Court "to correct the constitutionally infirm and incorrect holding" by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in its revised decision on the *Newdow v. U.S. Congress* case. This resolution also expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that the recitation of the Pledge is a patriotic act—not a religious act, that the Pledge should retain the phrase "One nation, under God," and that Congressional policy should encourage the voluntary recitation of the Pledge in public school classrooms. I also voted in favor of an amendment offered by Rep. Hostettler to H.R. 2799, the Commerce, Justice and State and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which prohibited any funds appropriated by the bill being used to enforce the court's decision in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*.

In the 107th Congress, I voted in favor of H. Res. 459, which expressed the view of the House of Representatives that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals' original decision in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress* to strike the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance was incorrectly decided. Similarly, I strongly supported

S. 2690, legislation that reaffirmed the language of the Pledge of Allegiance, including the phrase "one Nation under God."

However, as I stated last year, I am concerned that the passage of H.R. 2389 would threaten the separation of powers set forth in the United States Constitution. Historically, the United States Supreme Court has the final authority on questions regarding a Federal law's constitutionality. However, H.R. 2389 would allow future Congresses to enact laws that clearly violate basic constitutional principles, while at the same time barring these laws from review by the Supreme Court. This lack of checks and balances could undermine the strength of America's most fundamental founding document. Given these significant issues with H.R. 2389, I again plan on voting against this measure.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ENDICOTT

### HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the village of Endicott in Broome County, NY, which is part of the 22nd Congressional District that I proudly serve. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Endicott. I am pleased to recognize the village of Endicott and the important contributions it has made to Broome County and to the State of New York on its centennial anniversary.

Located along the majestic Susquehanna River, the village of Endicott makes up one-third of the "Triple Cities" region of New York, along with the Village of Johnson City and the city of Binghamton. The Tuscarora tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy originally inhabited the area of present day Endicott before European settlement in 1795. Between this time and when Endicott was incorporated in 1906, the village grew steadily in the 19th century with the construction of schools and transportation systems. The first Endicott-Johnson shoe factory in Endicott was constructed on North Street in 1901 which promoted expansion of the village and growth throughout the Triple Cities region. The village was named after Henry B. Endicott who founded and owned the business that was Endicott-Johnson.

Endicott-Johnson was vital to the growth of the community and as an employer it pioneered the concept of worker's dignity. At Endicott-Johnson, labor was seen as a group of people rather than a commodity. Endicott-Johnson workers were given benefits such as profit sharing in the company, financial help when they needed it during an emergency such as an illness or a death in the family, and Endicott-Johnson was also one of the first companies who shortened the work day from 9½ to 8 hours a day with wages remaining the same. Employees were so pleased with their working conditions that they felt it was unnecessary to join a union and, while factories nationwide were experiencing violent riots Endicott-Johnson's workers and management enjoyed a respectful harmonious relationship. In addition to the fairness shown to the employees, Endicott-Johnson was also

known as offering a "Square Deal" to its customers and Binghamton is now known as the "Home of the Square Deal," a place that summarized an unwritten compact that let the public know that with Endicott-Johnson products they were receiving high-quality merchandise while informing potential Endicott-Johnson employees that when working for the company, they would be working for a company that would treat them with respect.

After the incorporation of Endicott in 1906, the 20th century proved to hold more opportunities for expansion for the village with the founding of International Business Machines, IBM, the company helped create jobs in the area as well as helped expand Endicott with recreational services created for IBM employees as well as for the public.

Like the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company, the workers were seen as people instead of labor to be exploited. IBM also took care of its employees during hard times such as the Great Depression when it provided workers with life insurance and survivors benefits. Later, during World War II, IBM established a fund for widows and orphans of the IBM employees that were fighting overseas.

In 1921, the village of Endicott gained size and prestige by absorbing the adjacent village of Union. The villages had grown together closely, so it became hard to determine geographically where one village started and the other ended. This unification greatly strengthened the community and positioned it for greater growth and prosperity.

Despite its classification as a village, Endicott provides many amenities of a large city such as an airport, paid fire and police protection as well as many other services. The village today also offers many forms of entertainment for its inhabitants as well as visitors such as stage performances at the Cider Mill Playhouse and the Endicott Performing Arts Center as well as golfing at the En-Joie Golf Course, which is also home to the Broome County, B.C., Open, a regular stop on the PGA Tour. There is also the Little Italy section of Endicott on the North Side which also boasts a strong culture. In addition to all of these forms of recreation, there are many parks available and carousels which are so ubiquitous to the Southern Tier that Greater Binghamton is often referred to as the carousel capital.

Endicott's vibrant history is alive and evident today. Villages like Endicott are an essential component of our Nation's past, present, and future, and deserve to be honored and recognized for their numerous contributions. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the village of Endicott, NY, as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. RON LANEY

LANEY

### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ron Laney for his forward-looking leadership and commitment to child protection.

After retiring from the Marine Corps as a result of injuries sustained during combat in

Vietnam, Ron Laney worked his way through college as a juvenile probation counselor, earning a degree in criminology and a masters in criminal justice. Mr. Laney soon found his calling in policy development at the Federal Government's Law Enforcement Assistance Agency, LEAA. Continuing his career in public service, he joined the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, OJJDP, as a law enforcement program manager. Mr. Laney quickly made his presence known developing OJJDP's first law enforcement training program entitled Police Operations Leading to Improved Children and Youth Services, POLICY.

Mr. Laney continued to develop new and dynamic programs for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, including Child Abuse and Exploitation Investigative Techniques, CAE; Managing Juvenile Operations, Gang Investigations, and Gang and Drug Policy; and School Administrator for Effective-Policy, SAFE-Policy, which is one of the first comprehensive interagency efforts to improve school and community safety. For approximately 10 years, Ron trained over 96,000 participants including law enforcement, legal professionals, social service personnel, as well as medical and other child protection and enforcement professionals.

In 1998, Congress appropriated funding to combat child exploitation through the internet. Mr. Laney seized upon this opportunity to create a national prototype program, called the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, ICAC. Initially, the ICAC Program consisted of 10 regional task forces made up of local, State, and Federal agencies all working together to provide expertise to investigate child sexual exploitation via the internet. The ICAC Task Force now also provides community outreach programs to teach children and parents of the dangers of internet usage, and has expanded to include 46 regional task forces, with over 500 local, state, and federal law enforcement officers covering all areas of the United States. Since ICAC's creation, investigations of sexual victimization of children involving the use of internet technology have spanned the globe and have sparked the training of other foreign governments on ICAC techniques. The ICAC programs have come to represent the most comprehensive effort to recognize, investigate, and prosecute adult child sex offenders using internet technology.

In addition to working to create the ICAC, Mr. Laney contributed to the development of the Amber Alert program, advocated for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and provided policy and funding assistance for the American Prosecutors' research institute. Throughout his exemplary civil service career, Mr. Laney has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment to his colleagues. Mr. Laney's commitment to child protection for over 30 years is evidenced by the training of over 500,000 child protection specialists from multiple disciplines. Additionally, he has provided training to educators and school administrators impacting the safety of over 750,000 K-12 students. Mr. Laney's legacy to our society is the protection of our children and advocacy for abused children and their parents.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding his past accomplishments and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

#### HONORING MIKE JUNE

### HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike June, a man of tremendous courage and spirit who recently passed away.

Michael John June was many things to many people. He was a son. He was a husband. He was a father. He was a brother. He was a friend. All who knew and loved him will tell you that he was as kind-hearted, generous, and unselfish an individual as there ever was.

Mike also was a constituent of mine, and a hard-nosed football coach at Palm Harbor University High School, near my congressional district. Mike was always determined and focused on winning, though he cared deeply for his players and wore his emotions on his sleeve. He sometimes cried, after both wins and losses, but often displayed the trademark smile that lurked just below his handlebar mustache, especially when his players performed as he knew they could.

Mike also had an ebullient personality and can-do attitude. He was diagnosed with leukemia in November 2002, yet was coaching his boys the following season. His best friend and former college roommate observed that, "it seemed like there was nothing that could get him down." Mike kept coaching and teaching, even when his cancer returned and his doctors told him that he was risking death by doing so. He did so because, as one of his former players has commented, "he loved to give what he had."

Those who cared for Mike in his final days have said that, despite his serious illness, he did not pity himself or lament the hand he had been dealt. In fact, when asked how he was doing, he always replied "excellent."

Mr. Speaker, Mike June loved his wife Paula, and his children Mike, Max, Matthew, Mitchell, and Mia. I hope the sadness that they and those who cared about him feel at his passing will one day be eclipsed by the joy of knowing that his legacy will live on in those who were fortunate enough to have known him. May God bless his soul and may He watch over his family.

#### FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 9) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, on July 13, I reluctantly voted against H.R. 9, a bill that significantly altered the Voting Rights Act (VRA). Contrary to popular opinion, H.R. 9 did not represent a time-critical reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. The VRA, which pro-

hibits voter discrimination, is permanent Federal law. It never needs reauthorization. However, certain provisions of the Act (Sections 6-9 and Section 203), which were meant to be temporary and periodically reviewed by Congress, are due to expire a year from now—not today, this month or even this year.

When enacted in 1965, the Voting Rights Act played a critical role in granting equal rights to all Americans to cast their ballots. At that point in our Nation's history, some jurisdictions used extraordinary voter suppression devices like poll taxes and literacy tests that were designed to discriminate against minority voters and indeed had that effect. Congress rightly responded in kind with extraordinary remedies that were deemed emergency provisions. The emergency or temporary provisions of the VRA include Section 5, which requires certain covered jurisdictions to pre-clear any change in their election laws or procedures with the Department of Justice. This means relocating a ballot booth in one neighborhood can require Federal approval. It also includes Section 203, added in 1975, mandating that ballots in certain jurisdictions be provided in languages other than English.

Unfortunately, H.R. 9 is significantly flawed. For example, H.R. 9 does not simply reauthorize Section 5 of VRA but makes significant changes to the section. Specifically, it requires that for Section 5 pre-clearance that minorities as a group, not as individuals, be allowed to elect their preferred candidate of choice. Legal scholars disagree on the meaning of this phrase but many interpret it to mean that states will now be forced in decennial Congressional redistricting to maximize the number of districts where a certain political party wins. For example, in the recent Texas redistricting case it was found that if most members of a minority group vote Democratic, they are entitled to a district that elects a Democrat. If a minority candidate wins the district, that is not sufficient. It must be a Democrat minority candidate. That is not a voting right; it is a voting wrong. No less a legal authority than former Solicitor General Ted Olson has stated the following:

"For forty-one years, the Voting Rights Act has focused on protecting voters' rights to cast a ballot by forbidding States from adopting laws that 'abridge[] the right to vote on account of race or color.' The new version of the Voting Rights Act, however, risks shifting the Act's focus to protect politicians' interests in holding office, by entrenching preferred candidates of choice. I believe that most Americans would agree that the Voting Rights Act should be used to protect voters' access to the ballot box, not to protect incumbents' reelection chances."

Thus, Section 5 should be reauthorized as is without this new language.

Another flaw of H.R. 9 is that it preserves 40-year-old criteria (based on the 1964, '68, and '72 presidential elections) to determine which states and counties are subject to provisions of the VRA. But minority-voting patterns are now dramatically different than they were 40 years ago. For example, today in Georgia, blacks are more likely than whites to register to vote and to exercise their right to vote. The VRA should be used to protect voting rights everywhere, not just the South and a handful of other counties. Discrimination today can happen just as easily in Michigan or New Jersey as it can in Texas or Georgia. Unless this

section is changed, many of our grandchildren will continue to be punished for the sins of our grandfathers. That should not happen in America.

Using election data from 1964—when 60% of Americans today were not even alive—to determine discrimination patterns today is deeply troubling and raises questions as to the fairness and constitutionality of the legislation. The criteria should be updated to the relevant last three presidential elections to assure equal protection under the law.

Finally, I continue to believe that section 203 is bad public policy. In America, English is the language of opportunity. This common language binds us together as a people and strengthens us as a Nation. We must continue to emphasize the importance of learning English to those integrating into American society and culture. This is important to them and critical to the Nation as a whole. Those entering the country illegally clearly are not allowed to vote and naturalized citizens must demonstrate English proficiency before becoming Americans. Thus, contrary to popular notions, there are relatively few Americans not sufficiently proficient with English to cast a ballot. Those that are not already have their voting rights protected by laws permitting them to bring a translator into the voting booth with them. If a city or state wishes to print multiple ballots in numerous languages the Federal Government should not prevent them from doing so. On the other hand, the federal government should not mandate that they do it either. Simply put, taxpayers should not be compelled by federal law to pay for printing ballots in languages other than English.

The amendments that I supported to shorten the bill's extension to 10 years, apply the VRA fairly and nationwide, remove jurisdictions from coverage when they have shown a consistent respect for the voting rights of minority citizens, and end a requirement forcing taxpayers to pay for ballots in languages other than English—would have greatly improved this bill. I hope that appropriate changes are made to strengthen this bill, so that I am able to vote for final passage when it comes back to the House.

There is no doubt that the debate over the Voting Rights Act is an emotional one. For many Americans it has become an icon and rightfully so. The VRA has been a critical weapon in the struggle for civil rights and equal opportunity and should remain so. But the emergency provisions were written in a different time to address a different set of challenges. There is danger in allowing symbolism to overcome reality and principle.

This is not a vote I took lightly. I know too often in America that when the accusation is racism, one may wrongly be considered guilty until proven innocent. I regret the phenomena but will not let it dictate my conscience. Everyday we should not only work to root out racial discrimination but should work to reduce race consciousness as well. As Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts opined in the case *LVLAC v. Perry*: "It is a sordid business, this divvying us up by race." I agree. Instead we should all work together to achieve Martin Luther King, Jr's goal of achieving a society that judges our children "not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 9) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 9, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments. Since its enactment in August of 1965, the Voting Rights Act (VRA) has helped bring us closer to realizing the true spirit of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees all American citizens the quintessential democratic right to vote. Today we'll vote to reauthorize expiring provisions of the VRA and by doing so send a signal that we will not tolerate discrimination at the polls.

Some of our colleagues will rise today to offer amendments that would weaken the VRA. I am opposed to any attempts to dilute the intent and spirit of the VRA by weakening Section 5 of the bill. Section 5 ensures that the Federal Government will take a closer look at election practices in states and localities with a history of discrimination at the polls.

Our Nation has made a great deal of progress since 1965 when the VRA was first signed into law by President Johnson. But some municipalities continue to make it difficult, intentionally or otherwise, for ethnic and racial minority voters to register and vote. The great civil rights leaders of the 1960s, including our distinguished colleague Rep. JOHN LEWIS, worked tirelessly to fight discrimination in all aspects of our society. They knew then, and we know now, that the right of all Americans to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy. We must continue their great legacy and pass the bill before us today without amendment.

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, on July 19, 2006, I voted against H.R. 2389, the Pledge Protection Act of 2005.

The American flag is a symbol of liberty and justice, of freedom of speech and expression, as well as the other freedoms we cherish which are guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. But even more important than the symbol are the ideals and principles that the symbol rep-

resents. I believe the best way to honor the American flag is not to wrap ourselves in it, but to respect and honor the values for which it stands. That our Nation can tolerate disrespect for our flag is proof of the enduring strength of our Nation. It is proof to me that ours is the greatest nation on earth.

I served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. I know how deeply our veterans love and revere our flag. I share those feelings for our flag and all that it represents.

Our democracy has withstood many tests over time, and has been strengthened as a result. There is no more important protection provided by the First Amendment than its protection of political speech and expression.

In a letter to Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont dated May 18, 1999, former Secretary of State (then General) Colin L. Powell wrote to express his concerns regarding a constitutional amendment banning flag burning: "The First Amendment exists to insure that freedom of speech and expression applies not just to that with which we agree or disagree, but also that which we find outrageous. I would not amend that great shield of democracy to hammer a few miscreants. The flag will still be flying proudly long after they have slunk away. . . . If I were a member of Congress, I would not vote for the proposed amendment. . . ."

I agree wholeheartedly with Colin Powell's statement, and believe it applies here as well. The Pledge of Allegiance is an invaluable part of our national heritage, but we must also bear in mind the immeasurable significance of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Finally, I have deep concerns about current efforts to deny the Federal courts, including the Supreme Court, the ability to review the constitutionality of our Federal laws. I believe preserving our three-branch system of government is in our Nation's best interest.

CONGRATULATING LAKE COUNTY ELECTRICIANS JATC CLASS OF 2006 GRADUATES

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and admiration that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, July 28, 2006, the Lake County Electricians Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, JATC, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the National Electrical Contractors Association will honor the class of 2006 at their annual Apprentice Completion Banquet, which will be held at the Avalon Manor Banquet Hall in Hobart, Indiana.

This year, the Lake County Electricians JATC will be recognizing and honoring the following graduates, who have completed the apprentice training: Nicholas Bacan, Daniel Boyd, Glen Britton, Nicholas Cardaras, Gonzaliev Castillo, Robert Coleman, James Crocker, David Delaney, Oliver Ewing, Jason M. Gallion, Nathan Gombus, Nathan Gonzales, Eric Hardesty, Jeremy Huber, Mark Jackson, Eric Kociara, Craig B. Konopasek,

Travis Link, Jesus Luna, James Mola, William Parsons, David Petrashevich, Geoffrey Richards, Elliot Rosenberry, John Santana, Jared Solan, Jonathan Steuer, Nicholas Vlasich, and Keith Winston.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These outstanding graduates all exemplify these traits. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their commitment, hard work, and selfless sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these committed, hardworking individuals. Along with the other extraordinary men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have contributed in many ways to the growth and development of the economy in Indiana's First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

COMMENDING THE CHILDREN'S  
INN AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES  
OF HEALTH

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend The Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health, an extraordinary organization in my congressional district, which has worked for many years to provide a warm, supportive home environment for seriously ill children and families seeking cutting-edge treatment at the NIH.

Since it opened in June 1990, The Children's Inn has provided free lodgings to over 6,000 children and their families. The true extent of its services, however, goes far beyond the mere provision of living accommodations. By bringing seriously ill children and their families together in a warm, lively community that provides camaraderie and understanding, The Children's Inn has created invaluable support networks and friendships for children who face daily and often overwhelming challenges.

As we begin National Hospitality House Week, I am pleased to recognize and pay tribute to The Children's Inn and its staff and volunteers for their selfless commitment to some of the youngest and most fragile members of our community. Their generosity of spirit is inspiring and, through their actions, they serve as role models to so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent this special place—The Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health—and to honor it today.

CONDOLENCES TO THE NORTHUP  
FAMILY

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Kentucky's Third Congressional District, ANNE NORTHUP, along with her

husband, Woody, suffered the tragic loss of her son Joshua on Wednesday, July 12, 2006. By all accounts, Joshua was an outstanding young man who will be truly missed by his family and friends. Joshua was a 1998 graduate of Saint Joseph's College of Rensselaer, Indiana. In 1995, Joshua ventured to Tanzania, Africa with a priest from Saint Joseph's, where he continued his education and volunteered in a leper colony to help those most in need.

Joshua was employed at Humana, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky, where he was clearly a valued employee. Upon hearing the sad news, Humana issued the following statement: "Joshua was an exemplary Humana associate, beloved by his colleagues and held in high esteem by his supervisors. We are deeply saddened by his death and extend our thoughts, prayers and heartfelt sympathy to his family."

Funeral services were held for Joshua at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Louisville, Kentucky, on Saturday, July 15, 2006. Joshua is survived by his parents, ANNE and Woody NORTHUP, and five brothers and sisters: David, Katie, Kevin, Mark and Erin.

On behalf of the entire congressional delegation from Kentucky, as well as her colleagues from across the Nation, we offer our most sincere condolences to the entire Northup family.

CONGRATULATING THE ORGANIZERS, PARTICIPANTS, AND PATRONS OF THE 25TH ANNUAL W.C. HANDY MUSIC FESTIVAL

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the organizers, participants, and patrons of the 25th Annual W.C. Handy Music Festival, which begins on July 21 and lasts until July 30.

The W.C. Handy Festival is named after Florence, Alabama, native William Christopher Handy. Mr. Handy, who is remembered today as the "Father of Blues," was born in 1873 in a log cabin that his grandfather built. He left Florence in 1892, settling in Memphis, Tennessee, where he penned his most recognized composition, "St. Louis Blues." Before his death in 1958, W.C. Handy wrote over 150 songs and his widespread appeal is credited with popularizing blues music into America's cultural mainstream.

Mr. Speaker, beginning with the birth of Mr. Handy and continuing today, the Shoals Region of Northwest Alabama has a storied musical history. The Shoals area is also the birthplace of the "Father of Rock and Roll" Sam Phillips, who discovered artists such as Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, and Jerry Lee Lewis. The region is also the home of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, as well as generations of musicians, composers, songwriters, and internationally recognized recording studios and producers. Over the last 50 years, musical legends such as Aretha Franklin, the Rolling Stones, and some of today's musical superstars have recorded many of their biggest hits in the area.

Each year, the Music Preservation Society organizes this unique festival to pay tribute to

W.C. Handy's legacy and the area's rich musical heritage. Thousands of musical patrons are entertained through more than 200 events at locations throughout the Shoals. Musical acts range from a wide variety of blues, jazz, gospel, R&B, soul, and country acts. The artists perform live in local restaurants, nightclubs, theatres, parks, libraries, art galleries, churches, malls, museums, and street corners throughout the region.

The Festival, which began in 1982 featuring jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie, has continued to grow each year. Past headlining acts have included Clarence Carter, the Manhattan Transfer, and Percy Sledge. In its 25-year history, National Geographic, the Southeast Tourism Society, Travelocity.com, the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, and the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel have recognized the festival as one of the top events in the South.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate and applaud the efforts of the Music Preservation Society Board of Directors and staff, and the festival's volunteers and musicians who make this celebration of the cultural heritage of northwest Alabama a reality each year.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION  
AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 18, 2006*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to House Joint Resolution 88, which would amend our Constitution to deny basic rights to gays and lesbians. I would like to express my disappointment in the Republican leadership for once again bringing this divisive and discriminatory amendment before Congress.

Our Constitution has guided our Nation for over 200 years. During that time, it has been amended to guarantee religious liberty, equal protection, and the right to vote. Not once has it been amended to take away rights from a specific group of people. Yet that is what this legislation would do.

Of course, this constitutional amendment will not be adopted; it failed to garner even a simple majority only weeks ago in the Senate. We are wasting our time on this because Republican pollsters have concluded that targeting gays and lesbians is a winning election strategy.

Mr. Speaker, our fellow citizens deserve better. Same-sex couples are trying to raise families, pay the bills, get health care for their partners, and put their kids through college. Instead of working to help them, we are debating whether to permanently deny them over 1,000 rights and benefits given to married heterosexual couples. We should be striving for fairness and equality, not singling them out for discrimination.

Americans are sick and tired of political gamesmanship. They want a Congress that will address the real challenges our Nation faces: health care, energy security, education, economic opportunity. The Republican leadership has once again let down the American people, and I urge my colleagues to reject this effort to distract and divide.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN T. CASEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend warm birthday wishes and to pay tribute to a dear friend and great man, Mr. John T. Casey.

John will not turn 80 years old until August 17, but I want to take this opportunity to honor him before the House of Representatives adjourns for the month of August.

As many of his friends would tell you, John is a very civic-minded man. He was an active member of the Town of Gardiner Democratic Committee for 35 years, of which he served as its chairman for 22 years. It was in this capacity that I came to know him when I ran for a seat in the New York State Assembly in the early 1970s. I truly appreciated and valued the support and encouragement that John gave me, and am happy to say it was the start of a wonderful and long lasting friendship.

His contributions weren't limited to the Democratic Party. John was equally dedicated to improving the lives of working Americans through the labor movement. He and I share the belief that good jobs, fair wages and true economic opportunity must be realized for every single American. This is a message that must be carried to every corner of this nation, and John carried this out as a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, local #445. Not only was he a member of the Teamsters for almost 50 years, starting out as a shop steward, he also served as its president from the mid-1970's to 1980.

John proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1946, serving as a master sergeant in Holland, France and Germany during World War II, and is a member and past commander of the American Legion Post 176 in New Paltz, New York. Additionally, John also served his community as chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners in Gardiner, and is a life member of its fire company. This is a man who has dedicated himself to the betterment of the community and for that we will always be grateful.

Happy birthday friend, I'm honored to share your day with you.

TRIBUTE TO SEELEY LODWICK

**HON. JAMES A. LEACH**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House of the passing of one of Iowa's most distinguished leaders of the 20th century, Seeley Lodwick.

Seeley's was a life of public service—a Marine in the greatest war in human history; a farm leader during the greatest era of innovation and change in agriculture; a public servant who served in both our State and national capitols; and a political activist who helped elect presidents and legislators.

Seeley will be remembered as a gentleman of the soil, a son of Iowa, a true friend.

Seeley's passing leaves a gap in all of our lives, for his wife Pat particularly because no marriage could be closer; ours because no friend could be more counted upon for trusted support and sage advice.

He will be much missed because he stood so steadfastly for the values in American politics that seems so forgotten—loyalty, decency, respect.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BENNIE F. WOOD II

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bennie F. Wood II, the recipient of the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for 37 years of Federal service.

This July, Mr. Wood completes a distinguished 37-year career in Federal service that began with student service in 1969. After a brief stint with a private engineering firm following his graduation from the University of Virginia, he entered Federal service as a Civil Engineer with the Public Works Department of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Wood continued with NAVFAC until 1976, leaving his position as MILCON Project Manager for the Chesapeake Region to undertake more than two decades of service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' substantial nation building efforts in the Middle East. He held progressively more responsible positions, and served overseas in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait during the first Gulf War.

He returned to the U.S. to become Chief of Engineering and Construction Management Directorate and later, the Assistant Deputy for Programs and Project Management at Transatlantic Program Center. During this period, Mr. Wood received two Commanders Awards for Civilian Service and, in 1991, a Superior Civilian Service Award.

With all these years of military construction and overseas project management behind him, Mr. Wood made a bold move in 1999 to enter the Corps' Civil Works arena for the first time as the Wilmington District's Chief of Technical Services Division. Determined to bring his overseas experience back home in the service of the nation's water resources, Mr. Wood vigorously led a highly successful effort to push ahead with the long-awaited Wilmington Harbor Channel Deepening Project. This multi-contract, multi-phase project called on his leadership skills and elicited outstanding efforts from his team of engineers, construction managers and environmentalists. Mr. Wood was a vital part of the leadership team that kept this and other District projects on track, despite the challenges and disruptions brought about by the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001 and the following military actions in the Gulf Region.

In 2002, he was called upon to act as the District's Deputy for Project and Programs Management, while the serving Deputy and other team members deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in advance of the U.S. military effort there. His leadership during this crucial time kept the District's projects and programs moving ahead despite the absence of key staff

members and the challenges of curtailed funding.

In 2003, Mr. Wood spearheaded an outstanding effort to accomplish rapid repair of a nearly mile-wide breach in Hatteras Island caused by Hurricane Isabel. During this period he was recognized with two Commanders Awards for Civilian Service.

In 2004, Mr. Wood stepped up permanently as the Deputy for Project and Programs Management, and has since been a key leader in a period of significant change for the Wilmington District. As the South Atlantic Division approached regionalization, he has been at the forefront of the change effort, and has played an important role in empowering the district to take on its new roles as the Engineering and Planning Center for the Savannah-Charleston-Jacksonville triad. He has also provided firm and supportive leadership as the District undertook the challenges of implementing the P2 system, and has kept many key projects on track through a period of wartime budget constraints. Mr. Wood's diplomacy and broad knowledge of the Corps have proved an asset as the District works with many local and national elected officials, and stakeholders. His leadership has been critical to the District's continued standing as a "first among equals."

His distinguished career brings great credit upon himself, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Army.

As a member of Congress who has had the pleasure of working with Mr. Wood, I can honestly say that the American taxpayer has been well-served by his dedication and commitment to excellence.

It is an honor to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Wood upon the completion of his distinguished 37-year career, and to extend my sincere thanks for his service to our nation and to the state of North Carolina.

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my opposition to H.R. 2389, the Pledge Protection Act of 2005. This legislation does nothing to address the real issues facing families in America today, and serves merely to distract and delay Congress from efforts to vote on issues that would actually impact the daily lives of our constituents.

This bill failed to pass out of the Judiciary Committee, and yet, we are voting on it today on the Floor of the People's House, an event without precedence according to the Parliamentarian. The Majority is taking this extraordinary action not for an issue that will affect the daily lives of American families—but for a blatantly political debate in an election-year attempt to appeal to their base. My constituents are concerned about the conflict in the Middle

East, earning a living wage, accessing affordable health care and relief from sky-rocketing gas prices. Minnesotans in the 4th District have made it clear that Congress should get to work on the priority issues of this country, rather than continue to play political games.

H.R. 2389 would remove the Pledge of Allegiance from the jurisdiction of federal courts. This bill is an attempt by Republicans to strip our federal courts of their power to rule over issues of Constitutional relevance, and to tell our federal courts that their expertise on Constitutional freedoms is irrelevant. Our system of checks and balances was constructed by our Founders for this specific reason—to retain the independence of the Courts, and their ability to rule justly and uphold the rule of law in this great country. As Justice Sandra Day O'Connor stated last year, the effectiveness of the federal courts relies on the knowledge that they will not be subject to retaliation for their rulings.

Representative MEL WATT offered an amendment today to this bill that, had it passed, would have allowed the Supreme Court to hear cases regarding the Pledge of Allegiance—in effect, reversing the negative damage this bill will inflict if it passes. I supported Mr. WATT's amendment, and am extremely disappointed that the majority of my colleagues did not do the same.

This bill is likely unconstitutional and debating it on the floor of the House today is an outrage considering the real issues facing American families. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation, upholding the system of justice our Founders intended, and return to debating the issues we were elected to resolve.

HONORING BRIAN D. THORSON,  
CRNA, MA PRESIDENT OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brian Thorson, CRNA, MA. Mr. Thorson will soon complete his year as National President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that Mr. Thorson was tapped as the 2005–2006 President of this prestigious national organization, which I am proud to say is headquartered in Park Ridge, Illinois, in the Congressional district that I represent.

Celebrating its 75th Anniversary, the AANA is the professional organization that represents more than 36,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) across the country. Founded in 1931, the AANA has ably served the interests of CRNAs and the patients who rely on them for quality care. CRNAs are anesthesia professionals who administer approximately 65 percent of all anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and, in some states, are the

sole anesthesia providers in approximately 75 percent of all rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization services.

Brian Thorson has done a remarkable job as National President of the AANA, bringing his training, skills and hands-on experience to the job. He was educated in the art and science of Nurse Anesthesia at the St. Paul-Ramsey School of Nurse Anesthesiology in St. Paul, Minnesota, and earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Winona University in Winona, Minnesota. In addition, Mr. Thorson also holds a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Curriculum Development and Instruction from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and an additional Bachelors of Science from the College of Health Sciences at the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, where he graduated summa cum laude. Currently, he is a Staff Anesthetist within the Department of Anesthesia at Hennepin County Medical Center, which provides anesthesia services in and around the Minneapolis area. In an effort to make certain that those citizens in the Minneapolis area are ensured access to needed care, Brian Thorson continues to shape the future of nurse anesthesia by serving as a Clinical Instructor and didactic faculty member at the Minneapolis School of Anesthesia in St. Louis Park, Minnesota and Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

Mr. Thorson held various leadership positions in the AANA as President-Elect, Treasurer, and Regional Director before becoming the National President of the AANA in 2005. In addition, Brian has served terms as President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Federal Political Director, and as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists (MANA). He has also served as the anesthesia representative to both the Council of Minnesota Nursing Organizations and the Minnesota Organization of Leaders in Nursing.

Adding to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Thorson has been recognized for speaking on anesthesia-related topics over the years. He has taken his experience and knowledge from the workplace and AANA leadership roles to lecture on political and academic anesthesia-related topics before different professional groups. During his AANA presidency, Mr. Thorson has played important roles in advocating for the practice of nurse anesthesia and its patients before Medicare and other federal agencies. He has worked tirelessly to help ensure that CRNAs have a seat at the table in the development of a pay-for-performance reimbursement model, increased communication among AANA members, promoted anesthesia patient safety through vigorous participation in the interdisciplinary National Quality Forum (NQF), and advanced principles of wellness among practitioners in this high-stress profession. In addition, under Mr. Thorson's leadership and direction, AANA testified before three House subcommittees about the importance of nurse anesthesia education, the roles and contributions of CRNAs in the Veterans Affairs health system, and the dedication with which CRNAs have provided safe anesthesia care to members of the U.S. Armed Forces at home and abroad. Finally, Brian Thorson has fought hard to maintain equality in teaching and instruction so that all anesthesia professionals have the opportunity to provide the care patients need, without the

system harmfully favoring one provider over another.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me today in recognizing the outgoing President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Mr. Brian Thorson, CRNA, MA, for his notable career and outstanding achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE  
BAHAMONDE

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the First Congressional District lost a great friend, supporter, and leader this past week. George Bahamonde, President and CEO of the United Way of the Capital Area, died suddenly on Thursday while on vacation in Maine.

George moved from Cuba to Bridgeport, Connecticut with his family when he was 11. He placed great value on education and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Bridgeport and earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Miami and a master's degree in education from Fairfield University. He stressed the value of education throughout his career in public service and was especially proud of his work introducing the Girls and Boys Town Well-managed Classroom training model to the Hartford school system. A five-year assessment of the program showed that academic achievement had increased and school suspensions had decreased in the schools where it was implemented.

In 1970, George began a career in human service that lasted the remainder of his life. He started as a caseworker for Catholic Family and Community Services in Bridgeport, then joined the United Way in 1972 at the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County. He also served the United Way of Puerto Rico, the United Way of Portland, Maine, the United Way of Aurora, Illinois, and the United Way of Greater Los Angeles.

Connecticut was fortunate to see George return in 1994 to become President and CEO of the United Way of the Capital Area. His vision for the forty towns served by the United Way was to improve the lives of children and families and better community conditions. To this end, he created numerous initiatives and partnerships and worked tirelessly of their behalf. George worked as easily with nonprofit organizations as he did with corporate donors.

What truly made George special though was not just that he cared about the communities he served, he cared about each individual in those communities. He was a great friend to many and will be remembered for his quick smile, his wit, and his professionalism. He was always willing to share a laugh, talk baseball, or offer words of advice and encouragement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in expressing condolences to George's wife Jenny, his son Matthew, and the rest of his family. The Hartford area has lost a truly caring person and a quietly effective leader. However, George's work will be carried on by those who believe in his vision that we can make each person's life better.

A DISPATCH FROM THE IRAQ WAR BATTLE GROUND: AIR FORCE CAPTAIN F. JOHN DURESKY REMINDS US: AMERICANS ARE DYING IN IRAQ

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD a column by Air Force Captain F. John Duresky, "Forgotten Sacrifice," which appeared in the July 5, 2006 edition of The Washington Post.

I have spoken out and written for more than three years about the unshared burden of the Iraq war but never as eloquently and with such forceful imagery as Air Force Captain Duresky. One of the "boots on the ground" in Iraq, Captain Duresky is among the troops President Bush likes to thank. He is one of the troops who, according to the Hawks willing to feed other people's children into the killing field of Iraq, smile bravely from a hospital bed at Walter Reid and promises that although he has lost both legs, he is happy he served his country and wants nothing more than to go back and join his "buddies" still "in country."

But Captain Duresky presents a problem for the President. Unlike most of the hawks who have not ventured beyond the safety of the "green zone" in Iraq or seen the carnage of the battlefield, Captain Duresky can describe the horror of war with the credibility of one who has been there.

I share Captain Duresky's concern that, to most Americans, the war in Iraq is a fight for other people's children. Disproportionately, these are the children of the poor and minorities who proudly serve but also risk their lives for their chance at a college education, technical training and financial benefits the military affords. For most Americans the Iraq war is little more than another story on the evening news.

I wish to offer some hope to Captain Duresky. To many Americans the war is not only real, but a great moral failure. Many of them are protesting and "taking to the streets." They are lobbying Members of Congress and meeting in their communities to arrange marches and protests. The polls clearly show the American people are unhappy with President Bush's handling of the war in Iraq. They want a change of course and they want the troops withdrawn.

The Republican attempt to label any plan to set a date for withdrawal as "cut and run" is not working. The Republican attempt to label anyone who questions the President as not supporting the troops is not working. Millions of Americans believe the best way to support the troops is to question the President's failed policies in Iraq and to force him and Secretary Rumsfeld to protect the troops instead of leaving them in as targets in a war where there is no exit plan and no working strategy.

I thank Captain Duresky for his service and his courage in writing "Forgotten Sacrifice." Millions of us have not forgotten his sacrifice and that of the more than 2,500 Americans killed and 18,000 wounded. Nor have we forgotten the daily pain of their families. I will keep Captain Duresky in my prayers and long for his return home.

Air Force Captain Duresky's words have painted an indelible picture for me. I hope my

colleagues will benefit as I have from reading "Forgotten Sacrifice."

[From The Washington Post, July 5, 2006]

#### FORGOTTEN SACRIFICE

(By F. John Duresky)

A few days ago, as I do every day in Iraq, I listened to the commander's battle update. The briefer calmly and professionally described the day's events. Somewhere in Iraq, on some forgotten, dusty road, an insurgent fighting an occupying army detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) under a Humvee, killing an American soldier. The briefer fielded a question from the general and moved to the next item in the update.

The day before that, in America, a 15-year-old's incredibly rich parents planned the biggest sweet 16 party ever. They will spend more than \$200,000 on an opulent event marking a single year in an otherwise unremarkable life. The soon-to-be-16 girl doesn't know where Iraq is and doesn't care. That same day an American soldier died in Iraq.

Two days earlier, a 35-year-old man went shopping for home entertainment equipment. He had the toughest time selecting the correct plasma screen; he could afford the biggest and best of everything. In the end, he had it installed by a specialty store. He spent about \$50,000 on the whole system. He has never met anybody serving in the military nor served himself, but thinks we should "turn the whole place into a parking lot." That day, another American soldier died in Iraq.

Three days earlier, some college students had a great kegger. There were tons of babes at the party, the music was awesome. Everybody got totally blitzed, and many missed class the next day. The young men all registered for the draft when they were 18, but even though our nation is at war, they aren't the least bit worried about the draft. It is politically impossible to conscript young people today, we are told. That day, another American "volunteer" died in Iraq.

Four days earlier, a harried housewife looked all over town for the perfect accessory for her daughter's upcoming recital. Her numerous chores wore her out, but she still found herself preoccupied. Her oldest son is having trouble in his first year of college, and he has been talking of enlisting in the Army. She is terrified that her child will go off to that horrible war she sees on TV. She and her husband decide to give their son more money so he doesn't have to work part-time; maybe that will help with his studies. That day, another soldier died.

Yesterday millions of Americans celebrated Independence Day. They attended parties and barbecues. Families came together from all across the country to celebrate the big day. Millions of dollars were spent on fireworks. At public events, there were speeches honoring the people who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. These words mostly fell on bored ears. While the country celebrated its own greatness, other Americans were still fighting in Iraq.

Today Americans go back to their normal business. The politicians in Washington have made sure the sacrifices of the war are borne by the very smallest percentage of Americans. They won't even change the tax rates to prevent deficits from running out of control. Future generations will pay the cost of this war.

Many Americans feel strongly about the war one way or another, but they aren't signing up their children for service or taking the protest to the streets. What can they do? It is they whom we in the military trust to influence our leaders in Washington.

Today, as on every other day in Iraq, American servicemen are in very real danger. Our country is at war. Mothers, fathers, wives, husbands and children are worrying about their loved ones in a faraway land. They all hope he or she isn't the one whose luck runs out today.

The writer is an Air Force captain stationed in Iraq.

#### IN MEMORY OF MAJOR GENERAL T. ESTON MARCHANT

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 19, I learned of the death of MGT. Eston Marchant, Jr., and made the following statement:

It is with great sadness to learn of the death of Major General T. Eston Marchant. One of the highlights of my life was for him to help recruit me into the Army National Guard and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve for 29 years.

General Marchant was a model of military professionalism who established South Carolina's Army and Air Guard as among the most competent in the world's best military. They are now proving themselves by protecting American families in the Global War on Terrorism.

The Wilson Family extends its deepest sympathy to the Marchant Family.

The following obituary was published in The State newspaper of Columbia, SC, on July 20, 2006:

Major General Trelawney Eston Marchant, (Ret.), died Wednesday, July 19, 2006. He was 85. General Marchant was born December 9, 1920, a son of the late Brig. General T. Eston Marchant and Lila Cave Marchant.

General Marchant grew up in Columbia and received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of South Carolina. He enlisted in the Marines when the United States entered World War II, and fought in the Pacific Theater, rising to the rank of Captain. When he returned home he practiced law and began a long career in the S.C. National Guard. He was elected to the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees in 1965, and was elected Chairman of the Board in 1970, serving continuously thereafter until 1978, when he was elected Adjutant General of South Carolina. General Marchant served four terms as Adjutant General, retiring in 1994. The S.C. National Guard Headquarters and Complex in Columbia is named in his honor.

General Marchant was active in state and community affairs, serving as a municipal judge, President of the Richland County Bar Association, member of The Citadel Board of Visitors, and President of The Columbia Centillion, among many other activities. He received honorary degrees from both U.S.C. and The Citadel. General Marchant was National President of the Adjutant Generals Association of the United States and, in 1990, he was named South Carolinian of the Year by WIS-TV. He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by then-Governor John West and again by then-Governor Carroll Campbell.

General Marchant was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Columbia.

General Marchant is survived by his wife of 54 years, Caroline Bristow Marchant; children, T. Eston Marchant III and his wife, Emilie Marchant, of Clinton, Bristow Marchant and his wife, Betsy Marchant,

Caroline Marchant Borucki and her husband, Dr. Robert Borucki, Nancy Marchant Harris and her husband, Gregory Harris; nine grandchildren, all of Columbia. He is also survived by his brother, Julian M. Marchant, and by his sister, Nancy Marchant McIlvaine.

General Marchant was a warm, loving husband, father, and grandfather, and will be dearly missed by all of his family and many friends.

The family would also like to offer special thanks to Mr. John House, who provided care and comfort to General Marchant in his final months.

The family will receive visitors at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Borucki, 181 Aspen Trail, in Gregg Park, Columbia, Thursday, July 20, from 5 until 7 p.m.

The funeral will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 1324 Marion Street in Columbia, Friday, July 21, 2006, at 11 a.m. with burial to follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the T. Eston and Caroline B. Marchant Endowed Scholarship, University of South Carolina, Attn. Daria Smith, 1600 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29208 or to the National Guard Association of South Carolina Scholarship Foundation, 2001 Assembly Street, Suite 204, Columbia, SC 29201.

Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel, is in charge.

A TRIBUTE TO PACIFICA  
PERFORMANCES

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the Pacifica Performances on the 30th Anniversary of its founding. Pacifica Performances is a non-profit, primarily volunteer, arts organization based in Pacifica, California, which is located in my Congressional District. This extraordinary organization is dedicated to ensuring there is a professional quality performing arts programs for the residents of Pacifica, as well as other communities on the Peninsula.

Pacifica Performances was organized in 1976 as the Pacifica Arts and Heritage Council, a nonprofit musical organization offering a variety of classes in music, dance and calligraphy. Its original venue, the Pedro Point Firehouse in Pacifica, offered Jazz and Classical performances for the community on Sundays. Since then Pacifica Performances has grown exponentially and occupied numerous homes

in the beautiful coastal community of Pacifica, California including St. Edmund's Episcopal Church and most recently the Sanchez Art Center which houses a 175-seat concert hall equipped with a new stage and professional lighting equipment as well as office space.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly amazing that this picturesque town of 44,000 inhabitants is able to provide its citizens with approximately 60 world class performances per year spanning the widest array of performing arts including jazz, blues, piano (ragtime and classical), chamber music, opera, Celtic, Bluegrass Latin, world, pop and guitar, as well as dance and drama. Pacifica Performances truly lives up to its mission of providing diverse musical and cultural programs to Pacifica, and the rest of the Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in saluting and congratulating Pacifica Performances for the invaluable cultural and educational service they bestow upon the community on the occasion of their 30th Anniversary.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 26

9 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the current and future status of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act which prescribes procedures for requesting judicial authorization for electronic surveillance and physical search of persons engaged in espionage or international terrorism against the United States on behalf of a foreign power.

SD-226

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael V. Dunn, of Iowa, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Nancy Montanez-Johner, of Nebraska, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, and to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, Margo M. McKay, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and Bruce I. Knight, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

SR-328A

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the nominations of John Ray Correll, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and Mark Myers, of Alaska, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, both of the Department of the Interior, and Drue Pearce, of Alaska, to be Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

Intelligence

To hold a closed meeting regarding intelligence matters.

SH-219

2 p.m.

Finance

Taxation and IRS Oversight Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the size and sources of the tax gap.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Philip S. Goldberg, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bolivia.

SD-419

3:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine a progress report on protecting and enforcing intellectual property rights here and abroad, focusing on the Administration's Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy (STOP!) and the extent to which it has been effective in educating businesses about the issues related to conducting business in the global economy, the progress made since the appointment of the IP Coordinator last July, and explore if the STOP! initiative has identified effective human capital and strategic plans to build on the existing program, and if it has the necessary resources required to complete its mission.

SD-342

JULY 27

Time to be announced

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine a path forward for the Nation's emergency preparedness and response system relating to the Stafford Act.

SD-406

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the U.S. Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, to which position he was appointed during the recess of the Senate from July 29, 2005, to September 1, 2005, and to be U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations, to which position he was appointed during the recess of the Senate from July 29, 2005, to September 1, 2005.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Agriculture's use of technical service providers.

SR-328A

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine S. 3128, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 2590, to require full disclosure of all entities and organizations receiving Federal funds, proposed Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act; S. 1838, to provide for the sale, acquisition, conveyance, and exchange of certain real property in the District of Columbia to facilitate the utilization, development, and redevelopment of such property, S. 3492, to strengthen performance management in the Federal Government, to make the annual general pay increase for Federal employees contingent on performance, S. 3584, to amend chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and authorization of funding for certain training programs for supervisors of Federal employees, S. 3613, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2951 New York Highway 43 in Averill Park, New York, as the "Major George Quamo Post Office Building", H.R. 4246, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, as the "Dr. Robert E. Price Post Office Building", H.R. 4962, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the "Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building", H.R. 5104, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 16th Street South in St. Petersburg, Florida, as the "Morris W. Milton Post Office", H.R. 5169, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1310 Highway 64 NW in Ramsey, Indiana, as the "Wilfred Edward 'Cousin Willie' Sieg, Sr. Post Office", H.R. 5540, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the "Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office", H.R. 4646, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7320 Reseda Boulevard in Reseda, California, as the "Coach John Wooden Post Office Building", S. 2555, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2633 11th Street in Rock Island, Illinois, as the "Lane Evans Post Office Building", S. 2719 and H.R. 5107, bills to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 West Jordan Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the "Earl D. Hutto Post Office Building", and the nominations of Paul A. Denett, of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget, Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, to be Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Phyllis D. Thompson, to be Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Jennifer M. Anderson, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Mickey D. Barnett, of New Mexico, Katherine C. Tobin, of New York, and Ellen C. Williams, of Kentucky, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

SD-342

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to markup an original bill to reauthorize the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patrick W. Dunne, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Policy and Planning, and Thomas E. Harvey, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional Affairs.

SR-418

## Aging

To hold hearings to examine at home DNA tests, focusing on whether these should be considered a marketing scam or a medical breakthrough.

SD-106

11 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold a hearing to examine pending nominations.

SR-253

1 p.m.

## Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine how the United States Government can live up to its commitment to promote human rights and democratic governance in Russia while preserving a relationship with Moscow.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

## Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Health Resources and Services Administration financial management of its budget in carrying out its mission to increase access to and quality of health care.

SD-342

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Richard W. Graber, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

SD-419

## Judiciary

## Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine detecting smuggled nuclear weapons.

SD-226

## Energy and Natural Resources

## Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 3638, to encourage the Secretary of the Interior to participate in projects to plan, de-

sign, and construct water supply projects and to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to encourage the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat impaired surface water, reclaim and reuse impaired groundwater, and provide brine disposal in the State of California, S. 3639, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to provide standards and procedures for the review of water reclamation and reuse projects, H.R. 177, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Prado Basin Natural Treatment System Project, to authorize the Secretary to carry out a program to assist agencies in projects to construct regional brine lines in California, to authorize the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area desalination demonstration and reclamation project, H.R. 2341, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater within and outside of the service area of the City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility, Texas, and H.R. 3418, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project.

SD-366

## Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing regarding intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 28

9:30 a.m.

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

## Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine recovery and reconstitution of critical networks relating to cyber security, focusing on immediate steps that Department of

Homeland Security and the private sector can take to formalize a partnership and to ensure effective response and recovery to major cyber network disruption.

SD-342

AUGUST 1

9 a.m.

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

## Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the issue of tax havens and offshore abuses which are undermining the integrity of the Federal tax system, focusing on case histories on the use of offshore trusts and corporations to circumvent U.S. tax, securities and anti-money laundering laws.

SD-342

AUGUST 2

9 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine H.R. 4200, to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize Forest Service experimental forests.

SR-328A

9:30 a.m.

## Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the authority to prosecute terrorists under the war crime provisions of Title 18.

SD-226

POSTPONEMENTS

JULY 26

9:30 a.m.

## Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-485